



Preface

The Reuters Institute was established to bridge the gap between academic study of journalism and the concerns of practising journalists at a time when technology, business models and social change are challenging assumptions about the future of journalism across the world. It set out not simply to be authoritative within academic circles, but to have a wider impact beyond the University. In the past year, it has realised many of its aspirations. In addition to a wealth of seminars and conferences, organised by Director David Levy, and Director of Journalism, John Lloyd, the publication of our 'Challenges' series has given a clear focus to our agenda and we have had a distinctive influence on the public policy debate in the United Kingdom. We have also addressed many issues of global journalism; the next challenge is to raise further the profile of the Reuters Institute worldwide.



The Institute exists thanks to the generous funding of the Thomson Reuters Foundation and other benefactors whom we acknowledge in this Annual Report. One of the most productive aspects of the past year has been the close and harmonious working relationship between Thomson Reuters and the Institute, which remains within the Department of Politics and International Relations in the University of Oxford.

Tim Gardam, Chair of the Steering Committee

The Thomson Reuters Foundation has worked with the University of Oxford since 1983, initially through the Reuters Foundation Journalism Fellowship Programme. When the Institute was founded in 2006, our shared vision was to establish a research programme with a high-profile impact on public policy and on the international debate over the future of journalism.

At a time when the media industry is in deep crisis, the role of the Institute as a leader in the debate has never been more useful, both in the UK and more and more in the rest of the world too. Both the University of Oxford and the Foundation recognise the importance of the role of media in sustaining democracy in the digital age, but also of its fragility in the face of the enormous changes in technology, consumer behaviour and the business models that have underpinned good journalism over the last century.

The crisis reinforces the need for an organisation like the Institute, producing high-quality research and becoming a centre for public debate on the business of journalism itself, its practice and its relationship with democracy. Our association with the Institute continues to be a critical part of the Foundation's mission to improve the standards of journalism worldwide and we appreciate our work with David Levy and his team as the Institute's reach becomes truly global.



Monique Villa, CEO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation



RISJ

Introduction



Established in 2006, with the generous support of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ)¹ is focused on the global comparative study of journalism. I was delighted to be appointed as Director in September 2008 and at the end of my first year have been struck by how the Institute's strength resides in the unique way that we bring together academics and working journalists from across the world to share their perspectives on the most critical issues facing journalism.

Building on our position as a part of the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations, our strong link with Green Templeton College, and our connections with leading international journalists and media commentators, the heart of our Institute is the rigorous, international, comparative study of journalism. We pursue this through academic inquiry and analysis of the key issues facing journalism; by interventions in the policy debate; and through our long-running and prestigious RSIJ Journalism Fellowship Programme. Guiding our work is the belief that the understanding of modern politics and international relations, and of business and of different cultures, requires an appreciation of the role and impact of the media on politics, policy and public perceptions.

With rapid change affecting the entire global media industry, the Institute's unique mission, to create links between scholars and practitioners from around the world, is more relevant than ever before. Faced with an increasingly complex, interconnected and immediate world, successful journalists need time to reflect on big trends, to prioritise a global perspective, and to move beyond the familiar zones of their newsroom, colleagues and usual interlocutors. Similarly, academic students of journalism need to be exposed to firsthand experience of an industry through which many of the key trends of our time are extending across the globe.

The Institute is positioned to play a unique role in this changing arena, as a leading centre of comparative research, analysis and discussion, through providing a forum for public debate on the most pressing issues facing journalism, and attracting the best journalistic talents and scholars in the field from around the world for a meeting of minds.

Over the past year, we have sought to expand our activity, by hosting over 60 events and 25 international journalist fellows and visiting scholars, producing nine major publications and attracting significant media interest in our research and publications. Our Fellowship programme continues to be very successful and fellows' research papers are now made available through our website. This year we were delighted to welcome journalists from across the globe including Africa, the Far East, Australia, North America and Europe.

Our key ambitions for the coming year include developing a new international research programme that combines a reputation for academic rigour with influence on policy and practice, reinforcing our alumni network to engage the over 400 former journalist fellows in our work, and strengthening RISJ's global presence, partnerships and impact.

David Levy, Director, RISJ



RISJ and the Future of Journalism

Journalism faces more simultaneous challenges than at any time in living memory. Some are familiar, as the debates on ethics and privacy. Some are new, as the crisis, which now seems systemic, in the funding of news and current affairs of all kinds. Others are old issues in new forms – as the advent of new technologies.

The challenge which most immediately concerns our profession is financial. The model which has held for a century and a half – news supported, in the main, by advertising (in newspapers' case, also circulation) – is now failing. The result, in the developed states, is closure of some newspapers, threatened closure in others, cuts in staffing in all. At stake is reporting of all kinds – the regular scrutiny of local institutions and the investigation of major scandals, networks of foreign bureaux and specialist correspondents. Already, news programmes have been reduced, analysis programmes cut and long-running current affairs series dropped, without replacement.

A large part of these woes have been visited on journalism by the advent of one technology above all others: the World Wide Web. What this is bringing to journalism is a process of shifting from news in newspaper or broadcast programmes, delivered at set intervals, to news permanently available; from an agenda decided by editors to one on demand; from distinctly different media – as newspapers and magazines, radio and television – to media which offer all of these technologies in digitised form. This transformation is incomplete: some believe it is in its earliest stages. But already it is creating new forms of journalism (as of much else) and destroying or threatening old ones.

This also brings great promise – which is that of a journalism more readily and instantly available than was ever possible before – augmented by the already vast range of (what is largely) opinion available through blogs; the appearance of journalistic websites, often developed and run by 'conventional' journalists within the framework of their branch of the mainstream media; and the huge and rapidly accessible resources of the web. Journalism is passing from a scarcity economy to one of vast abundance: hardly an obvious cause for regret.

At the same time, journalism is becoming more intensively global. It has been since its inception a multinational phenomenon, even in the days of newsprint. Broadcasting, and especially the Web, have made it instantly and deeply worldwide. This means that the way in which one part of the globe is covered is under scrutiny from the rest of it; and that those working within one region or country are much more aware than ever before of the themes, standards and ethical approaches of journalism outside of their area, and of the pressure that can put on their work and their coverage.

These changes illuminate old ethical issues. The relationships journalism has with state and corporate power vary hugely across different states, and between free and authoritarian societies. The applicability of the main approaches of independent journalism – an obligation to seek the truth, independence from journalism's subjects and paymasters, ability to





RISJ and the Future of Journalism

hold powers to account, providing a forum for debate, making journalism both interesting and proportionate – also, in practice, varies. But the globalisation of journalism means that these approaches are both aspired to, and suppressed, more intensively than in the past. And the rise in popularity of the celebrity and ‘reality’ cultures, together with more pressure on news organisations for audience, mean that privacy is increasingly threatened, and the public interest in both preserving and breaching it more blurred

We at the Reuters Institute are working in all of these areas, both in the fellowship and in our research programmes. Research already published includes a book-length report on what’s happening to our news; an investigation into the state of privacy; a focus-group-based evaluation of how people understand (or don’t) the news; an analysis of the pressures on governments and the military from new media and citizens journalism, together with a companion piece assessing how far citizens’ journalism has developed; a report on how the UK’s Freedom of Information Act is being used; a close look at the style and content of the new, ‘counter hegemonic’ news stations, such as Al Jazeera, and an assessment of the effect of the internet on the Russian media scene. These are the areas in which we will continue to work – to explore how journalism can survive, what the changes it is undergoing will mean for its form and content, and for its relationship with political and other power.

The Reuters Institute has, in three years, developed from a vibrant and much prized fellowship programme (which continues to develop) into a centre which combines study, debate, outreach within and beyond Oxford University and a range of research which also continues to grow and develop, and is making its mark within the profession and outside of it.

