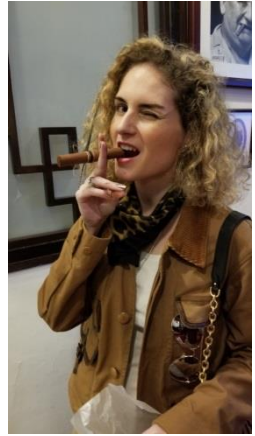


20

**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Journalist Member Governor
Board of Governors 2019-2020**



Babette RADCLYFFE-THOMAS
Affiliation: Fifth Black Media

Hi! I'm Babette, a journalist member and I'm running for the board.

I love the FCC. I've been a member here for nearly five years, I serve on two committees and helped bring in some top-notch speakers and pretty much made the club my second home.

The FCC is a bastion for press freedom in the region, a platform for an exciting and eclectic range of voices and talents, and is globally renowned as one of the most prestigious press clubs in the world. The club's reputation has been created and moulded by many before my time, and to uphold this enviable identity we need to continue striving to be the best we can be.

As a freelancer and PhD candidate I used the club on an almost daily basis, I've worked out in the gym countless times, and sampled quite a lot of the main bar's prosecco. We have a fantastic staff here, who have always made me feel welcome and ensure the smooth running of the club. We have a fantastic, diverse membership and I've really enjoyed meeting a lot of you already.

I have been a member of the Charity Committee and the Journalism Conference Committee for several years now. A highlight of my year so far was helping to organise the charity party (dressing up as my foreign correspondent idol Lee Miller) and raising over \$200,000 for charity. I also helped to organise the Journalism Conference and I moderated a panel on online security, and I arranged for Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Emily Steel to speak as a keynote. Last year I moderated a panel on video journalism and helped bring in other award-winning journalists from around the region.

Most importantly, my time on committees has really shown me how much hard work, determination and planning goes on behind the scenes to run the FCC. I've tried to make the club a more welcoming environment for younger, female journalists like myself and hopefully through a position on the board, I would be able to do even more to empower our membership.

As a print and digital journalist, we need to ensure that the FCC is at the forefront of media trends to attract new members and ensure the club's longevity and legacy. We need to make sure the club continues to play a relevant and contemporary role while drawing on and embracing our rich heritage. I want to bring an even greater diversity of speakers to the club and build on the success of the conference committee to make sure we have a great line-up throughout the year. I want to try out new

event types – several years ago I suggested a series of events where members can meet top editors in an informal environment, as well as useful and practical media workshops.

I think it is time for some new energy and blood on the board. We need to make the club a more welcoming, safe environment for everyone so countless other members can walk into our club and call it their second home too. With your vote and support, I'm sure that we can do it.

More about me: I'm an award-winning fashion and design journalist, originally from London and I've lived in Hong Kong on and off for about 15 years. I'm written for a wide range of influential fashion and style publications in Asia and Europe including Design Anthology, Business of Fashion and Harpers Bazaar. I'm fluent in Mandarin and I'm studying a PhD in my part term looking at Chinese fashion media.