



Journalism
Education & Research
Association of Australia



The Second Coming of Journalism? Rebirth, resurrection, renewal, resistance, resurgence.

**Proceedings of the Journalism Education and Research
Association of Australia 2017 conference**

**University of Newcastle
Newcastle, Australia
4-6 December 2017**

Publication data

Title Details: The Second Coming of Journalism? Rebirth, resurrection, renewal, resistance, resurgence.

Subtitle: Proceedings of the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia 2017 Conference, Newcastle, NSW: University of Newcastle, Newcastle NSW, Australia, 4-6 December 2017.

Format: Online

Publication Date: 12/2017

Editors: Janet Fulton, Felicity Biggins, Paul Scott and Christina Koutsoukos.

Published by: The Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia Incorporated (JERAA Inc).

Statement of peer review

Research papers and abstracts in these proceedings were independently reviewed using a double-blind peer review process. For each abstract and paper, at least two qualified reviewers were appointed on the basis of their independence and they reviewed the abstract or full paper devoid of the authors' names and institutions in order to ensure objectivity and anonymity. Following review and acceptance, the papers were presented at the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia 2017 Conference at the University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW, Australia, 4-6 December 2017. Panels and panel abstracts were reviewed by the conference convenors for quality assurance.

Recommended citation:

<Author(s)>. (2017). <'Title'>, in Fulton, J.M., Biggins, F., Scott, P. & Koutsoukos, C. (Eds.), *The Second Coming of Journalism? Rebirth, resurrection, renewal, resistance, resurgence*. Proceedings of the 2017 Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia, University of Newcastle, Newcastle NSW, Australia, 4-6 December 2017.

Acknowledgments

The editors would like to thank the many academics who contributed their time to serve as blind peer reviewers for the abstracts and particularly those who provided blind peer review for the full papers published in these proceedings. Thank you to all those academics who have contributed their research to this volume.

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Contents

Publication data.....	i
Contents	ii
Peer Reviewed Abstracts (alphabetical by author)	1
Peer Reviewed Papers (alphabetical by author).....	32
Panels.....	52

Peer Reviewed Abstracts

(Alphabetical by author)

Wikipedia – a collaborative juggernaut that aggregates, synthesizes and publishes breaking news

Bunty Avieson

University of Sydney

In 2015 The New Statesmen called Wikipedia the “most influential source of information in the world” and “our first destination when we want to understand something”. Within hours of a major news event occurring, such as the Paris terrorist attacks or the Manchester bombing, Wikipedia contributors from around the world converge in a virtual newsroom to report the events, followed closely by readers, seeking to be informed. The breaking news pages are among the site's most read and most edited. Wikipedia's protocols of verifiability mean the contributors rely almost solely on online news organisations for their information, which they collate and re-purpose. Despite the claim that ‘anyone can edit’, the online site operates within an established hierarchy, much like editors and reporters on a traditional newsdesk, with experienced Wikipedians determining what information is included and what is deleted, according to various, often-contradictory, policies. While the site makes explicit claims around its news reporting practices, e.g. that it doesn't report breaking news or regurgitate media coverage, those claims do not stand up to scrutiny. The online encyclopedia emerged alongside the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the US and breaking news is in its DNA. In multiple ways the online encyclopaedia shadows, mimics and competes with news organisations. This places it within the news media ecosystem and worth examining through a journalism studies lens.

Behind each Wikipedia page is embedded the history of its creation, including every edit and the discussions among contributors as they wrestle with knowledge construction and the role of Wikipedia in the media landscape. Using quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, this paper investigates the roles performed by the 176 contributors who worked on the 2014 Café Lindt page as the news event unfolded. It demonstrates there is a hierarchy of editors who bring oddly skewed international influences and operate in ways that reflect, reject and reinterpret established newsroom practices.

Internationalising Journalism Education: The Foreign Correspondent Study Tour

Saba Bebawi and Andrew Dodd

University of Technology, Sydney

Swinburne University

The annual Foreign Correspondent Study Tour (FCST) to Jordan is a highly practical international learning experience led by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in partnership with Swinburne University. The program, which has been running for three years, is supported by DFAT's Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR) under its 'media interns' flagship program. The tour allows students to experience what it means to be an international reporter by actually becoming one. Through an exclusive partnership with SBS Online, the program offers students opportunities to file news stories on the ground with real deadlines. This emulates the ‘foreign correspondent’ experience and provides real audiences with fresh insights on a little-understood region. The trip exposes students to an international study experience outside the classroom while providing them with the tools to do journalism within another culture. This paper discusses how the

FCST internationalises journalism education - by balancing scholarly interaction with local host universities, industry visits, journalism training seminars and meetings with experts in the field - while encouraging practical application of the conceptual frameworks students have studied as part of their degree.

‘The Perfect Storm’?: Understanding the ‘fake news’ phenomenon

Jennifer Beckett and David Nolan

The University of Melbourne

While on the surface ‘fake news’ refers to the phenomenon of the purposeful manufacture of fabricated stories for the purposes of politics and profit, this paper seeks to position it as symptomatic product of a drastic reshaping of mediated politics. To this end, it adopts a genealogical approach to analysing the shifting relations through which contemporary news forms emerge. In doing so, it seeks to contribute to a ‘history of the present’, identifying a series of factors and areas of change that may be seen to have contributed to such transformation, positioning these historically in order to gain perspective on aspects of continuity and change. Some key transformations – the rapid deterioration of legacy media business models, the rise of news as entertainment, changed modes of consumption, the converged media environment, the need to draw advertising revenue, the algorithmically driven advent of filter bubbles – are about the changing face of the industry. Others, however, speak to complex changes in the relations between online media business models, long-term transformations and emergent practices in the field of politics, and emergent knowledges surrounding media users.

This paper considers the particular significance of user practices in the converged media space that centre on the human desire for affinity and belonging. The deliberate targeting of such affective desires in the ‘like economy’, through practices such as the preferencing of affective journalism in the form of opinion and clickbait headlines as a way to increase engagement metrics is central to the environment in which ‘fake news’ has flourished. Such targeting explicitly impacts neurophysiological pathways through the provision of opportunities for people to affirm their identity and worldview via likes and supportive commentary triggering a dopaminergic response, one that lies at the heart of addictive behaviour. Of key concern is the way in which entrepreneurs, hoaxers and political marketers alike, in the words of early Facebook investor Sean Parker, “exploit this vulnerability in human psychology” (CNN interview, 2017).

While the significance of ‘fake news’ and how to combat it remain a focus of substantial debate, the scandal and debates surrounding it highlight significant questions surrounding journalism’s shifting boundaries, and raise pressing questions for boundary-drawing practices and possibilities in a forward environment. In engaging with these questions, this paper aims to provide a resource for consideration of journalism’s current and future performance as a ‘technology of citizenship’.

Changing with the times? The impact of social media on local newspapers in Australia and Canada

Kathryn Bowd

The University of Adelaide

The impact of social media on journalism practice has not been confined to major metropolitan news outlets – localised media have also been affected by the growth of platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. While in many cases smaller news outlets have been slower than their big-city counterparts in making the leap to social media, engagement with one or more social media platforms is now integral to news communication for both corporate-owned outlets and independent news providers outside major cities. This is not only changing the ways in which journalists and newsrooms operate, but also has the potential to affect ongoing relationships between news outlets, journalists and news audiences. However, the impact of social media on journalism outside major cities has so far been the subject of relatively little academic exploration. This paper focuses on the preliminary results of a survey of journalists employed by smaller newspapers in two Australian states and one Canadian province. The online survey was distributed to newspaper journalists in New South Wales, southern Queensland and British Columbia, with the aim of exploring their perceptions of the impact of social media on their professional practice and their relationships with the communities served by their newspapers. The survey found that journalists in both countries considered social media engagement integral to their work, but that platforms such as Facebook and Twitter presented both benefits and challenges in navigating relationships with news audiences. While there was a sense of guarded optimism among respondents from both countries about the future of regional/community journalism, there also appeared to be a great deal of uncertainty around how this type of journalism might be sustained in an ongoing 24/7, social-media driven news environment.

Identifying the needs of journalism amidst the rise of online news

Marc Bryant, Sara Bartlett, Jennifer Howard and Brydie Jameson

Hunter Institute of Mental Health

As journalism continues its transition from print to online news, there has been a steady rise in ‘clickbait’ and sensationalised media. This is successfully driving traffic to news sites, but at what cost?

Two topics frequently reported in Australian mass media are mental illness and suicide. Not only are they subjects of public interest, it is important that they are discussed in the public forum. It is imperative, however, that reporting is done in a sensitive and ethical manner to ensure vulnerable people are kept safe, and discrimination and stigma doesn’t occur.

The immediacy of online news and the diminished reliance on sub-editors increases the chances of high-risk, sensitive content to be published unfettered.

Mindframe’s evidence-based guidelines have supported the Australian media for almost two decades in the responsible reporting of mental illness and the safe discussion of suicides that are of public interest.

Mindframe continues to work with current and future journalism educators and students to assist future media practitioners in mitigating risk to vulnerable readers and promoting help-seeking behaviour.

Mindframe does this by responding to the needs of media and journalism students and professionals through pre and post engagement evaluation with users.

In light of the 24-hour news cycle, now more than ever, *Mindframe's* guidelines are relevant and necessary to ensure vulnerable people are protected, and mental illness and suicide are not used as clickbait. This oral presentation will explore the contribution and need for *Mindframe* in a changing journalism landscape, to ensure the quality and accuracy of mass communication about suicide and mental illness is not compromised.

Collaboration for Change

Marc Bryant, Sara Bartlett, Jennifer Howard and Brydie Jameson
Hunter Institute of Mental Health

Mental illness and suicide are widely reported in the Australian mass media. The way that these topics are reported and communicated can influence community attitudes, and can even lead to stigma and discrimination.

The National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Communication Charter (the Charter), along with *Mindframe* guidelines, have been developed to enable Australian journalists to report on mental illness and suicide safely and accurately.

Since 2002 *Mindframe*, managed by Everymind, has developed evidence-based guidelines for Australian media and communication practitioners to support safe, accurate and effective communication of suicide and mental illness.

In 2014, the National Mental Health Commission established the Charter, which supports a national approach for health communication practitioners when developing mental health and suicide prevention messages. *Mindframe* is the Charter's 'steward' and aims to ensure collective responsibility and consultation for its ongoing development and implementation.

In 2007, the University of Melbourne and the University of Canberra conducted the media monitoring study *Change in media reporting of suicide and mental illness in Australia since 2001*. The study showed that since implementation of *Mindframe* in 2002 there had been an increase in the number of stories published about suicide and mental illness, as well as an improvement in the quality of reporting on this subject.

Mindframe is committed to ensuring that communication professionals implement the Charter and take ownership of its ongoing use and development.

This presentation will address:

- the rationale behind the Charter
- the level of skills and competencies expected of communication professionals when reporting on mental illness and suicide
- ways in which *Mindframe* can support communication professionals to take ownership of the Charter to portray safe messages about mental illness and suicide.

Rebirth or resistance? Reimagining Photojournalistic Routines in the Australian news

Helen Caple

The University of New South Wales

The fact that the staff position of the photojournalist has been all but eradicated is widely acknowledged in the journalism literature (Anderson 2013; Allan 2015; Thomson 2016), and Australia is no exception. Photographic departments at Fairfax and News Corp have been decimated, again (Battersby 2017; Meade 2017). The ABC has for a long time been relying on reporters, editors, producers, and presenters to supply news imagery, especially on regional happenings. Some news organisations blame layoffs on the ubiquity of free imagery online (Lang 2011, referring to CNN's decision to lay off 50 photojournalists, technicians and librarians), and a key question emerging from this trend is whether citizens and organisations outside of journalism, through their engagement with the digital economy, are re-shaping and re-defining photojournalistic practice.

To address this question, I explore the sourcing of news imagery by the major news providers in Australia: Fairfax, News Corp, and the ABC, including the relative newcomer to the Australian market, Guardian Australia. I combine large-scale quantitative surveys of the sourcing of news images in the Australian news media with qualitative ethnographic interviews with industry professionals in order to yield multiple perspectives on the massive cultural shifts being experienced by the journalism industry today and to assess their ability to adapt positively to change.

Three case studies, investigating the sourcing and use of news photography in the reporting of special events – the federal election of 2016, Australia Day 2017 – and of a spot news event – the major storms of September 2016 in South Australia – are complemented by a study of routine everyday reporting throughout 2017. By examining both special news events and the more mundane reporting of everyday events/happenings, this study provides the most comprehensive study of photojournalism in Australia today. My conclusions show that rather than relying on the freely available online imagery produced by citizen witnesses, the Australian news media continue to source images from professional photographic sources: among them former employees now working as freelancers. Thus, we see a reconfiguration of work routines in the Australian photojournalistic community, routines that are much diminished in terms of stability, security, and remuneration.

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What it means to 'do' media criminology

Katrina Clifford and Rob White
University of Tasmania

For the most part, scholarly research and the literature on the relationship between media and crime has derived primarily from sociological and criminological perspectives with an under-developed regard for an applied or 'working knowledge' of journalism and other media practices. The result has been a mostly one-dimensional interpretation of the media-crime nexus that over-emphasises and perpetuates the idea that mediated representations of crime, criminality and criminal justice are 'bad news' oriented and distorting in content. This both negates the fact that positive portrayals are possible, and do indeed occur, as well as the ways in which media (in its broadest terms) can offer marginalised individuals a platform from which to 'speak back' and lobby for change. Whilst the provincialism evident within the practice of media criminology may not be problematic in itself, we argue that there is much to be gained – in terms of richer, deeper, reflexive, nuanced and applied forms of analyses – from a more deliberate coupling and convergence of the empirical knowledge, conceptual approaches and research methodologies specific to the disciplinary fields of criminology and journalism and media studies. This paper shares the experiences of a recent collaboration of this kind. It explores the ways in which we have both been challenged by the perspectives and specialist language of the other, but have ultimately come to conclude that this is not reason enough to abandon the interdisciplinary enterprise; the benefits can far outweigh the drawbacks. In particular, we suggest that bringing together the best of both disciplinary backgrounds, experiences and expertise can create a space in which to critically discuss, debate and learn from one another in creative and productive ways. More importantly, it offers a chance to try and understand, negotiate and realise what it means to 'do' media criminology, especially within a changing media environment.

"Humanity can never let this happen again:" Remembrance, resistance and the alt-right©

Dr Caryn Coatney
University of Southern Queensland

An online resurgence of Holocaust denial has sparked a movement of citizen activists who have staged their own media theatres of justice to challenge the alt-right, or ultranationalism, in Australia. This paper asks: how have professional journalists responded to the politics of emotion in the online representations of Holocaust denial, evasion and protest? Certainly, there has been little news analysis on the re-emergence of the formerly fascist slogan, Australia First, and its historical underpinnings in the Australia First Movement of Nazi sympathisers during World War II. This study has examined the media portrayal of the related historical terms, Australia First and Holocaust denial, in online news articles during the past year. This paper

draws upon Theodor W. Adorno's concept of remembrance and Michel Foucault's regimes of truth. Contemporary journalists often showed that the citizen activists accomplished, using Adorno's terms, an ability for working through the past as a dynamic communication process by posting online videos to resist Holocaust denial. As the *Guardian* (27 April 2017) quoted a Jewish student union representative, the activists intended to attract media attention towards the need for remembrance and critical reflection to ensure that "humanity can never let this happen again". Many news reports represented a tendency to correct the alt-right attempts to disseminate regimes of post-truth, a term coined by Jayson Harsin. Yet the news analyses rarely mentioned the problematic legacy of the Australia First Movement. The slogan, Australia First, has reappeared in mainstream political efforts to appeal to disaffected voters. The contemporary rhetoric has mitigated the slogan as a historical euphemism for Nazi support. This paper also shows the capacity of journalism education to shed light on the Adornian view of breaking a captivating spell from the past.

Comedy Techniques in Social Commentary

Robert Crosby and Michael Meany

University of Newcastle

This paper provides an overview of three key concepts that link the use of comedy to the practice of journalism in the coverage of social issues: framing (Burke, 1937); comedy as a social corrective (Bergson, 1911; Ziv, 1988); and truth and "bullshit" (Frankfurt, 2005). It references popular television programs that mix news, comedy and social commentary. Further, to illustrate the concepts it takes as a case study, Tom Ballard's comedy lecture "Boundless Plains to Share". The purpose of the analysis is to critique the relationship between comedy as a social corrective, news and social issues.