John Lloyd, Director of Journalism





The Year in Brief

This year has seen the Reuters Institute extending its impact as a leading international centre for research and discussion on the most critical media issues globally.

Our programme of events started well, with the 25th Anniversary of the Thomson Reuters Journalists' Fellowship Programme, which attracted more than 100 former Fellows and friends from over 35 countries. Events included the annual Memorial Lecture, given by Arthur Sulzberger, Publisher of the *New York Times*, a panel based discussion of 'The Future of Journalism in Africa', a Moral Maze debate considering whether 'Good Journalism is in Crisis', and a Fellows' Symposium discussing coverage of the year's major news stories from different international perspectives.

Numerous additional events were hosted throughout the year, with more than 40 weekly seminars, as well as high-profile events in Oxford and beyond. Our prestigious and wide-ranging speakers included: Jonathan Powell, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007; Lord Patten, Chancellor of University of Oxford and former Cabinet Minister, Governor of Hong Kong, and European Commissioner; Alan Rusbridger, Editor of the *Guardian*; Richard Sambrook, Director, Global News, BBC; Christine Ockrent, COO, Audiovisuel Extérieure de la France; Patience Wheatcroft, then non-Executive Director of Barclays Bank Plc and now Editor of the *Wall Street Journal Europe*; and Ben Rayner, of Al Jazeera (English).

The Fellowship Programme benefited from the invaluable support of the Thomson Reuters Foundation together with our other sponsors: Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Austrian Press Agency, the BBC, Chevening Scholarship (British Council), Gerda Henkel Foundation (Germany), Helsingin Sanomat Foundation (Finland) the Mona Megalli Fellowship and the Wincott Foundation. Together, these sponsors allowed us to welcome 20 journalist fellows, from 15 countries, to the 2008/9 programme.

As in previous years, the Fellows participated in and contributed to a broad range of seminars and activities in Oxford. These were of a high standard, covering a breadth of topics, from the media treatment of under-age marriage in Yemen to the severe cuts in the number of US correspondents reporting from Washington. Presentations to a wider Oxford-based audience included: the challenges facing print media in developed countries, the power of bloggers in Egypt and elsewhere, media coverage of the conflict in South Ossetia, and the challenges facing the Armenian economy.

The Institute also saw an extremely prolific year of research publication. We launched the 'Challenges' series of publications presenting findings from major RISJ studies. Six 'Challenges' were published, often with considerable public impact, prompting coverage by the *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, Radio 4, Reuters, and *Prospect* among many others, and being the subject of several public events and panel discussions bringing together leading academics, practitioners and policy-makers. In addition,



Arthur Sulzberger giving the Reuters Memorial Lecture



Fellows at the Houses of Parliament



The Year in Brief

RISJ researchers have published three working papers and are currently completing several forthcoming publications. The diverse research activities encompass studies by academic staff and by senior visiting Fellows, who are noted academics and journalists, as well as by mid-career Journalist Fellows, working on independent research projects at the Institute.



RISJ Alumni at the 25th Anniversary





RISJ in the News

RISJ prides itself on producing publications which matter; and all of our topics are rigorously selected to ensure that they address the key issues in today's changing and complex media landscape. *A Shock to the System*, by Jeremy Hayes, examines the impact of the Freedom of Information Act on the government and journalism, and coincided with the MPs' expense scandal which shook the very foundations of our political system. At the launch event, Jon Ungeod-Thomas, chief reporter of the *Sunday Times*, and Steve Wood, Assistant Information Commissioner, led a lively discussion on how the new Act is an increasingly important tool for journalists. The publication was also discussed in the *Media Guardian*, the *Press Gazette* and on BBC Radio 4 by Robin Lustig.

Other publications have had a significant impact on decision-makers across the board as well as within the media industry itself. Nik Gowing's publication, *'Skyful of Lies' and Black Swans: The New Tyranny of Shifting Information Power in Crises* has gained significant traction among political and military decision-makers in the UK, US and worldwide. The highest levels of NATO, the EU and governments requested briefings. The US military made it recommended reading. There continue to be a multitude of speaking invitations. The *Guardian*, *Financial Times* and the *Media Show* on BBC Radio 4 discussed its findings, which have received wide praise. Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Director of the Ditchley Foundation and Former UK Ambassador to the UN, said that it was 'getting to the heart of a huge issue for politics, journalism and democracy: the uncontrolled impact of instant news on the workings of society'. Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies and Vice Principal, King's College London, said the publication 'should be mandated reading for anyone who might have to deal with a major crisis and still believes that they will be able to control the pace of events and the disclosure of information'.

RISJ's work on the impact of advances in technology and new media has generated considerable debate. Andrew Currah's impressive report, *What's Happening to our News*, was covered by 23 news outlets or publications including *The Economist*, the *Guardian*, *PR Week*, and the Press Trust of India as well as being discussed on *The Media Show* on BBC Radio 4. It was cited in the major UK Government strategic document *Digital Britain*, published in June 2009, and praised by Stewart Purvis, Partner for Content and Standards at Ofcom, as 'the most analytical, most thoughtful and best researched piece of work I have seen on this or related subjects'. It led Ofcom to commission RISJ to conduct independent research to help inform its own study of the future of local news.

RISJ is also engaged in opening up debate on developments in global news. James Painter's *Counter-Hegemonic News*, looking at the boom of international news channels set up to challenge the 'BBC/CNN approach' to world news, was hailed as 'essential reading' by Nigel Chapman, Director of the BBC World Service, and prompted the *Financial Times* to run an article on 'The Politics of Impartiality', drawing on Painter's findings. Another ground-breaking report *The Web that Failed*, by Floriana Fossato and John Lloyd, investigates how opposition politics and independent



Audience at
The Moral Maze debate



RISJ at the Frontline Club



RISJ in the News

initiatives are failing on the internet in Russia. It was described by Dr Marie Mendras-Rosdahl, of the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris as 'a breakthrough in terms of method and content'.





The Year Ahead

The plan for 2009/10 is to build on our programme of high-quality publications and events, and increase our international impact within the worlds of journalism, media policy-making and academia.

The Fellowship Programme will remain at the heart of the Institute, and we are delighted to welcome James Painter, who has acted as a mentor to our fellows over the past year, as our new Head of Fellowship Programme. This will allow us to increase our support to the journalist fellows and allow them to gain even more from their time at RISJ.

All our research plans for the coming years will aim to build on RISJ's strong comparative dimension, make full use of the experience of the international practitioners and visitors who come to the institute, and combine academic rigour with relevance to the most significant issues facing journalists, media companies and those concerned about the interaction between media and society. On occasions we will conduct research alone but we will often seek partnerships with other institutes in Oxford and with a range of international organisations, funding bodies and research centres.

Our new research strategy is to be organised around three broad areas of focus:

- *The Business of Journalism*—following on from our 2009 publication, *What's Happening to our News*, by producing a comparative assessment of the financial pressures on journalism in a range of countries, and developing innovative solutions to secure the long-term future of quality journalism. We will also address the future pattern of regulation of different forms of journalism worldwide, including self-regulatory mechanisms, statutory regulation and the role of different forms of public intervention in the media landscape.
- *The Evolving Practice of Journalism*—looking at ethical issues in journalism, journalism as a profession and what that means in different countries, the impact of the rise of citizen journalism and blogging, and the particular issues posed by specific forms of journalism, e.g. business journalism, and science and environmental reporting, where journalists often have to act as translators between specialists and a wider public.
- *Relationships between Journalism and Accountability*—scrutinising the performance to date of and prospects for journalism in holding power to account at national, international and local levels, identifying the most important elements of journalism for the functioning of a democratic society, and examining the impact of different political systems on the ability of journalism to perform its role.



