PSA Media and Politics Group Annual Conference 2023

Re-imagining Media and Politics

University of Portsmouth
Richmond Building, Portland Street
Portsmouth, PO1 3DE
Thursday, 26 October — Friday, 27 October, 2023

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Thursday — Professor Dan Jackson, University of Bournemouth

Beyond the hype: A political economy of solutions journalism

Solutions journalism (SOJO) is being enthusiastically endorsed by news organisations around the world and there is now an established body of literature that evidences its positive impact on audience emotions (McIntyre 2020), engagement with the news (Meier 2018), public knowledge (Curry and Hammonds 2014) and psychological empowerment (Zhao, Jackson and Nguyen 2021).

Such research suggests that further newsroom integration of SOJO may have both commercial and public service benefits. Yet, we know much less about the conditions under which SOJO is successfully (or not) integrated into newsroom practices, especially outside of the most well-resourced national newsrooms (Bro 2019).

In this presentation, I will reflect on our experiences of a project, partnered with the Solutions Journalism Network and Newsquest (owner/ publisher of over 120 local news brands), where we trained and then mentored 62 local journalists from across England and Scotland in solutions journalism practice. I will outline several structural factors that determine the successful implementation of SOJO, then document the model(s) of SOJO that emerged in response to the prevailing working conditions of local journalism. Finally, I use these findings as a point of reflection on what normative and practical models of SOJO the industry and the academy wish to pursue.

Friday — Dr Anita Varma, University of Texas at Austin

Re-Imagining How We Imagine Ethical Journalism: The Enduring Connection Between Solidarity, Social Justice, and Journalism that Matters

Solidarity journalism is often discussed as though it is a new strand of journalism. Fostered by digital platforms, networked social movements, and inequities laid bare by a global pandemic in 2020, solidarity permeating journalism in recent years has signaled a seismic – and potentially problematic – shift away from journalism that aspires for objectivity, some argue. Yet solidarity is a longstanding (though seldom acknowledged) ideal and set of practices in ethical journalism, dating back to the 1800s in the United States. In this address, Dr. Varma will explain what solidarity means and how it relates to ethical journalism. Then, she will trace the historical origins of solidarity journalism which persist in contemporary practice. What has changed is not the mere presence of solidarity in journalism, but the willingness of journalism practitioners to acknowledge solidarity as a key aspect of what motivates and justifies their craft. While some journalists reporting in solidarity have been dismissed, demeaned, and discredited for not remaining "impartial," "neutral," "unbiased," or "objective" in the face of human suffering, solidarity journalism has also been awarded with the highest laurels of professional recognition for catalyzing concrete change. Solidarity, Dr. Varma argues, is at the core of ethical journalism. Acknowledging this requires reimagining how we imagine ethical journalism, and how we understand the enduring purpose of journalism in societies that continue to strive for justice.

Programme

Keynote 1 — Professor Dan Jackson, University of Bournemouth

1A: Re-imagining the Relationship between Gender and Political Communication

Chair: Caroline Leicht, University of Southampton
Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth

What do platforms have to do with it? Comparing responses to women politicians on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook
Dr Emily Harmer, University of Liverpool; Dr Rosalynd Southern, University of Liverpool

From out-group to in-group? A comparative analysis of gender differences in political attitudes towards social media adoption and activity
Elise Storme, Ghent University

Visibility as Vulnerability? Conceptualising solutions to gendered harm in the online political sphere
Rachel Brock, University of Liverpool

"Something has to give": Family building and caring responsibilities in newsrooms — A study of Portuguese women journalists
Dr Susana Sampaio-Dias, University of Portsmouth; Professor Maria João Silveirinha, ICNOVA/Universidade de Coimbra, Bibiana Garcez, Universidade de Coimbra

1B: Re-imagining Political Communication in the United Kingdom

Chair: Dr Jen Birks, University of Nottingham
Technical assistance: Dr James Dennis, University of Portsmouth

Public engagement or public control? Nationalist rhetoric and the appeal to sentiment in the UK Government's response to COVID-19
Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in the Media: Myths, Misunderstandings and Untruths
Professor Ekaterina Balabanova, University of Liverpool; Dr Gemma Horton, University of Sheffield

Transparency is not the new objectivity
Paul Foster, University of Portsmouth

The politician satirist
Mara Anselmo, University of Warwick/CY Cergy

2A. The Impact of Satire on Contemporary Political Communication

Chair: Niamh Cashell, University of Manchester
Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth

Political Campaigning via Image-based Media on Facebook
Dr Rosalynd Southern, University of Liverpool; Dr Liam McLoughlin, University of Liverpool

#McKinnonForPresident - How Gendered Representations of Candidates in Political Satire Affect Public Discourse and Candidate Evaluations
Caroline Leicht, University of Southampton

Generative AI Politics - Satire, Abuse, or Disinformation? The use of generative AI to depict politicians
Dr Liam McLoughlin, University of Liverpool

2B. Re-imagining Disinformation: A Global Perspective on Harmful Content and How to Combat It

Chair: Dr Katy Parry, University of Leeds
Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth

The Media and Democracy in the Digital Era: Disinformation, Misinformation and Malinformation
Dr Edwin Yingi, University of South Africa

The Possibility of Digital Platform Democracy : The Approach to Combating Harmful Information in Taiwan (R.O.C.)
Chiao-An Wang, University of Westminster

Information Architecture for Corruption Messaging: Evidence from an Adaptive Experiment
Dr Felipe Torres Raposo, University College London; Professor Raymond Duch, University of Oxford

Is There Bias? Is There Noise? Assessing Potential Errors in Political Fact-checking — Evidence from a Spanish Case Study
Alejandro Fernández-Roldán, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia

3A. Re-imagining How Young People Experience Political Communication

Chair: Dr James Dennis, University of Portsmouth
Technical assistance: Dr James Dennis, University of Portsmouth

Young Londoners, injustice and insecurity: How young people communicate about obstacles to political efficacy
Professor Ben O'Loughlin, Royal Holloway, University of London; Professor James Sloam, Royal Holloway, University of London

18 and Ready to Vote: How first-time voters used social media to get election-ready
Dr Niki Cheong, King's College London

"Save our Staff" - Can the Hotbeds of Activism theory explain the sudden media attention given to activism at the University of Brighton in 2023?
Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth

Resisting and Reimagining Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers
Scott Downham, Royal Holloway, University of London

3B. Re-imagining Visual Methodologies in Political Communication

Chair: Dr Liam McLoughlin, University of Liverpool
Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth

When Chinese Chairman Meets US President: A Visual Framing Analysis of Images of Chinese and US Leaders Pictured Together in *China Pictorial*
Ziye Zang, University of Leeds

Closing the methodological gap between text- and images-as-data? Comparing commercial AI image models tags of political campaign images
Niamh Cashell, University of Manchester; Sarah Ledoux, University of Manchester

Tweeting the Leviathan: Visually Communicating the State
Dr Charlie Leddy-Owen, University of Portsmouth

Visual participatory methods in everyday politics with young care-leavers
Dr Katy Parry, University of Leeds; Katy Thornton (King's College London)

4A. Re-imagining Representation in the Media: Reflecting on the Creation and Contestation of Discourse

Chair: Dr Niki Cheong, King's College London
Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth

Rise of the 'new inactives': Contesting dominant discourses around economic inactivity after the 'Great Resignation'
Dr James Morrison, University of Sterling

Black and Queer: Podcasting and Discursive Renegotiation of Race
Neha Doshi, London Metropolitan University

A brotherly blessing or a homage to hurt? The creation of community through the moderation and policing practices on incels.is
Elsa Bengtsson Meuller, Goldsmiths, University of London

Re-imagining political mobilisation? Legacies of the 2014 Scottish independence referendum
Maike Dinger, University of Stirling/University of Strathclyde

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4B. Re-imagining the Role of the Media in War and Conflict

Chair: Dr Paul Reilly, University of Glasgow
Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth

Cyborg warriors and technomasculinity: Constructing whiteness, masculinity and authority on arms manufacturers' social media
Dr Natalie Jester, University of Gloucestershire

Understanding the role of the Colombian media in a peace process during crisis times: The 2014 escalation of the conflict
Dr Jose David Ortega Chávez, University of Winchester

Gendering the Military on Social Media: (Re)Defining Masculinity, Femininity, and Ontological Security
Veronica Barfucci, University of Warwick

Re-Imagining the Caliphate: Exploring the Interplay between Media, Political and Citizens' (Self)Representations of Islamic State
Dr Jared Ahmad, University of Sheffield

5A. Re-imagining Political Participation: Reflecting on Innovations in Digital Engagement

Chair: Dr Rosalynd Southern, University of Liverpool
Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth

Turning eco-anxiety into eco-empowerment – the climate communication that works
Dr Anastasia Denisova, University of Westminster

Climate Apptivism: Can we trust green apps to foster effective climate action?
Dr Brendan Lawson, Loughborough University; Olivia Mitchell, Loughborough University

Anti-austerity politics and social media in the UK: The role of non-traditional political communication beyond 'tangible' change
Dr Christopher Robertson, Leeds International Study Centre

Are unwitting participants 'fair game'? Ethical dilemmas in researching sousveillance on YouTube
Dr Paul Reilly, University of Glasgow

5B. Re-imagining Who Controls Narratives in Political Communication

Chair: Dr Emily Harmer, University of Liverpool
Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth

Strategic Narrative and Public Diplomacy: What Artificial Intelligence Means for the Endless Problem of Plural Meanings of Plural Things
Professor Ben O'Loughlin, Royal Holloway, University of London; Professor Alister Miskimmon, Queen's University Belfast

Conspiracy Theories Left, Right and… Centre: Political Disinformation and Liberal Media Discourse
Dr Stephen Harper, University of Portsmouth; Dr Tom Sykes, University of Portsmouth

The underlying driver of all political narratives: The political spectrum of group-boundary definition
Nathan J Murphy, Prepolitica

Digital Platforms as misinformation assemblages in Deleuze and Guattari's theory
Aline Soares da Silva, Universidade de Brasília

Keynote 2 — Dr Anita Varma, University of Texas at Austin

6A. Re-Imagining Journalism

Chair: Dr Ellen Watts, University of Nottingham
Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth

Toward Argumentational Journalism
Dr Jen Birks, University of Nottingham

"It Forces You to Publish Some Shit": Towards a Taxonomy of De-democratising Journalistic Practices
Ricardo Ribeiro Ferreira, University of Edinburgh

Journalistic Courage and Resilience under Authoritarianism: Carl von Ossietzky's journalism during the 1920s Weimar Republic
Dr Antje Glück, Bournemouth University

Revitalising Peace in Global Policy Discourses: Journalism's Role in Supporting Deliberative Processes During Crises
Dr Giuliana Tiripelli, De Montfort University

6B. Re-imagining Audience Reception

Chair: Professor Dan Jackson, Bournemouth University
Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth

News Scepticism in Times of Polarisation
Dr Marta Cantijoch, University of Manchester

Beyond Mean World Syndrome: Social Media Information Consumption and Threat Perception
Miaofang Guan, King's College London/University of Sao Paulo

Following elections in a highly digitalised country: Icelandic voters and their media consumption habits
Dr Jón Gunnar Ólafsson, University of Iceland

Want to be retweeted? What explains retweet proneness in the 2020 American Presidential Election Campaign
Luís Andrade, Nova University of Lisbon