Humour is the ability to perceive or express the intentional or unintentional comic elements of life. Humour has been theorized using a range of disciplinary approaches (c.f. Attardo, 1994; Raskin, 2008). Comedy, by contrast, is an intentionally structured cultural product that employs particular forms and conventions to create the affect of amusement in an audience. Theories of comedy are frequently more heuristic than formal in nature. The majority of comedy 'how-to' texts devote a chapter, or at least some space, to the consideration of humour theories (c.f. Byrne, 2002; Carr & Greaves, 2007; Schreiber, 2003; Vorhaus, 1994). An intention of comedy may be to act as a social corrective. "Bergson described humor and laughter as essentially social and shared. Laughing at someone, on the other hand, functions as a means of exclusion, and hence as a social corrective and form of social control" (Kuipers, 2008, p. 368).

Written and performed by Australian comic Tom Ballard, "Boundless Plains to Share" examines Australia's immigration history, culminating in a critique of how the refugee issues are presented in the contemporary social and media landscape. Framed from a comic perspective, the comedy lecture presents an account of refugee discourse by employing a range of comedy techniques.

In conclusion, the paper argues that the relationship between comedy and news allows for unique discussions of contemporary issues. However, the concept of comedy as a social corrective problematic for at least two reasons. First, the concept implies that there is a consensus position on what is and what is not

appropriate social behaviour. Second, that comedy needs to justify itself by serving a social purpose greater than providing laughter and enjoyment.

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Preparing journalism graduates for a lifetime of work

Trevor Cullen

Edith Cowan University

Government reports on the future of work in 2016 and 2017 reveal that today's graduates face up to seven career changes in their working lifetimes. This finding does not imply that there will be fewer jobs in the future, but rather that there will be different and varied ones. Therefore, it is vital for graduates to develop skills to adapt to these transitions. Capstone units and experiences have been chosen by the Australian higher education system as the most appropriate mechanism for assisting final-year undergraduate students to manage the transition from university to professional life. Capstone units are also favoured by journalism educators in Australia. This paper reports the findings and agreements of an 18-month Australian National Teaching Fellowship study that investigated how capstones are viewed and used by journalism educators. The study involved face-to-face interviews with 30 journalism educators from 18 universities in Australia from late 2015 to early 2017. One major outcome of the study was agreement on the aims and types of capstones, together with the principles and a list of skills to be demonstrated by graduates. The second part of this paper argues that current journalism capstone design is often limited to the demonstration of knowledge and skills, but in the ever-changing world of work, graduates also need well-developed personal and professional identities, solid reflective practices and life-long learning skills. The ultimate goal is to use capstone units to prepare journalism graduates for a lifetime of work, not just their first professional job.

Media frames of climate change: A comparison between India and Australia

Jahnabi Das

University of Technology, Sydney

Despite an increasing attention to the issues of climate change in recent years, there has been a lack of focus on how the media frames various speakers in environmental coverage. According to some critics (Carragee & Roefs, 2004; Ytterstad, 2015), framing is not only concerned with what and who are included in the media, but also what and who are excluded and why. In this way, framing relates to the contestation of power within the broad political and social contexts (Carragee & Roefs, 2004; Luedecke & Boykoff, 2017). However, while it is easy to determine the presence of anything in the media coverage, it is difficult to observe absences of issues or speakers by examining only the published content. The closest one can get to such an analysis is to compare different editorial decisions taken between available options in comparable situations (Metag, 2016). To conduct a frame analysis of inclusion and exclusion, I examine the media coverage of climate change from India and Australia during COP21 (Paris, 2015) and COP22 (Marrakech, 2016) with a specific focus on the 'marginal' actors (Manning, 2000), such as environmental activists. I identify the frames as well as the presence or absence of various speakers or actors to understand the contestation of power in the media framing process. The finding suggests that, unlike previous investigations where environmental activists usually received a significant traction in the climate change coverage (Reber & Berger, 2005), there is a declining presence of them as sources both in India and Australia. This finding may suggest a potentially changing relationship between the environmental activists and media organisations.

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Editorial work in the magazine industry: How the digital shift is changing it

Kayt Davies

Edith Cowan University

Despite morbid predictions, magazines are still with us and some are doing well. This paper presents results of a series of interviews with Australian editors of print and digital women's and lifestyle magazines about the impact of the digital shift over the past seven years on how editors perceive their role. Specifically it explores the concept of curation of both content and audiences and how online interactivity has changed the nature and meaning of that work. The semi-structured interview format allows exploration of a number of themes. These include journalistic integrity, advocacy, and the extent to which magazine editors see themselves as agents of cultural change. Another major theme is 'interactivity'. Editors' views on the benefits of interactivity will be documented, as will their concerns. The interviews, conducted in 2017, will enable documentation of the shift in the type of work editors do, and the extent to which new practices have been forced by the requirements of new media business models and how much they have been the result of editors creatively exploring new ways to achieve their goals. The baseline data this study comes from an ethnographic study of magazine editors in Australia, completed in 2008 (Davies, 2009). Duffy's (2014) writing on shifts in the magazine industry provided guidance on the selection of themes and questions for the 2017 interviews.

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Understanding each other: A collaboration between Australian and Indonesian journalism schools

Andrew Dodd and Sue Green

Swinburne University

In 2016 journalism staff and students at Swinburne University in Melbourne and Universitas Multimedia Nusantara in Tangerang, Indonesia devised an innovative way of working together to promote greater cultural awareness. The exercise, called Proyek Sepaham (Project Understanding), involved each university working separately to write and produce multimedia feature-length reports in response to questions provided by the other university's students. Students chose topics on which they felt they lacked understanding about the other country. They swapped topics, which ranged from serious issues like religion and law and order to quirky subjects such as vegemite and sink holes. The students then produced journalism aimed at providing insights into their own country for readers at the other university. The results were published on two inter-connected websites under the banner Proyek Sepaham. This paper discusses the evolution of this project, key lessons learned and how future such cross-cultural collaborations could be conducted based on those lessons.

Telling the story of the Warrigal Creek Massacre

Andrew Dodd and Lisa Gye

Swinburne University

In June 1843 as many as 150 Gunai Kurnai people, living on land that is now called Gippsland in Victoria, were massacred in a reprisal raid following the murder of a white settler. The person widely acknowledged as the leader of the raiding party was Angus McMillan, the man after whom the Federal electorate of McMillan is named. This paper discusses how students and staff from Journalism and Media and Communications at Swinburne University worked together with local historians and Gunai Kurnai people to produce a film to tell the story of the massacre.

The project was designed as a pilot educational project to help media and journalism students develop a better understanding of the political and ethical sensitivities of working with Aboriginal communities to tell stories about what are often complex and contested histories in this country. It entailed an extensive field trip to important Indigenous sites and to the site of the massacre. The paper explores how this process unfolded and what we learned as educators from the project.

Verification, fact checking, traffic and partnerships: deceptive changes in news

Cate Dowd

UNE

Storyful was one of Rupert Murdoch's media ventures after the demise of the News of the World. The initial focus at Storyful was on the verification of social media stories for news, but by 2016 the focus shifted to 'branding and advertising for social video content and social media intelligence for Corporations and Government agencies, and news media agencies' (Storyful 2016). Storyful had turned into a bargaining chip for Murdoch's media empire, enabling entry into other worlds of 'big data' and predicative analytics. Although Google has many advantages in machine intelligence, Facebook also uses intelligent semantic search systems, which are powerful systems for data analytics and discovering new markets. As early as 2014 'Facebook's Newswire was powered by Storyful' (Facebook, 2014), and this partnership, amongst powerful media players, marked a serious crossing of the Rubicon between news verification and social media. By 2016 Facebook had also signed contracts with '140 media companies and celebrities to create videos for its live streaming service' (Perlberg & Seetharaman, 2016), including a contract with the New York Times. Even though some contracts were not renewed in 2017, the deals were attempts to boost online traffic, at the expense of news. However, data farming and data mining for predicative analytics, embedded in semantic search and algorithms, are a bigger problem for news and journalism, that go beyond the mere influence of data analytics on editorial decisions. The power of predicative analytics on the integrity of news and journalism is also aligned with the utilitarian function of viral stories, user comments, fake news, fact-checking and verification, which have become industries in their own right. These industries are supported by media moguls and social media entrepreneurs, because they increase online traffic and advertising dollars, and not necessarily for perceived ethical reasons.

Experimenting with the hyperlocal in Southeast Queensland

Scott Downman and Richard Murray

The University of Queensland

For more than a decade the term hyperlocal journalism has been used to describe a variety of journalism models. From university-based blogs, to grassroots community news sites, to professional and commercial operations run by mainstream media organisations – hyperlocal journalism has become a label for a diverse range of media-based enterprises. However, unpacking what is meant by hyperlocal journalism is difficult. Hyperlocal journalism is often experimental and organic making it difficult to pigeon-hole in terms of business models and practice-based paradigms. This paper uses a case study approach and explores the concept of hyperlocal journalism ‘plants’ by Fairfax in Southeast Queensland. The case study investigates four start-ups that have been developed in high-growth areas around Brisbane and looks at the strategies used to build hyperlocal audiences in communities with pre-existing, long-term local media outlets. The study uses Castiglione’s notion of the ‘renaissance man’ as a theoretical framework for exploring the skill-set required by journalists and media organisations in hyperlocal contexts.

The paper explores the triggers that prompt the need for hyperlocal journalism. These triggers include a range of factors such as a lack of local news diversity, the issue of local ‘news deserts’ and environmental factors such as the influence of fake news and ‘thin’ news in local communities. Secondly, it examines the thorny issue of business models and the economic viability of producing hyperlocal news. Lastly, the role of hyperlocal audiences and their connection with hyperlocal journalism enterprises is outlined.

New sporting horizons: a content analysis of newspaper coverage of AFLW and Super Netball

Peter English, Angela Calder, Simone Pearce and Katy Kirby

University of the Sunshine Coast

The introduction of two new professional sporting competitions in 2017 provided a long-awaited boost for women’s sport in Australia. Through the emergence of Super Netball and the Australian Football League Women’s competition, female professional athletes were provided with a centre stage to display skills which had often been pushed to the background – or shut off from broadcasts completely. In this new environment, stadiums were sold out and matches were shown live on prime time television, including on free-to-air channels and online platforms. Newspaper coverage was also more prominent, reflecting the growing commercial and public interest in female sport.

But what did the stories include? Did the reports reflect the professionalism of the sport, through aspects such as tactical analysis? Or did they contain the historically dismissive and patronising elements that have been a feature of women’s sports coverage? Using a media framing framework, this study will examine reporting of the Super Netball season to provide insight into newspaper coverage of women in sport, as well as suggestions for future sports reporting.

This study utilises a content analysis to explore the print coverage of the first season of this professional sporting competition. Specifically, it measures the amount and tone of coverage, the types of stories, and descriptions employed in articles. Data has been collected from the newspaper sports pages in the home city

or region of each of the eight Super Netball teams. The results also allow for comparisons with traditional, male-dominated media coverage.

Food reviews: lifestyle journalism or an extension of marketing?

Peter English and David Fleischman

University of the Sunshine Coast

When *The Weekend Australian's* national restaurant critic John Lethlean delivered a review of 0 out of 5 for upmarket restaurant Hill of Grace in Adelaide in 2016, there was a widespread reaction and threats of legal action. The rating and the response highlighted the contemporary role of journalistic reviewers in terms of independent and detached reporting, which are key traits of traditional journalism. It also provided insight into the commercial forces operating within the media, including in lifestyle journalism. That Lethlean's review rating of zero was unusual raised issues over reader and restaurant expectations toward critical reviews in traditional media. Were journalists employed to give a detached, balanced critique of a kitchen and dining room experience, or charged with promoting the establishments through their reviews and overall marks? These questions provide a base to examine in this pilot study whether newspaper food reviewers are more influenced by the traditional approach to journalism, or players within the food industry who are more inclined to praise than dismiss. In this climate, it is therefore valuable to examine the reviews of food critics in a comparative study of four broadsheet/quality newspapers in Australia and the United Kingdom. The nations were selected due to operating in similar Western media systems and sharing Commonwealth histories. Broadsheet/quality titles were chosen because they focus on audiences more aligned with aspects of middle class, taste, identity and status.

In total, the ratings from 550 restaurant reviews from *The Weekend Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Guardian* and *The Times* were examined across the three years of the study. The overall mean of review ratings was 69.37 per cent – or almost 7 marks out of 10. However, examining the highest and lowest marks provides an indication of how generous or critical the reviewers were. Only six restaurants were judged to be in the 91-100 per cent bracket. The number of restaurants that “failed” – receiving a mark of less than 50 per cent according to the reviews – was 45. At the bottom end of the “fail” scale, there were two reviews between 0 and 10 per cent, and six more between 11 and 20 per cent. Overall, the results reflect aspects of independent and detached journalism as well as the impact of marketing and promotional elements in food reviews.

#Guptaleaks, scorpions and dungbeetles: The resurgence of [independent, “outside”] investigative journalism in South Africa

Anthea Garman

Rhodes University School of Journalism and Media Studies, South Africa

In this presentation I look at a recent, sudden, and very interesting resurgence of investigative journalism in South Africa against the backdrop of a major attack on the country's democratic institutions engineered by the Gupta family (with their global empire spanning media, mining and IT) who have a questionable association with President Jacob Zuma. This resurgence of very brave, investigative journalism is

exemplified by the collaborative #Guptaleaks scrutiny. Based outside the traditional mainstream media newsroom, this major investigation has used the forms, sources and tools of Wikileaks to put out an overwhelming amount of damning information (100 000 plus leaked emails) so as to make a powerful, immediate, public impact. The investigative team consists of the independent investigative unit Amabhungane (which used to work in association with the Mail & Guardian) and a new investigative unit called Scorpio started by South Africa's only new online mainstream news publication, The Daily Maverick. Stalwart journalists schooled in newspaper investigative techniques as well as young reporters who have only known digital journalism make use of a range of digital tools to mount investigations that are no longer supportable by the legacy media "inside" newsrooms. Through textual analysis and interviews I explore the interplay of old-school journalistic knowledge and know-how with new tools of digital newsgathering and dissemination. I look at the relationship between journalism "outside" the formal newsroom and "inside" the institutional media. These forms of interplay are crucial for educators in journalism programmes to understand so that they can better prepare media students to forge careers in what has become a very complex journalism environment with an eroding financial base.

Global network journalism and the rise of the global fourth estate

Amanda Gearing and Peter Berglez

QUT and Örebro University, Sweden

This paper examines the particular characteristics of global network journalism, which is still under-theorized and under-researched. It is argued that an understanding of the technological and epistemological character of global network journalism requires three interrelated analytical operations. To begin with, there is the empirical reality of emerging examples of transnational investigative reporting and storytelling – despite language and cultural differences - such as the ICIJs Luxembourg Leaks and Panama Papers investigations (Walker Guevara 2014; Ryle et al. 2013; Walker Guevara 2013). The Panama Papers coverage by 370 reporters of the activities of Panamanian global law firm Mossack Fonseca in more than 100 news organisations around the world in April 2016 was the largest cross-border journalism collaboration ever undertaken (The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists 2016; Wayne et al. 2014). Second, the emergence of global network journalism needs to be understood in relation to the ever-greater importance of a global fourth estate, in which domestic journalism's democratic role becomes "transnationalised" (Gearing 2016). Third, a deeper understanding of global network journalism requires an analytical combining and merging of two theoretical concepts that are still rather separated, more precisely global journalism (Cottle 2009; Berglez 2008; Reese 2016) and network journalism studies (Heinrich 2012; Gearing 2016). Time is of the essence in the transition from nation-based journalism to global network journalism because of the sudden and sharp contraction in media organisations that are closing foreign bureaus, cutting travel budgets and disbanding investigative teams. The public is therefore losing its eyes and ears around the world precisely when they are most needed (Keena 2014).

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Fact-checking on Wikipedia: an exercise with Journalism undergraduate students

Marcio Gonçalves

Ibmec/Facha/Estácio, Brazil

In 2016, the Oxford Dictionary revealed the word of the year was adjective "post-truth." The term was chosen because its frequency of use increased by 2000% over the previous year. Hence, fake news created in digital environments arise and, consequently, an issue must be addressed: how to trust what is read on the Internet? What path should journalism take when opinions and facts mingle to catch the attention of a scattered audience?

Darnton (2017) states that fake news has always existed. Procopius was a 6th century Byzantine historian who wrote secret text "Anekdotia", through which fake news was spread. Pietro Aretino (1492-1556), journalist and adventurer, is considered the main fake news propagator. In 1522, he wrote short poems, sonnets, and glued them to the statue of Pasquino, in Rome. Every day, he defamed one of the cardinals in the running for Pope. In 1770, in London, there were so-called "paragraph men," who gathered gossip and drafted them into a single paragraph, selling them to printers/publishers, which printed them as short, often defamatory reports.

