![Journalism Education & Research Association of Australia logo]

JOURNALISM EDUCATION & RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Journalism in Post-Normal Times

Journalism and Education Research Association of Australia Conference 2022

THE BOOKLET

PERTH
PAN PACIFIC
DECEMBER 6-8 2022

Photograph: Dietmar Rabich

Conference Committee

Laura Glitsos
Trevor Cullen
Kathryn Shine
Glynn Greensmith

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

WELCOME *to*

the BOOKLET

Welcome to the official conference booklet:

In this booklet, you will find the expanded descriptions of all the events, panels, specials sessions and abstracts that will be featured at JERAA 2022.

For the most updated version of the schedule and times/rooms, please scan the QR code featured on this page and noted throughout the venue.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS IN
AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISM REVIEW

AJR's editors will use the conference to look for outstanding papers for the next edition of the journal.
• Best papers presented at conference published in AJR 'special issue'
• 2 x from ECRs
• 4–6 in General Articles
• 1 x Commentary

WELCOME *from* *the* PRESIDENT

Formal Welcome from the President of the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia:

How fantastic is it that we are finally able to meet here, in person, in Perth after so many Covid years. Thank you so much to everyone who has made the effort to be here, but particularly to our organisers Laura Glitsos, Janet Fulton, and the crew at ECU and Curtin Universities—Trevor Cullen, Kathryn Shine, and Glynn Greensmith—for their very hard work behind the scenes. On behalf of all the members of JERAA, we thank you for your organisation and for the opportunity to be 'over West' for the first face-to-face JERAA conference in three years. I know Perth will be a great success in 2022 and be an important step towards the future success of the World Journalism Congress in 2025.

The schedule for this conference 'Journalism in Post-normal Times', and pre-conference schedule, looks incredibly engaging. Each year when I see the research presented in the panels and papers I marvel at the increasing quality of work from our new and more established scholars. When I attended my first JERAA conference, about 15 years ago, the majority of the research seemed focused to me on teaching the core skills of journalism, and much of the debate was about teaching standards. Teaching, of course, remains a very solid part of our association's purpose with an excellent Shameful Names mapping project planned by the Junction next year, but the JERAA of 2022 also showcases the incredible depth and breadth of our members' research in journalism.

There are many conferences available to JERAA members, and many that are focused on wider communication issues. But our discipline-specific event remains key to the place of journalism and its future within the academy. Working together we can raise awareness and understanding of the very specific value of journalism to society, improve understanding and trust in journalism, and play a vital role in researching an area key to our democracy.

As I write this introduction (at the beginning of November 2022), pundits are talking about the US being on the verge of a civil war, our friends at Australian office of Twitter have lost their jobs, and Meta is discussing getting out of news completely. After some great years with support from JNI and the media bargaining code, I fear that the tide is turning again. We know from the research out of Canberra Uni that many people have lost interest in news after the Covid bump, and many more have lost trust in us and our profession. There is much for us to do in the academy right now on all those issues as well as the problems that are comforting our communities as a result of climate change, the need for an Indigenous voice, and the recalibration of diversity within our newsrooms. Never before has the need for well researched ethical journalism and well educated journalist been required. To everyone who is working within the academy to save journalism, through teaching and or research, I thank you.

I hope you enjoy the collegiality that this conference always brings, and it provides mental stimulation that we all require. Thank you particularly to our thoughtful keynotes, Mark Deuze, Peter Greste and Margaret Simons, and all the presenting delegates.

-Alexandra Wake, JERAA President

WELCOME *from* *the* COMMITTEE

Meet Your Conference Committee...

Laura Glitsos (Chair) is a Lecturer at Edith Cowan University and leads the Broadcasting and Digital Journalism Major. Her research and expertise spans Journalism Education, Cultural Studies, Communications, Popular Music, and Media. She was the winner of the 2021 esteemed Rebecca Coyle Prize from the International Association of Popular Music Studies and she published her first sole-authored book with Palgrave MacMillan titled *Somatechnics and Popular Music in Digital Context*s.

Professor Trevor Cullen is currently the Chair of the 2025 World Journalism Education Congress. Professor Cullen was Head of ECU journalism for more than a decade, and he has published over 50 peer-reviewed book chapters, articles and conferences papers on journalism, health journalism and curriculum development. He was the first journalism educator in Australia to secure a National Teaching and Learning Fellowship (NTLF) and the Australian Award for University Teaching (AAUT).

Kathryn Shine is a Senior Lecturer in Journalism at Curtin University. Dr Shine's research interests include the inclusion and portrayal of women in the news, journalism education and news coverage of education. She is the co-author of Schoolteachers in the News. Dr Shine has been a member of the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia executive and is a member of the 2022 JERAA conference organising committee. Dr Shine is the editor of the Curtin Journalism news website, Western Independent, and continues to work as a freelance journalist and moderator. She has previously worked as a senior journalist at news outlets including The Sun Herald and The Australian.

Glynn Greensmith is the Undergraduate Course Coordinator and Lecturer in Journalism at Curtin University. He also hosts a nationwide weekend program for ABC Radio. His main research field involves the media coverage of mass shootings, and is about to undertake a research trip around the UK and Norway examining coverage practices and principles in the wake of major mass shooting events. His other research interests include the relationship between journalism and democracy, diversity in newsrooms, and the teaching of trauma. He was the winner of the 2021 WA Media Award for Best Headlines for his work with the Curtin University news website The Western Independent. He is part of the 2022 JERAA conference organising committee.

WELCOME *from* *the*VOLUNTEERS

This conference would not be possible without the extraordinary help from our volunteers

JOSIAH MCMEEKIN

HARU JAYASEKARA

BIANCA GIMONDO

JASMINE HUGHES

MIGNON SHARDLOW

PLEASE *enjoy*

the COMPLIMENTARY WELCOME COCKTAIL PARTY

Complimentary Welcome Cocktail Party @ Bar Uma, Pan Pacific

Tuesday, 6 December

Opening Night, 6pm-8pm, Complimentary Drinks and Canapes

It is our pleasure to invite all delegates to the Welcome Cocktail Party hosted at Bar Uma at the Pan Pacific, Perth.

Complimentary canapes and drink service will include (beer, wine, and soft drink):

- Ferngrove Sparkling Brut WA
- Select one white & one red option from the below
- Hill St. Semillon Sauvignon Blanc WA
- Ferngrove Classic Chardonnay WA
- Ferngrove Independence Shiraz WA
- Hill St. Cabernet Merlot WA
- Hill St. Lager Draught
- Cascade Premium Light
- Soft drink & juice

WELCOME *to* *the* KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mark Deuze

Professor Mark Deuze is Professor of Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam's (UvA) Faculty of Humanities. Publications of his work include over one hundred papers in academic journals and eleven books, including "Life in Media" (MIT Press, forthcoming 2023), "McQuail's Media and Mass Communication Theory" (7th edition published by Sage in May 2020, co-authored with Denis McQuail), "Beyond Journalism" (co-authored with Tamara Witschge, published February 2020 by Polity Press), and "Making Media" (co-edited with Mirjam Prenger, published January 2019 by Amsterdam University Press).

Margaret Simons

Dr Margaret Simons is an award-winning freelance journalist and the author of many books and numerous articles and essays. She is also a journalism academic and Honorary Principal Fellow at the Centre for Advancing Journalism, University of Melbourne. She has won the Walkley Award for Social Equity Journalism, a Foreign Press Association Award and a number of Quill Awards, including for her reporting from the Philippines with photojournalist Dave Tacon. Her most recent work is a Quarterly Essay "Cry Me A River – the Tragedy of the Murray Darling Basin" which was published in March 2020.

Peter Greste

Professor Peter Greste is an award-winning foreign correspondent who spent 25 years working for the BBC, Reuters and Al Jazeera in some of the world's most volatile places. From Afghanistan, to Latin American, Africa and the Middle East, he reported from the frontlines and beyond, although he is best known for becoming a headline himself, when he and two of his colleagues were arrested in Cairo while working for Al Jazeera, and charged with terrorism offences. In letters smuggled from prison, he described the arrests as an attack on media freedom. The letters helped launch a global campaign that eventually got them released after more than 400 days in prison.

Mark Deuze

On the Mental Health and Well-Being of Media Professionals

All is not well in the studios, agencies, newsrooms, and on the sets of the media we love so much. Reports on the mental health and well-being of media professionals in recent years suggest that they tend to score much higher than the average (professional) population on depression, stress and burnout, and considering suicide.

Documented causes tend to be somewhat particular to the working conditions of the media as an industry – such as unusually high work intensity and tight deadlines, little or no work-life balance in the context of precarious careers, experiences of bullying and sexual harassment, and an over-identification of the self with work. Research on the relation between work-related psychosocial risk factors and stress-related mental disorders furthermore suggests that key risk factors – effort and reward imbalance, low organisational justice, and high job demands – are typical for media work. The industry furthermore lacks resources and corresponding capabilities to recognize when and how its people are in distress, and offers little in the way of opportunities to discuss or otherwise meaningfully address mental health and well-being at work.

This contribution systematically outlines some of the ways we can map, understand, and tackle the mental health and well-being of media professionals, with specific focus on journalists. It includes multilevel recommendations regarding the development of mental health literacy particular to media work, developing managerial approaches focused on media professionals' happiness at work, and their capability to do good work.

Margaret Simons

A Conversation About Journalism – The Role of Universities

Many people would say that journalism is in crisis. In Australia, we regularly see front pages in our newspapers that show scant regard for the facts, and are clearly partisan. Two former Prime Ministers have called for a Royal Commission into the media. Incursions on media freedom are frequent, and Australia has dropped down the scale on measures of media freedom. Meanwhile, repeated attempts to improve self-regulation have created only cynicism.

Meanwhile lawyers, doctors and even builders have professional associations in which industry practice and ethics can be discussed. No such body exists for journalists. Social media contains plenty of criticism of journalism, but most is poorly informed and the profession reacts defensively. In this paper I will argue that some of the ideas about journalism that we teach, and measure the profession against, are not as historically well-based as we like to think. Journalism has been many things since the profession was created, not all of them good.

Now, though, there is the potential for a conversation with the public about what we want journalism to be. What role might universities play in advancing such a conversation? And what outcomes should we seek?

Peter Greste

Defining Journalism - how a new approach to a definition could revolutionise media freedom

For decades, academics, lawyers and politicians have wrestled with defining who is a journalist. Who should get the benefit of media freedom legislation? Who should be allowed into the press gallery and police news conferences?

Who should be allowed to protect their sources in court? In a digital world, where anyone with a mobile phone and a social media account can produce journalism-like content, the term has become almost meaningless. But what if we took an entirely new approach?

What if, instead of defining journalist as a person, we defined journalism as a process? Rather than looking at someone's employment or training, what if we focussed on the ethics, principles, and professional practices a person was using to produce a published work?

And if we wrote that kind of definition into law, how might the media industry respond? What impact would that have on trust in the media?

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

HDR/ECU Prefix Day

Curtin University Business School
139 St Georges Tce, Perth
Monday, 5 December @10am
$15

We are pleased to present an entire day dedicated to higher degree by research (HDR) students and early-career researchers (ECRs).

In the tradition of academia, we have crafted three targeted sessions designed to mentor and inspire those who are at the earlier part of their journey.

Navigate to the program to learn more about the sessions on **research planning, grant writing, and impact and engagement**--to be hosted by notable leaders in the field. Bookings via the Eventbrite, $15.