Fellow taking part in a seminar



Fellows' social get-together





The Journalism Fellowship Programme



Fellows at a
Green Templeton College
Dinner

The Journalism Fellowship Programme is at the core of the Institute, drawing together journalists from all across the world, and assisting high-calibre, mid-career journalists in their professional development. In 2008/9 we were able to welcome 20 Fellows from 15 countries, giving them the opportunity to critically research subjects in greater depth than is possible under regular career deadline pressures, as well as to enjoy the breadth of academic, cultural and social life at the University of Oxford. This year also marked the 25th Anniversary of the Journalism Fellowship Programme, with over 100 past Fellows and continued friends returning to the Institute to celebrate the achievements of the programme. Through this reunion, the Institute has now initiated an alumni network, to celebrate our achievements and to share in those still to come.

During the course of the year the Fellows took part in a broad range of seminars and activities both in and outside of Oxford. As in previous years, a range of visits, seminars, lectures and tours were organised for the Fellows, enabling them to engage leading academics, journalists and pundits in debates about current and future trends in journalism around the world. Highlights included visits to the Thomson Reuters Headquarters, the BBC World Service and Al-Jazeera in London.



Fellow participating in seminar

The Fellowship Programme also featured internal seminars. Internal presentations offered the Fellows an opportunity to present a topical relating to their research project. These were of an exceptionally high standard and showed an extraordinary breadth of topics, from the media treatment of under-age marriage in Yemen to the severe cuts in the number of US correspondents reporting from Washington. The Fellows also gave presentations to a wider Oxford-based audience. Again, this yielded a remarkably diverse range of subject matter, from the challenges facing print media in developed countries to the power of bloggers in Egypt, and from media coverage of the conflict in South Ossetia to the challenges facing the Armenian economy.



A Green Templeton
College seminar

Some of the fellows gained a high profile both within and outside the University in response to their research.

- Haiyan Wang from the *Southern Metropolitan Weekly* in Guangzhou, China, was the main speaker in the Wednesday seminar series at Green Templeton College on 'The Media in China – Limits and Possibilities'. At a well-attended meeting of academics and journalists, she made a powerful case that the trend towards more investigative journalism was still heavily circumscribed by clientelistic relations between the state and the privately owned media.
- Tran Le Thuy from the *Tuoi Tre* newspaper in Vietnam, who wrote a comparative study on libel law in the UK and Vietnam, was quoted in *The Economist* on the current state of media law in her own country. Her study broke ground by presenting a possible new libel law for Vietnam.
- Jeremy Hayes, one of two BBC fellows, wrote a path-breaking and extremely topical study on how effective the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in England and Wales has been in helping journalists to get more official information. He was one of the main speakers at a RISJ open event in which journalists, academics and the Assistant Information Commissioner debated the issue. (See p. 23 for details of this RISJ working paper.)

Many fellowships have been funded thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the Austrian Press Agency, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the BBC, the British Council, through their Chevening Scholarship Programme, the German Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Finish Helsingin Sanomat Foundation, Mona Megalli and the Wincott Foundation.

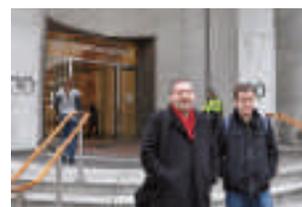
A full summary of the Journalist Fellows' research projects can be found in Appendix 1. The projects in full can be read on the Reuters Institute website:

http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/projects/overview/journalist_fellows_research_projects.html/

James Painter, Head of the Fellowship Programme



Rowing in the Green Templeton Eight



Fellows at Thomson Reuters



Fellows' trip to London

RISJ Events

RISJ has continued to provide a platform for engaging public discussion and debate, hosting or co-hosting over 65 lectures, talks and seminars addressing a diversity of topics in 2008/9. A number of events were organised to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Thomson Reuters Journalist Fellowship Programme, which was held over the weekend of 26–28 September 2008, and attracted over 100 former fellows and friends. The weekly seminar series continued to be well attended, with academics and leading experts in the fields of politics, science, business and journalism discussing historical and contemporary issues facing the media. The Institute also continued its support for the weekly 'Media and Politics' seminar series at Nuffield College, convened by Dr David Butler of Nuffield College and the Institute's Director of Journalism, John Lloyd.



Bernard Tabaire
Panellist, the Future of
Journalism in African

Reuters Fellowship 25th Anniversary Weekend

RISJ, 26–28 September 2008

The Institute marked the 25th Anniversary of the Fellowship Programme in Oxford with over 100 former fellows, colleagues and partners coming together to celebrate the occasion and participate in the special events.

The weekend was inaugurated with the *Annual Memorial Lecture*, chaired by Frances Cairncross, Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, and given by Arthur Sulzberger, Publisher of the *New York Times*. Sulzberger outlined opportunities and challenges that the internet and other new technologies pose for improved news and democracy and emphasised the need for print publications to find an economically sustainable model that will allow them to fully transition to the changing environment.

The *Future of Journalism* in Africa was discussed by key African journalists. The role of the media in holding governments accountable, and entrenching democracy in Africa, was highlighted, with an examination of the attendant risks and responsibilities of such a role. Challenges ranged from the lack of training and high turnover of practicing journalists, to the bribery and threat of intimidation and harassment that is commonly experienced by journalists criticising those in power. Panellists emphasised the importance of a plurality of voices; the need to build the capacity of African journalists; and the importance of exploring ways in which external partnerships can support the media in Africa. Speakers included Tony Heard (former Editor of the *Cape Times* and adviser to former South African President Thabo Mbeki), Bernard Tabaire (a former Reuters Fellow and Managing Editor of Uganda's *The Daily Monitor*), and Sina Odugbemi (Director of CommGAP at the World Bank), on a panel chaired by Dr Colin Bundy, Principal of Green Templeton College. Geoffrey Nyarota (Managing Editor, *The Zimbabwe Times*) was unable to attend but his comments were read out in his absence.



Sina Odugbemi
Panellist, the Future of
Journalism in African



The Reuters Memorial
Lecture

A *Moral Maze* discussion on Saturday debated 'Good Journalism is in Crisis', with an examining panel questioning several witnesses, who either supported or rejected the motion. Supporting the motion were Nick Davies (*Guardian* journalist and author of *Flat Earth News*), Michael Parks (Professor of Journalism and International Relations at USC Annenberg, and former Editor of the *Los Angeles Times*), David Ure, and John Ware (BBC). They raised issues such as the collapse of the traditional business model, the overriding logic of commercialism and the challenges related to the role of the web. Opposing the idea of a crisis were Charlie Beckett (Director of Polis at LSE), Bill Dutton (Director of the Oxford Internet Institute), Mehdi Hasan (Commissioning Editor of Channel 4 News) and Zoe Smith (Online Broadcast Journalist, ITN), who argued against the notion of a 'golden age' and highlighted instead improvements in the access to information, the expansion of issues covered and perspectives expressed, and a higher accountability on the part of the media. Further, the idea that the web represents a complement to rather than a substitute for traditional media was repeatedly argued. The examining panel was constituted by Jean Seaton (Professor of Communications and Media History, University of Westminster), Peter Jay (former Ambassador to the USA, TV and newspaper journalist and current Mayor of Woodstock), and Kevin Marsh (Editor of the BBC College of Journalism).

A *Fellows' Symposium* wrapped up the events of the 25th Anniversary, with a thought-provoking discussion chaired by Paddy Coulter, former Director of Reuters Foundation Fellowship Programme, drawing together Journalist Fellows from Denmark, Hong Kong, Israel, Russia, Austria and the UK, to debate the most controversial stories from the year of 2008, including the US elections, the financial crisis, climate change and the 'War on Terror'.