Christofoletti and Laux (2008) consider the news propagation speed an increasingly decisive criterion in the reliability of content. Fact-checking workshops, a fake news fighting tool, held with journalism undergraduate students, use *Agência Lupa's* methodology and enable future journalists to broaden their view regarding this scenario. Students analyze Wikipedia information. According to the Wikimedia Foundation, Wikipedia is one of the five most visited websites in the world, with over 400 million unique visitors per month, which represents 5% of the world population.

Wikipedia uses press content as reference sources. In the footer, there are hyperlinks with digital addresses of the referred to journalistic content. Fact-checking provides 8 labels to the information found: True – the information is demonstrably correct True, but – the information is correct, but the reader deserves further explanation Too early to say: the information can be true, but it is not yet Exaggerated – the information is on the right path, but exaggerated Contradictory – the information contradicts another previously disclosed by the same source Unsupported – no public data support the information False - the information is demonstrably incorrect, and Eye Tracking - a monitoring label.

Students must answer the following questions when starting the process: Did you check the publication date? Is the URL reliable? Is the author reliable? What is the source of the source? Have you ever heard of the website you read the news from? Has the information become viral in the timeline? Does the title have catchy adjectives? Does the text have errors in Portuguese? From the answers, students identify the sources and start checking.

In 100% of the cases, entry data is unsupported and can be considered flawed for becoming part of an encyclopedia. In this sense, students realize the importance of information production in today's society and conclude that journalists must properly check the facts, since the production of fake news tends to grow in proportion within our interconnected society.

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Journalism Studies: which bedrock in a sea of change?

Beate Josephi

The University of Sydney

Journalism studies fought hard – both conceptually and within university administrations – to achieve the status of its own distinct discipline. Its research concentrated on and critiqued the core business of news provision from the bedrock of institutions. Digital transformations to news provision have caused severe fault lines in this bedrock. Journalism studies, however, need not be swept away by any ensuing tsunami. Adaptability has always been one of journalism's strong points (but also something of an Achilles heel), and journalism studies are already proving to be adaptable.

This contribution will argue that journalism studies may lose some of its centrality in the ongoing changes in as much as their focus was embedded in legacy journalism. In research, journalism studies are likely to shed some distinctiveness in the process of becoming part of a larger inquiry into digital news provision, public communication and social media behaviour. Also, global data on journalists forces us to acknowledge that journalism has been a more transitory occupation than portrayed and that journalists see themselves decreasingly as a coherent body.

This may prompt journalism studies to recast notions of essentialism, and define their boundaries by delineating what is considered 'journalistic'. This should be aided by the fact, observable in Australia, that

while the research focus is changing, the teaching of journalistic skills has remained remarkably steady. In fact, it can be argued that it is this adaptable and expandable skills base, which makes for the bedrock of journalism.

Best practices in Australian staff-student collaborative publishing: an overview

Professor Matthew Ricketson, Dr Jennifer Martin and Lucy Smy
Deakin University

The number and scope of staff-student collaborative publishing ventures in Australian journalism schools has grown in the past decade, ranging from staff-supervised news bulletins prepared for community radio stations to group investigative projects housed inside particular subjects, to a “wheel and spokes” model where almost all stories produced by students enrolled in a journalism program are fed to a central publication point. Most recently, the UniPollWatch project has expanded substantially the possibilities inherent in journalism schools. The aim of this presentation is to take stock of the range of staff-student collaborative publications and gauge both best practices, and what can be learnt from past projects. The presentation will draw on interviews with those journalism academics engaged in supervising the collaborative projects and will ask what scope there is to expand such publishing ventures, especially in light of the emerging democratic deficit in some parts of the overall reporting landscape.

A ‘very private fragility’: The lack of a language for reporting mental health

Jon Jureidini and John Walsh
The University of Adelaide

Elite sportsmen, either active or recently retired, frequently come to media attention because they are said to have developed a mental disorder. Such events are often accompanied by pleas for decreased stigmatisation and increased recognition of mental illness in young men.

The breakdown and recovery of the elite Australian Rules footballer, Lance Franklin, in 2015–2016 was extensively reported in the media. We carried out a language analysis of all reporting in the Melbourne Age and Herald Sun from August 2105 to April 2016.

We found 439 statements related to mental health in 106 articles. We concluded that there was an impoverished language to describe Franklin’s predicament. Over two-thirds of labels applied were empty terms such as ‘issue’ or generic medical terms such as ‘mental illness’. There is a stark contrast with the reporting of physical illness in athletes.

There are a number of reasons for this pattern of reporting. Journalists did not appear to have access to information and were constrained from speculating out of a wish to respect privacy and perhaps a wariness of breaking formal and informal codes for reporting mental illness. More importantly however, we argue that this case study illustrates the lack of a useful public language of psychiatry beyond reductive psychiatric labels.

A second important observation with implications for mental health reporting was the way agency was attributed. Most often, possibly in the service of reducing stigma, Franklin was depicted as the passive

recipient of his mental health 'issue'. This has the effect of establishing the illness as an entity to be treated by a doctor with the patient himself as an interested bystander. We argue for a different approach that preserves agency for the sufferer without increasing stigma.

Journalists have found a language to talk about racism, and, in collaboration with the AFL, have made a significant contribution to changing public attitudes. Mental health provides different challenges. If following the advice of successive chairs of Beyond Blue (Kennett, Gillard) we strongly encourage players to talk about their 'issues', how do they talk about these matters? Based on our analysis, we offer some tentative suggestions for how the language of mental health reporting might be improved.

It is likely we don't talk about mental illness because it is stigmatised – and it is stigmatised because we don't talk about it. Perhaps the media/journalists have a role in interrupting this circularity by developing and using language which is meaningful and medically accurate.

Reform and Defend: Fake News discourse as problem and opportunity

Christopher Kremmer

The University of New South Wales

Donald Trump's self-serving 'Fake News' discourse has rallied American news media in defence of journalistic values of verification, fairness and speaking truth to power. But does this justifiable resistance to Trump's dishonesty and totalitarian tendencies threaten to bury equally important critiques of contemporary news media practices? We live in a world in which tribal loyalty to a contested discipline like journalism is increasingly problematic, given its association with large media corporations that on occasion have sought advantage by using journalists as political shock troops. Debate about fake news offers an important opportunity for introspection and discussion among journalists about what ails news media, as well as what is genuinely important and good about it. It challenges us to ask whether fake news may be theorised in a way that encourages a genuinely open critical discourse? In an approach influenced by concepts of polyphony and dialogism explored by Bakhtin, this paper argues that such a discourse should stand on two pillars. Firstly, a commitment to defend, extend and entrench journalistic freedoms and the protection of journalists. Secondly, a strong commitment to journalism ethics, accountability to the public, and a vigorous engagement with new media approaches that seek to critique, revise and reform traditional journalistic practices and our understanding of what we call 'news.'

It not all blood and guts - Differing outcomes of trauma exposure: posttraumatic growth and moral injury

Cait McMahon

Dart Centre Asia Pacific

Since PTSD was defined in 1980 there has been a plethora of research on this syndrome and it has driven our understanding of negative outcomes of trauma exposure. More recently the discussion has been broadened to other outcomes of trauma exposure. Moral injury and posttraumatic growth are just two that have come to the fore.

This paper will present Dr McMahon's recent research on posttraumatic growth (PTG), a measurable, positive outcome of trauma exposure. McMahon has examined this phenomenon amongst 115 Australian, trauma-reporting journalists.

McMahon's research outcomes identified that war reporters, freelancers and photojournalists reported higher levels of PTG than other journalists. PTG measures higher rates of functioning post-trauma in areas such as sense of self; deeper personal relationships and enhanced existential experiences than pre-trauma functioning. This was often related to what she terms the 'journalist-person' dilemma.

Further, the concept of moral injury is a nascent theory amongst journalists. The term is beginning to be used openly by journalist's blogging about their trauma exposure (e.g., Dean Yates, Reuters) and some research is emerging (Feinstein & Storm, 2017) yet the term is little understood in relation to trauma experiences in journalists.

Learning outcomes:

- Deeper understanding of trauma outcomes.
- Skills to educate journalism students to think more deeply about trauma outcomes for themselves and their interview subjects.

Meet you over at the Guardian: rationalising participatory journalism at end of in-house news commenting

Fiona Martin

The University of Sydney

From 2015 onwards many large and small news organisations internationally abandoned their in-house commenting systems. Instead they encouraged audiences to engage with them via branded social media channels, over which journalists have little editorial control or monitorial capacity. Yet this transformation of the conditions for so-called 'participatory journalism' has been little discussed. How do audiences feel about the loss of these environments, or other major changes to the participative contracts they have with online news providers? What are their rationales for contributing to news talk? And what are the problems of design, registration, interaction, participation and governance they identify, that hinder their social interactions?

Drawing on critical discourse analysis, textual analysis and participation theory (Carpentier, 2011, 2016) this paper considers news commenting not simply as a form of personal expression or political action, but as dialogic media—a form of social and cultural capital building that evidences the formation of community despite conditions of transience, churn and what Slavoj Žižek calls objective violence.

To make this case it analyses the representation and substance of users' textual responses to three narrative events, each of which evidences ruptures in participative journalism relations: a Guardian journalists' proposal to discontinue comments; user reactions to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's closure of its opinion site; and the New York Times initiative to introduce verified commenter status. In examining how users frame these events and their experience of commenting, the paper explores how they conceive the conditions for, and ideological limits of, news journalism as a means of generating public discourse, social

bonds and creative relationships. It suggests the need for journalism to rethink its commitment to valuing dialogic media and providing better ways to govern it.

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Bizarre News Triangle: North Korea, defectors and foreign correspondents

Richard Murray

The University of Queensland

There are few places more difficult to cover than North Korea. The regime in Pyongyang has built a reputation on keeping the outside world out, and, when it does let people in, making sure visitors see a managed and curated view of the country. This careful management extends to what the North Korean government shares with the world via state controlled news agencies whose offerings often border on the bizarre. This has led to a vacuum in reliable coverage on the state; a vacuum that is nevertheless filled by a news media desperate to meet the seemingly insatiable demands for stories on the country. This study looks at the construction of news on North Korea by investigating the relationship between those covering the country and their sources. It should be stressed this paper is not about how North Korea communicates with the rest of the world. Rather, this about the practice of journalists reporting on North Korea for the foreign news media. Specifically, this paper interrogates the use North Korean defectors living in South Korea by foreign journalists reporting for the foreign news media. Since 2012, the period immediately after the death of Kim Jong-il and rise of Kim Jong-un, demand for news on the country has increased, and questions have emerged within the foreign journalist community covering North Korea from Seoul over the motives behind some of the “big name” celebrity defectors who are often relied upon in lending credibility and authenticity to news stories on North Korea. Fifteen journalists from prominent wire services, legacy mastheads and digital start-ups based in Seoul were interviewed in order to gauge how they use defectors in their work and the issues facing the industry over reliance on and use of defectors in reporting North Korea. This study forms part of a much larger framing study looking at how both North Korea and South Korea are framed in a disrupted Australian news industry.

Cardinal: a case study of methodology in journalism

Chris Nash

Monash University

Louise Milligan’s book *Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of George Pell* (2017) is a prize-winning account of the argument that Cardinal George Pell has a compelling case to answer against allegations of personal sexual abuse of minors. Pell is the former Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and subsequently Sydney, and currently the third most senior leader in the Vatican hierarchy, in charge of the Church’s finances. The book

canvases information already on the public record about Pell in relation to institutional failures with respect to the protection of children, and presents new, original research that accuses Pell of personal acts of child sexual abuse. Pell has since been charged by Victorian police with multiple child abuse offences and will face court in Melbourne in July 2017.

This paper examines the argument in the book for its methodological adequacy, and presents it as a case study in the larger debate about whether journalism as such can be sufficiently rigorous and reflexive to merit scholarly status. For the larger debate it draws on the framework advanced by Nash (2016) that rigorous journalism is necessarily interdisciplinary and also draws on geography, history, sociology and art for theoretical validation of its methods.

The paper draws its empirical evidence from a close reading of the evidence and text of Cardinal, supplemented by data from in-depth interviews with the author, ABC television reporter Louise Milligan. After presenting an overall review of the narrative structure and authorial reflexivity presented in the book's argument, the paper focuses on three key methodological issues in the allegations made against Pell by the author. The first one relates to the spatio-temporality of offences alleged against Pell in regional Victoria while a priest before he became a bishop, and at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne while he was Archbishop there. This analysis draws on the Harvey-Lefebvre General Matrix of Spatio-temporalities advanced by David Harvey (2006) and deployed with respect to journalism by Nash (2015, 2016).

The second methodological issue relates to Milligan's news sense or intuition in following her research leads, and examines them with respect to Bourdieu's theory of habitus and spatio-temporality (Nash, 2017). The third issue involves inter-disciplinary issues in forensic psychology, in particular with respect to the credibility of survivors of alleged child abuse as prosecution witnesses. Milligan identifies such survivors to be suffering from PTSD, and references academic research to support her argument that substance abuse and mental health concerns should not be used to discount the veracity of such evidence – indeed, she argues the contrary, that PTSD can be taken as evidence of credibility.

The paper concludes that Cardinal is an exemplary instance of journalism as scholarly research, and provides a contemporary demonstration of the argument advanced by Nash (2013, 2014, 2016) that rigorous journalism can be readily defended methodologically to be accorded scholarly status. Indeed, Milligan's canvassing of the psychological scholarship on PTSD with respect to witness credibility is a compelling instance of collegiate interdisciplinarity.

'The Second Coming of Media Doctor': A resurrection for the digital world

Caitlin Parr, Amanda Wilson and Craig Hight

University of Newcastle

Most people, including health professionals, learn about new health interventions through the media, and many people make important health decisions based on this information. The rise of online health information and 'fake news' makes it difficult to know which information is relevant for individuals, and which information can be trusted. When health news is unreliable or misleading, and has poor information or advice, it can result in public panics, the wrong health choices, increased medical costs, and even death. The public's reliance on media for health information can be seen in the publicity surrounding Kylie

Minogue's 2005 breast cancer diagnosis, which resulted in a 100-fold increase in the number of young women booking mammograms. No extra cancers were detected because for most women of this age there is no benefit in having a mammogram. Instead these women were unnecessarily exposed to radiation, anxiety and cost. This was a direct result of media coverage, despite most stories stressing the fact that mammograms were inappropriate and discussing other forms of breast checks. Young women were worried enough by the news to seek reassurance in the form of an invasive, uncomfortable, expensive and potentially harmful procedure.

Media Doctor is a globally recognised public health initiative aiming to address these issues, and improve the quality of health reporting in the digital age. Media Doctor Australia, established in 2004, developed a 'rating system' for health journalism, with the aim of helping journalists improve their craft, and increasing the health literacy of the general public. The project inspired international ventures in America, Japan, Sweden, Canada, Hong Kong and Germany, before going into hiatus in Australia in 2012. The team is currently regenerating the Media Doctor Australian project for the age of the citizen journalist. Media Doctor will be an open access online resource where interested people can be trained to assess the accuracy of health news stories. The site will use crowdsourcing to build a community of volunteers to analyse media content, and post the results for the wider community. The project is also using crowdfunding to re-establish itself in Australia, and as such, offers interesting insights on the potential collaborative links between communities, media, and health professionals for research in the new media ecology. This paper explores the potential of such links, and outlines the larger aims and benefits of the regeneration of Media Doctor, including improving health literacy in the community, increasingly accuracy of health reporting, and training future journalists in effective health reporting.

The value of Australian journalists' personal narratives: case studies of Annabel Crabb's & Shannon Harvey's nonfiction writing

Varunika Ruwanpura
The University of Adelaide

The range of nonfiction books written by Australian journalists indicates public appreciation of book-length journalism. Scrutinising these texts reveals that local journalists' nonfiction writing is often shaped by their individual news reporting style and personal convictions on wider societal issues or themes. This paper presents case studies of Annabel Crabb's book, *The Wife Drought* (2014), and Shannon Harvey's book, *The Whole Health Life* (2016), and insights from conversations with these authors. It is based on a broader study of Australian journalists' nonfiction writing being undertaken for a master's research project. The paper explores the value of Crabb's and Harvey's highly personal nonfiction narratives and how their book-length journalism serves as authentic voices in an age of fake news. The research and writing effort these journalists put into their nonfiction books also transfers back into public confidence in their day-to-day news reporting. In other words, their book-length journalism contributes to an enhanced public following for their mainstream news reporting.