The Junction Story Map Satellite Event

The Lounge on Level 5 of The Towers (Elizabeth Quay)
11 Barrack Square, Perth
Monday, 5 December @ 2pm
FREE EVENT

The star of the session will be Jennah Williams from ESRI Australia who will be giving a hands-on masterclass in building gorgeous interactive ArcGIS Story Maps. This is the software we are using for The Junction's 2023 Shameful Names project, and you'll be able to use it beyond this project to get your students' best multi-media work displayed in stunning, scrolly, engaging formats on your websites and The Junction.

We urge Junction Campus Editors keen to be involved in the project to attend, as face-to-face learning is the best. Online training will be available later for those who can't attend. **Email kayt.davies@curtin.edu.au with any questions or to RSVP. Numbers limited. Please bring laptops.**

There will be some refreshments provided during the session and at about 6.30pm we'll descend to the Six Senses Thai Restaurant on Elizabeth Quay to share a meal.

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

Chaired by Professor Trevor Cullen

Plenary Session:
A Conversation Between Editors and Educators

Anthony de Ceglie, Editor
The West Australian

Paige Taylor, WA Bureau Chief
The Australian

Andrew O'Connor, WA News Editor
The ABC

Daile Cross, Editor
WAToday

Sean Cowan, Managing Director
Business News

In this plenary panel, Professor Trevor Cullen will lead a conversation between several key members of the Western Australian news media industry and our delegates.

The spirit of this plenary session is shaped by a recent research project initiated by Trevor Cullen and supported by Andrea Burns and Laura Glitsos, in which the researchers asked a spread of current news editors about the key issues facing our industry and our educational model.

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting for JERAA

Featuring an update on WJEC 2025 by Trevor Cullen

The AGM provides an opportunity for JERAA members to raise questions or discuss with the executive issues or concerns arising from the written reports or from the activities of the association throughout the past 12 months.

The President is particularly interested to hear innovative ideas from the membership on ways of further encouraging diversity with journalism education and research.

A number of key questions have been identified for discussion including closer relationships with JEANZ, members fees, and a discussion about the viability of hybrid and in-person conferences, and the impact on the planet.

This AGM will also feature a short update about the 2025 WJEC in Perth from Professor Trevor Cullen.

AGENDA

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ALEX WAKE
Motions for consideration
- JERAA executive to continue to organise stand-alone conferences?
- JERAA executive to continue to hold talks with other associations about the possibility of co-hosting or locating the conference (ANZCA, CHASS)?
- JEANZ to join with JERAA to strengthen ties for journalism education and research in the region?

2. FINANCE REPORT - JANET FULTON
3. CONFERENCE REPORT 2023 - CATRIONA BONFIGLIOLI
4. WJEC 2025 REPORT – TREVOR CULLEN
5. AGM REPORTS

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

The Junction Editorial Board Presents:
2023 Shameful Names Project Launch

Please navigate to the 'live' program using this QR code for the most up-to-date times and room details.

2023 Shameful Names Project Launch
All Junction members and campus editors are invited to hear an update from the Junction Editorial Board, a report on our Election 2022 projects and to take part in planning the year ahead.
Jennah Williams from ESRI will give a brief demonstration of the state-of-the-art interactive storytelling software that The Junction is making available to member universities via this project.

And this session will also feature special papers from:
Peter Marcato & Simon Brady: "We're on-air: The Junction Election Broadcast 2022"
And
Andrew Dodd (Editor) and Jeanti St Clair (Deputy Editor): "Junction Data Analytics"

WELCOME *to*

the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

The Conference Dinner @ Pan Pacific

FEATURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH AWARD AND THE OSSIES

After so much time apart, we are excited to host the conference dinner at the Grand River Ballroom East, Pan Pacific.

Menu correct as at 30 Nov:

ENTRÉE
Seared scallops, blue cheese polenta, toasted hazelnuts, salsa verde

MAIN
Western Australian beef fillet, mash potato, grilled king oyster mushroom, heirloom tomato, jus

DESSERTS
Tiramisu

PLEASE INDICATE TO US IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC DIETARY REQUIREMENTS (I.E., VEGETARIAN) IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.
EMAIL laura.glitsos@ecu.edu.au

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

The Outstanding Teaching Award and The Lighting Presentations

JERAA's Award for Best Lightning Presentation on Teaching Journalism ($1000) recognises excellent and/or innovative journalism teaching ideas as demonstrated in a 'lightning presentation'. Contestants have 20 slides and 5 minutes to convince the audience that theirs is the best presentation. The winner is chosen by popular vote at the session.

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

Special Mentoring Session:
Hosted by Professor Libby Lester focusing on Promotional Aspirations for Level Cs and Up

To thrive in Australian universities, journalism needs to maintain a pipeline of academics that can join the professoriate.

This informal session's aim is to encourage and support mid-career journalism academics to take the leap.

Its focus will be guided to some extent by attendees, but is likely to cover topics such as requirements and expectations for internal promotion, opportunities and dangers in external pathways including moving into administrative roles, and the responsibilities that come with being a professor.

We'll also consider ways to describe and contextualise our work.

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

Book Launch @ Lunch Session

Please feel free to grab some lunch and make your way back into the room listed on the program.

JERAA Conference 2022 is proud to present a lunchtime session dedicated to the launch of several key books in the fields of journalism, media and journalism education.

Chrisanthi Giotis:
Borderland: Decolonizing the Words of War

Matthew Ricketson and Patrick Mullins:
Who Needs the ABC?

Josie Vine and Carole O'Reilly:
Situating the Newspaper Newsroom

Erin Hawley:
Environmental Communication for Children: Media, Young Audiences, and the More-than-Human World

WELCOME *to*

the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

Mental Health @ Lunch Session
Hosted by Fiona Martin and Richard Murray

Feel free to grab some lunch and make your way back into the room indicated on the program.

The last two years of pandemic and climate crisis have left some of our colleagues in dire straits. If you are keen to know how to support those with mental health challenges, join us as we share approaches to supporting colleagues with depression and anxiety, or who are in crisis for other reasons and who might have suicidal ideation.

We hope to be joined by Marc Bryant from Livingworks, which provides online training sessions on how to recognise and respond to people in crisis.

WELCOME *to*
the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

OurWatch @ Lunch Session
Hosted by Rebekah Hayden and Georgia Killick

Feel free to grab some lunch and make your way back into the room indicated on the program.

Ensuring the next generation of media professionals use the evidence when reporting on violence against women

Preventing gendered violence requires multiple strategies and actions across a variety of settings. Your work in media and journalism education and research can shape community attitudes and create greater gender equality—from the university campus to the evidence-base that improves media reporting.
This presentation will introduce Our Watch's Media Making Change. Media Making Change takes a knowledge translation and exchange approach to delivering research on violence against women to media professionals, including academics and teaching staff. It connects university curriculum designed for teaching the practice of reporting on violence against women, with broader work to end gendered violence.

The presentation will cover:
- How teaching and learning staff can embed gender-violence prevention in their subjects and across their department or schools
- Practical tools for teaching including case studies and slide decks
- Introduction to Our Watch's new national resource for media reporting on sexual harassment
- How the Media Making Change university curriculum links with Educating for Equality to contribute to the broader work universities do to end violence against women.

This presentation joins the dots between teaching the next generation to report well on violence against women and Australian universities' responses to the Change the Course report, addressing the findings from the Nations Student Safety Survey.

Our Watch is a national leader in Australia's work to stop violence against women and their children before it starts. The organisation was created to drive nation-wide change in the practices, norms, and structures that lead to violence against women and children.

WELCOME *to*

the SPECIAL SESSIONS AND EVENTS

12.30pm Wed 7 Dec
SPECIAL LUNCH SESSION

"At the frontline: The role of journalism in the war for Ukraine's existence"

Featuring Galyna Piskorska

Feel free to grab some lunch and make your way back into the room indicated on the program.

WELCOME *to* *the* PANELS

In a year of milestones for the BBC and the ABC, what is the future of public broadcasting?

Please navigate to the 'live' program using this QR code at the start of this booklet for the most up-to-date times and room details.

In 2022 the BBC celebrates its centenary and the ABC its 90th anniversary. The BBC was the first public broadcaster in the world, remains the biggest and has been highly influential in its approach to programs not to mention the programming itself. The ABC grew up in its shadow while forging its own path in more recent decades.

Founding director John Reith's vision for providing a service that reached everyone in England with material that blended information, education and entertainment was replicated by the ABC. Likewise, the deploying of broadcasting services overseas as a form of soft power.

When the Internet arrived many commentators predicted the demise of public broadcasting but the past three decades have seen them embracing new media forms, innovating their services and reaching a wider audience than ever before. As the two public broadcasters reach significant milestones this year, they could be forgiven for indulging in bouts of celebration but in fact the BBC and the ABC have been under near constant attack for at least the past decade, not because they are an irrelevance but the exact opposite, and the attacks from governments, especially conservative governments, and from commercial media rivals pose a consider, some would say existential, threat to the BBC and the ABC. The purpose of this panel is to ask what is the future of public broadcasting.

What is needed, both from the broadcasters but also from governments and the population overall, for them to thrive rather than simply survive?

Panellists:

Patrick Barwise (via a pre-recorded short zoom interview). Patrick is the co-author with Peter York of The War Against the BBC (Penguin, 2020). Patrick is Emeritus Professor of Management and Marketing at the London Business School.

Gaven Morris was head of News and Current Affairs at the ABC until this year when he was appointed an Industry Professor in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts at Western Sydney University.

Matthew Ricketson is Professor of Communication at Deakin University and the co-author with Patrick Mullins of Who Needs the ABC? Why taking it for granted is no longer an option (2022).

Alex Wake is Associate Professor of Journalism at RMIT, a former journalist at the ABC and is writing a book about the ABC's role in international broadcasting.

WELCOME *to* *the* PANELS

Journalism in Distant Times

Please navigate to the 'live' program using this QR code at the start of this booklet for the most up-to-date times and room details.

This panel will discuss the role of journalism education and practice in overcoming barriers of distance, diversity, and lockdowns during Covid-19. Using the experiences of the journalism discipline at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) as a case study, this panel aims to highlight the issues and experiences through education and practice, the commonalities facing journalism disciplines and how these insights can inform post-Covid journalism education. Presentations will discuss embedding health journalism ethics in journalism education; the unexpected benefits of lockdown journalism in enhancing diversity of storytelling; embedding international networks and entrepreneurialism into capstone studies; evolution and innovation in journalism practice in a student publication setting; internationalisation through the Media Salon. The panel will conclude by offering Insights for the future of journalism education and practice.

(1) Introduction / Chair Professor Mark Deuze - University of Amsterdam

(2) Embedding pandemic ethics into research-integrated hybrid journalism education Dr Catriona Bonfiglioli - University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
The declaration of a pandemic of a novel coronavirus thrust thousands of general reporters into health reporting roles. While many would have learned journalism ethics in a tertiary setting or on the job, health reporting, particularly reporting infectious diseases, raises distinct ethical issues including privacy, stigmatisation, public health communication, blame framing; moral panic, and resisting medical misinformation. Suddenly, embedding health journalism ethics into journalism education became an urgent challenge alongside the equally vital task of equipping reporters around the world with the specialist ethics and safety tips. The challenge was complicated by the pivot to online and hybrid journalism to ensure continuity of learning in a lock-down environment. This paper presents a professional reflection on my responses to these two challenges. Developing and embedding resources to upskill journalists and journalism students involved working with existing units of study, integrating engaging research-integrated assessments into new hybrid journalism and health communication learning opportunities and developing public-facing research and resources. The paper builds on my continued dedication to integrating
ethics into research-inspired study and the resource I developed for the Journalism Education Research Association of Australia (JERAA).