Special Events in Oxford

War Correspondents – Reporting Iraq

Osler McGovern Centre, 23 October 2008

Oliver Poole, author of *Red Zone: Five Bloody Years in Baghdad*, discussed the challenges of working as a war correspondent and the complexities involved in reporting events in Iraq. He offered an account of daily life for Iraqis, for British and American soldiers sent to Iraq, and his own experiences of being targeted by the violence.

Public Service Broadcasting in Britain and France Compared

Maison Française, 22 November 2008

This conference compared approaches to the reform of public service broadcasting in Britain and France. Issues discussed included public opinion and the political context for reform; professional stakeholders as political actors; funding and organisation of public service broadcasting, and governance and relations with the state. Participants included Roland Cayrol (founder of CSA polling organisation and Sciences Po, Paris); Monique Dagnaud (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales); Simone Harari (member of the Copé Commission and CEO of Effervescence Productions). Dr David Goldey (Lincoln College) and Dr David Levy (RISJ Director and member of the Copé Commission/Commission pour une nouvelle télévision publique) convened the event.



Audience participation in the Moral Maze



Monique Villa and Arthur Sulzberger



Fellows on the Fellows' Symposium Panel

Events

Journalism and the Financial Crisis

Saïd Business School, 1 December 2008

Following the Institute's Advisory Board meeting, a panel was convened to engage with the financial crisis and the response, or lack thereof, from the media. This discussion was chaired by Patience Wheatcroft (non-Executive Director of Barclays Bank Plc), and speakers included Colin Mayer (Dean of Saïd Business School); Hugh Pym (Economics Editor, BBC News); Andrew Dilnot (Principal of St Hugh's College); Oliver Kamm (leader writer, *The Times*); and Stella Dawson (Thomson Reuters Global Treasury Editor).

Launch of Challenges publication, What's Happening to our News at the Oxford Media Convention

Saïd Business School, 22 January 2009

The 2009 Oxford Media Convention provided a great occasion at which to launch this 50,000-word Challenge report by Andrew Currah. In a panel discussion chaired by Tim Gardam (Principal of St Anne's College and Chair of RISJ Steering Committee), RISJ's Director of Journalism John Lloyd, Andrew Currah and Patrick Barwise (London Business School) discussed 'What's Happening to our News', in front of an audience of over 100 of the convention attendees, including some of the key decision-makers in the British media industry.

Launch of Jeremy Hayes's Working Paper: A Shock to the System: Journalism, Government and the Freedom of Information Act 2000

RISJ, 20 May 2009

This forum discussed the impact of the 'Freedom of Information Act 2000' on British media. The discussion was chaired by the Institute's Director of Journalism John Lloyd and speakers included Jeremy Hayes (Senior Output Editor, BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight*); Jonathan Ungoed-Thomas (*Sunday Times*); and Steve Wood (Assistant Information Commissioner).

Journalism Organisations and the Clickmetrics Economy: Past, Present, Future

Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford, 30 June 2009

At this event Professor Joseph Turow of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania Institute presented a paper on *US Newspapers in the New Media-Buying Age*. His talk examined the impact of web-tracking technologies on the attitudes of media buyers towards newspapers as an advertising medium, and the possible consequences of that both for privacy and the press. The talk was chaired by David Levy (Director, RISJ) with Andrew Currah (Visiting fellow, RISJ) as discussant and attracted a large audience provoking a very lively discussion on this under-reported aspect of the impact of the internet on journalism.

What's Happening to our News: Follow-up Workshops

RISJ, 5 June, 19 June and 17 July 2009

In response to the path-breaking Challenges publication, *What's Happening to our News*, RISJ hosted three follow-up workshops to discuss various pressing elements identified by the study regarding the ways in which

resources for news gathering are being reshaped under the pressure of technological and market changes. The first workshop explored 'Enhancing Trust in Journalism', the second looked at 'Financing Journalism' and the final workshop considered 'Empowering Journalism'. The workshops were sponsored by David Ure and the lead researcher and author of the publication, Andrew Currah (RISJ Visiting Fellow), was rapporteur.

Events Outside of Oxford

Nordic Media in Theory and Practice

University College London (UCL), 7–8 November 2008

The first academic conference of the Axess Programme, 'Nordic Media in Theory and Practice', saw around 60 participants from all Nordic countries and beyond, discussing cutting-edge research on media in the Nordic region, with a particular focus on news media and journalism. Two panels gathered academic experts and media practitioners to discuss 'What is taboo in the Nordic media?' and 'Continuity and change in Nordic journalism'. Panel speakers included Christina Jutterström (former CEO of Swedish Television), Risto Kunelius (Professor of Media and Journalism at the University of Tampere, Finland), Lasse Jensen (noted radio journalist on Danish Radio 1 and media commentator/analyst), Sven Egil Omdal (Editor-in-chief of Aftenposten.no, Norway) and Birgir Gudmundsson (lecturer in journalism at the University of Akureyri, Iceland, and Editor of *Bladamadurinn*).

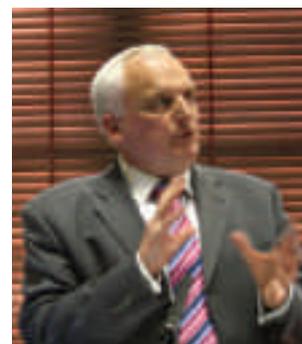


'The News of the World?'
Panelists

Free Press in Peril? Media Freedom and the Former USSR

Royal Society for Arts, London, 26 February 2009

President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Dr Jeffrey Gedmin is one of a growing number of advocates for press freedom concerned by the worsening situation for the news media in Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Dr Gedmin joined a panel of expert commentators to debate the seriousness of the threat to media pluralism and security in the region. Chaired by John Lloyd (Contributing Editor of the *Financial Times Magazine* and RISJ Director of Journalism), the event considered the broader role of free and independent news media in building and maintaining political and civil freedom.



Nik Gowing at the Launch of
'Skyful of Lies'

Launch of Challenges publication, 'Skyful of Lies' and Black Swans

Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Whitehall, London, 11 May 2009

The launch of this influential study saw Nik Gowing present the key findings of his research. He highlighted how in a moment of major, unexpected crisis, institutions of power face a new, acute vulnerability of both their influence and effectiveness due to exponential changes in portable digital technology that are redefining, broadening and fragmenting the nature of the media in a crisis. Michael Clarke (Director, RUSI) chaired a discussion on issues raised by the publication which was led by Professor Peter Hennessy (Atlee Professor of Contemporary British History, London University) and Sir Lawrence Freedman (Professor of War Studies, King's College London, and member of the 2009 United Kingdom Iraq War inquiry).



Events

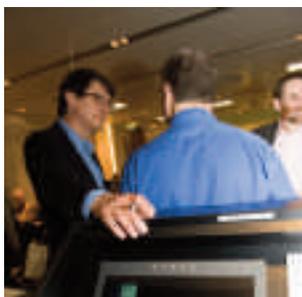


Nick Robinson, The Right Hon. Nick Clegg MP, Prof. Stephen Coleman at the launch of *Public Trust in the News*

Is the Fourth Estate in Permanent Decline? (And What Can We Do About It?)

Edelman, London, 19 May 2009

This event was co-organised by RISJ, Editorial Intelligence and Edelman in response to the much discussed *Challenges* publication by Andrew Currah, *What's Happening to our News*. Chaired by John Lloyd (Contributing Editor, *Financial Times Magazine* and RISJ Director of Journalism), the event discussed the effects of new media technologies on traditional news media, particularly newspapers. Speakers included Andrew Currah (RISJ Visiting Fellow), Claire Enders (Chief Executive, Enders Analysis), Anne McElvoy (Political Columnist, *Evening Standard*), Eleanor Mills (Saturday Editor, *The Times*) and Robert Phillips (CEO, Edelman).