Theoretical perspectives used to analyse Crabb's and Harvey's nonfiction writing are Gieber's (1964) argument that the creation of a news narrative is an intensely personal experience for reporters, Sim's (1984) theories on authorial voice and the need for accuracy in literary journalism and Tulloch's (2014)

views on the construction of an authentic narrative voice in long form journalism. Although news practice norms have changed considerably since Gieber's argument, his basic premise regarding the personal quality of news narratives is still relevant. Crabb's news reporting displays an almost larrikin humour and take on politics that feeds into her nonfiction writing. Similarly, Harvey's heavily-researched book (2016) was inspired by her personal experience with autoimmune disease. By weaving their personal experiences into their nonfiction narratives, these writers provide unique insights that enhance the story. By writing true stories they are also contributing to the slow journalism movement that is increasingly becoming a counterpoint to the fast news cycle of daily news reporting.

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Regulating Hate Speech on Social Media: A Tool for Social Cohesion or A Slippery Slope of Censorship?

Amy Kristin Sanders

Northwestern University, Qatar

In light of recent terror attacks in Europe, a number of leaders have banded together espousing an agenda to combat terrorist propaganda. At the center of this plan are proposals targeting speech on social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter and other Internet-based platforms. In Germany, for example, the Social Media Networks Enforcement Law would hold sites accountable for the speech published in their forums with the hopes of curtailing the spread of offensive speech. This debate, with particular focus on hate speech, is not unique to Europe. Throughout Asia and even in Australia, governments and civic groups are waging wars over whether, and how, to limit speech targeting particular groups of society that many people find offensive. This paper examines global efforts to combat hate speech, contrasting them with the American approach, which protects hate speech under the auspices of the First Amendment's freedom of speech guarantee. It outlines the legal protections and legislative justifications present in the United States with regard to protected speech. It suggests not only that efforts to outlaw hate speech are largely unrealistic given technological advancements but also that allowing speakers to air their views openly encourages civic discourse. First, the paper asserts that holding social media sites and other networks accountable for speech published on their sites serves as a substantial chilling effect, encouraging both publishers and distributors to engage in self-censorship. Doing so, removes significant amount of speech from the marketplace of ideas. Second, restricting offensive speech won't accomplish the desired social cohesion that politicians desire. Relying largely on Thomas Emerson's work on dissent and Lee Bollinger's work on tolerance, this paper argues that suppression of hate speech does not promote social stability but instead inhibits it. As a counter,

this paper argues that countries should permit peaceful expression of even hateful messages while encouraging counter-speech as a fundamental part of civic discourse in a democratic society.

Intersections and interruptions: social media and sports journalists in Newcastle, Australia

Paul Scott

University of Newcastle

The introduction of social media has had a major effect on both sports and media organisations. Matthews and Anwar (2013) argue that social media is an important avenue to break sporting news, and to be able to disseminate news quickly, such as the latest team and injury updates for sports fans. This has helped in the production of sporting stories, intensifying the amount the media content of sports news and information that is available, creating different ways of thinking for athletes, journalists, sporting organisations and the fans about the interaction between sport and the digital media platform (Hutchins 2011).

Social media is a fundamental and central tool in the process of sharing of information by athletes and sporting organisations seeking direct communication with fans. Such immediacy and direct connection has redefined the role of the sports journalist that has not been met with universal enthusiasm. Kian and Murray's (2014) study found an unexpected negativity toward social media from sports journalists in the USA. They found many sports journalists don't like social media, some have a disdain for social media and the "online-first" publishing priority that has penetrated newsrooms and that others resented the expectations of ongoing interaction and the amount of time they felt obliged to maintain an online presence – even while acknowledging social media's utility to contribute to their work. This negativity toward social media from sports journalists is partly due to its influence on sports journalism practices and its effects on "professionalism", and the abstract definition of professionalism within this space.

This paper reports on a study undertaken with sports journalists in Newcastle, Australia. The research did not seek to replicate Kian and Murray's study, but sought to determine how Newcastle sports journalists use social media in their work and their attitude and approach to engaging with, and using, social media. In this study, social media describes interactive and interconnected networks and platforms and includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and Tumblr.

Interviews were conducted with 11 sports journalists who work in Newcastle, with 10 male sports journalists, and one female sports contributor. The sports journalists whose views were sought to inform the study work in print media, radio and television and all have a social media presence. The responses of interviewees regarding their attitudes toward and experience with social media are analysed to identify both thematic similarities and differences.

Journalism, fandom or activism? The motivations of women who create independent sports media in Australia

Merryn Sherwood
La Trobe University

Women have historically been excluded from sports media in Australia. Surveys of sports journalists assert that newspaper sport departments are at most 11% women (Henningham, 1995; Nicholson, Lowden & Zion 2011), and female athletes and women's sports make up less than 10% of sports media coverage (Lumby, Caple & Greenwood, 2014). Both these low numbers have previously been attributed to the lingering historical sexism present within sport media, that generally delegitimises and devalues women's contributions (Fink, 2014; Sherwood et al., 2016). Yet recently there is evidence that women in Australia are making a contribution to the sports media discourse in new ways, through developing independent sports media products. These products, mostly websites and podcasts, that focus on both sport more widely and women's sport and female athletes specifically, have not just attracted audiences, they have been legitimised into the media landscape. Websites such as The Women's Game (female football), and witsup (women in triathlon), regularly secure media accreditation from sports organisations bodies to cover events in the field. Their reporting has also influenced mainstream media coverage. A survey run by The Women's Game made the back page of Melbourne newspaper The Age, for its findings that a majority of players were interested in defecting to the AFL's women's competition (Lynch, 2016). The despicable comments made by Collingwood president Eddie McGuire about respected Age journalist Caroline Wilson on live radio were only brought to account when The Outer Sanctum podcast, six women talking about AFL (Perkins, 2016), discussed them in an episode.

This study aimed to explore who these women are and why they create digital sports media products, through in-depth qualitative interviews with 10 women. It found that largely in Australia these women have a mix of backgrounds, some have worked as journalists or in other media roles, some were simply sport fans. In exploring their motivations, this study found women who produce independent sports media in Australia were likely to have similarities with two related but distinct independent media producers - sport bloggers and citizen journalists (McCarthy, 2014; Wall, 2015). They were sport fans, similar to sport bloggers, but also adhered to some journalistic ideals and practices, traits seen in citizen journalism. However their work also contained traits of activism, the common reason why they started their product was to address the lack of women's sport coverage in mainstream media. This paper contributes to the broader field of citizen journalism, independent media and sports media in Australia, offering an insight into an understudied area – women who create independent sports media products.

Violence Against Women: A Media Intervention

Margaret Simons, Jennifer Morgan, Denis Muller and Annie Blatchford
Monash University and University of Melbourne

In this paper we report on the findings of an ARC Linkage Project that explored whether and how news agendas around Violence Against Women have changed, whether we can expect any changes to be of longstanding and how media reporting of VAW can be improved.

The news media have been identified in numerous Australian state and national policy documents as a priority area for action on preventing violence against women. Yet Australian and international research has consistently identified problems with the way journalists report on Domestic Violence, including a neglect of social context, sensationalism, perpetuating myths and misrepresentations, victim blaming and overreliance on law enforcement sources at the expense of other forms of expertise.

To date, most research has focussed on news media outputs, divorced from an examination of the newsroom and journalistic processes that lead to those outputs. We draw on interviews with journalists, focus groups with media audiences and the results of a “media intervention” - the Uncovered website and social media presence, which was established as part of the ARC Linkage Project.

Through focussing on the exigencies of journalistic practice and the impact of media outputs on the audience, we conclude that consistently improving media reporting requires a focus on journalistic sources and sourcing practices. Without this, recent increases in the quantum of reporting VAW as an important social issue are unlikely to be maintained. Media training for victims and survivors should be a high priority in primary prevention, as well as training for journalists and journalism students. We conclude that the many guidelines for media generated by DV sector and other organisations have limited impact on their own, but are more effective when accompanied by networking and contact building activities. We suggest ways that these might be maximised within current primary prevention activities. Finally, we find that social media is increasingly important in how journalists report VAW, and in this context the Uncovered intervention has demonstrated promise as a flexible means of engaging and assisting journalists and building useful source relationships.

Stories that walk with you: Opportunities in locative audio for feature journalism

Jeanti St Claire

Southern Cross University

Location and proximity have gained new meanings in journalism since inbuilt locative and mapping capacities have been added to the mobile phone, now a key device for media consumption. These technologies provide rich opportunities for news production (Goggin et al 2015, Schmitz Weiss 2014, Oie 2013 and Nyre et al 2012 amongst others). Yet, faltering media economies have largely curtailed journalistic experimentation with locative technology, beyond customising news delivery according to a user's location. Unlike GPS-driven augmented reality game Pokémon Go, which used locative technology to activate and take players into urban and community spaces, news organisations' use of locative technology has been focused mainly on connecting audiences to advertisers. News organisations most commonly use locative technology to localise news and weather on websites, and location-based directory searches which can tie user data to advertising revenue streams. However, locative technology has other potential applications in journalism which can, as Wilken and Goggins (2012) theorise, generate emplaced narratives which are consumed by moving through place.

One field of locative production that works to achieve this aim, and which has close connections to audio feature journalism through radio and podcast documentary, is the locative audio walk. Locative audio walk platforms use GPS or Bluetooth beacon technology to track a user's journey through a place. When the user

is in proximity to specific, and usually narratively meaningful, locations along the route, audio content will play on the user's mobile device. Locative audio productions have gained support in the tourism and museums sectors as immersive visitor experiences. However, there is scope for journalists to also embrace locative audio walks. These can provide a means to tell newsworthy, place-based feature journalism and documentary narratives 'in situ' with implications for active user engagement with place and content. Farman (2012) suggests such narrative engagements have political capital to exert, and can contest dominant narratives about a place. Therefore locative audio walks may marry well with news reporting, which also 'calls power to account' and explores alternative perspectives. This presentation explores several Australian examples on the Soundtrails locative audio platform, which can be seen to bridge the divide between tourism/museum guides and journalistic audio features. Finally, the presentation touches on the application of locative audio production as an extended learning activity in a university audio journalism class as a means to developing students' understanding of emplacement, proximity and immersive audio design.

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Virtual reality journalism: a fad or the way forward?

Ben Stubbs

University of South Australia

While it's not difficult to find content and commentary lamenting the crisis facing journalism (Joseph 2014, Simons 2017) among the job cuts and content shrinking within the media, there is room for optimism. In 2012 USC Annenberg Journalism Professor Nonny de la Peña created the first mainstream virtual reality journalism stories with her *Hunger in LA* (2012) production when she combined narrative, news values and technology to open a new arena for journalism storytelling.

De la Peña's work paved the way for more mainstream virtual reality journalism content from The New York Times and their Google cardboard initiative, CNN VR, Euro News and many more in the US and Europe looking to embrace this new form of journalism engagement, which was labelled as the ultimate "empathy machine" by VR producer Chris Milk. There have also been advancements in the VR journalism education

space with a research concentration from the TOW Centre for Digital Journalism Research (Owen 2014), the 'Journalism' project from Associate Professor Robert Hernandez (2017) at USC Annenberg and the University of Texas' work in the immersive space with the Knight Foundation.

Despite this advancement and optimism, the VR journalism landscape in Australia has remained relatively quiet. From this prompt, this presentation will look at the evolution of VR journalism and the motivation to create the 'Immersible' VR journalism project at UniSA. Our team created an authoring app and we have recently completed a pilot study with final year journalism and media students in VR storytelling—one of the first of its kind in Australia. We will be looking at the results of the study, the content they produced and what implications this has for the future of VR journalism and education in Australia.

By the numbers: comparing historic and contemporary audience reach of fake news

Margaret Van Heekeren

The University of Sydney

The recent proliferation of fake news has identified social media as a causative factor, enabling widespread dissemination. This paper argues that such reasoning arises from technological determinism and ignores the historic reach of traditional media and, therefore, the pervasiveness and impact of earlier fake news scandals. A data-based approach is taken to compare the distribution and audience reach of two infamous fake news scandals; the corpse factory story of 1917 and the Pope endorses Donald Trump ruse of 2016. The analysis uses readership and circulation data from Australia, Great Britain and the United States to examine the impact of the 1917 story and reported statistics of shares and reach for the 2016 report. Whilst limitations to the availability of circulation and readership statistics prevent definitive findings, indicative results reveal a similar, if not greater, level of audience saturation than that of contemporary times. The paper then offers a comparative discussion as to the identification of the fakery of both examples and the ways in which news reports negating the initial stories were disseminated. It considers the temporal differences in publication lead times between twentieth and twenty first century media and the impact of these differences in exposing fake news. This leads to the conclusion that, despite its speed in disseminating fake news, social media combined with the re-reporting of social media content by legacy news media, enables a swifter and more effective 'antidote' to fake news than legacy print news media alone. From this analysis, the paper makes the argument that, social media, in its relationship to fake news, is not only a disseminator but also an effective suppressant in fake news penetration.

Renewal & resurgence of foreign broadcasters: The changing geography of news broadcasting in the Asia Pacific

Alexandra Wake

RMIT University

This paper scopes the current pattern of news broadcasting in the Asia Pacific. Specifically, it notes the extent to which government-funded news agencies are represented. It discusses the changes with reference to the axing of the Australia Broadcasting Corporation's shortwave services from Australia to the Asia Pacific, the rise of China's Xinhua news agency as a provider of news in the region, and the extension and

contraction of other news services including the BBC and Al Jazeera. The literature focuses on how the provision of news in the Asia Pacific grew out of historic and political linkage to the Pacific and Asia, providing a vital tool for soft diplomacy to colonial and neighbouring countries. Discussion will look at how new technologies are impacting on distribution of news in the region, and more widely on changing patterns of news production and consumption. This study is based on an analysis of available broadcast material in the Asia Pacific.

“I want to read it in my hands”: A Uses and Gratifications study into the aesthetic attraction between young adult female readers and independent women’s magazines in Australia.

Sarah Webb and Janet Fulton

University of Newcastle

This presentation is reporting on a research project that is examining how young Australian women (18-24 years) engage with independent women’s magazines and whether hard-copy independent women’s magazines offer an aesthetic media experience to its female readers that is considered more authentic than their online counterparts. The study is seeking to understand the potential aesthetic attraction that may exist between said young adult females and women’s independents, by giving voice to their reasons for magazine consumption. There’s a small, but growing body of evidence that suggests that printed independent magazines are thriving even as mainstream publications falter in Australia’s print industry. The aim of the research was to discover whether the continued success of independents could be partly due to the editors, owners and publishers placing greater emphasis on aesthetic aspects of their publications, as a response to changing reader expectations, and whether there is a demand to connect aesthetically with the independent women’s magazines female readers consume.

The research employed a survey and focus group with young adult female readers (18-24 years), using Blumler and Katz’s Uses and Gratification theory as a theoretical framework, to reveal how and why this demographic – the industry’s audience for years to come – engages with independent women’s magazines. If the relationship between readers and print is a form of experience, this connection might highlight different aspects regarding the place of media in people’s lives. Such aspects could include the aesthetic aspects that can be central to understanding the continued appeal and use of independent magazines, but also content, entertainment, escape, collection, value, habit and ease of use. In an age where ‘digital’ is often regarded as the norm, it would seem that young adult female readers are seeking inspiration and expression once again from the print medium of independent women’s magazines.

Journalist-Source Relationship in Crime and Court Reporting: An Analysis of Sources in Newspaper Coverage of High Profile Murders in Australia, Hong Kong and Mainland China

Yanzhu Xu

Monash University

Journalists gather information from different social actors (institutions, organizations and individuals) to construct their news stories. The various social actors are important (potential) news sources for journalism; but on the other hand, they also pose constraints on the journalistic field, thus affecting the

autonomy of journalism (Bourdieu, 1998). A good understanding of the journalist-source relationship is especially important for understanding crime and court reporting, as many sources in such reporting are interested parties involved. Their relationships with journalists have impacts on whether journalists can get timely, accurate information to inform the public.

Using a content analysis approach, the present study aims to contribute to the understanding of the journalist-source relationship in crime and court reporting in different countries/regions. It adapted Sigal's (1973) model to examine the sources cited in news coverage of one high profile murder case from two newspapers in Australia, Mainland China, and Hong Kong. The three were chosen as representatives of countries/regions with liberal democratic culture and political system, Chinese culture and political system, and a combination of the two, respectively.

Results show that newspapers in Australia and Mainland China used a high proportion of sources gathered through enterprise channels – by interviews conducted at the reporter's initiative or independent research involving quotations from materials such as reports and statistical data. They also paid considerable attention to voices of people from the public, and those close to the victims and defendants – their family, friends and acquaintances. By contrast, the Hong Kong newspapers relied heavily on information gathered through court proceedings; in other words, most of the coverage was based on what journalists heard in the courtroom. The results also show that official authorities outside the criminal justice system were important sources for the Australian papers, while these voices were rarely cited in the Hong Kong and Mainland China papers.