(3) Practical Application of Practice during Covid Dr Helen Vatsikopoulos - University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
The restrictions which were placed upon us by lockdown allowed students to make observational journalism within their families and neighbourhoods. Both in 2020 and 2021 this allowed us to access wonderful stories of diversity. It was especially valuable to those from Western Sydney and diverse backgrounds who do not see their people in the media and therefore do not think their stories are part of mainstream narratives and therefore important. The opposite was true. During the 2021 lockdown when a "2 Sydneys" narrative emerged students were able to contrast the information given during official state government press conferences and the traditional media reporting with their own experiences at home and in their neighbourhoods often incorporating social media posts and videos and other online resources such as police helicopter surveillance mapping. The stories were refreshing and the impact on the students was positive. This paper will discuss these developments within the context of its impact on the future of journalism education and practice.

WELCOME *to* *the* PANELS

Journalism in Distant Times

(4) Designing a hybrid, internationally focused, entrepreneurial journalism capstone unit in pandemic inflected times Dr Belinda Middleweek – University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Precarious working arrangements in the news media have raised the value of entrepreneurialism and journalism organizations are now seeking graduates with entrepreneurial skills and capabilities. In turn, recent pedagogical research has highlighted the need for journalism capstone units to showcase their point of difference, for example, by embedding international networks and perspectives, and integrating business concepts, design thinking and product development into course curricula to meet the demands of a shifting media ecosystem. This paper draws on my experience designing a journalism capstone unit to cultivate the entrepreneurial, global mindset of students at a time when physical travel (both local and international) was limited during the COVID-19 pandemic. Subject content involved virtual collaboration with a startup incubator and case study analysis of experiments in innovation from all over the world. In their assessments, students were required to reach beyond their immediate locales to build a global journalist-entrepreneur brand and prototype for a media start up. The challenges and opportunitiesfor embedding entrepreneurial and international perspectives into journalism capstone units in response to pandemic inflected 'post normal' times will be discussed.

(5) Reflective judgment in hybrid student newsroom practice in lockdown Martin Newman – University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Pandemic risks, self-isolation, travel restrictions, and lockdowns profoundly changed the studying environments of journalism students and academics. Using reflective practice in a participatory action research (PAR) framework, this paper analyses evolutions in student participation, news gathering, interviewing, and editing practice during periods of self-isolation or lockdowns during the pandemic. The study reveals how critical and lateral thinking among student journalists working in UTS's Central News newsroom, in constricted social and professional situations, led to innovations and workarounds in information gathering. Students evolved practice through mixed technology, forensic journalism, responding to changed environments and utilising adaptive news gathering techniques. Innovations included adapting modes of working to both recognise and anticipate the public's changed work and living practices, resulting in new frameworks for news and information gathering. The importance of empathy as a tool for day-to-day reflective practice in the newsroom became increasingly apparent. This paper explores how a PAR framework can harness reflection-on-action to inform changes in teaching and learning practices stimulated by new boundaries and opportunities arising from lockdowns. Student and academic reflection in action generated positive new approaches journalists can employ in a post-pandemic hybrid work environment.

6) Internationalising Journalism in Distant Times: The Media Salon experience Christine Kearney – University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Bridging the gap between academia and industry is a growing quest of universities in journalism disciplines. In addition, further internationalising academic institutions such as UTS is one of the key drivers of future focus and growth, including increasing international networks and perspectives, in times of distant learning and discussion. This paper draws on my experience as international journalism collaborations coordinator, in founding, designing and presenting the UTS Media Salon: The Journalist and The Scholar, an event series that unites one top international journalist or editor with a key academic for a lively discussion on a big picture topic. The inaugural panel brought together global Guardian editor-in-chief Katharine Viner and Dr Seeta Peña Gangadharan, Associate Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science, discussing the big picture challenges journalists andother institutions face during and post-Covid. This paper will discuss this new project within the context of its impact on bringing together key international figures in academia and the news industry, on global topics across time zones in an online forum.

(7) Future of Journalism Education and Practice/Closing comments Professor Saba Bebawi – University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

WELCOME *to* *the* PANELS

Defining Excellence in Journalism Practice Research

Please navigate to the 'live' program using this QR code at the start of this booklet for the most up-to-date times and room details.

Since the Australian Research Council introduced the assessment of non-traditional research outputs (NTROs) in 2010, to acknowledge the research value of creative practice, there have been debates about how to assess excellence in these types of work. Expert assessors agree on the importance of a few criteria that should be applied but differ on most others (McKee 2020). In journalism studies, a relatively small field, colleagues report that they, their universities, and the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessors do not consistently and effectively assess these works (Wake, Martin and Backhaus 2020), which include documentaries, investigative and long form journalism, portfolios and reports.

 This panel marks the start of a field consultation on what constitutes academic excellence in journalism practice. Panellists will diagnose the challenges researchers face in articulating arguments for excellence, and universities or experts face in assessing journalism NTROs. They will consider what the markers of excellence might be and explore approaches templates and tools for documenting outstanding journalism practice, engagement and impact that JERAA members could adopt.

 The capacity to analyse and describe NTRO excellence is critical for the purposes of ERA assessments, grant and promotion applications, and other activities that bear on JERAA member's career trajectories. Given the 2021 expansion of journalism Field of Research categories it is critical that academics producing journalism as research effectively submit and have assessed any creative work they produce.

 This panel will contribute to the development of journalism studies by outlining key arguments about how we define excellence in creative practice research in our field, and the challenges our members, their universities and the Australian Research Council in face in articulating and/or assessing standards of excellence. Importantly it will suggest how we can best measure, record and report quality in creative journalism outputs, including engagement and impact.

References

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WELCOME *to* *the* PANELS

Defining Excellence in Journalism Practice Research

Please navigate to the 'live' program using this QR code at the start of this booklet for the most up-to-date times and room details.

Panellists:

Associate Professor Alex Wake
President JERAA, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University
Why is the assessment of journalism NTROs a critical issue? This presentation considers the implications of data from a 2019 survey of journalism educators, which indicates a field split between those who produce NTROs and those that do more traditional research. It considers the role of NTROs in journalism studies research, and the historic debates about how the academy defines quality in journalism practice which have animated concerns about NTRO assessment. Key among these is the lack of funding recorded from the ARC to those whose research is creative practice.

Professor Margaret Simons
Honorary Principal Fellow, Centre for Advancing Journalism, University of Melbourne
What are the challenges of assessing excellence in journalism creative practice? As an investigative journalist, book and long form feature author, Margaret Simons has produced a range of outstanding NTROs. Nevertheless she has found frustrating the process of translating her achievements into ARC assessable submissions. In this presentation she reviews the challenges she has faced in understanding how best to documenting NTROs, along with engagement and impact measures, and how they are assessed as research.

Professor Johan Lidberg
Head of Journalism, School of Media, Film and Journalism, Monash University
What factors are key in making the case for journalism practice excellence? As a member of
the Monash NTRO working group in 2015, and part of that University's Faculty of Arts NTRO assessment committee since 2016, Johan Lidberg has helped guide many practitioners through the NTRO documentation and submission process. In this presentation he outlines the key steps to take in arguing for NTRO excellence.

Professor Craig Batty
Dean of Research, UniSA Creative, University of South Australia
How can we better define and document excellence in creative practice research? This presentation explores how the Australian Screen Production Education and Research Association (ASPERA) established its criteria for excellence in research practice and presents a case study from UniSA of a digital platform for the submission, peer review and archiving of NTROs, along with a set of digital resources to assist researchers in understanding and preparing NTROs for ERA. This work was a whole-of-university project, across all academic and central units, sponsored by the Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Enterprise. Since the platform was launched, over 250 NTROs have been submitted and assessed, across all NTRO output types.

Panel Chair: Associate Professor Fiona Martin,
VP Research JERAA, Discipline of Media and Communications, The University of Sydney
How can JERAA and its members help to ensure that universities better assess and support quality in NTRO research? This presentation proposes some simple strategies to better document NTROs for ERA assessment, drawn from recent presentations by Professor Jen Webb, Graduate Dean of Research at the University of Canberra, and templates and guidelines developed for the University of Sydney. The panel chair will then throw to the audience for consultation on how excellence in journalism practice needs to be defined, evaluated and assessed to meet the ERA standards, with attention to discipline specific concepts of excellence in authorship, peer review, engagement, impact and measures of esteem.

WELCOME *to* *the* PANELS

How can we increase diversity in newsrooms and in news content?

Moderator: Dr Glynn Greensmith
Panellists: Dr Kathryn Shine, Curtin University; Andrea Ho, Director Education Judith Neilson Institute; Janet Fulton, University of Canberra; Angela Ho, reporter ABC News Perth and Media Diversity Australia scholarship recipient 2021

Journalists and journalism educators are increasingly aware about the need for more diversity in news content and in newsrooms, but significant change is yet to occur. According to the Global Media Monitoring Project 2021, progress made to date on addressing gender imbalances in news content has been "glacial" and it will take 67 years to close the gender gap in traditional media if we continue at this pace. At the same time, the recent Media Diversity Australia report found that Anglo Celtic reporters and presenters continue to be "vastly over-represented" in TV news content across all states and territories. "Indigenous and culturally diverse voices remain silent," according to the report. But with increased attention and research in this area, strategies to encourage and promote diversity are being identified. Our panellists will share insights and advice, based on their research and experiences.

Supporting regional journalism and regional reporters

Moderator: Dr Kathryn Shine
Panellists: Jesinta Burton, reporter WAtoday and former regional newspaper journalist; Tom Zaunmayr, former editor of numerous regional newspapers and the National Indigenous Times; Victoria Laurie, patron of Women in Media, which runs a mentoring program for graduate regional journalists

Going bush is a rite of passage for many new journalists. And most say the experience was one of the best of their lives. But it's not easy, and it seems that some regional journalists are not getting the support they need. Two recent reports have highlighted significant issues in regional journalism. The first, produced from the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, reported that a survey of more than 200 regional journalists found they were "overworked, underpaid, and pessimistic about the future of their careers and the outlets they work for". The second, a Parliamentary Inquiry into Regional Newspapers, found that regional papers been challenged for more than a decade by loss of revenue, loss of talent and rising costs that have forced some to permanently close their doors. What can be done to restore the sector and make regional journalism a more attractive job prospect? Is the government doing enough for regional journalism? What do employers need to do to support their staff and recruit and retain journalists. And what role can journalism education play?

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WELCOME *to*
the ABSTRACTS

How journalists' knowledge and AI can help fight Information Disorder at scale

Shaun Davies

Misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda – which can be collectively referred to as Information Disorder (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017) – present well-documented challenges for both journalism and content moderation. The speed and scale of content creation on digital platforms means that content moderation systems must deploy artificial intelligence (AI) to detect content that violates policies. AI decision-making is probabilistic and requires stable "ground truth" categories to achieve accurate results. But ground truth for misinformation is hard — words are ambiguous, truth is contested, and topics evolve. Journalism is better equipped to work through these issues but faces a different challenge — it is slow and does not scale.

This paper investigates whether the skills and practices of journalism can be better utilised by platform companies to combat problematic information. Potential solutions include whether journalists can be used as experts to train AI, and whether journalistic concepts such as "public interest" and "practical truth" can be used in algorithm governance. It also poses a definitional problem — journalists and technologists diverge in their approach to analysing and solving problems. Are there shared definitions on key Information Disorder issues? The data in the paper is drawn from a series of in-depth interviews with journalists, platform product managers and AI engineers who work on information disorder. Concepts and themes are extracted using discourse analysis methods. Wardle, C., & Derakhshan, H. (2017). Information disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policymaking (Council of Europe Report).