Alan Rusbridger, Editor of The *Guardian* and David Levy

Launch of *Challenges* publication, *Public Trust in the News*

Guardian, London, 15 June 2009

The launch saw high-profile journalists and politicians discussing the issue of public trust in the British news media, raised in this influential study. The event took place at the *Guardian's* new headquarters building and was chaired by Alan Rusbridger (Editor, *Guardian*). Speakers included Professor Stephen Coleman (lead author of the study), Nick Clegg (Leader of the Liberal Democrats) and Nick Robinson (BBC Political Editor) and there was an extremely lively and well informed debate.



Panel Discussions at the 'News of the World?' Event

News of the World? The Future of International Broadcasting

Thomson Reuters, London, 16 June 2009

Timothy Garton Ash chaired a panel discussion on international broadcasting that included Christine Ockrent (CEO, Audiovisuel Extérieure de la France), Richard Sambrook (Director, Global News, BBC), Tian Wei (anchor for domestic and international news, CCTV) and Ben Rayner (Executive Producer, Al Jazeera English). The panel discussed the ways that broadcasters attempt to gain attention in the increasingly crowded market for world news; how they respond to the challenges posed by new players and perspectives; and the possibility of reconciling supposedly universal news values with the projection of an individual nation's 'soft power'. The event drew a large number of attendees from London-based media and the main academic centres.



Stephen Whittle and Glenda Cooper at the launch of '*Privacy, Probity and Public Interest*'

Launch of *Challenges* publication, *Privacy, Probity and Public Interest*

Frontline Club, London, 23 July 2009

The publication confronts the changing nature of privacy and the increased intrusion by journalists into private life. It examines the growing legal activism in this area, and the fierce arguments among journalists and editors as to the right balance to strike between the competing rights. A Moral Maze type panel debate was chaired by broadcaster and writer Roger Bolton, with Rachel North (columnist for *The Times*), and the authors of the book, Glenda Cooper and Stephen Whittle.





Wednesday Seminar Series

Michaelmas Term 2008

15 Oct. 'The (Good) Future of Journalism': Adrian Monck (Professor of Journalism, City University and former producer, ITN and Sky News)

22 Oct. 'The Journalism of Hate and What We Can Do About It': Tony Borden (Executive Director, Institute for War and Peace Reporting)

29 Oct. 'We Do God: How Religion is Reported and the Trouble it Causes': Andrew Brown (Editor, Belief section of the *Guardian's* Comment is Free) and Jeremy Harris (former Spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury and Head of Communications, Oxford University)

5 Nov. 'The Untold Story: Organised Crime is the Biggest Business on Earth': Misha Glenny (journalist and author of *McMafia: A Journey through the Global Criminal Underworld*)

12 Nov. 'How "Great" is British Journalism?' Debate between Stein Ringen (Professor of Sociology, Fellow of Green Templeton College at the University of Oxford) and John Lloyd (Contributing Editor of the *Financial Times* and RISJ Director of Journalism)

19 Nov. 'Starting Out: A Brainstorm on Student Journalism and What Comes After': Jordan Milne (co-founder of a world student newspaper) and Oxford University journalists.

26 Nov. 'How the Web is Saving Journalism and Making it Better': Mick Fealty (creator of Slugger O'Toole and head of political blogs, *Telegraph* Group)

3 Dec. 'China's Journalism: Did Anything Change in 2008?' Isabel Hilton (journalist, BBC radio presenter and editor, China Dialogue website)

Hilary Term 2009

21 Jan. 'The Future for Investigative Journalism': David Leigh (Investigations Editor, the *Guardian*)

28 Jan. 'Al-Jazeera and the Media in the Middle East': Rageh Omaar (Al-Jazeera English and former BBC correspondent)

4 Feb. 'Muslims in the Media': Ruth Gledhill (Religious Correspondent, *The Times*)

11 Feb. 'Does Impartiality Mean Inhumanity?' John Bridcut (Documentary Maker and Author)

18 Feb. 'Barack Obama and the US Media': Prof. Kathleen Burk (University College London)

25 Feb. 'Business Models for the Media': Dr Andrew Currah (RISJ Visiting Fellow)

4 March. 'Private Privacy or the Public's Right to Know?' Stephen Whittle (Expert Adviser to the Council of Europe and former BBC controller of Editorial Policy)

11 March. 'The State of Journalism in Africa': Richard Dowden (Royal African Society)

Trinity Term 2009

29 April. 'Did World Leaders Rescue the Global Economy and Redraw the Face of Capitalism at the G20 Summit?' Stella Dawson (Global Treasury Editor, Thomson Reuters)

6 May. 'Why Journalists Deserve Low Pay': Prof. Robert Picard (RISJ Visiting Fellow)

13 May. 'A Grief Observed: Print Journalists and the Internet': Prof. John Naughton (Professor of the Public Understanding of Technology, Open University) and Nic Newman (RISJ Journalist Fellow)

20 May. 'Television in Europe's New Democracies: The End of Reform': Mark Thomson (Editor for Media Policy, Open Society Foundation)



Events

27 May. 'The Media in China: Limits and Possibilities': Haiyan Wang (RISJ Journalist Fellow and Chief Editor, *Southern Metropolitan Weekly*, China) and Dr James Reilly (History Faculty, University of Oxford)

3 June. 'Is the BBC the Guarantor of Journalism's Ethics?' Kevin Marsh (Editor-in-Chief, BBC College of Journalism)

10 June. 'Journalism as Work: Perspectives from Six European Countries': Dr Henrik Örnebring (Axess Research Fellow in Comparative European Journalism at the RISJ)

17 June. 'Media in the Age of Berlusconi': Enrico Franceschini (London Bureau Chief, *La Repubblica*) and John Lloyd (Director of Journalism, RISJ)

'Media and Politics' Seminar Series at Nuffield College

Michaelmas Term 2008

17 Oct. 'Handling the Media': Jonathan Powell (Chief of Staff to Prime Minister, 1997–2007)

24 Oct. 'Handling the Politicians': Michael Cockerell (director of political documentaries)

31 Oct. 'Who Owns the Media and What They Do With Them': Lord Norman Fowler (Chairman, House of Lords Communication Committee)

14 Nov. 'Being a Columnist': Sir Simon Jenkins (columnist, Former Editor, *The Times* and *Evening Standard*)

21 Nov. 'The Politics of Public Service Broadcasting in Britain and France': David Levy (Director, RISJ) and Monique Dagnaud (Director of Research, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

28 Nov. 'Being an Editor': Alan Rusbridger (Editor, the *Guardian*)

Hilary Term 2009

23 Jan. 'Diplomacy and the Media': Sir Jeremy Greenstock (former Ambassador to the United Nations and special representative in Iraq)

30 Jan. 'The Media and Europe': Sir Julian Priestley (Secretary General European Parliament, 1998–2008)

6 Feb. 'Waiting for the Etonians: Reports from the Sickbed of Liberal England': Nick Cohen (columnist, *Observer*)

13 Feb. 'Analysing the Political Scene': Andrew Miller (author of 'Bagehot' Column, *The Economist*)

20 Feb. 'Lobby Journalism': Michael White (*Guardian*, political writer since 1977)

27 Feb. 'Being a Foreign Correspondent': John F. Burns (London Bureau Chief, *New York Times*)

6 March. 'Fair Play for Politicians?' Chris Huhne (MP, Liberal Democrat)

Trinity Term 2009

1 May. 'Being a Columnist': David Aaronovitch (columnist, *The Times*)

8 May. 'Reporting the Middle East': Jane Corbin (reporter, BBC's *Panorama* documentary series)

15 May. 'The Westminster World': Philip Bassett (Chief of Staff to Leader of Lords, former Political Editor, *Financial Times*)