Taking the differences in the press systems and the legal systems into consideration, this article suggests that China's press has more leeway to report information about criminal cases as Mainland China follows a civil law system. However, their low use of official sources also reveals the Chinese journalists may have difficulties in obtaining information from the police and courts. The article also suggests that the Australian journalists have a close relationship with the police, with the later playing an important role in providing information about ongoing cases. By contrast, the Hong Kong press seems to have more difficulties in obtaining information from the police.

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How the weather became the news

Lawrie Zion

La Trobe University

The digital revolution has transformed the way that we engage with the weather through the media. One manifestation of this is increasing prominence of weather stories in online versions of traditional mastheads and other high profile news sites. This paper examines the growth of weather as news, especially in The Age online, the ABC and in news.com.au. The argument developed is that weather stories, especially those that cover weather 'events', have become a news genre in their own right, and this has in turn changed the role of the Bureau of Meteorology in the 24/7 news cycle, as well as providing prominent coverage of 'citizen

weather' enthusiasts such as storm chasers, and crowdsourced material from those close to the action of major storms.

Questions that have emerged from this are: what is the role of journalists in shaping the themes of these stories? What kind of 'weather literacy' is assumed when it comes to mainstream media consumers? How has the popularity of these stories changed the way that the Bureau of Meteorology engages with media? And to what extent do stories connect severe weather stories to climate change?

One argument advanced is that the history of weather in the media is a story of constantly unmet demand. To some extent, this may reflect the true extent of an innate human interest in the elements. But the way that this is manifest varies considerably according to local climate conditions, and also, crucially, to the kind of journalistic resources that are allocated to coverage of weather stories.

The paper draws on themes developed in the recently published book, *The Weather Obsession*, and the more than 50 interviews conducted as part of the research for the book.

Peer Reviewed Papers

(Alphabetical by author)

Journalism in regional Australia: How regulating local content is a necessary evil in the digital age

Harry Criticos

University of Newcastle

Abstract

At the beginning of 2015, the Prime Media Group, owners of Prime Television, closed down its Tamworth production studios and newsroom, choosing to centralise their operations in Canberra. While the company has maintained journalists to report stories in the Tamworth region, the loss of local production added to the loss of local content and local newsrooms in print, television and radio across regional Australia. This then raises the question of whether the push by media companies for changes to media ownership laws will result in restoring those newsrooms and production facilities that were closed down. The Save Our Voices campaign by regional television stations Prime, Win, Southern Cross Austereo (SCA) and Imparja, argues that changes to the media ownership laws will “ensure a strong regional media, and a stronger voice for regional and rural Australia” (SOV, 2017). Radio networks, like television, have also centralised their newsrooms resulting in fewer journalists in regional areas since deregulation in 1992. However, going against this trend of contraction, Southern Cross Austereo have made the first move by employing around 80 journalists in regional New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. While this is good news for the regional areas, the downside is that the news will be compiled and broadcast from a SCA hub. The question is, if this can happen under the current ‘regulated’ environment, is there a need for changes to media ownership laws? There is an argument here that the future for journalism in regional Australia relies on regulation to play its role in ensuring that the voices and stories of regional Australia continue to be told. Conversely, is a neoliberal approach of ‘let the market decide’ a more practical approach in the digital age? Since much has been written over the years on the loss of newsrooms around Australia as a result of broadcasters looking at minimising their costs (Hess, Waller, & Ricketson, 2014; Zion, Sherwood, O'Donnell, Dodd, Ricketson, & Marjoribanks, 2016), this paper will take a different perspective of journalism in regional Australia with a discussion on deregulation, the importance of news media - community links in regional areas, and the role of a journalist within a network.

Keywords

Journalism; Radio; Community; Networks; Diversity; Local content

Paper

The deregulation of broadcasting: A brief overview

By the 1990s, the Australian economy was entering a new era. It was believed that neoliberal economic policy manifested in a process of industry deregulation would encourage diversity and competition in a range of industries, including radio. It was expected that a deregulated, free-market, could allow commercial

enterprises to further develop without being encumbered by prescriptive legislation. Broadcasting in Australia was about to experience dramatic changes, reflecting similar changes in the US where the Carter administration in the 1980s felt the regulations relating to broadcasting in general were “too burdensome for business and served neither the government nor the clients of these businesses” (Williams, 1998, p. 9). The changes to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* were brought about by this shift in economic thinking during the successive terms of the Hawke and Keating Labor Governments (Cunningham & Turner, 2010, p. 121). It was, as Prindle (2003) states, marketplace theory that drove the decision. According to Prindle, deregulation creates a competitive environment that serves the public interest since this competition “promotes diversity and localism in programming as stations seek out specific niche markets to gain the greatest audience share” (2003, p. 297). Hendy (2000) also argues that the ‘micro-management’ by government (the regulation of content) should be relinquished so broadcasters can meet the demands of its audience unhampered.

For the government, deregulation is about providing a range of benefits to the broadcasting industry. While the intention of deregulation would create a level playing field as broadcasters compete with streaming services, and compete for advertising revenue against Facebook and Google, deregulation has not been a benefit to regional Australia. If we look at deregulation of radio broadcasting in 1992, rather than diversified ownership, there was concentration of ownership, a loss of newsrooms and a loss of local content due to increased networking. Changes to the media ownership rules as proposed by the Turnbull government will see further media concentration. This concentration of ownership, Collingwood (1999, 2005, 2008) argues, deprives consumers in regional areas of diversity of programming and subsequently quality local programmes. This has been evidenced through the number of newsrooms that have been centralised by both radio and television licence holders.

At the crux of further media deregulation and changes to media ownership laws, is maintaining local content, in particular news. Now that the proposed changes have gone through the Senate, there needs to be a guarantee that the current levels of local content, minimal as they be, are maintained. At the moment, local content is maintained through material of local significance in s43A and s43C of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*. Material of local significance is material that is hosted in, produced in or relates to the licence area. As well as material of local significance, there are a number of other sections within the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* which ensures that licence holders, both television and radio, must comply with in order to maintain a prescribed level of local content.

History has shown, that without regulating local content levels, regional licence holders will take advantage of the deregulated environment and discontinue the broadcasting of local content and turn to networked programme, which is cheaper to produce and as it offers economies of scale.

Nodes and Hubs: The networking power play

Wolff suggests that the work of the programme-maker is subject to the conditions of economic reality, being immersed in the social organisation of capitalist production. It is often times marginalised and their work fragmented as a result of work processes (Wolff, 1981, pp. 11-13). While these structures may also enable the programme-maker, as an agent, their work is often performed ‘habitually’ and, due to the expectations of stakeholders (such as licensees, editors and the audience), what they produce is done without a great deal of independent choice (Wolff, 1981 p. 21). In this case, as Wolff (1981) suggests, the role of the programme-

maker as the sole cultural producer is not as significant as what is believed. As Wolff argues, “other people are involved in producing the work” while “social and ideological factors determine or affect a work”, and that audiences also have an “active and participatory role in creating the finished product” (1981, p. 25).

Castells examines these ideas further by introducing the notion of a ‘Network Society’ which he defines as “a society whose social structure is made of networks powered by microelectronics-based information and communication technologies” (2004, p.3) and is “characterized by the pre-eminence of social morphology over social action” (Castells, 2010, p. 500). Accordingly, society is being influenced by flows rather than by hierarchical power, with Castells describing the network as a series of hubs (places of exchange) and nodes (places of function). This notion can be extrapolated to regional journalists who are at the nodes and file stories to the hub, which then distributes that news to the wider audience.

It can be argued then that news media is central to the network society. It is inclusive and “connected throughout the globe and yet diversified by cultures, constituting a hypertext with extraordinary inclusive capacity” (Castells, 1999, p. 403). As news media is a centrepiece, the way it frames events determines to an extent the relationships between members of a society or community. From this proposition it can be argued, through the example of Australian radio that these relationships move to dissipate a network’s ability to exercise complete power.

A network of stations within the network society is subject to what Castells terms the ‘network enterprise’ where:

The development of the network enterprise translates into downsizing, subcontracting, and networking of labour, inducing flexibility of both business and labour and individualisation of contractual arrangements between management and labour (1999, p. 402).

Broadcasters function by downsizing their operations, ostensibly in the interest of cost saving and productivity, to the minimum number of staff needed to operate the station and network their labour, with some licensees having a form of ‘internal decentralisation’ (Castells, 1999, p. 401). But it is how this relates to the network society that is important.

Barabasi’s (2002) notion of the network can be applied to regional broadcasting in that nodes (in this case stations taking the programme feed from the hub) can also be centres of influence. For example, in a radio network, the agents in those nodes interact with agents in other nodes including the community, which can then have an effect on the network as a whole. It can be argued that for broadcasting, television or radio, it is not so much where we situate the content (hosted locally), but also how the broadcaster is situated within the licence area and also the community in that licence area. Barabasi (2002) suggests that hubs and nodes can broaden as well as constrain the type of content broadcast to regional communities. To give this situation context, within a hub there exists a number of nodes (in this case announcers and managers) with connections to the community in which the radio station is located. The members of a community can also be nodes and therefore a source of content. In a tight-knit community that information can be either free-flowing or constrained. While it can be argued that stations in a radio network have a wide reach, they are also limited by the number of contacts a node has within that particular hub. As such, informing the audience is dependent on the connectivity of these nodes.

And this is where the importance of journalists in regional areas is important. If we use the notions presented by Barabasi (2002), the journalist establishes contacts within the nodes and cements relationships with those contacts. These relationships occur only through the activity of regional journalists at the nodes, and are a function of living within the community; something a hub cannot achieve.

It's About Community

In the discourse of news media and radio in particular, there are a number of terms used to describe the community that consumes the medium - society, community, citizen, consumer and listener are examples. The use of each term also differs according to the context in which each is used and this representation categorises each group according to different attributes. For example, for the state, the word 'consumer' is generally used to describe those who use or consume the medium while 'citizen' is generally used to describe the owner of the spectrum. As such they are considered as separate entities.

The radio industry, on the other hand tends to favour the use of 'listener' or 'audience' to describe the members of the community that engage with them. In regional areas, the radio industry argues that radio operates for the community. Indeed, regional news media often see themselves as representing the community as evidenced by the radio industry's submission to the 2001 *Local Voices: An Inquiry into Regional Radio*. Many licence holders emphasised the community links managers have, stating that each of their managers "are well known local community figures who are readily approachable and completely up-to-date with the local community needs and aspirations" (Broadcast Operations Group, 2000, pp. 3-4). This statement was being made to reinforce to legislators that despite radio being a business, community ties were essential for regional stations. In this case their 'listeners' are not simply 'consumers' buying their product. A submission from the Association of Independent Regional Radio Broadcasters (IRRB) also reinforced a local station's ties with its community, stating that the local radio station is "committed to serve a limited locality and has the resources to respond to the community's needs" (Independent Regional Radio Broadcasters, 2000, p. 11). Ewart argues that whether it is through content, or the people working in the local station, "regional media play a central role in constructing and cementing the identity and culture of communities and their publics" (2000, p. 1). It seems then, that radio engages with the licence area on two levels. Regional radio stations see themselves as engaging with the community through staging events or broadcasting community service announcements, for example, and also providing programme elements such as news, music or talk for the benefit of the listener.

Apart from the ways radio claims to involve itself with the community, there is also the issue of whether a licence area that covers a large region with a number of towns often separated by hundreds of kilometres, is constituted by a community or smaller communities? This situation leads to a further question; what constitutes a community? Edgar, Earle and Fopp answer this by stating that "community refers to a collection of interdependent people who share a common residential locality and some feeling of belonging with other members" (1993, p. 119). However, Willson argues that defining or describing community is not so straightforward as it "is one of those amorphous concepts that is easily and loosely employed while rarely defined or explained clearly" (2006, p. 1). Willson argues that "the essence or fundamental component of any conception of community (recognising the problems with many of these loaded terms) is an understanding of community as ways of being together" (2006, p. 1). If this is the case, then where does this leave regional radio? For licensees it seems, the function of regional radio operating within a community may at times

guide the operation of the station through an engagement with that community's actions and reactions to their own output. An issue here is that if this supposedly amorphous community is then viewed as a singular group, it must be considered an "undifferentiated and universal phenomenon able to be encapsulated" (Willson, 2006, p. 21). If hubs and nodes are connecting the network, the idea that community is amorphous and thus ill defined then questions what constitutes belonging as well as the connections that exist for communities in a licence area. Despite the problematic nature of what constitutes a community, at least according to Willson, it needs to be acknowledged that the bonds of a community are many, varied and often ritualised and need to be considered at both a macro and micro level. But Willson (2006) argues that identity through mental connection does not naturally occur and that the rituals that do occur are extended and enacted through the media. As Holmes states:

in media societies where the geographical and kinship ties of the parish, local neighbourhood, or the industrial slum have virtually disappeared, individuals have historically become very heavily dependent on media of many kinds to acquire a sense of belonging and attachment to others (2002, p. 5 in Willson, 2006, p. 26).

And it is this very notion of networked local news media that creates a sense of belonging in regional communities, who themselves feel isolated from other parts of Australia, or even the major centres in their state, that has become the centre of debate for regional radio. This idea that news media is part of the 'connectedness' of the wider community does not, however, mean that regional communities become more involved in the regulatory process that governs their local station. Media companies closing down newsrooms despite outcries from local communities have shown this to be the case.

This was highlighted in the Finklestein Report, which stated that concentration of news media reduces the number of independent voices which "could be damaging to the democratic functioning of our society" (Finklestein, 2012, p. 318). Furthermore, the report also states that aggregated markets will have a "reduced focus on, and relevance to, their smaller local communities" (Finklestein, 2012, p. 328). As the Finklestein Report was written before the current media laws were introduced to the federal parliament, it can be argued that we will see further concentration of news media and subsequently, a further consolidation of news rooms in regional Australia.

Methodology

This research on regional news media took place at four Super Radio Network stations: Two AM and two FM; two of which (one AM and one FM) are network hubs (feeder stations). The stations at the hub not only feed programme to regional SRN stations, they also broadcast local programme to their respective licence area. The two regional AM and FM stations broadcast an average of 18 hours of networked programme per day. A large proportion of the programme material broadcast on SRN regional stations is sourced from a feeder station (hub). Due to the amount of networking, interviews and observations took place during the breakfast programme at each station as this is the only locally hosted programme at the majority of SRN stations. It was felt that this would provide a valid comparison of the stations. The journalists were observed between 4:30am and 11am and following the observation, open-ended, conversational style interviews were conducted. Four journalists participated in this research.

The networked journalist

In the interviews and observations that were conducted, it was interesting to note the role of the journalist within a network and how the network viewed the significance of major local stories. When compiling news for a station that operates within a network, journalists have to ensure their bulletins suit a network audience. One journalist said that when compiling the network bulletin, local news and local references were omitted. Unless the story would “make at least a state news bulletin” (Journalist 2, 2009) on television that night, it was not going to be included in the network news:

Sydney stories get a lot more of a focus on weekends as well. It’s mostly because we also broadcast to some South East Queensland stations so we’ve got to kind of keep it a bit of an east coast based service with a national flavour (Journalist 2, 2009).

This also meant that major stories in other local areas within the network would be omitted if they were not of national significance; it was about the wider audience:

We just try and keep it a national agenda that’s going to kind of influence or affect as many people in those markets as we can. So NSW state government stories, health stories things that have more of a general kind of appeal (Journalist 2, 2009).

Another journalist said that they enjoyed doing network news because it gave them exposure and the opportunity to do a national news bulletin:

It’s enjoyable. But again you’ve got to think wider than where you are. Again it comes back to how does this story affect...you know... it might be a NSW based story but if it’s interesting enough it might actually be interesting enough to a Queensland person as well. So you’ve got to be just aware of who’s listening and how this will affect them and choose stories accordingly. So that does mean some local stories at that time will not get a run because it’s just too parochial and defined into the [local] area (Journalist 1, 2009).

However, like many other programme-makers, journalists were concerned that the network bulletins impacted on the need to keep the local audience informed of news affecting them. Journalist 1 (2009) in particular felt disappointed in omitting good local stories:

We are a local radio station after all. And so sometimes you feel when you’re in that network mode you think ‘gee that’s a good story’ but I’ve just got to be mindful that we’re wider today and we’ve got to walk away from it. Because I have heard that sometimes we’ve been accused of running [licence area 2] centric news because of that. Well, that’s somebody else’s view. I think the news that I think I’ve selected in the past that might have been [locally] generated, is interesting enough for the wider audience.