Preventing Fake News/ Information through Fact Checking and Community Empowerment: A Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Approach

Sriram Arulchelvan

Fake news/ information is a communal problem now. Even though fake news has a long history, now its intensity is so high. During the Covid-19 pandemic, United Nations (UN) alerted the world to tackle the fake news in the Infodemic era. According to World Health Organisation, an Infodemic is excessive/ overloaded information including false or misleading news in the digital and physical environments. The increasing Internet usage and growth of social media leads to rapid spread of mis/dis-information.

This fake news risks the public health, money loss, creates confusions, influences public decisions and responses. There is an urgent need to act against the infodemic. The prevention of spreading fake news in the society through Fact-Checking and Community Empowerment is the key goal of this research. This study adopts Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Approach which encourages the youths to develop necessary skillsets, knowledge and attitude to become an informed citizen, increase civic participation and develops critical thinking.

The research aims to develops skills on Media and Information Literacy among the youths in selected villages in Tamilnadu, India. It has adopted mixed methods comprises of Capacity building of MIL on youth along with pre-test and post-test to find out the effectiveness of the program. The survey among the community to understand the impact created on the public.

The result shows that there is a change in their attitude and behaviour in terms of search for the needed information, identifying fake news, verifying facts, creating and utilising the content. This behavioural change empowers the youths and community and lead a role in correct decision making.

Gender lens in the media

Stephanie Corsetti

From male perpetrators of gruesome murders to assumptions about female survivors of domestic abuse, the perspective of gender and how individuals identify colours news coverage. Perceptions about men, women plus people who identify as non-binary or LGBTQIA+ all play a role in how journalists produce content and how the audience consumes information. Editors and reporters need to enhance their gender literacy so when making content, they are aware of stereotypes, biases, and they can apply industry standards to use language that does not pre-determine gender roles. I am proposing to work with GADAus (Gender and Disaster Australia) as an industry reviewer after previously presenting at the Gender Justice in Disaster conference. My news reporting experience positions me well to develop protocols that journalists can adopt, similar to trauma informed practices when reporting on domestic violence and horrific events. It is crucial to give survivors of emergencies a voice and to remain respectful in the aftermath of any crises.

Combatting visual mis/disinformation: An exploration into journalistic fact-checking practices, barriers, and motivation

T.J. Thomson and Richard Murray

The latest research in combatting online mis/disinformation indicates that, worldwide, a relatively low number of journalists fact-check social media claims. When it comes to fact-checking visual claims online, this number drops even lower. This is also an issue for ordinary citizens, who report they struggle with identifying and responding to visual forms of online misinformation. However, more research is needed to explore how journalists are using technology to combat visual mis/disinformation online and, importantly, the barriers that prevent or stymy those efforts. This is especially true for less-resourced regional and rural newsrooms that are also feeling more acutely the digital divide's effects. As such, this project proposes the following three research questions to advance the state of scholarship in this area and inform future interventions: 1) How are Australian journalists from urban and regional print/digital newsrooms using technology to combat visual mis/disinformation? 2) What do Australian journalists perceive are the barriers to adoption for digital mis/disinformation verification technologies? and 3) What motivates Australian journalists' adoption of these interventions? The results hold significant interest for scholars in journalism studies with interests in communication authenticity and integrity.

Journalists should stick to reporting on social media, not express their opinion

Caroline Fisher

The use of social media by Australian journalists has been under the spotlight in the past twelve months. Particularly in relation to some ABC journalists, whose social media activity has raised questions about their independence and professionalism.
To date there has been substantial literature examining the use of social media as part of journalism practice and the division of private and professional identities while online. Much of this research has been done from the perspective of the journalist. However, there has been less examination of audience attitudes to reporter's use of social media.
Drawing on data from the Digital News Report: Australia 2022, this paper finds a strong preference among news consumers for journalists to stick to reporting while on social media and refrain from expressing their personal opinions. The data suggests a link between audiences' concerns about online misinformation and opposition to reporter's expressing personal views on social media. However, those who support reporter's expressing their views are more likely to pay for news. This paper explores this tension between audience expectations of normative journalistic practice and the economic pressures facing the news industry.

Disruption or reflection? The shaping influence of media organisations and media ecosystems on news commenting

Tim Koskie

Extensive scholarship into news commenting has revealed optimism for its promises and a growing cynicism for its results. Such portrayals can put a technologically deterministic view of this innovation as a new addition and disruption, but this obscures the roles that the media organisations and the media ecosystem have played in cultivating the content. In this study, I applied qualitative methods to the most visible news commenting in Australia and South Korea to identify the ways that each site, organisation, and national context had a notable impact on their comment sections' contributions and risks. A directed qualitative content analysis of 665 comment sections with 12,208 comments on the most visited websites in each country revealed the extent to which and the ways that these impacts manifested in the characteristics of each sites' comment sections, providing a view of that news commenting content with the broadest reach in each media ecosystem. The results demonstrate similarities and differences in the ways that each site contributes to the diversity of viewpoints, information, representation, silencing speech, and repetitive phatic interaction appearing in their news commenting, each of which has implications for media pluralism. Comments were found to reflect their environment, though they also offered consistent benefits. The outcomes suggest that news organisations, policymakers, and even the commenters themselves need to make clear the kinds of contents and contributions they want to see – and those they want to avoid.

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Social media content consumption of children aged 12-15. Comparative research between Czech Republic and France
Klara Odstrcilova

Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University (2019) reports that young people aged 18–35 consume news content for different reasons than the previous generations; They want to be entertained and have fun whilst keeping abreast of the world's events. The shift of reasons for consuming any content may be even more complicated for children – but there is no relevant research the topic just as there is no unique news content created for them. Therefore, children spending online on average just under 3 hours a day (EU Kids Online, 2020) are not even given an option to consume news content that they would consider interesting on their preferred platforms.
 The research studies children's social media content consumption of the following platforms: Youtube, Instagram and TikTok. The specific research design includes screen monitoring content analysis (both quantitative and qualitative) and focus groups. The aim of the research is to acquire knowledge and deeper understanding of children's aged 12–15 social media content consumption in Czech Republic and France. Data will be used for the main objective: for public media to conceptualize an alternative news content that is suitable for the target group; so that they at least have an option to consume news in a form appealing to them and on their preferred platforms.

Great News: Getting journalists to fix journalistic ethics and standards
Sacha Molitorisz

Ethical dilemmas are nothing new for journalists. However, amid recent job losses and shutdowns, journalists are under intense pressure to cut corners and abandon good ethical practice. Meanwhile, regulatory oversight of journalists is systemically ineffective, and getting more inadequate with each new digital day. This paper explores both good journalistic practice and the standards schemes that oversee news media. It takes the temperature of journalistic ethics in Australia, and gauges the industry's appetite for cultural and regulatory reform. This is done by examining journalists' responses to recent issues of journalistic ethics, including the 'chequebook journalism' of 60 Minutes interviewing the parents of Cleo Smith and the 'outing' of Rebel Wilson by the Sydney Morning Herald. In this way, the paper begins to articulate strategies for improving journalistic practice via introducing meaningful cultural change at a newsroom level, rather than via simply articulating redrafted or additional codes of conduct. It also probes the enthusiasm for an effective cross–platform news media standards scheme that would oversee journalists and news media. This paper builds on previous published work by the Centre for Media Transition, and also marks the beginning of a new ongoing project.

Breaking the law: How Australian journalists and the organisations they work for have reacted to meta-data retention laws
Richard Murray

In 2015 the Commonwealth Government of Australia enacted meta–data retention laws as part of amendments to the Telecommunications (Interception and Access Act) 1979. These laws forced Australia's telecommunications companies to retain Australian's meta–data for two years, and it enabled the federal government of Australia to seize and maintain people's communication meta–data at will and without a warrant. This includes journalists. Metadata is best described as an activity log. It is the information that allows communication to occur, and it includes the time, date, duration, and location of a connection. In essence, it reveals who communicated with whom, where and when.

 In reaction, news organisations and the journalists they employ have come up with ways to circumvent this law. Strategies include everything from using encrypted messaging apps to a return to face–to–face communications and mail drops. Further, news organisations have been active in educating their staff and, on occasion, the public in the best ways to communicate undetected. Based on interviews with journalists, editorial staff, and the lawyers working for mainstream Australian news organisations including the ABC, SBS, Nine Entertainment (former Fairfax), News Corp Australia, and The Guardian Australia, this paper reveals the lengths news organisations are going to in the interests of protecting themselves, their sources, and retaining 'hygienic' communication free from government surveillance.

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Diversity in Australian newsrooms: reflections and recommendations
Janet Fulton

Diversity in news media is an ongoing discussion and a key issue in Australian media. Research has unequivocally shown that marginalised diverse groups are underrepresented in newsrooms and under- or misrepresented in news content. The latest Digital News Report: Australia 2022 suggests that the news media may need to 'reorient their news types and agendas towards non-traditional, more diverse and changing news audiences' (Park, et al. 2022, p. 55) to attract and retain a broader audience. A research project in partnership with Internews examined how diverse groups were reported in the news and represented in the newsroom. The groups included eleven areas of diversity: gender, sexual identity, ability, Indigeneity, race and ethnicity, national origin, religion, language, age, class and geography. Interviews were conducted in Feb-March 2022, with practitioners and other stakeholders where we asked for their reflections on the state of diversity in Australian newsrooms. The research team also employed secondary data analysis using websites, media interviews and news articles to glean broader reflections from those who are engaged in the space. What we discovered is that while there are pockets of the media doing excellent work, particularly in community media, other areas such as commercial media are disappointingly slow in understanding the benefits of diversity.This presentation will draw on the reflections of the interview participants and their ideas on how the news media can increase diversity. These reflections ranged from areas such as journalism education through to scholarship and paid internship opportunities, incentives and training.
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Making good of time: The value of temporal reflexivity in studies of local news sustainability
Alison McAdam

There is much scholarship lamenting the future of local news, with policymakers, industry and academics focusing on innovations and support mechanisms to secure news 'sustainability'. The term sustainability has become almost synonymous with crisis in discussions about local journalism and linked to the very survival of news, especially in rural and regional areas. Scholars who focus specifically on news sustainability, adopt a political economy approach or explore new and diverse business models and digital innovations that might ensure public interest journalism into the future. A parliamentary inquiry in Australia in 2022, for example, highlighted sustainability 16 times, linking it to phrases such as "commercial sustainability" and "newsroom sustainability". This paper argues the need to explore news sustainability through the lens of temporal reflexivity. Temporal reflexivity can help scholars determine what are meaningful developments and what are simply short-term phenomena, by asking three questions: is this a break from what came before, or a continuation of what has existed, or some mid-way variant. Such an approach addresses gaps in the literature that arguably overlook insights from those news providers who have experienced success and longevity in the field, and the need to consider the social and cultural dimensions of news as factors shaping sustainability. Interviews with 22 independent news owners and producers at five Australian mastheads inform this study, which is part of a major national research project examining the future of local news.