22 May. 'Reporting the City': Gillian Tett (Financial Editor, *Financial Times*)

29 May. 'Being Reported': Lord Patten (Chancellor of University of Oxford, Cabinet Minister, former Governor of Hong Kong, European Commissioner 1999–2004)



Research

The Axess Programme on Comparative European Journalism

Sponsored by the Ax:son Johnson Foundation, this three-year research programme conducted by Dr Henrik Örnebring focuses on three core areas: (1) a comparative analysis of the journalistic cultures of Europe, with a focus on Sweden, (2) an investigation into the emergence of a 'European' journalism and (3) an exploration of whether there is a dominant model of journalism in Europe and its effect on different national cultures. The main focus of the study is on the work practices of journalists, the changing conditions of journalism as work and on notions of professionalism among journalists. It questions whether journalism is becoming more similar across national borders in Europe, or whether national/cultural differences are still important and analyses the impact of the similarities or differences in the ways in which journalists in different countries work on the overall quality of the journalistic product. The research is based on in-depth interviews with over 60 journalists in six European nations (Sweden, UK, Germany, Italy, Poland and Estonia), as well as a quantitative survey of journalists in these nations.

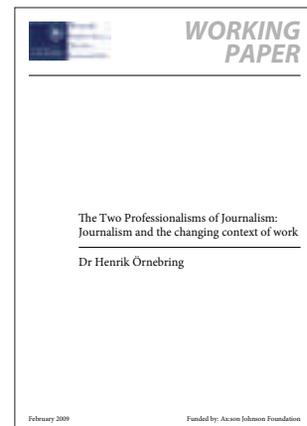


Working Papers

The Two Professionalisms of Journalism: Journalism and the Changing Context of Work (Working Paper)

Researcher/author: Dr Henrik Örnebring

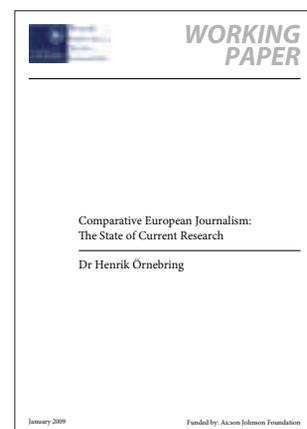
This paper places contemporary debates about journalism (in particular those debates that frame the current state of journalism in terms of decline) within the wider context of changes in the organisation of work in the 'new economy'. It analyses the current changes in the journalistic occupation in terms of four general trends in the world of work: (1) the deregulation of labour markets, (2) the rise of new forms of employment, (3) the increasing reliance on technology in the workplace and (4) concerns about the large-scale deskilling of parts of the workforce. The paper suggests a set of research questions for a future programme of research on occupational change within journalism that transcends general arguments of decline.



Comparative European Journalism: The State of Current Research (Working Paper)

Researcher/author: Dr Henrik Örnebring

The first stage of the the Axess Programme in European Journalism programme has been to conduct a thorough review of existing research in the area of European journalism. This stage of research is structured around identifying the state of relevant research related to each of these aims in the existing study of European journalism. Current evidence points to the continuing importance of national concerns in news selection



and presentation, with little indication that a 'European journalism' aimed at a Europe-wide audience will develop in earnest in the foreseeable future.

Dr Henrik Örnebring has a fil kand (BA) in Media and Communication Studies from Karstad University and Göteborg University, Sweden. He received his PhD from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Göteborg University in 2001. Henrik has lectured at several Swedish universities. He moved to the United Kingdom in 2002 to be a Visiting Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and lectured at the University of Leicester and at Roehampton University prior to his appointment as the Axess Research Fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.

The Media and the Far Right in Western Europe



Sponsored by Thomson Reuters as an integral part of the programme at RISJ, this 18-month research programme was led by Dr Antonis Ellinas, during his time as a Thomson Reuters Post Doctoral Research Fellow in 2007/8. Essentially the programme examined the relationship between political parties and the media to explain one of the most important phenomena in Western Europe: the rise of far-right parties.

The research highlighted a number of issues. First, how in response to public concerns over national identity, mainstream politicians have decided to 'play the nationalist card', thereby creating opportunities for the entry of far-right parties into the political system. However, the research showed that subsequent media treatment could then have a profound impact. In some cases, the media gave excessive exposure to such parties, allowing them to capitalise on these opportunities; in other cases, they ignored them, effectively blocking their entry into the political system.

The programme initially focused on two key models: the early and subsequent trajectories of far right parties in Austria and Germany, and the very different case of Greece. These findings were then expanded in the light of research into the growth and persistence of the French far right. Evidence was compiled from interviews with mainstream politicians and far rightists, as well as from archival material, legislative records and newspaper reports. Media behaviour was assessed by analysing newspaper and television content, and through interviews with top journalists in each of the three primary country cases.

Dr Antonis A. Ellinas received his PhD from Princeton University in 2007, and his BA from Hamilton College. He was a Fulbright Scholar (1995–9), before joining the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism and Nuffield College, Oxford University (2007–8) as a postdoctoral fellow. He is currently Assistant Professor of Political Science at the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, MA.

Antonis A. Ellinas, 'Phased Out: Far Right Parties in Western Europe', *Comparative Politics* 39/3 (2007): 353–71.

— 'Chaotic But Popular? Extreme-Right Organisation and Performance in the Age of Media Communication', *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 17/2 (2009): 209–21.

— *The Media and the Far Right in Western Europe: Playing the Nationalist Card* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

— and Ezra N. Suleiman, 'Reforming the Commission: Between Modernization and Bureaucratization', *Journal of European Public Policy* 15/5 (2008): 708–25.



Research Publications:² Challenges in Modern Journalism

Over the past year, the Institute has hosted several innovative research projects that have been published in our 'Challenges' series. This series provides an influential platform for the Institute to contribute to the growing debate on the shifting role of the media and its future position, both in Britain and internationally. Recognising the key role of media in society and the power of information in the modern world, the Institute fosters an exploration of the role and impact of the media on decision-making and public perception, from modern politics and international relations to business and popular culture. The Institute also debates the practice and principles of journalism in an online age where the economic models of news-gathering have fundamentally altered, and where the role of journalism and the relationship between the journalist, the public and governmental authority are in flux.

What's Happening to our News: An Investigation into the Likely Impact of the Digital Revolution on the Economics of News Publishing in the United Kingdom

Sponsors: Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd and David Ure. Author and research leader: Dr Andrew Currah, researchers/authors: Harriet Cullinan and Kirsten Westlake. Advisory group: David Ure, Mandy Cormack, John Lloyd, Geert Linnebank, Patrick Barwise

This study investigates the shifting economic foundations of print and television news in the United Kingdom and the impact of such shifts on the quality, independence, diversity and civic value of British journalism. The report is based on a year of research, including over 70 interviews with senior participants in the British news media. The principal conclusion is that increasing commercial pressure, driven mainly by the inherent nature of the digital revolution, is undermining the business models that pay for the news (with the exception of BBC news, which is funded by the licence fee). The report suggests that this will weaken some media organisations, threaten to hollow out the craft of journalism and adversely impact the quality and availability of independent factual journalism in Britain. The report suggests avenues for redressing the balance and sustaining the economic viability of high-quality news reporting in the 21st century. The study has had immense public impact and has provoked numerous follow-up industry debates and new research directions.