Journalists 1 and 2 agreed that networking news was detrimental, expressing the view that “local news is actually very important” (Journalist 2, 2009) and should not come at the expense of a good local story. It was asserted by journalists that the networking of news was “a cheaper way to get news to a greater number of people” (Journalist 2, 2009).

It was also noted that those best placed to discuss and compile rural news were bypassed in favour of a centralised news gathering process at the hub, which was then broadcast to nodes. This rural news was general in nature with information considered to be relevant to the rural audiences:

The Rural News is networked. So that takes into consideration the East Coast New South Wales and South East Queensland. That comes from Sydney I think, it’s the same newsreader that does the news from the network. It

is kind of relevant to local audiences because it has all the stock reports from around the areas, so some people do like that (Journalist 3, 2010).

Similar to other programme-makers, the journalists considered networking as something that had to be endured, but at the cost of quality local journalism. For the journalists that were interviewed, it was not about what they did in their role as compilers of news, but how the network could make news cost effective.

Where to from here?

This paper has attempted to present a different perspective of the role of journalism in regional Australia. Australian news media, like many others around the world, are experiencing declining revenue and audience fragmentation. As audiences move away from scheduled television and radio to the digital space where they can watch, read or listen to anything-anywhere-anytime, traditional media are finding it difficult to maintain the current business model. Compounding this are Internet giants Facebook and Google who are appropriating content from Australian news media companies without remuneration. At the time of writing, the Turnbull government put the Media Ownership Bill before the parliament, which was subsequently passed by the Senate in September 2017. However, there is no guarantee that this bill will protect news as a community asset despite the best intentions, for example, of companies such as SCA and the proposed journalist scholarships for small publishers, which are part of the media reforms passed in September. As has been evidenced over the years, through the deregulation of broadcasting and the effect of the Internet, media companies in Australia have closed newsrooms and cut back on journalists citing cost and lack of revenue as the main reasons. Since 1992, deregulation has resulted in a lack of diversity in both ownership and local voices in regional areas, while capital cities such as Sydney and Melbourne have been able to sustain a good level of diversity based on the media available.

If diversity and local voices are to be maintained, then deregulation and / or changes to media ownership, requires regulation. While it may be seen as unfair that Facebook and Google operate in an unregulated space, this does not mean that Australian news media should be set free and let the market decide what should be broadcast. History has shown that this form of self-regulation failed as radio stations broadcast networked programme twenty-four hours per day into regional areas. It was only when regulations such as material of local significance were added to the BSA that regional media went back to broadcasting local content and restoring local news services.

Legacy media will always have trouble competing with new media. Many news media companies have not taken advantage of what the digital space has to offer, and their point of difference to new media will be offering local content to local audiences. SCA has obviously seen the benefit of putting journalists back into some regional areas, and if this trend continues, it may help news media organisations ride out the disruption of new media. But until that time, when legacy media is able to compete on an equal basis and maintain a level of local news, governments need to recognise that regulation and deregulation must operate side-by-side in regional areas to provide a service that is at least equal to that available in the capital cities.

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Title: Whitefella broadcasting: Why non-Indigenous journalists struggle to tell Aboriginal stories in Australia.

Vicki Kerrigan

Menzies School of Health Research

Abstract

At the Australian Broadcasting Corporation [ABC] the dominant worldview is white and western. This is despite various strategic plans which focus on increasing cultural diversity of staff with the intention of increasing the diversity of stories told from differing cultural perspectives. As an ex-ABC employee with a career spanning more than two decades, I was complicit in reinforcing the dominant hegemony and neo-colonial values which effectively silenced Aboriginal people from public debate. However, there were also opportunities to work in a way which allowed the subjugated Aboriginal perspective to be aired. Working at the national youth ABC network Triple J in the year 2000, I secured an interview with Bonita Mabo, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activist. When producing that interview I became acutely aware of the differences between the Anglo Australian culture I operate within and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

This paper explores the culture of journalism, entrenched implicit bias among non-Indigenous journalists and employing institutions, and the intercultural differences which all contribute to substandard reportage on Aboriginal affairs by ABC radio broadcasters. To that end, ABC journalists in the Northern Territory currently struggle to fulfil their fourth estate function in regard to Aboriginal issues. The paper also includes a case study where I reflect on my own journalistic practice around reporting on Indigenous people.

Keywords

journalism; radio; intercultural communication; cross cultural communication; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; Australia

Paper

At the Australian Broadcasting Corporation [ABC] diversity is a buzz word. In the ABC's corporate documents the organisation pledges to accurately reflect the cultural diversity of Australia.

The ABC is one of Australia's most important cultural institutions. As the primary national public broadcaster, it reflects Australia's national identity and cultural diversity. (ABC Corporate Plan 2016-17, 2015 p.12)

However, the ABC has anecdotally been described as the Anglo Broadcasting Corporation - an unfortunate moniker which alludes to the cultural perspective which shapes how stories are told. Research which unpacks the culture of journalism can help tease out the subtle yet important issues which lead to current ABC radio journalistic practice. Hanitzsch's theory of journalism culture describes an arena where "diverse

professional ideologies struggle over the dominant interpretation of journalism's social function and identity" (2007 p.370). Journalists worldwide value impartiality and objectivity however journalistic culture can make it difficult for journalists to provide a value free account of the truth (Hanitzsch, 2007 p.367, 376). Hanitzsch argues:

Journalism culture becomes manifest in the way journalists think and act...journalists consciously and unconsciously legitimate their role in society and render their work meaningful for themselves and others. (2007 p.369)

A typical Australian journalist is likely to be female, tertiary educated and of Anglo-Saxon origin (Hanusch, 2013 p. 10). Despite best intentions, many reporters and producers inevitably tell stories shaped by their own cultural worldview. The media plays a powerful role in "shaping, perpetuating and reinforcing racial ideology" (Armstrong, 2011 p.103). Given these theories on journalism culture, this paper will reflect on my 20 year ABC radio broadcasting practice, while considering if the ABC can truly reflect the cultural diversity of Australia when there are so few Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employed by the organisation.

In 2016 the ABC employed 4183 full time employees nationally (*ABC Corporate Plan 2016-2017*, 2016 p.18). Figures from December 2016 state 2.5% of staff at ABC Radio, TV and online were Indigenous (*ABC Stretch RAP Report 2016-2018. First report against the Plan, January-December 2016*, 2016 p.1). In 2014, ABC Northern Territory set an Indigenous employment target of "15% in order to better reflect the Indigenous population in the NT" (*ABC Reconciliation Action Plan 2013-15 2014: Report against the Plan*, 2015 p.6). The current Indigenous employment rate at ABC NT is 9.91% (King, 2017). Yet Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory make up 25.5% of the total NT population, the highest proportion of all states and territories (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

Context

There is no mass medium as ubiquitous as radio; it is the original electronic mass medium (Mollgaard, 2012 p.viii). Despite the advent of television, growth of the internet and popularity of social media, radio continues to have high social penetration because it's free, easy to access and immediate (Castelló & Montagut, 2011 p.509). ABC Darwin's broadcast footprint includes the major centres of Darwin, Palmerston and Katherine and remote towns including Nhulunbuy, Jabiru and the numerous remote Aboriginal communities and homelands scattered across the Top End and the Tiwi Islands. Across the Northern Territory, more than 100 Aboriginal languages and dialects are spoken (Northern Territory Government, 2016) and for many English is a second, third or sometimes fourth language. ABC Darwin is unique in the metro radio landscape as it broadcasts to the hundreds of remote Aboriginal communities across the Top End, communities which can seem like "a kind of parallel universe" (Mahood, 2012 p.2) for many outsiders.

In writing this paper, I am mindful of the dangers of referring to Aboriginal people as one homogenous cultural group. As Behrendt states: "Indigenous communities are not culturally homogenous" however Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people share a history of past government dispossession and genocide which has influenced the Aboriginal psyche (2004 p.126, 118). It is from this overarching perspective that the intercultural communication issues which affect journalistic practice will be considered.

Many Australians have limited personal contact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hence views “are shaped by secondary sources, like the media, that may not present a balanced perspective” (Reconciliation Australia, 2013 p.5). High levels of prejudice in Australian society, supported by negative Aboriginal narratives, lead to low levels of understanding about each other (Reconciliation Australia, 2013 p.5). Veteran Australian journalist Jeff McMullen argues that:

Mass media is the principal propaganda machine marketing a neo-liberal vision aimed ultimately at dispossessing the First Australians of their land and distinctiveness....The Australian mass media attempts to strangle the Aboriginal voice....trapping Aboriginal people in stereotypes of victimhood and hopelessness. (Creative Spirits, 2015)

How the media portrays Indigenous issues impacts on the relationship Indigenous Australians have with mainstream society (Stoneham, Goodman, & Daube, 2014 p.1). For a government to effectively govern, it should have a solid understanding of the “character of society and its values” (Keating, 2000 p.8) but this is difficult to achieve when a stream of negative news feeds divisiveness. Such reporting practices contribute to and reflect the ungovernableness of Indigenous policy (McCallum, 2012 p.3). A 12 month Curtin University survey of 335 articles about Aboriginal health found 74% of the articles were negative, 11% neutral and only 15% positive (Stoneham et al., 2014 p.2-3). News stories fuel racism and ignorance and enforce negative stereotypes (Creative Spirits, 2015). The media focuses on problems, while the exploration of solutions is reduced to one minute sound grabs (Keating, 2000 p.17). President of the Indigenous Social Justice Association Ray Jackson explains:

Our media tends to make our issues only front page news on Aboriginal matters when it can be spun into a report whereby all those lazy, drunken, etc, etc, can be blamed for the mistakes of government and their departments. (Creative Spirits, 2015)

This negative stereotype is inflated by a lack of Indigenous people being interviewed. When whitefellas are interviewed on Indigenous issues it perpetuates the neo-colonial paradigm. Listen to the radio today and you will hear examples of how Indigenous people are routinely silenced. Recently the ABC’s flagship current affairs radio program AM broadcast from the *2017 First Nations National Constitutional Convention* at Uluru. In the first program broadcast from Uluru, AM did not give voice to one Traditional Owner, the Anangu people. Instead, host Sabra Lane asked the Uluru Katja Tjuta National Park manager, Mike Misso to explain how the Anangu are connected to Uluru and to explain Tjukurpa:

Sabra Lane: Dreamtime is not a word that is used in this area, instead locals talk about Tjukurpa. What does that mean?

Mike Misso: It’s a really hard concept to explain and as a non-Anangu person very hard for me to understand but I’ll give it my best explanation... (Misso, 2017)

Asking a non-Anangu person to explain Tjukurpa is akin to asking an Anglo Australian visiting India to explain Sikhism. When Aboriginal people are talked about rather than spoken or listened to it is “a form of racist discourse” (Meadows cited in Waller, 2012 p.52). Via Twitter, AM host Sabra Lane explained her team had spoken to Anangu people but none wanted to speak on the radio, she ended with “There are still 4 days to go” (Lane, 2017). An assessment of the five-day AM broadcast from Uluru revealed AM shared the voice of one Anangu Traditional Owner [T/O]. An eleven second audio grab of T/O Sammy Wilson formally

welcoming convention attendees was included in an AM radio package about the opening of the forum (Wilson, 2017). ABC radio was broadcasting from a constitutional recognition convention where the discussion centred on how to secure respect and recognition for Aboriginal voices on national issues and yet the national broadcaster missed an important opportunity to respectfully and accurately represent the Anangu Traditional Owners and the issues which were most important to them and their unique circumstances as T/O's of Uluru.

The aim of this paper is not to shame ABC journalists but to raise awareness of some of the intercultural complexities faced by reporters who strive to share stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is understandably challenging for the outwardly egalitarian journalist to accept that implicit bias may affect their ability to report on Aboriginal issues. However, evidence indicates individuals who hold anti-racist beliefs may still have high levels of implicit bias (Byrne & Tanesini, 2015 p.1256). Implicit attitudes are unconscious ideas which can be difficult to acknowledge and control, they include stereotypes and negative attitudes which can contribute to racial/ethnic disparities (Hall, 2015 p.60). Implicit bias research indicates that individuals who work in stressful environments where decisions need to be made quickly (like a newsroom) are more prone to making culturally biased decisions (Byrne & Tanesini, 2015 p.1257).

Reflective practice methodology

My research process is informed by my own experience as an ABC radio broadcaster at Triple J, Radio National and ABC local regional and metro radio stations over 20 years. The ideas presented here have been shaped by reflective practice which allows professionals to “develop a greater level of self-awareness” (Osterman and Kotterkamp cited in Leigh & Bailey, 2013 p. 161) creating opportunities to improve performance (J. Wilson, 2008 p.177). In ‘Educating the Reflective Practitioner’, Donald Schön (1987) argues that a practitioner reflects-in-action by applying:

standard rules, facts, and operations; then to reason from general rules to problematic cases, in ways characteristic of the profession; and only then to develop and test new forms of understanding and action when familiar categories and ways of thinking fail (1987 p.40)

For the last eight years of my ABC career, I presented the weekday 4-6pm ‘Drive’ shift at ABC Darwin. Living in the capital of the Northern Territory, completing a Masters in Community Development, and working as a senior ABC local radio broadcaster, I became acutely aware that the majority of stories about Indigenous people were negative, often using a non-Indigenous academic, business leader or politician as ‘talent’. In my experience, whitefellas working on Indigenous issues were easy to contact, often in offices with reliable phone connections, and culturally available to be interviewed.

Through reflective practice it became evident that ABC broadcasters unwittingly perpetuate racist ideas held by the dominant hegemony for various reasons including the increasing number of daily deadlines [journalists no longer work to one medium, instead supply stories for radio, online and TV which all demand 24 hour news] which accompanies the “churn and burn” mentality of newsgathering (Waller, 2012 p.51-58). Idealists argue journalism seeks “to broaden the boundaries within which information is known and understood” (Shapiro, 2014 p.560), however a journalist’s ability to broaden the boundaries of public debate is constrained by cultural contexts and personal limitations (Castelló & Montagut, 2011 p.507). The day to

day reality of working as a reporter in the age of the 24 hour news cycle and diminishing budgets means the above definition of journalism is more often than not just an ideal. These ideas have led to an exploration of the epistemological reasons behind why it is difficult for a non-Indigenous journalist to fairly and accurately produce stories about Aboriginal issues from an Aboriginal perspective.

Below is an example of reflective practice from my own career. The case study centres on an interview for Triple J in the year 2000 with Indigenous rights activist Bonita Mabo. This pivotal professional experience changed my approach to interviews with Indigenous participants.

Inter cultural communication differences

When an individual belongs to the dominant cultural group it is easy to assume that worldview is applicable to everyone. However Folds debunks that assumption in *Crossed Purposes* which is an examination of the history of contact between the Pintupi people of the western desert and whitefellas:

It is a mistake to believe that two disparate societies should both be on the same path, just because historical circumstances have led to them sharing the same continent. (Folds, 2001 p.39)

As a way of differentiating between cultures, Hofstede theorised cultures can be broken down into individualistic or collectivist (cited in Kenny, 2011 p.323). Individualists prioritise their individual needs over the group, whereas in a collectivist society the needs of the group take priority (Gudykunst et al., 1996 p.513, 516; Spencer-Oatey, 2009 p.18). The communicative differences between the macro Anglo culture where individualism is valued (Tesoriero, 2010, p. 169) and the micro culture that is the Indigenous collectivist culture is problematic for journalists who strive to share stories about Aboriginal Australians. Time and patience is needed to observe collectivist cultures but impatience is accepted in individualistic cultures (Kenny, 2011 p.323). Former ABC Darwin journalist Katrina Bolton addresses how the collective dynamic affects a journalist's work:

...that whole cultural thing of not speaking out of turn, not speaking when it's not your land, not speaking when you're not senior enough, is really, really, really limiting. (Waller, 2012 p.53)

The frustration expressed above is an example of how collective needs are prioritised. This reflects the Indigenous epistemological concept of "relationality" in which all things are related (Wilson 2008 p.58). A relational way of being is at "the heart of what it means to be Indigenous" (Wilson 2008 p.80) and an understanding of relationality can help explain that decision making processes are community based (Wilson 2008 p.110). Indigenous people's worldview is different to non-Indigenous people "because of their relationships to land, their cultures, histories and values" (Rigney cited in Waller, 2012 p.89). That said, culture is dynamic and non-static in nature (Ife, 2002 p.106) and, despite the shared indoctrination into a cultural group, the common values and beliefs may be adapted by individuals to suit themselves (Matsumoto cited in Spencer-Oatey, 2009 p.14).