The Empathetic Lens: Participatory photojournalism and protest
Marziya Mohammedali

There is increasing acknowledgement of the role citizen photojournalism plays in media coverage, particularly given the immediacy with which pressing events such as protest actions are photographed, recorded, streamed and shared on social media platforms. The images created in this way are marked by a distinctive eyewitness aesthetic given the proximity to the actions, and are often published by individuals who are themselves involved in the protests. By its very nature this activity is highly subjective, but it allows for those who do not find themselves represented appropriately (or at all) in current mainstream media to share a different story, bringing marginalised voices to the fore. Through a study of my own work as a protest photographer, I argue for the development of a model of participatory photojournalism that is grounded in empathy, and that draws on lived expertise as well as principles of decoloniality, feminism and queerness, in order to explore what protest photography from the margins may look like, and the impact it has on shaping media narratives.

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Organisational gatekeeping in Australian sports journalism: a longitudinal study of three newspapers

Peter English, Thomas Horky, Jörg-Uwe Nieland & Christof Seeger

Sports journalism has transformed over the past decade but comparisons often rely on the views of practitioners or general industry commentary. In Australia, the focus on print media has changed substantially, with news organisations switching to digital to accommodate the shifting nature of news consumption. At the same time, however, print remains a key part of media coverage, taking up staffing time and organisational resources. It is therefore important to examine changes to the way newsrooms have altered their approaches to publishing content over the past decade.

 While there has been analysis of the content appearing in news publications, these studies have often been one-offs (see English, 2011; Lawe-Davies & Le Brocque, 2006; Schultz-Jørgensen, 2005 Shoemaker & Cohen, 2006). This provides scope for comparisons in a longitudinal study of Australian sports journalism in mainstream print publications. This paper is part of the global International Sport Press Survey, which was first undertaken in 2011, and replicated in 2021. Eight nations and 30 publications were involved, including Australia, in 2021. Three major Australia newspapers – The Australian, the Herald Sun, and The West Australian – formed the sample of 1274 articles in 2011 and 1121 in 2021. The results highlight both similarities and shifts in approaches to newspaper content, with many of the changes guided by organisational gatekeeping approaches.

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Does news and current affairs uphold and promote Australian community radio codes of practice

Bridget Backhaus & Heather Anderson

For nearly 50 years, the Australian community radio sector has played a central role in the social movement of media democratisation. Community radio stations have been attributed as important cultural resources for the Australian community (Meadows et al 2009) and as social movement organisations promoting communicative democracy (Anderson et al 2020). News and current affairs are an integral part of community broadcasting and the genre is a current focus of the sector. National current affairs program, The Wire, and news bulletin service, National Radio News, have been supported by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) for over a decade, however, recent projects such as the Local & Independent News Association (LINA) have shifted attention to a more hyperlocal news industry.

 This paper, supported by the 2022 JERAA Research Grant, interrogates news and current affairs (NCAF) programming on Australian community radio to investigate how effectively the sector upholds and promotes the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) Codes of Practice. Through content analysis and interviews with NCAF practitioners, the research focuses on the codes that cover Principles of Diversity and Independence; General Programming (to provide access to views not adequately represented by other broadcasting sectors); and Indigenous programming and coverage of Indigenous issues. Our findings aim to interrogate how successfully the sector's national news and current affairs programming implements and represents these principles, in light of the challenges and tensions that manifest when producing national content for (often) hyperlocal audiences.

Supporting media on image choices relating to suicide and mental illness
Elizabeth Paton

Media reporting about suicide and mental illness can impact on suicide risk, stigma and help seeking behaviours. This includes imagery. While existing guidelines discourage the use of stereotyping, stigmatising or unsafe images, limited evidence and information is available on best-practice use. In an era where journalistic practices are scrutinized to mitigate potential harms, such guidelines may be invaluable to those communicating about complex issues.
 This presentation introduces new guidelines to support journalists and professional communicators in selecting imagery to illustrate stories about mental illness and suicide.
 Guidelines were developed via literature review of current evidence and surveying attitudes of people with lived experience, media, government and mental health and suicide prevention sectors. Focus groups were conducted with the aforementioned cohorts to elaborate on these findings. This was followed by a Delphi study, iteratively employed to engage those with lived experience of mental ill-health and suicide, expert communicators and sector professionals to establish consensus for appropriately communicating about mental illness and suicide.
 The resulting image guidelines were released with a suite of resources including a database of images that exemplify the guidelines, available royalty free to media and other professional communicators.

Constructive journalism techniques as a way of navigating objectivity and purposeful subjectivity in journalism
Victoria Fielding and Natasha van Antwerpen

Objectivity is central to scholarly discussions of western news media and to journalists' professional identities, being considered the cornerstone of professionalism and quality, and an important element of journalistic training. Despite its importance and prominence in journalism, how achievable objectivity is in practice has been debated, including the inherent subjectivities in newsgathering processes, the impacts of journalists' ideology on news representation, the possibility that media routines replicate existing power structures in society, and portrayals of false balance that can amplify misinformation. These debates and concerns have led to increasing scholarly and professional interest in alternative forms of journalism, that have often developed in response to objectivity's perceived failings to deliver quality journalism. One such alternative form is constructive journalism, an approach intended to improve the quality and usefulness of news content. Though still gaining conceptual clarity, constructive journalism has developed a set of techniques, including reporting on solutions, outcomes and pathways forward, contextualising news stories, being inclusive of diverse sources, empowering the public, and engaging in co-creation. While proponents argue constructive journalism is still meeting the core functions of journalism, including adherence to truthful reporting, its focus on purposeful selection of stories and sources brings to the fore questions of objectivity and purposeful subjectivity in the news production process. Using the six techniques above, we discuss how journalists can navigate the challenges of inherent subjectivities of constructive journalism, while also potentially contributing to greater objectivity and improved news quality.

Victim focused reporting in mass shootings – lessons from Port Arthur for modern mass shooting coverage
Glynn Greensmith

This paper examines the framing of 'victim-focused' reporting in the event of a mass shooting. Using data from a news-framing analysis of both the Dunblane and Port Arthur mass shootings, within The Mercury newspaper, the paper will examine whether there are apparent differences between news stories that purport to focus on victims and families, rather than the perpetrator of the crime, and whether those findings have relevance for modern mass shooting coverage, such as witnessed after the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.
 More nuance has been seen in modern mass shooting coverage, particularly since a more widespread understanding of the research into the place of media coverage as a significant element of the motivation of potential mass random shooters. More coverage appears to be dedicated to victims and families and survivors, at the expense of perpetrator detail and motive speculation, as per the now establish script of mass shooting coverage. This paper will examine whether such nuance is in fact being applied, and seek to establish a new baseline interpretation of victim-focused coverage using evidence from the author's news framing analysis of the Dunblane and Port Arthur massacres.

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'The death knock' – a rite of passage

Alysson Watson

The 'death knock' is a journalism practice that is as routine as it is shocking. Immediately after a newsworthy death, a journalist will attempt to contact the family of the deceased seeking an interview for a story. Journalists who do death knocks are generally young and inexperienced, although some make a career of it. In what has been described as a 'rite of passage' and a 'blooding' experience, young journalists do death knocks with little training, preparation, guidance or confidence, and many hold personal, professional and ethical concerns about the practice. Mostly, their concerns lessen with experience, but for some the death knock has profound negative impacts. For others, it is work they take in their stride and carry out with pride, believing it has positive impacts for the bereaved and their communities. This paper reports on the findings of a 2021 survey of Australian journalists' death knock practice and experience, including their methods and attitudes. It will do this within the framework of Australian and international research which has found both positive and negative impacts of the death knock on journalists. The paper argues for better preparation for journalism students and young journalists being asked to do the death knock, most importantly in understanding why the practice is a part of their job.

'Shut up and take my money'– state funding, editorial independence and public trust in Singapore's evolving journalism landscape

Howard Lee

In May 2021, Singapore Press Holding (SPH), the country's newspaper conglomerate, announced its restructuring into a not-for-profit entity in response to the global decline of the news industry. Citing the model used by media companies in other advanced democracies, such as The Guardian in the UK, the rebranded SPH Media Trust would have latitude to seek both public and commercial funds to remain viable and to produce 'quality journalism as a public good'. Concerns about the ability of the newspaper to break away from government control were dismissed with assertions that editorial independence had always existed. By March 2022, the government announced in its budget that S$180m will be allocated annually to SPH Media Trust over the next five years, with the not-for-profit setting its own performance targets and mechanisms for public accountability. No independent governing body was set up to ensure editorial independence, raising fresh concerns about deteriorating media freedom. For a media company that has always been regulated by an overt 'nation building' agenda that aligned with the interests of the state, this development suggested more state control through economic levers. Yet public discourse surrounding the development appeared intent on shifting public perceptions of what the Singapore public should accept as 'public service in journalism'. In examining the case of SPH Media Trust, this paper draws on existing literature on expectations of public service journalism and the impact of funding on the news industry. Examining mediated discourse surrounding the company's restructuring alongside those from Australia's news media bargaining code, it probes the emergence of a new understanding of public service journalism that appears divorced from, but is intricately interwoven with, media funding. Such a development has long-term impacts on the industry's reputation and sustainability.

Introducing an 'alternative' news source: A mixed methods analysis of pseudo-media sites and how they operate

Katrina Isabel Gonzales

The online platform has paved the way for fake news sites, 'alternative' media, and dis/misinformation and citizen journalism, leading to the emergence of pseudo-media sites as both a concept and a news 'entity'. However previous studies have lacked a clear definition on what are pseudo-media sites as their 'news' activities form among the many issues surrounding online journalism.
 This study aims to clarify the term 'pseudo-media sites' and explore its characteristics that define it as an 'alternative source' of news. Through a content analysis of articles of content produced by 'pseudo-media' sites and case studies of these same news 'outlets', this project aims to identify the factors, issues and themes mostly covered by these sites. This will also serve as a guide for future studies that seek to explore the pseudo-media phenomena.

Visualizing health messaging as public pedagogy in China

Kay Hearn

"The sage does not cure the sick, but prevents illness from arising, not govern chaos, but prevents chaos from arising....To treat disease and chaos after they have already occurred is like digging a well when one is thirsty, and akin to forging an awl when the occasion for a fight arises. It is far too late!"
Huangdi Neijing, or Inner Canon of the Yellow Emperor or Esoteric Scripture of the Yellow Emperor, compiled around 500 BC (Li & Jiang, 2019, p.17).

The Chinese Communist Party has built the world's model for controlling informational flows on the Internet. This has been achieved via human censorship, the technology used to build the internet, the laws used to govern online activity and the creation of content to AstroTurf the space. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has adapted and reshaped the media environment used to communicate health messages to suit their agenda. Health messaging has played a role in this by using language to promote 'healthy' Internet use in several areas. From Internet addiction to healthy content and content squarely aimed at promoting physical health, the use of health messaging as public pedagogy has formed a part of the overall strategy of the Party to maintain power and legitimacy by intertwining health education and nation building and this dates to 1951 and the establishment of the Patriotic Health Campaign. Both the campaign and the management of the internet have been used to reinforce central power within the CCP and are used as surveillance mechanisms over provincial governments through the use of strategic narratives that frame the central leadership of the CCP as capable saviours building the nation.