Counter-Hegemonic News: A Case Study of Al-Jazeera English and Telesur

Sponsor: Reuters Institute. Researcher/author: James Painter

In this pioneering study, James Painter, a former journalist Fellow, examines two prominent and controversial new 24-hour news channels—the world network Al-Jazeera English and the Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's creation, Telesur. These channels can be defined as 'counter-hegemonic', set up with the explicit intention of challenging the 'BBC/CNN approach' to news coverage of world events. This study





Research Publications

explores the editorial content of the two channels, the values that underlie the news reporting of the new counter-hegemonic news style and what it means to offer a non-Western perspective to the news. James Painter is the former head of the Spanish American Section at the BBC World Service, and was until recently the Americas executive editor there. He is now Head of the RISJ Journalist Fellowship Programme.

The Web that Failed

Sponsors: Open Society Institute and Soros Foundation Network. Researchers/authors: Floriana Fossato and John Lloyd with Alexander Verkhovsky

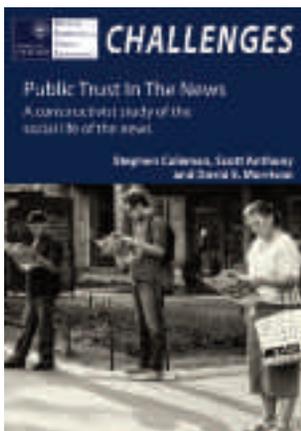
The promise of the internet is often held to be one of liberation. But how far is its reach and impact still dependent on the nature of the society in which it is being used? This study investigates the role of the internet in the Russian media landscape. Exploring three websites – a nationalist grouping, a liberal grouping and a citizens' initiative – over a relatively restricted time period of a few months preceding the 2008 presidential election, this study analyses how far the internet provided the liberation that is usually assumed as its promise. The central result of the study is that this liberation role remains limited in Russia.



Public Trust in the News

Sponsor: The Scott Trust. Researcher/author: Prof. Stephen Coleman, Professor of Political Communication and Director of Research, University of Leeds, with Scott Anthony and David E. Morrison

Academic studies that examine trust in the media have not been in short supply, yet much of the existing literature tends to reduce the complex issue of trust to the more straightforward issue of accuracy. However, trust in the media is about more than veracity. This report addresses fundamental questions about the nature of public knowledge, and the scope and role of the news media's place within it, presenting concrete findings from focus groups with news journalists, editors and bloggers. It found that public trust collapses when journalists are perceived to be reporting on social groups, areas and practices in ways that fail to address the world as the public recognise it. The study presents proposals for improving the relationship between the news media and the public.



'Skyful of Lies' and Black Swans: The New Tyranny of Shifting Information Power in Crises

Sponsor: Reuters Institute. Researcher/author: Nik Gowing, Presenter, BBC World

In moments of major, unexpected crisis, institutions of power face a new, acute vulnerability of both their influence and effectiveness. This study analyses the new fragility and brittleness of such institutions, and the impact of a fast proliferating and almost ubiquitous generation of 'information doers'. Empowered by cheap, accessible and mobile technologies, they have an unprecedented mass ability to bear witness and create new demands for accountability through real-time information flows. This global electronic reach exceeds the assumed power and influence of the traditional media and few institutions of government and corporate power readily understand and embrace this new reality. Indeed, most actively resist them. Overall, this typical inaction, indifference and resistance to the new communication reality exacts a harsh price that undermines policy effectiveness and public confidence. This study suggests robust recommendations for how various institutions of political and corporate power could more effectively confront, understand and



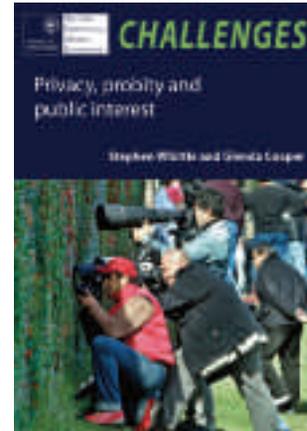


embrace the challenge of the new real-time 'information doer'. It has prompted widespread interest from the press and political and military decision-makers in the UK, US and internationally.

Privacy, Probity and Public Interest

Sponsor: Reuters Institute. Researchers/authors: Stephen Whittle, former Controller of Editorial Policy, BBC, and Glenda Cooper, journalist and former Guardian Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford

This highly topical study seeks to tease out the current state of practice and theory in the British news media over issues of privacy and the public interest. A series of high-profile cases, most recently that of Max Mosley, has focused attention on the highly contested area of how far intrusion into private lives is justified in the interest of revelation necessary to a liberal democracy. The research both describes the present situation and seeks to define the increasingly uncertain boundary between privacy and the public interest. This report addresses some of the questions over the changing nature of privacy, which private matters can be revealed by journalists in the public interest and how the increasing use of the Human Rights Act is pitting the right to privacy against the right to freedom of information and expression. Interviews with lawyers, academics, journalists, bloggers, those who have found their privacy invaded by the media and those who have invaded it reveal that new technology has been one of the main drivers of changes in perception of privacy.



A Shock to the System: Journalism, Government and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (RISJ Working Paper)

Researcher/author: Jeremy Hayes

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 has changed journalism in Britain. Four years after it was introduced, the flow of news stories relying in whole or in part on information gained through a request to a government department, agency or statutory body has become continual. Although not created for the benefit of journalism, the Act has altered the way that many journalists work and their expectations about the information they can gather through it. This research evaluates the way in which the Act is being applied by officials and the uses to which it is being put by journalists, at a time when the stakes over the future definition of public interest as it applies to FOI have never been higher. 2009 may prove to be a decisive year for the Act through the rulings of the Information Tribunal and the responses evoked in government, and as the scope of the Act is redefined.



RISJ

Visiting Fellows

The Institute was delighted to welcome a number of distinguished senior journalists and academics from Britain and abroad, who contributed their expertise and knowledge to the Institute's portfolio of research and activities.



Dr Andrew Currah is a lecturer in the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford. He studied Geography at the University of Cambridge, has a Masters from the University of Southampton, and a Doctorate from Cambridge. Since 2001, Andrew has conducted research at York University, University of Washington and the University of California in Los Angeles. Andrew is a research associate of the Oxford Internet Institute, an analyst on internet and technology for Oxford Analytica, and a Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford. His current work concerns the changing structure of the media and entertainment industries in a digitally networked economic and social environment. Andrew is the author of an RISJ publication, *What's Happening to our News*, part of our 'Challenges' series.



Richard Danbury is a senior broadcast journalist at BBC television's *Newsnight* programme, having previously worked on several other current affairs strands. He used to be a barrister. He is currently on a career break and is at Oxford reading for a Master of Studies in Legal Research, with the intention of transferring to a DPhil in Law. The title of his master's thesis is: 'The "Full Liberty of Public Writers": Special Treatment of Institutional Journalistic Speech in English Law'.



Christopher J. Finlay is a PhD candidate at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a BA in political science from Simon Fraser University (Vancouver, Canada) and an MA in political science from Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada). His dissertation examines how the Olympic Games are used as political tools by Games organisers, nation-states, corporate sponsors and local and global media groups for particular agendas. While at the Reuters Institute, Chris analysed how new media technologies are influencing the development of the major media narratives of the 2012 London Olympics.

Dr Libby Lester worked as a journalist for 15 years in Australia, before joining the University of Tasmania in 2002, where she coordinates the Journalism, Media and Communications Programme. Her interests are politics, environment and ethnic affairs, for which her work as a journalist was commended with a Media Peace Awards special citation. She has a degree in Prehistory and Geography from the Australian National University, Canberra, and a PhD in Media and Communications from the University of Melbourne. Her recent research on media–source relations, news access and mediated conflict has been published in several journals. She is currently working on a book for Polity Press, *Media and Environment: Conflict, Politics and the News*, due for publication in 2010.