At first glance, the oral storytelling medium of radio should easily compliment the oral storytelling traditions of Aboriginal people. The intercultural communication work of anthropologist Edward Hall, in which he explains the difference between "high context" and "low context" communicators, is useful to consider.

High context (HC) communication or message is one in which most of the information is either in the physical context or internalized in the person while very little is in the coded, explicit, transmitted part of the message. A low-context (LC) communication is just the opposite; i.e. the mass of the information is vested in the explicit code. (Hall cited in Gudykunst et al., 1996 p.516)

Daily radio journalism aligns with low context communication, which is associated with being dramatic (Gudykunst et al., 1996 p.525). Radio relies on vivid personal anecdotes and extreme opinions to create 'ice-cream melting moments' (when the listener can't turn off the car radio even though they are sitting in the garage and the frozen dessert is melting in the boot!). High context cultures, dominant in collectivist societies, such as Aboriginal Australians, communicate by being reserved, employing understatement and silence (Gudykunst et al., 1996 p.517), placing a low value on verbal communication (Lebra, Okabe cited in Gudykunst et al., 1996 p.525). This creates a communication schism between reporters and Aboriginal people. Journalism relies on asking questions: Who, What, When, Where, How and Why? However in many remote communities the question of "why?" is rarely asked; instead, observation is used as a learning device (ABC Message Stick, 2008 p.5). As Hagan notes, "the wise person learns by careful observation and by personal experience" (2008 p.35). It can be difficult to create 'ice cream melting moments' when direct communication aimed at soliciting an individual's opinion is not culturally appropriate.

The difference between the culture of journalism and Indigenous culture is vast, as explained by former ABC Darwin journalists Katrina Bolton:

..like your time frames and your budget and the time frames that pushes on you, are really like direct opposite to what is considered polite in Indigenous culture. (Waller, 2012 p.52)

It could be argued that when it comes to reporting Aboriginal affairs from an Aboriginal perspective, the journalist's primary stumbling block is time. In radio stations it is common to hear reporters justify speaking to a white person about an Aboriginal issue because they were unable to contact an Aboriginal person to meet the 'top-of-the-clock' deadline. The work of Edward Hall (cited in Kenny, 2011 p.320) in which he defines monochronic and polychronic cultures is helpful. The dominant non-Indigenous cultural group in Australia tend to be monochronic – time is measurable, activities are planned, punctuality is important and schedules are adhered to (Kenny, 2011 p.320). Talk radio is strictly monochronic. In polychronic cultures, time is flexible and "nurturing relationships, such as with family, is more important than keeping schedules" (Kenny, 2011 p.321). Former ABC Darwin veteran reporter Murray McLaughlin said in relation to reporting in remote Indigenous communities:

You've just got to have patience because people run their own timetable. It's no use saying I'll see you at two o'clock next Wednesday. It's a matter of rolling up on Wednesday and just sitting around and waiting and sometimes it never happens, and I've learnt not to feel any frustration about that. (Waller, 2012 p.52)

Time costs money (Schultz, 1998 p.61). The ABC's diminishing budget has been well documented. In 2014, the federal government announced the "ABC's budget would be further reduced by \$207 million" over 5 years (ABC Corporate Plan 2016-17, 2015 p.10). ABC radio staff are consistently asked to produce more stories across more platforms with fewer staff and less money. This can result in journalists relying heavily on press releases to generate new content. Economic constraints, different perceptions of time and intercultural communication issues are just a few of the ingredients which limit a journalist's ability to get

past the press release, to report the stories which truly “reflect Australia’s national identity and cultural diversity” (*ABC Corporate Plan 2016-17*, 2015 p.12).

The following anecdote highlights the theories discussed. In 2000, as a reporter with the ABC’s national youth network, Triple J, I travelled to Townsville to cover the National NAIDOC¹ week celebrations. Townsville was home to Bonita Mabo, wife of Eddie Mabo, the Indigenous land rights trailblazer. Facing the daily deadline of a national current affairs radio program, I needed to arrange a ten minute face to face interview with Bonita Mabo by day’s end. After speaking via phone to one of Mrs Mabo’s adult children, I was told to attend a NAIDOC BBQ. I expected to do a quick interview over a steak sandwich but Mrs Mabo declined, saying she was busy with family, and instructed me to call later. When I called again, she was again busy; instead I was invited to a family function a few nights later. I remember walking into the community hall, filled with big groups chatting, the matriarch was surrounded by family and friends but I couldn’t get close enough to utter “Hello”. On reflection, I realise my need to speak stems from low context communication patterns. With the persistence of a terrier on a trouser leg, another phone call, and another daughter told me to try again in a few days. After 10 days of just turning up, Bonita Mabo finally invited me to her house. She shared stories of her late husband’s quest, her Aboriginal and South Sea Islander ancestry and her thoughts on the importance of non-Indigenous people deeply listening to Indigenous people:

They say to forget the past but that’s one thing we can’t do because it’s so much hurting inside. We’ve gotta talk about it and that way people understand a bit more about us and why we’re starting to crack up about these sort of issues because we have freedom of speech these days and before you couldn’t do that kind of thing, you’d get put in gaol. And now with that Stolen Generation, those people couldn’t talk out and now freedom of speech is making everybody say their piece. The non-Indigenous people just sit down and listen to their stories and feel their hurt. You sit down long enough, you feel it. Once you start listening to them, it’ll bring tears to your eyes to hear how they have been treated and it helps them to get a lot of the hurt out of them when you sit down and listen to them. If they do that, it’d be really good and people can understand what they are on about. (Mabo, 2000)

Over cups of tea, we recorded an hour-long conversation. Unfortunately, due to the style of youth radio I was producing (“talk” was short to cater for the alleged attention span of young people – low context communication), the interview was cut to seven minutes for broadcast. It is difficult to portray the complexity of issues when the radio format dictates interviews are tightly edited for broadcast. As Bonita Mabo said to truly understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, non-Indigenous people need to allow more time to listen: “...just sit down and listen to their stories and feel their hurt. You sit down long enough, you feel it.”

Discussion

The communal nature of Indigenous social structures (displayed by the Mabo family), means it is often necessary to consult a group of people when researching a story (*ABC Message Stick*, 2008 p.13) but this

¹ “NAIDOC stands for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians.” (“NAIDOC,” 2016)

form of collective communication is in contrast to the direct individual communication style employed by journalists. Reporters expect to make one phone call and confirm the interview, but if they wish to uncover the real story “respect for Indigenous time frames and decision making processes are essential” (ABC Message Stick, 2008 p.13). High context communicators/collectivist cultures prioritise personal relationships “which prevent them from getting to the point quickly” (Schilling, 2009 p.3) instead engaging in ‘small talk’ builds trust, it is the “key to getting everyone into mutually respectful relations” (S. Wilson, 2008 p.99). Bonita Mabo and her family were displaying high context communication patterns. The family’s refusal to conform to low context communication patterns to satisfy the demands of daily radio resulted in an insightful and revealing interview with their mother. As a young reporter, the Mabo family taught me to respect Indigenous communication styles and timeframes if I aspired to produce stories which broadened the boundaries of public debate.

To increase cultural competence, cultural awareness training can be useful however many are critical of such training which is often tokenistic. Behrendt (2004 p.124) argues even a week of study would not be enough for the non-Indigenous person to understand the Indigenous worldview. In my 20 years at ABC radio I participated in two ABC instigated cultural awareness sessions. One was a self-guided online information package to be completed by employees at their desk and the other was a face-to-face session which was facilitated by a non-Indigenous ABC employee from Sydney who travelled to Darwin. The content of the training was generic and largely inapplicable to the Northern Territory. Research around improving intercultural communication in health has found “one-shot” cultural awareness training sessions carried out in a classroom have serious limitations (Byrne & Tanesini, 2015 p.1256-1257). Instead negative stereotypes associated with minorities (implicit bias) may be addressed by providing counter stereotypical stimuli and increasing positive experiences with minority groups (Byrne & Tanesini, 2015 p.1261). This is a challenge for journalists who work in a professional environment which highlights the negatives of our society. The old journalistic adage “if it bleeds, it leads” continues to dictate what is considered newsworthy.

A deep level of political sensitivity surrounds Indigenous issues which can contribute to the lack of media and political interest (McCallum & Waller, 2012 p.13-14). The sensitivity may be compounded by journalists feeling ill equipped to report on Aboriginal issues. For example, ABC Darwin is seen as a training ground for young reporters and producers keen to ‘cut their teeth’ on croc stories, cyclone coverage and Aboriginal affairs. After a couple of years in Darwin, most head back down south. The high staff turnover means there are few ABC NT journalists who have the long term relationships required to produce authentic stories which hold governments to account regarding Aboriginal affairs.

To help ABC employees overcome some sensitivities, the organisation developed an editorial policy for Indigenous content in which reporters are asked to consider the terminology used when referring to Indigenous people. Unfortunately the policy is misleading:

Advice should be sought before using regional terms such as *Koori* (New South Wales), *Nunga* (South Australia), *Yolngu* (Northern Territory) and *Murri* (Queensland) and on the use of the word ‘black’ in various contexts. (*ABC Editorial Policies, 2015*)

To suggest Yolngu can be used in a similar way to Koori and Murri to refer to Aboriginal people as a collective is misleading. Yolngu refers only to a language group from Arnhem Land, Anangu are from central Australia, Jawoyn are from the Katherine region and so it goes. According to “Appropriate Terminology,

Indigenous Australian Peoples” (Flinders University, 1996) there is no generic term for Aboriginal people living in the Northern Territory unlike Murri (Queensland and north west NSW) and Koori (NSW). The term Nunga is also questionable as many Indigenous South Australians prefer others not to use their word Nunga (Flinders University, 1996).

Conclusion

The 24-hour news cycle, encouraged by the pace of social media, and diminishing budgets limit a reporter’s ability to consider the cultural and communicative differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In addition, neo-colonial values support the culture of journalism which, despite promises of objectivity, fertilises the dominant hegemony subjugating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Institutional changes are required to allow individuals to develop more culturally sensitive journalistic practices. The Bonita Mabo case study highlights the importance of allowing ABC journalists time to work within polychronic Indigenous time frames. By allowing journalists time to develop relationships, an opportunity to share authentic stories is created between high context and low context communicators. Otherwise non-Indigenous journalists at ABC radio stations will continue to struggle to fulfil the ABC’s promise to reflect Australia’s cultural diversity.

Furthermore, if the ABC is sincere in its pledge to reflect Australia’s national cultural identity the institution should support journalists to increase their knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and become aware of the implicit biases which can lead to racist reporting. By developing a series of localised cultural awareness training programs, there is potential the negative narrative around Indigenous affairs may change. By accurately reflecting the lives of Indigenous Australians, the ABC may be in a better position to fulfil the fourth estate role. One final hypothesis is that by changing the negative narrative on Indigenous issues, the ABC will be a more appealing workplace for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which may lead to higher rates of Indigenous employment. However, this requires further research.

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Panels

(Panels were reviewed by the conference committee)

Reporting the Royal Commission – from the micro to the macro. What’s the next story?

(Dart Centre sponsored panel)

Chaired by: Cait McMahon (Dart Centre Asia Pacific)

Melissa Davey (Melbourne Bureau Chief, Guardian Australia)

Gemma McKibb (Melbourne University)

Matthew Ricketson (Deakin University)

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is scheduled to hand its final report to the federal government on 15 December 2017. The royal commission has been an event of historic importance in Australia, and indeed globally. It has focussed national attention on the shocking prevalence of child sexual assault in Australian institutions both historically and into the current day. Equally if not more important it has shone forensic light on how so many institutions have failed so many children for so many years. These institutions have included churches, governments, schools, both private and public, non-government welfare agencies, sporting bodies, the scouts and the Australian Defence Force. In 57 public hearings conducted across all states over 400 days between 2013 and 2017, the royal commission has heard from 1200 witnesses. As with almost any issue of such magnitude, the role of the news media also has been important, whether in writing stories that put pressure on governments to act, or in reporting the commission’s regular hearings, or in providing a platform for wider discussion of the issues thrown up by the commission’s work. The news media coverage has raised thorny issues for journalists as it has for policymakers seeking to respond to the royal commission’s interim reports as well as to its final findings. A panel at the annual JERAA conference is a good venue to begin considering these issues. These range from those at the micro level, including the personal psychological impact of reporting on a long-term story involving regular disclosures of disturbing evidence, to macro issues such as what forces were at work in institutions to create cultures that first condoned and then covered up behaviours that society experiences as abhorrent. The panel will further examine whether and how institutions such as the courts and legal profession were complicit in this dynamic. This panel will build on a day-long workshop convened by the Dart Centre Asia-Pacific near the beginning of the royal commission’s public hearings; that workshop included journalists, representatives of survivor groups and the chief royal commissioner, the Hon. Justice Peter McLellan. The panel intends to stimulate discussion about rarely examined issues such as trauma associated with long-term reporting assignments, and organisational and cultural mores concerning child sexual abuse, to open up a new discourse around institutional responses to child sexual abuse.

Melissa Davey is Melbourne Bureau Chief for The Guardian. She has been reporting on the child abuse royal commission and family violence for almost four years. Her coverage of Cardinal George Pell's evidence before the child abuse royal commission saw her nominated for a Walkley Award for journalism with her colleague David Marr in 2016. She has previously worked for the Sydney Morning Herald and the Sun Herald.

Dr Gemma McKibbin is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, and has a background in gender studies and worked previously at WIRE, Women’s Information delivering information, referral and support to Victorian women within a feminist framework. Gemma is a postdoctoral research fellowship in collaboration with Mackillop Family Services. The fellowship involves action research that aims to prevent harmful sexual behaviour and child sexual exploitation in out-of-home care settings. Gemma has a strong interest in

preventing harmful sexual behaviour by children and young people, as well as protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation. Gemma was a co-author on a report commissioned by the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse titled, 'The role of organisational culture in child sexual abuse in institutional contexts'.

Cait McMahon OAM is the founding Managing Director of the Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma - Asia Pacific. McMahon has been working with the media since 1988. As a 'trauma and journalism' expert and psychologist, Cait is responsible for creating and facilitating training programs across the Asia Pacific region. McMahon is the only Australian psychologist to be published on this topic. She has a PhD on journalists and trauma, examining posttraumatic stress and posttraumatic growth in trauma-exposed Australian media professionals.

She is a national and international speaker on psychological trauma as it affects journalists, and the only known psychologist to work fulltime with the media on this topic in the world. In 2016, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her work with journalists experiencing trauma exposure. In 2014 Cait organised the Dart Centre full-day workshop for journalists - Ethical Reporting on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Matthew Ricketson is an academic and journalist. He is professor of communication at Deakin University. He has worked as an academic at RMIT University and the University of Canberra where he was inaugural professor of journalism. He has worked on staff at The Australian and Time Australia magazine and as Media and Communications editor for The Age. He is the author of three books and editor of two. In 2011, he was appointed by the federal government to assist Ray Finkelstein, QC, in an inquiry into the news media. The inquiry included examination of journalistic standards and how best to improve them. Matthew has a longstanding interest, as a practitioner and academic, in how the news media covers social justice issues. He is developing a long-form journalistic project about the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

A survey of podcasting as a new journalism genre

Siobhan McHugh (University of Wollongong)

Mia Lindgren (Monash University)

Britta Jorgensen (Monash University)

The evolution of podcasting as a medium over the last thirteen years is well documented (Berry 2016, Bonini 2015), but its impact as a new journalism genre is only beginning to be understood. There are three main podcast journalism formats: (1) gabfests, panels of experts who riff on the news and seem to share insights as openly as if they were talking to friends at the pub: hence this format's alternative name, 'chumcast'. (2) the extended interview, which has migrated readily from radio to become colonised by comedians as well as journalists. (3) the crafted narrative format: seeking to emulate the extraordinary popularity of Serial (it now has over 250 million downloads for its two seasons) newsrooms unleashed their longform investigative journalism teams on iTunes, with more than a little success. The panel will examine the evolving relationship between legacy newsrooms and podcast formats, with a particular focus on The Age's successful podcast, *Phoebe's Fall* and the New York Times' *The Daily*. It will consider the growing number of personal storytelling podcasts and the ethical issues they raise. It will also survey the burgeoning of independent podcast producers in Australia who come from non-traditional journalistic backgrounds and how that may extend current categories of journalism practice. If emerging genres can be both medium and outcome of textual practices, as Luders et al propose (2010: 947), then podcasting can be thought of as a new media genre. This panel, in short, considers how journalism intersects with the podcasting genre and what the implications of that are for journalism content, grammar, aesthetics and impact.