China in the Pacific - Visual representation in Australian news media

Margaret Cassidy

Do the pictures tell the same story as the words in Australia's mainstream news media with reference to China's presence in the Pacific? 2022 has seen a consistent portrayal of China as a threat and competition to Australia in the Pacific islands. A series of leaked documents followed by whistlestop tours of various Pacific Island nations by both Chinese and Australian government ministers have driven the narrative. This has been a recurring story in the Australian media and builds upon a decade of framings in Australian official discourse, media and commentary that has seen China's presence in the region become regarded by many Australians as a threat (see Wallis, Ireland, Robinson & Turner 2022). Perhaps the highlight of this focus on the relationship between individual Pacific Island nations and China in 2022 has been the news that the Solomon Islands has signed a security agreement with China. The Solomon Islands has received the bulk of the coverage by the Australian press. This paper examines how the mainstream Australian print media has been visually representing China's relationship with and presence in the Pacific during 2022. Images can tell a simple but strong narrative that can undermine or reinforce the official narrative and media discourse.

 The underpinning methodology is a qualitative content analysis based on the content discourse analysis work of Kress & van Leeuwen and social semiotic approach of Bednarek & Caple to identify stereotypical images of consonance in the context of news imagery. Is a Pacific Island frame is being reproduced in the Australian media?
 Do the news images accompanying articles on the presence of China in the Pacific reinforce the frame of China as a threat or competitor? This paper is part of a broader study on the visual representation in the Australian print media of people from the South Pacific. It examines news images published in major News Limited and Nine Entertainment publications and builds on the discourse analysis within media coverage of ethnic and social minorities first articulated by Teun van Dijk and Stuart Hall with his questions of representation and re(representation).

Teaching each other trust in the fake news era

Chrisanthi Giotis

Australia suffers from the highest trust inequality in the world . Wealthy, educated households are largely trusting of institutions however, the same can not be said for the mass public who feel left out of the conversation, even though global crises effect poorer and marginalised communities the most. Covid-19 has exposed these unequal fault lines at the same time as exposing, particularly in the anti-vax community, antipathy to mainstream media who are seen as part of the elite. This presentation will report on research which seeks to bridge this trust gap by pairing engaged and disengaged news consumers with journalists to consider the linked socio-political drivers behind distrust, news avoidance, polarization, fake news and counter discourses. Through discussing examples of reportage, on controversial topics, together, and by treating news consumers as interlocutors, it is believed diverse new storylines will emerge.

Benefits of the project model capstone for journalism students

Kathryn Shine

Capstone units are culminating experiences typically offered in the final semester of a tertiary degree. Capstones are common across higher education and are increasingly being offered in university journalism programs. However, there is no consensus about the most effective capstone for journalism. At least three models have been identified: the project, the newsroom simulation and the internship. While traditionally popular, the newsroom simulation and internship models have certain limitations, some of which have become more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Journalism educators see merit in the project model, but it is not widely used. To date, there has been a lack of research about how journalism students respond to the various capstone options. The study presented here contributes to this field by describing graduating students' feedback about a new project model capstone unit offered through an Australian journalism undergraduate program. It describes some of the key themes to emerge from survey responses from three cohorts of graduating students. The project experience was found to enhance both tradecraft and transferable 'life skills', and helped many students feel more prepared to enter the workforce. The project shows significant promise as a valid alternative capstone experience for journalism students.

Research-led education and the Journalism academy: Revisiting the proverb 'He who does not research has nothing to teach'

Angela Romano

This paper considers the implications for journalism education of the propensity for Australian universities to increasingly promote themselves as offering research-led education or a strong research-teaching nexus. This paper employs the findings of a thematic analysis of articles from 10 Scimago-listed journalism journals to identify the contexts and nature of scholarly research and reflection on research-influenced education in journalism. This paper also draws from policy, research and instructional guides about research-led education to distil issues that arise for journalism educators from increased momentum towards this model of education.

This research raises questions about the extent to which university policies about research-led education focus on formal research and 'black literature', without considering how disciplines such as journalism use and benefit from 'grey literature', consultations and networking with industry or other relevant stakeholders, and other less formal research. An emphasis on 'black literature' research may disadvantage journalism educators given that – as Wake, Martin and Backhaus's survey of Australian journalism academics indicates – the journalism academy has seen uneven growth of formal research outputs in the past decade and academics in teaching-focussed positions tend to have low publishing productivity. Additionally, there is no consensus among academics about how to define research-led education. Most definitions focus only on the immediate student experience of education, i.e., types of content that is delivered, the source of that content, and the modes of delivery of classes, practicums or other learning activities. In addition to proposing an expanded notion of research beyond 'black' literature, this paper argues that journalism educators will benefit from a broader conceptualisation of research-led education. The notion of research-led education should also include the role of research in the developing the overarching design of degree programs and their learning goals, learning support (i.e., equipment, technologies, facilities and services to support learning), and change-management practices in the face of rapid technological and social transition.

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Journalism and climate crisis: defining a pathway forward

Gabi Mocatta

Climate and environmental crises are the most pressing issues of our times. The IPCC told us in 2018 we had little more than a decade to make profound social changes necessary to avoid the most extreme effects of climate change (IPCC 2018). The ways we succeed or fail in communicating climate and environment now will have profound implications for how – or indeed whether – we accomplish what is required address the existential environmental challenges we face. Journalistic work on climate change importantly shapes the ways that people 'understand, talk, care and act around climate change' (Gunster et al., 2018, p. 775). Mediatised representations of climate and environment are therefore a crucial site for study in the current context. The role of media and journalism in enhancing, or obfuscating, publics' climate literacy, and galvanising policymaking to respond to environmental harms has been extensively researched (for example, Boykoff 2011; Painter 2019; Hase et al. 2021). Journalists themselves have called for reporting to seek to 'shape public opinion' and 'influence change' (Watts, 2020), however, despite over two decades of extensive research into climate change journalism, there is still no consensus on what journalists should be doing to convey to media audiences the seriousness and urgency of the climate crisis. This paper surveys the field of climate and environmental journalism in this current crucial moment for climate action. It discusses difficult issues and positive affordances of journalism on climate change, and points to pathways forward. It investigates possible modes of journalism for the climate crisis including single subject news models, solutions journalism (Aitamurto & Varma
2018), and transformative journalisms (Brüggemann et al., 2022), and suggests that journalism should be covering climate in a similar way to how it has covered COVID-19: engendering a sense of urgency, explaining how to respond, and prescribing universal but differentiated responsibility for every level of society.

Disaster reporting in post-normal times: Grappling with risk, recovery and dread

Deb Anderson

WHAT are the ethical and professional challenges for journalists in reporting extreme weather events in an era of 'post-truth' discourse on anthropogenic climate change? Despite recent shifts in news coverage of climate attribution, research shows that Australian disaster reporting remains preoccupied with discourses of blame and reliant upon a universal imaginary of apocalypse, while a lack of ethical consensus prevails among reporters. Indeed if, as historian Libby Robin has pointed out, climate change has been making Australia's experience with strange weather "salutary for the rest of the world", then the lessons of journalism research could deepen despair.

This paper will present findings from a program of empirical research on disaster reporting: a series of projects anchored in oral history and supported by a JERAA Grant for Excellence in Journalism Research. In-depth interviews are being conducted with both locally based and fly-in reporters who have covered some of Australia's worst weather disasters in recorded history—from the tail end of the millennium drought, through "monster killer" Cyclone Yasi, to Black Summer and the recent eastern Australian floods. Through an examination of the lived experience of disaster reporting, these interviews probe the dynamics of disaster news culture and convention—the immediate public crisis, disaster marathon and/or conflicted media event—and the reliance on the universal imaginary of disaster in news coverage. A key aim is to prompt reflexive discussion of the challenges of disaster reporting practice, how these relate to the core interpretive problems of climate change, as well as a sense of lost trust in basic democratic institutions for their (in)capacity to act on climate.

Building a culture of mentoring and creativity in Philippine newsrooms: A mixed methods study

Jasper Emmanuel Y. Arcalas

Mentoring journalists motivates them to become creative in news work and in journalistic writing. This approach remains under-researched in Journalism Studies. The journalism industry aspires for better editorial and organizational efficiency through high-quality work and buoying happiness by journalists. However, news organizations struggle to implant mentoring mechanisms given demanding news work.

This convergent mixed methods research from the Philippines will survey at least 200 journalists and interview 25 news workers to ascertain how motivation, which mentoring provides, yields journalistic creativity. Findings of this study seek to help improve Filipino editorial management practices and expand creativity research in global journalism studies.

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Are they listening? Coverage of regional issues in mainstream media
Ayesha Jehangir

A decade after the Finkelstein report found that many regional newspapers in Australia had limited resources and subsequently low capacity for in-depth coverage of local issues, regional media in Australia continues to face multiple challenges. Many local publications wound up in the past few years resulting in hundreds of job losses. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated closures, raising further concerns about adequate coverage of regional areas and local communities. As the first of three annual reports that the Centre for Media Transition will produce between 2022 and 2024 on representation of regional issues in metropolitan media, this study a) maps the extent and nature of the coverage of regional areas by mainstream metropolitan media in NSW, and b) examines how editorial drivers of metropolitan media operate, and their impact on content inclusion from regional areas. Through quantitative and qualitative inquiry, we found that regional and rural news and information were mostly confined to their geographic locations; news focus was limited to certain hyper local issues such as disasters; major regional cities received less coverage than expected; focus on local regional issues during the federal election period was significantly lacking; and there was minimal to no coverage of Indigenous stories from regional NSW. Meanwhile, we also found a handful of green shoot publications in regional areas over the past two years.

The cut and thrust of COVID 19 on Far North Queensland's regional media-scape
Philippa McCulloch

When the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic in March 2020, Australia's regional newspaper industry, already under threat of extinction from online technology and declining revenues, fell hard. Ironically, as consumer demand for credible information grew, more than 200 community newspapers were unable to keep their presses running during the first two
years of the pandemic. Covering the vast distances of Far North Queensland from Ingham to the Cape, Tablelands and Torres Strait, this research investigates the fallout of COVID-19 on regional journalists. From keeping civic leaders accountable, to death notices and sport reporting, regional and rural journalists perform an "essential service" to communities, particularly those in which the intergenerational and geographical, digital divide is omnipresent. Taking a mixed-methods approach, this research explores what happens when newsrooms are centralised, diminished in resources and the most senior journalists are made redundant and therefore, no longer able to mentor or control journalistic quality. The findings of the work suggest that, while the future does not look bright for printed newspapers, people still have an affinity with their local newspaper and regional journalists, and despite everything, remain passionate about their profession. In the wake of newsroom closures and "news deserts", there is optimism as the "green shoots" of a new and independent press start to appear.

Beyond the farmgate: Rural reporting in regional Queensland
Richard Murray and Caroline Graham

There was a time, not that long ago, when Queensland Country Life was considered the 'bush bible'. Across Queensland, Holden utes and Toyota Land Cruisers emblazoned with the bumper sticker, 'I'd rather miss my brekkie than my Country Life' were a common sight. First published in 1935, Queensland Country Life (QCL) became the voice of rural Queensland. In the past decade, this has all changed. Access to cheaper and more reliable mobile phone data and successive rounds of corporate restructuring, 'downsizing' and 'decentralisation' has resulted in job losses and seen the reach of QCL retract. At the same time, new competition has emerged in Queensland rural news. A split in the QCL editorial team resulted in the establishment of Beef Central, a purely digital publication offering news and expert analysis on the beef industry across Australia. Ag Tech Central, Property Central, Jobs Central, Grain Central and Sheep Central followed.

In May 2020, News Corp withdrew from regional Queensland. Many publications were quick to fill the void and slow encroaching news deserts including numerous newspapers under 'Today' mastheads. This included Queensland Farmer Today, a fortnightly insert addressing the news needs of rural Queenslanders. In this paper, Graham and Murray track the recent changes in rural news in Queensland. This paper also underscores the importance of rural news and how this form of news differs from regional journalism. Based on interviews with the women and men reporting on and from rural Queensland, this paper reveals the hopes, dreams and anxieties rural journalists have for the future of the work they do and the communities they serve.

"#Truecrime on TikTok: Emerging genre conventions for shortform video content
Caroline Graham

#truecrime videos on TikTok have more than 12.4 billion views and videos attached to related hashtags like #truecrimestories, #truecrimeaddict, #truecrimestory, #truecrimecommunity and #truecrimetiktok represent billions more. The intent and impact of this content has been the subject of both academic and public debate, frequently in response the rapid generation of content about specific, high-profile criminal justice events. For example, the proliferation of user-generated TikTok content about the 2021 disappearance and murder of Gabby Petito prompted concerns about digital vigilantism, mis- and disinformation, the relationship between white, female victims and virality, exploitation, sensationalism, and the impacts of websleuthing on justice outcomes.

Despite the growing popularity of true crime content on TikTok, the tendency towards case study methodologies in the existing literature means there is not yet a broad academic consensus about the nature of TikTok true crime content as a whole. Thus, this study uses a mixed-methods content analysis of 100 TikTok true crime videos to code for emergent themes and trends, in order to better understand the content and genre conventions of TikTok true crime videos and the nature and position of its creators, who are largely non-media actors (including comedians, influencers, micro-influencers and self-proclaimed 'storytellers'). In doing so, the paper contextualises TikTok true crime content in relation to podcasting and TV/video documentary approaches, examining the potentially uneasy relationship between secondary TikTok reporting and the primary journalistic content it both competes with and, in many instances, is generated from. It also considers opportunities for subversion of existing TikTok true crime genre conventions, including primary content developed by victims, advocacy groups or victims' families.

Creativity in investigative journalism: a systems approach
Janet Fulton

Investigative journalism is changing. While its basic functions may remain the same – it can change laws, lead to enquiries, remove offenders from public office, lead to charges, and bring public attention to important issues (Carson 2019) – the domain itself is evolving to include new practices and players. This ongoing renewal is an example of a creative system in action. This presentation is examining creativity in investigative journalism within the context of a broader understanding of the genre, including traditional tenets such as truth, objectivity and social responsibility, as well as newer practices such as collaborative storytelling and online publishing, and innovative players who are pushing the boundaries. An examination of the literature in this area demonstrates how investigative journalism is remaining relevant in a dynamic and evolving media landscape.

Mark Deuze states that journalism is "distinctly and intrinsically creative" (2019, n.p.) and it has been pointed out that journalism, in all its forms, is a creative practice (Fulton & McIntyre, 2013). What this presentation will illustrate is that creativity in journalism is a process that can be examined within a research-based framework, such as the systems model of creativity developed by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (1996), and that changes in a domain such as journalism can be explained within the model. Csikszentmihalyi contends that changes are a natural progression – a domain cannot remain stagnant or unchanging or it risks becoming irrelevant within the culture – and an exploration of the literature suggests that investigative journalism has developed, adapted and thrived in changing circumstances. Using the systems model of creativity as a framework, the presentation will demonstrate that, in a similar way to other forms, investigative journalism is a creative practice and a creative system in action.

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A short little span of attention – investigating Covid news values

Catriona Bonfiglioli

Aims

The Covid health crisis appears to be losing news power. While cases and deaths rise, coverage seems to be falling. Covid faces competition from the federal election, floods, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This paper seeks to quantify the mismatch between disease impact and news attention, tease out possible explanations, and draw conclusions about the significance.

Concepts

This enquiry applies agenda setting and news values. The expected findings are anticipated to inform conclusions about whether health crises demand a more compassionate journalism where a novel disease forces a turn from "gee whiz" reporting of modern medical miracles to reporting bad news, struggles for treatment, and the long wait for a vaccine.

Methods

Quantitative content analysis is used to compare public health data on cases, deaths, and vaccinations with quantity of Covid news from leading Australian news outlets.

Expected results

I hypothesise there will be an increasing mismatch between number of cases and deaths and quantity of coverage. Possible explanations to be explored: impact is not a sufficient news value; novelty wears off; withdrawal of information subsidy involving elite persons may deflate news value; conflict may be reduced by ending lockdowns thus removing outrage about civil liberties and unequal restrictions, while promoting economic activity.

"'Noela Whitton: Journalist'. The unreported story of the writing life of the wife of award-winning Australian journalist, Evan Whitton

Jennifer Martin

When five-time Walkley winning Australian journalist Evan Whitton died on July 16, 2018 at the age of 90, he was rightly honoured as one of the country's most influential reporters. He was renowned for his forensic research skills and determination to expose corruption at the highest levels. What is less well known, and seldom acknowledged beyond Whitton and his immediate family, is the integral role that his second wife, Noela Whitton (nee McMahon), played in her husband's professional career. Whitton and Noela were both married to other people when a chance meeting in Townsville resulted in them becoming determined to be together. For Whitton, a job offer at the Truth in Melbourne, which was where Noela lived, was one step closer to making that dream come true. But Noela was far more than just a catalyst for Whitton's career. According to family members, it was Noela who was responsible for much of her husband's extensive research. Noela also published journalism under her own name, including an article for the New York Times. Using Feminist Standpoint Theory I argue it is imperative that before we can even consider the importance of journalism in the age of misinformation and disinformation and develop effective strategies for journalism educators and practitioners, we must first address how the hidden labour and contribution of women such as Noela McMahon has been absent from our national narrative.

Freelancing in the contemporary landscape

Narelle Hopkin

Freelance journalism is an attractive profession in the WA media landscape that affords reporters the freedom to work from almost any location and to decide what type of stories they write. It offers a chance to work with a range of publishers and develop a rich portfolio while also balancing family and life commitments. But with this opportunity also comes precarity. You don't need to pull the curtain far back to realise freelancers lack many of the rights and protections enjoyed by their newsroom-dwelling counterparts.

In 2021, the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance published the Freelancers for Fair Rates report. It stated "there is a crisis in freelance journalism in Australia". It found that there are thousands of freelance journalists working in Australia, but also that pay rates had dropped, superannuation was nonexistent, defamation risk was higher, and copyright issues widespread.

Despite playing an important role in the WA media landscape, particularly with the increased casualisation of the media workforce, freelance journalists in WA are denied access to media court passes and lists and WA police releases.

Seasoned and award-winning reporters, with decades of experience, are barred from official media, court and police communications, simply for being independent of mainstream outlets.

In contrast, reporters for major news outlet are given special accreditation, "clean drops" and advance notice to everything from breaking news to press conferences. Freelancing can launch the careers of journalism graduates. As academics, we need to be aware of the challenges they face, and give them the skills they need to compete on an uneven playing field.

Is our notion of 'journalist' outdated?

Beate Josephi and Penny O'Donnell

The question 'who is a journalist?' has long been debated in many quarters. From the literature it is obvious that the 20th century focus on news and newsrooms still largely shapes Western scholarly approaches to that question. However, in the 21st century, under the impact of technological and economic changes, newsrooms have withered as the news industry had to share its former monopolistic position with other information sources. It is therefore paramount to ask whether tasks performed in newsrooms, and in particular the provision of political news, should still be seen as the core definition of journalism.

Interviews with 32 freelance journalists in October and November 2020 opened a different window to that inquiry. By definition, freelance journalists do not work in newsrooms, they often work by necessity other jobs, yet provide valuable contribution to the journalistic field. Their range of involvement is one reason to query the boundaries of what should be seen as journalistic work, and hence who qualifies as a 'journalist'.

A second reason to question the narrow confines of the term 'journalist' was the surprise discovery that especially the younger interviewees preferred to be called writers rather than journalists, although they were performing journalistic tasks. Their emphasis on more creative freedom, we wish to put forward, can be interpreted as indicative of the trajectory journalism is moving along in digital times, and is increasingly shifting beyond the limits of newsrooms.
Deuze and Witschge (2020) have argued a compelling case for going Beyond Journalism. In this presentation we wish to focus on the first step, which is moving beyond the newsroom.

Australian Federal Election coverage: explored using a model of journalists' influence on democracy

Victoria Fielding

News media plays a crucial role in democracy, particularly during elections. This paper uses my model of journalists' influence on democracy to explore different roles journalists play in election campaigns. Examples of news coverage from the 2022 Australian federal election are used to define democratically healthy news coverage that fits the Western liberal model of news media. Within the liberal model, journalists play either a facilitative or monitorial role: as facilitators of a diverse and vibrant marketplace of ideas; or as a monitorial watchdog, holding political leaders to account. The liberal model emphasises journalistic values of objectivity, neutrality, and independence. Although these two journalistic roles are those most often assumed to be present in news media, this paper presents election coverage examples that do not fit the liberal model, and instead are examples of three different types of advocacy journalism.

Advocacy journalism is a style of reporting that exhibits characteristics contrary to dominant liberal values, including subjectivity and political parallelism. Despite advocacy journalisms' incongruence with the liberal model, there are instances where this style can contribute positively to democratic outcomes during election campaigns: when journalists play the role of radical advocates; and when collaboration between journalists and the state helps to inform voters in the public interest. A third type of advocacy journalism – conservative advocacy – is characterised in this paper as the least democratically healthy form of journalism. Using examples of Murdoch media election coverage, this paper discusses how conservative advocacy degrades democracy because journalists are using their power to advocate for groups who already hold power. These journalists are thus supressing alternative perspectives and reducing diversity in the news media marketplace of ideas.

Is resilience enough? Making sense of repeated disasters
Nicolette Snowden

This presentation offers the perspective that interviewing people and reporting on disasters requires recognition of the distinct historical context of the places in which disasters occur; place and history matter to the overall story. Many regions of Australia have suffered multiple kinds of extreme events across the twentieth century, including bushfires, floods, drought and severe economic decline. Yet disasters, including man-made and 'natural', are not isolated one-off incidents. In the Latrobe Valley in eastern Victoria, disasters form part of a decades-long chronology of catastrophe.

This paper will present research on the lived experience of working-class women in the Latrobe Valley that demonstrates that the sustained impact of repeatedly responding to disasters has 'hidden' gendered and class impacts. Many of these elements are missing in media coverage, which contributes to social expectations that communities must continually be 'resilient'. Coverage that frames people and communities as exemplary for their 'resilience' and 'perseverance' does not capture the cumulative impacts associated with disaster, or recovery. Responding to catastrophes requires extensive and resourced care infrastructure, both paid and unpaid. Gendered ideas about care work imply that women will do this work. For working-class women, the long-lasting consequences include extreme distress and overwork, and loss of educational opportunity and income.

News Buildings and Journalism Culture: A comparative Urban Semiotic analysis
Josie Vine

Before the digital revolution paved the way for workplace mobility and flexibility, the newsroom was the hub of journalistic activity; reporters went out into the world, gathered the 'facts' and brought them back to the newsroom where they would be turned into a consumable product. But there was something more underlying the work going on in newsrooms; essentially, they also functioned as spaces of cultural communication; spaces where the subtleties of professional ideologies, norms and practices, values and beliefs, were shared.
Using Urban Semiotics – a form of Cultural Studies – as a theoretical framework, this paper conducts a comparative analysis between:
- The Age's former buildings (Collins Street and Spencer Street) and The Adelaide News (North Terrace).
and
- The Age's new buildings (Docklands and Channel 9's Bourke Street) and The Adelaide Advertiser's 'Keith Murdoch House' (Waymouth Street).