Propagating Podcasts: how print journalism can exploit digital audio formats

Siobhan McHugh

University of Wollongong

Print journalism is increasingly turning to podcasting to extend its reach and amplify its impact. In the US, *The Atlanta-Constitution Journal* is into its second season of a true crime podcast, *Breakdown*, while the *Cincinnati Post* achieved acclaim for *Accused*. In Australia, two newspapers delivered episodic podcast storytelling to powerful effect: *The Australian's Bowraville* examined the unsolved murders in 1990-91 of three Aboriginal children; while *The Age's Phoebe's Fall* focused on the bizarre death in a garbage chute of a young woman and the flawed police investigation that followed. *Bowraville* won a Walkley award and was instrumental in having a suspect re-tried. *Phoebe's Fall* won gold at the New York Radio Festival, two national industry awards and triggered a review of the Coroner's Act in Victoria. Public intellectuals such as Malcolm Gladwell of *The New Yorker* also converted to the podcast form (*Revisionist History*), while with *The Daily*, a twenty-minute survey of topical issues, the *New York Times* has developed a popular news commentary format. But diverse as these formats appear, the successful ones have one thing in common: they pay overt attention to the audio medium, exploiting its strengths and avoiding its weaknesses (McHugh 2016). To this end, the *New York Times* hired six audio producers, while *Revisionist History* is helmed by former NPR veteran Julia Barton. *Bowraville's* Dan Box is a former BBC reporter, while *Phoebe's Fall* commissioned audio specialists Julie Posetti and author of this paper, Siobhan McHugh, as consulting producers.

This paper surveys the taxonomy of journalism podcasting, from news-centric formats and panels to crafted storytelling. It examines what audio can bring to print reportage, how podcasting differs from radio – and how podcasting can scaffold print journalism in the digital age.

*Siobhan McHugh is an internationally recognised writer, oral historian and podcaster/broadcaster and the founding editor of [RadioDoc Review](#), the first scholarly journal dedicated to critical analysis of the crafted audio feature/podcast form. Her work has numerous awards including gold and bronze awards at the New York Radio Festival. McHugh's article, "The Affective Power of Sound: Oral History on Radio" is among Oral History Review's most cited. She was consulting producer on the investigative storytelling podcast, *Phoebe's Fall*, produced by The Age newsroom in Melbourne (2016). She is Senior Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Wollongong.*

Personal storytelling: conceptualizing journalistic podcasting as a field

Mia Lindgren
Monash University

Personal stories permeate the contemporary media landscape, where human experiences are used to sell products, promote public health messages and of course, attract audiences to journalistic content. Rosalind Coward (2013) maps the history of personal and confessional journalism from New Journalism in the US in the late 1960s via tabloidization in the 1980s to today's self-reporting in online environments, including podcasting. Coward (ibid) describes personal and confessional journalism as stories where the subject's lived experience takes centre stage and/or where journalists themselves become characters in their stories. This cultural form, focused on the personal and emotional aspects of human life, is at the centre of recent blockbuster podcast productions, most recently *S-Town*, attracting millions of listeners to its audio storytelling. Since podcasting is a medium that privileges the intimacy of voice, these audio 'stories' can be seen as a perfect place for interpretation of social and cultural life through a subjective and often emotional lens. This 'obsession' with personal stories is raising questions about the ethics of using people's secrets and pain for podcast entertainment (Goudeau, 2017). Furthermore, since the term 'storytelling' is increasingly used to describe a variety of journalistic audio formats and practices, as scholars we need to discuss and define what we actually mean by storytelling and what methods we might use to study podcasting forms. This paper gives a broad interdisciplinary review of the storytelling literature across disciplines. It argues that that we are beginning to see the development of a journalistic field with common elements of genrehood, which requires a set of criteria to be used when critiquing the form. Understanding journalistic podcasting as a field will provide fruitful opportunities for further research into this contemporary audio development.

*Associate Professor Mia Lindgren is Foundation Head of School of Media, Film and Journalism at Monash University, Australia. She is co-author of two books about broadcast; *Australian Broadcast Journalism* is now in its third edition (OUP, 2013). She works across traditional and non-traditional forms of research, publishing her work in peer-reviewed academic journals and as radio productions; in the areas of journalism studies/practice, journalism education, memory and trauma and radio studies. She is co-Editor of *The Radio Journal: International Studies in Broadcast & Audio Media* and Associate Editor of the online journal *RadioDoc Review*.*

Podcasting the podcasters – using practice-led research to document the methodologies of emerging producers in Australia

Britta Jorgensen
Monash University

Podcasting is breaking ground as a platform for evolving forms of journalism and provides an opportunity for new audio genres and new producers. However, little is known about who they are and how they are experimenting with podcasting. This paper looks at one approach to mapping this relatively uncharted corner of the journalism sphere through practice-led research. My doctoral research uses the audio medium itself as an experimental research tool to document the production processes of a selected group of emerging radio producers and podcasters in Australia, including myself, and communicate the research findings in a three-part self-reflexive radio documentary/podcast series about the growing radio community in Australia. Five producers will be followed over the course of two years in a series of ongoing interviews and will keep audio diaries about their production processes.

This type of project addresses the dual challenge of documenting and communicating non-traditional research findings to both media researchers and a broader audience by using the untapped audio medium as a research tool in itself. It also addresses the need for more research into independent, casual or volunteer producers and argues in favour of painting a broader picture of journalism practice, particularly in the area of radio, building on the work of Lindgren (2013). It will make a significant contribution to both the under-researched field of radio journalism and the growing but still limited body of practice-led journalism research.

Britta Jorgensen is a PhD candidate at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, undertaking a practice-led thesis in radio journalism. She is also a radio producer, with a strong background in community radio and podcasting, currently working as a supervising producer for All the Best, the national Australian documentary slot for FBI community radio. She has previously worked on national current affairs program, The Wire, the 2015 CBAA's National Features and Documentary Series, as an executive producer at Edge Radio in Hobart and she has also produced stories for 936 ABC Radio, All the Best, Audiocraft and independent podcast SleepTalker.

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Three takes on journalism redundancies

Lawrie Zion (La Trobe University)

Penny O'Donnell (The University of Sydney)

Andrew Dodd (Swinburne University)

Tim Marjoribanks (La Trobe/Swinburne)

Merryn Sherwood (La Trobe University)

Matthew Ricketson (Deakin University)

The significant cuts to Australian journalism jobs in 2012, when an estimated ten per cent of the total journalism workforce became redundant, formed the impetus for the New Beats Project. Since then, many more journalism jobs have been lost, and there are still no signs of an abatement of the radical restructuring of Australia's news media that has flowed from digital disruption. The classified advertising business model that once supported print has been shattered, and hard won online advertising revenue for news organisations has also been depleted, thanks to the migration of audiences to Facebook and Google. What has this meant for the thousands of journalists whose positions have been made redundant? And for the media, which has lost so many of its most experienced practitioners? Since 2014, our team has been following the post-redundancy careers of a cohort of these journalists through four annual surveys, the last of which has just been completed. The trends and themes that have emerged over the course of this project will be discussed in our first paper. We have also undertaken, in association with the National Library of Australia, to complete 60 'whole of life' interviews with survey participants to establish an oral history collection of the lives of journalists in Australia. Findings from these interviews and our planned companion book, will be discussed in paper two. Our final paper focuses on media coverage of redundancies over the last five years, the practical and conceptual challenges faced by our own research team when trying to verify the precise extent of journalism job loss in Australia, and the extent to which journalists have communicated their own reflections on their careers and the media as they leave the buildings they have worked in for the bulk of their professional lives.

Where do journalists go after newsroom job cuts? Four years of surveys of journalism redundancies in Australia

Dr Merryn Sherwood

Dr Penny O'Donnell

Professor Timothy Marjoribanks

New Beats annual surveys of journalists who took redundancies from Australian newsrooms in 2012, 2013 and 2014 provide a rich data set documenting our cohort's demographics, details of jobs lost and gained, and perceptions of industry change along with qualitative insights into the financial, well-being and emotional costs associated with redundancy and the challenges of moving. With the final online survey delivered in late 2017, this paper is the first to present a longitudinal overview of these four surveys and their major findings.

There are a number of key themes that have emerged over time that will be addressed. The first key theme is re-employment, and whether or not participants still worked within journalism post-job loss. While 60 per cent of respondents to the 2014 survey continued to work wholly or partly in journalism roles (Zion et al, 2016), this pattern has become more complicated over time for reasons that will be outlined. A second major theme is around types of work and employment status. Our initial survey noted that while many still

remained in journalism, they had moved to more precarious forms of work – contact, casual and freelance. This paper will explore the types of work participants engaged in over time, and whether or not this move to an environment of precarious work was sustained. Thirdly, while participant’s income was revised sharply down in the first survey compared to pre- redundancy levels, particularly for those who stayed working within journalism, subsequent surveys have noted an income recovery, with half of the participants noting they earned more than the year before. This paper will be able to present an analysis of income over time. In addition to broad overviews of these key themes, variables such as age and gender will be applied to explore the data further.

This paper will help further inform the growing literature on newsroom change, precarious work and professional identity in journalism (Deuze & Witschge, 2017; Nikunen, 2014; Meyers & Davidson, 2016; Sherwood & O’Donnell, 2016). Additionally, in a time when journalism redundancies have only become more common, with an estimated 3000 jobs cut from the Australian media since 2012, it will also aim to provide practical insights into potential career pathways for journalists – both inside and outside newsrooms.

Capturing the Wisdom: Recording whole-of-life interviews with redundant Australian Journalists.

Andrew Dodd
Matthew Ricketson
Lawrie Zion
Penny O’Donnell

One of the major outcomes from the New Beats project is a series of sixty interviews with journalists for the National Library of Australia’s oral history collection. The participants were selected to represent a wide range of journalistic traditions, beats and mediums but they all had one thing in common, having been subjected to either a voluntary or involuntary redundancy since 2012. As long-form interviews, some extending to eight hours in duration and conducted using oral history techniques, each conversation spans the entirety of the participant’s life – from earliest memories and childhood experiences to their activities post- redundancy, whether inside or outside the news media. These ‘whole-of-life’ interviews will add to the rich collection of archived voices in the National Library’s collection. Collectively their stories also form a reservoir of wisdom in the form of anecdotes, experiences and insights, about the nature and practice of reporting in Australia. Our intention is to collate these in at least two radio documentaries and in a book called ‘Lives in Journalism’, which will include hundreds of stories about the major moments in these reporters’ careers. The book’s chapters will cover topics such as: earliest influences, the first job interview, newsroom mentors, dealing with trauma and the challenges of chasing difficult stories. The book will chart the way journalism changed as new technology affected business models and how working conditions and staff morale were impacted by tighter budgets and the looming threat of mass-sackings. Several chapters will focus on the redundancy experience, including the lead up to dismissal and the often-defining moment when a veteran reporter was escorted to the door carrying their belongings in a box after a career as a loyal reporter for the company that has just dispensed with their services. This paper discusses some of the lessons learned from conducting these interviews and the ways in which this approach can help us preserve some of what has been lost from the Australian news media for the benefit of future generations.

What the journalist redundancy timeline tells us

Lawrie Zion
Matthew Ricketson
Andrew Dodd

So just how many journalism job redundancies have there been? This is the most common query we have received since the commencement of the New Beats project in 2014. It has proved a tricky question to answer, but our attempts to come up with meaningful responses have also revealed much about the recent history of the disruption of journalism as a profession in Australia. This paper examines the challenges and complexities of chronicling the scale of the redundancies of thousands of Australian journalists through media coverage of job cuts. Using the lens of the New Beats project's redundancy timeline at <http://www.newbeatsblog.com/redundancy-timeline/> we have sought to capture the reportage of job losses across a five-year period in an aggregated chronological format.

This paper will argue that assessing the scale of journalism job losses has been exacerbated by the lack of agreement as to what kinds of news workers should be counted as journalists. Another challenge has been that large media companies have, to varying degrees, been circumspect about the number of journalism redundancies. Fairfax and News Corp, which have experienced the largest numbers of redundancies, have both reported on their own job losses at times, but the decline in the number of mainstream media reporters in Australia has meant that smaller digital outlets such as Crikey and Mumbrella have played a more prominent role in covering the exodus of staff from newsrooms. That said, coverage of redundancies in The Australian's Media Diary has at times been revealing of job shedding in both Fairfax and News Corp, and has been broadly sympathetic to all journalists experiencing job loss, including those leaving rival companies.

Another theme explored is the gradual change over the lifespan of this project in the way that journalists have been provided with opportunities to 'sign off' with final farewell pieces in their publications where they have reflected on their careers and on the practice of journalism. In some cases, those journalists have also been the subject of tributes from colleagues and even politicians. This trend reflects a growing sense of resignation across media industries of the inevitability of the downsizing of newsrooms, and a recognition of the significance the loss of some of the media's highest profile journalists. The paper also considers the social media responses to some of these farewells.

Dr Penny O'Donnell, penny.odonnell@sydney.edu.au is a senior lecturer in international media and journalism in the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney. In her role as a chief investigator on the New Beats project, she is responsible for liaising with the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance and for internationalising the project through collaborations with Canadian, German and UK colleagues. Previously she was lead Chief Investigator on research into the future of Australian newspapers with Associate Professor David McKnight (UNSW) and Jonathan Este (Walkley Foundation).

Dr Merryn Sherwood, m.sherwood@latrobe.edu.au lectures in journalism at the Department of Communication and Media at La Trobe University in Melbourne and is a Chief Investigator on the New Beats project. She is a former newspaper journalist who has also worked in communications for the International Triathlon Union. Her PhD investigated the influence of public relations on sports news, and her research and teaching engage with journalism practice, media disruption, sports media and gender. She coordinates the sport journalism major within La Trobe's Bachelor of Media and Communication degree.

Professor Lawrie Zion, lzion@latrobe.edu.au is the lead Chief Investigator of the News Beats project and Director of La Trobe University's research focus area, Transforming Human Society. A former head of the Department of Communication and Media, he was one of the founders of the online magazine upstart (www.upstart.net.au) which showcases student writing. His new book, *The Weather Obsession*, which was published by MUP in August, examines how digital media has reconfigured our relationship to weather and climate. Prior to joining La Trobe in 2006, he worked as a journalist, broadcaster, and documentary maker for more than 20 years.

Associate Professor Andrew Dodd, adodd@swin.edu.au is Convenor of Journalism at Swinburne and a Chief Investigator of the New Beats project. A journalist for over 25 years, he has worked in print, broadcast and online. He was a media and business writer with the Australian and a broadcaster with ABC's Radio National, where he presented many of the network's programs and founded the Media Report. In 2016 he led the UniPollWatch project, which involved students from more than 20 universities in coverage of the federal election. In December, 2017, he takes up the role of Director of the Centre for Advancing Journalism at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Matthew Ricketson, matthew.ricketson@deakin.edu.au, has recently taken up the role as professor of communication at Deakin University after eight years as the University of Canberra's inaugural professor of journalism. A Chief Investigator of the News Beats project, he was previously Media and Communications editor for *The Age* (2006 to 2009), and also led the journalism program at RMIT for 11 years, and has worked as a journalist for *The Australian*, *Time Australia*, and the *Sunday Herald*, among other publications. He is the author of three books and the editor of two more. His most recent publication is a revised edition of *Writing Feature Stories*, which he co-authored with Caroline Graham.

Professor Tim Marjoribanks, t.marjoribanks@latrobe.edu.au is a Chief Investigator on the New Beats project and was a professor of management and Associate Head, La Trobe Business School before joining Swinburne University in October this year. His research and teaching engages with debates in organisational behaviour and transformation, and management practice, both in Australia and internationally, with a particular focus on media industries, journalism practice, sport, and new technologies.

How should journalism research in Australia be assessed beyond ERA 2018?

Moderated by Dr Kayt Davies
Associate Professor Johan Lidberg
Professor Chris Nash

The assessment of all Australian research, currently conducted under the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) framework every third year, does matter as it influences how research funding is distributed both internally at universities, and externally via funding bodies such as the Australian Research Council.

After close to a decade of discussion of how journalism research is best assessed, this panel will bring together different perspectives that are vital to the journalism research community in Australia.

The core question addressed by the panel is how journalism research should be assessed to capture and reflect the research in the fairest way possible.

In the July issue 2017 of the Australian Journalism Review (AJR), the journal published a number of discussion papers addressing this question. The papers also summarised the outcomes of the first three ERA rounds (ARC 2010; 2012; 2015) in regards to journalism research in Australia and provided various perspectives on where to next for journalism research assessment in Australia. This is a discussion of great strategic importance for the Australian journalism research community.

The panel members will be invited based on their contributions to this series of discussion papers. The panel will provide a short summary of their AJR papers and ample time will be dedicated to questions and discussion.

References

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