In doing so, this paper examines the changing nature of newsrooms to hypothesise what journalism's evolving workspace systems may mean for the perpetuation of its underlying professional philosophies and ideologies.

(Re)constructing the environment in children's news
Erin Hawley

In this time of climate emergency, news plays a significant role in the production of meaning about the environment. This is also a time in which children have more opportunities than ever before to engage with news content made especially for young audiences. This mainstreaming of the child as a news consumer is related to an emerging belief that inclusion in the news audience is central to the development of a child's sense of global citizenship. More broadly, children have become an important market for environmentally-themed media content, and "the environment" is perceived by media-makers to be a topic of interest for children due to the imagined link between childhood and nature. Nevertheless, there have been very few close examinations of environmental news for children.

This paper investigates the transformation of news about the environment into a consumable object for children, reporting on the findings of an analysis of news coverage of the environment in three children's news programs: CNN 10 (in the US), the BBC's Newsround (in the UK), and the ABC's Behind the News or "BTN" (in Australia). A monitoring of news coverage across these three programs was conducted in 2021 in order to determine how frequently environmental stories were reported on, what sorts of environmental stories were given prominence, and how environmental problems were framed with a young audience in mind. Using the results of this analysis, I argue that particular conventions of children's storytelling – such the acceptability of non-human animals as protagonists and the valuing of a child's voice – enable a radical intervention in adult ways of reporting on the environmental crisis.

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In Search of Accountability Journalism in Australia (2007–2021)
Steven Maras and Rodney Tiffen

This paper explores the relatively recent rise of 'accountability journalism' and asks if this coincides with more attention to accountability in the Australian press. A central pillar of the news media's role in a liberal democracy is that they are a force for holding governments and other centres of power accountable. Much of this is done implicitly by reporting on their actions and statements. Sometimes it is more explicit and self-conscious. Systems of accountability and media power are constantly evolving, shaping expectations around both calling and holding to account. Different discourses, expectations and definitions of accountability can thus impact on the assessment of performance. Drawing on Factiva data between 2000 and 2021 this paper charts accountability as an explicit focus across four news outlets—The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald, The West Australian and Crikey. In our analysis we ask whether the four organisations emphasized accountability differently. We also explore whether there were any long-term trends (between 2007 and 2021) towards more explicit emphasis on accountability, and whether there were differences between the organisations.
Dividing the sample period into five periods—two Labor governments, followed by three Coalition governments—allows further comparisons: were there differences between ALP and Coalition periods, and were later term governments held to more explicit account than first term governments, and again were there contrasts or similarities between the news outlets? This paper maps the contours of explicit references to accountability which will be followed by more fine-grained analysis of the news stories involved.

Revisiting News Editors' Evaluation of Journalism Courses and Graduate Employability in Western Australia
Trevor Cullen, Laura Glitsos, and Andrea Burns

This research project deployed one-on-one, structured interviews with news editors in Perth, Western Australia, to evaluate journalism courses and student employability across the five Perth-based universities that teach journalism (Edith Cowan, Murdoch, Curtin, UWA and Notre Dame universities). The project was undertaken with a view to compare and contrast the results to a similar survey undertaken ten years ago in2012, the results of which were first published in 2014. The recent findings indicate that industry practitioners still feel that universities are typically the best place to teach journalism, and that students are highly competent in digital technologies. However, there is concern about the current state of graduate general and civil knowledge. Other trends that emerged include a growing sense that journalism students should be given training in public relations foundations and, additionally, that most editors would like to be involved with university curriculums.

Imaging environmental harms? An exploration of news media visualisation of the brumby
Gabi Mocatta, Sarah Vella, Kristy Hess, and Erin Hawley

Environmental communication research tells us that imagery is a crucial pathway for enhancing public understanding of environmental harms (Hansen & Machin 2013). The choice of images that accompanies print journalism on environmental issues has been studied in several contexts. For example, research has recently investigated media imagery on the environmental impacts of fracking (Krause et al 2018), and the use of polar bears as visual "icons" to illustrate journalism on climate change (Born 2019). However, little research to date has investigated how feral (nonnative) animals that are the source of environmental conflicts are represented in images in news reporting. This paper examines the way the brumby, or feral horse, has been visualised in media coverage in Australia. We investigate use of images in the ABC, The Australian newspaper and the Sydney Morning Herald, which our prior research has established as the key agenda setting media in the intractable socio-environmental conflict over the brumby. We find a disconnect between the significant damage that environmental science tells us brumbies inflict on vulnerable environments, and the idealised representation of the brumby in the majority of images included in media reporting in our sample. We find that brumbies are represented in this idealised way, even in images accompanying reporting of the environmental harms they incur. We draw on interviews with journalists to unpack their image selection rationale and we point to the long-established cultural imaginary around the brumby as the possible source of this disconnect between visual representation and environmental reality. We discuss how journalism might better consider image selections in the context of illustrating vehemently debated and polarising environmental issues.

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Journalism Education in Egypt and the UAE during the COVID 19: Insights for Post the Pandemic

Maha Attia

This study examines the implications of the digital divide in higher education sector during the Covid-19 in Egypt and the UAE. Based on a survey of a sample of media students and in-depth interviews with media instructors, this study analyzes how the digital divide influences media education in both countries, using the Diffusion of Innovations Theory. It also proposes a roadmap to improve media education with respect to reducing the impacts of the digital divide.

The literature about the opportunities and challenges accompanying distance and hybrid learning during the pandemic has attracted scholars from different disciplines. However, there is a research gap about the consequences and implications of the digital divide on the higher education systems in the MENA region especially post the Covid-19 pandemic. This research attempts to shed light on those particularities, and to find out the lessons learned and the potentials suitable for the future of media education in the MENA region, given the Covid-19 pandemic conditions.

Since Covid-19 has affected higher educational institutions in 188 countries by April 2020, according to (Toquero, 2020), one of the challenges that faced the higher education sector during Covid-19, was how to keep providing students with an effective and sufficient learning experience despite the ongoing pandemic. In the MENA region, however, several Arab countries suffer from unstable conditions, such as fragile economic conditions, complicated political situations, and the lack of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) infrastructure. The outbreak of the pandemic, thus, has exposed the consequences of the digital divide, especially in the education sector and across different levels including, information accessibility, usability, and the overall outcomes.

There are also huge gaps among some countries in the MENA region. The wide disparities between the two countries, Egypt and UAE, make them an interesting case study to compare.

Where is Climate Action in Journalism Education? Examining the Tertiary Curriculum on Environmental Journalism

Uzma Aleem, Asha Chand and Myra Gurney

The devastation of climate has become quite evident due to anthropocentric industrialisation since the middle of last century (Solomon, et al., 2022). However, many people including mainstream media practitioners, do not see climate change as a significant issue (Sharif & Medvecky, 2018) most likely due to the lack of environmental journalism training among environmental reporters. As statistics, show fewer than 12 per cent of environmental journalists has relevant qualifications in environment fields (Wyss R. , 2007).

Journalists covering environmental issues see a robust correlation between certain factors including better climate change communication education, and comprehensive and improved media coverage of environmental issues (Carthew, Linnarz, Winkelmann, & Glaeser, 2012). Certain research studies reflect specifically designed curriculum enables learners to attain particular understanding of given subjects while developing certain skills (n.d, 2005). Subsequently, a curriculum that teaches certain social behaviour can address behavioural constrains of journalists, including indifferent behaviour and problem-centred approach of journalists towards environmental issues. Thus, to examine the current situation related to teaching environmental journalism, this research study asks the following research question: Is environmental journalism part of curriculum in Journalism Schools in Australia, Pakistan, and the Pacific?

This study has employed both quantitative and qualitative content analysis to evaluate not only the content but also the values embedded in current journalism curricula related to environmental issues. Further, it also drew the comparison of the data findings of environmental journalism curriculum taught in Australia, the pacific and Pakistan. Open access and publicly available data for content analysis (in the form of course's content) is accessed while employing the cluster sampling technique – five representative universities are sampled from two clusters (Pakistan and Australia) and one university from Fiji as this university is considered the representative university of Small Island Developing states of the South Pacific. Each selected university's courses of media studies, environmental journalism (or similar course like Disaster Reporting, Climate Change and Media etc.) have been evaluated with the help of Leximancer.

Findings revealed, environmental journalism is among the most ignored areas of study in the media and communication schools of Australia, Pakistan and the South Pacific as less than 30 percent universities offer any course related to climate change communication or environmental journalism. This research study further recommends that a journalist, with specific environmental journalism hands on training during tertiary education, is more likely to frame his/her news stories keeping in view the solution-oriented coverage of climate change issues, as climate change education inculcates solution-oriented narratives in a responsible manner instead of sensationalism and dramatisation of facts.

Journalism Education in the Post-Pandemic World: Teaching Media Law and Ethics
Thomas Yesudhasan

In this paper, I will reflect on an action research project where I integrated the Ethical Principles and frameworks of journalism into the teaching of a newly designed unit, Media Law and Ethics. This project's main issue or problem would be to critically reflect on how the integration of global journalism ethics, concepts, and theories into a very structured subject, Media Law, resulted in a newly developed Media Law and Ethics. I will use qualitative observation, self-reflexivity or 'critically reflective stance' and descriptive notes to outline how the changes stated above have resulted in a holistic, inclusive curriculum. The author will also elaborate on the innovative assessments and teaching pedagogies in a global context. The project will further explore the possibilities of incorporating a global curriculum that includes Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic learners and thus facilitating engagement and belonging. It is critical in this post-pandemic globalised education environment, mainly where Global Campuses are being part of the home campus and intend to deliver the units globally and by embracing holistic educational principles. The author will outline what has been considered while incorporating a curriculum inclusive of Asian and global paradigms and ethical philosophies in this context. In the constructivist approach, the practitioner guides the students towards the subject matter, engage them in problem-solving activities, and thus achieves the learning outcomes. This project will further outline how the innovative assessments have motivated the journalism students to consume news from the broadcast and print and new media and the ways they engaged with the media sources consistently. Here the students are encouraged to examine their position on ethical and legal paradigms, present their arguments and discuss alternatives. On the other hand, the learning activities enabled them to learn from each other irrespective of their primary interests; for instance, a student who is more interested in crime stories would learn from another student passionate about politics.

Community climate change communication for post-normal times
Bridget Backhaus, Kerrie Foxwell-Norton, and Anne Leitch

There can be no discussion of post-normal times without considering the potential impacts of climate change. What is clear from recent extreme weather events - coastal erosion in Sydney, floods in Queensland and Northern New South Wales, and severe storms battering the West — is that the effects of climate change are felt locally, and therefore must be communicated in ways that integrate local knowledges, perspectives, and experiences. Hyperlocal journalism, the kind that is practiced at community radio stations around the country, represents an important catalyst for facilitating discussions of mitigating greenhouse gases and adapting to the local impacts of climate change. This paper discusses the findings of the Warming Up project, which explores the role of community radio in supporting community communication about climate change. Warming Up is a collaborative project that aims to both map existing efforts on climate change communication in the community radio sector and also to co-design supports to build capacity. Drawing on interviews with community radio practitioners from across New South Wales and Victoria, the findings demonstrate that the impacts of climate change present real challenges for community radio stations, particularly given the ubiquitous resourcing issues plaguing the sector. There are, however, also opportunities for community radio to play a leadership role in supporting community mitigation and adaptation efforts. Community radio's ability to access and share hyperlocal news and information and amplify the voices of 'local experts', as opposed to external talking heads, were found to be key advantages. Keywords: climate change, community radio, local, disaster, adaptation, mitigation

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