Professor Laurence Lustgarten is also an Associate Research Fellow, at the Centre for Socio-legal Studies (University of Oxford). Professor Lustgarten is a qualified Barrister, and was Professor of Law (Public Law and Criminal Justice) at the University of Southampton, 1993–2003. More recently, he was Commissioner for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (2003–7), and has also lectured for the Council of Europe, Human Rights Training for Judiciary and Police, the Judicial Studies Board (JSB) of England and Wales, the Senior/Strategic Command Course on Human Rights Issues for Senior Police Officers, and has been a consultant to the Council of Europe on reforming the police laws of the various new member states.



Dr Martin Moore is Director of the Media Standards Trust. He has worked in the news and media industry for over a decade, including for the BBC, Channel 4, NTL, IPC Media, Trinity Mirror as well as other leading media organisations. Martin read history at Cambridge and holds a doctorate from the London School of Economics (LSE), where he taught and researched until mid-2006. His book, *The Origins of Modern Spin*, has recently been published by Palgrave Macmillan.



Professor Robert G. Picard is Hamrin Professor of Media Economics and Director of the MMT centre at the Jönköping International Business School. His research focuses on diverse economic aspects of media markets, media industries and firms. He is the author and editor of 20 books, and has been on the faculties of Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, California State University, Emerson College, and Louisiana State University. He has also served as a visiting professor at the University of Paris, Shanghai University, the University of Amsterdam and the Catholic University of Portugal.





Visiting Fellows



Dr Damian Tambini is Senior Lecturer at the LSE and Director of its Masters Degree in Communications Regulation and Policy. He is also an Associate Fellow at the IPPR, and at the Oxford Internet Institute; a member of the Communications Consumer Panel; a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts; and serves on the Advisory Groups of the Oxford Media Convention and Polis. Previously he was head of the Programme in Media Law and Policy at Oxford University, has been on the faculties of Nuffield College, Oxford, and the Humboldt University, Berlin; and holds a PhD from the European University Institute, Florence. His research interests include media and telecommunications policy and democratic communication. He is co-author of *Codifying Cyberspace: Self-regulation of Converging Media* (2008), and co-editor of *Cyberdemocracy* (1998) and *Citizenship, Markets, and the State* (2000). Other recent publications include: *Nationalism in Italian Politics* (2001), *Collective Identities in Action* (2002), *Theories of Ethnic Conflict* (2002), and *Ruled by Recluses? Privacy and the Media* (2003). He is the co-editor of *New News: Impartial Broadcasting in the Digital Age* (2002).



Juan Señor is a Partner at the Innovation Media Consulting Group based in London. In the past four years he has launched newspapers and television stations in 11 countries, three of which have been voted 'Best Newspaper Concept and Design in the World' for 2007 and 2008. He has been a presenter for Wall Street Journal TV, and CNBC Europe and served as London correspondent of the International Herald Tribune Television. He has also worked as a foreign affairs reporter and war correspondent for the *NewsHour* on PBS in the USA. Juan obtained a degree summa cum laude in Political Science and attended Georgetown University's Institute of Political Journalism in Washington, DC. He continues to work as a television and live events presenter and moderator in different world forums.



Stephen Whittle was the BBC's Controller of Editorial Policy for five years. In this capacity, he was involved in some of the most high-profile BBC investigations, such as *The Secret Policeman*, *Licence to Kill*, *The Panorama on the Olympics*, as well as controversial drama such as *Dirty War* and *The Project*. Stephen was previously Director of the Broadcasting Standards Commission (1996–2001) and before that Head of Religious Programmes at BBC Television. He now works on issues around media ethics and regulation, as well as chairing the Broadcasting Training and Skills Regulator. He is also expert adviser to the Council of Europe on media issues.





Staff

A small team of dedicated individuals leads the Institute's research projects and activities.

Dr David A. L. Levy: Director

Prior to becoming Director at RISJ, David worked at the BBC, as a radio and TV reporter on *File on 4* and *Newsnight* and as Editor of Analysis on Radio 4, and then as Controller of Public Policy, where he directed UK and EU policy and led the BBC's relations with government and regulators, including its policy for the last Charter Review and licence fee negotiation. He was the sole foreign member of the 2008 French cross-party Commission pour une nouvelle télévision publique, established by President Sarkozy to explore the future of the French public broadcaster France Télévisions. His publications include *The Price of Plurality: Choice Diversity and Broadcasting Institutions in the Digital Age* (2008, edited with Tim Gardam); *Europe's Digital Revolution; Broadcasting Policy, the EU and the Nation State* (2000); and *An Independent NHS: What's in It for Patients and Citizens?* (2008). He is also an Associate Fellow at the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School, media sector consultant there, and a consultant on media policy, strategy and regulation in the UK and EU.



John Lloyd: Director of Journalism

John is a contributing editor at the *Financial Times (FT)*, where he writes a weekly column on television, and is a feature writer for the *Financial Times Magazine*, of which he was founding editor. He has been a reporter and producer for London Weekend Television's *London Programme* and *Weekend World*, and editor of *Time Out* and *New Statesman* magazines. At the *FT*, he has been Labour Editor, Industrial Editor, East Europe Editor and Moscow Bureau Chief. He has written several books, including *Loss Without Limit: The British Miners' Strike* (1986: with Martin Adeney); *Rebirth of a Nation: An Anatomy of Russia* (1998) and *What the Media are Doing To Our Politics* (2004). He co-edited (with Jean Seaton) a special issue of the *Political Quarterly* entitled 'What Can Be Done? Making the Media and Politics Better'. He has received a number of press awards, including Granada's Journalist of the Year, the British Press award's Specialist Writer of the Year and the David Watt Prize.



 Staff



James Painter: Head of the Journalism Fellowship Programme

James joined the BBC World Service in 1992, and has worked as head of the Spanish American Service, head of the BBC Miami office, and Editor in the newsroom. From 2003 to 2005, he was Executive Editor Americas and Latin America analyst. Prior to joining the BBC, he spent four years in Bolivia working for various media in the UK and USA, including the BBC, Reuters, the *Independent* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. He has also reported from several other Latin American countries for a wide variety of publications, and spent two years lecturing in Latin American Government and Politics at the London School of Economics from 1982 to 1984. He is the author of several books and academic articles on the region. In recent years he has written widely for several publications, including the BBC website, on issues related to climate change. He has also studied the coverage of climate change in the Latin American and world media, and written widely on the topic.

James was the BBC Reuters Journalist Fellow in 2006 and subsequently a visiting fellow at the Institute. He has published, or contributed to, several books and articles on the boom in international news channels, including the RISJ 'Challenge' *Counter-Hegemonic News: A Case Study of Al-Jazeera English and Telesur*.

In 2008/9 James acted as a consultant to the journalism programme, and was appointed as Head of the Fellowship Programme in September 2009.



Dr Rima Dapous: Former Director of the Journalism Fellowship Programme and Institute Administrator

Rima holds an MPhil in European Literature and DPhil in French Literature from the University of Oxford, and has worked in Higher Education Management for many years, both in her native Germany and more recently in the UK. She held senior managerial positions at the University of Frankfurt prior to her appointment as Administrator of the RISJ. Regrettably, Rima left the Institute in May 2009 to work at the British Council in Berlin.



Dr Angela Julian: Institute Administrator

Angela worked as a Research Fellow, and later a Principal Scientist at the University of Reading, and the Natural Resources Institute, on a number of DfID funded projects, investigating the management of tropical plant pathogens in semi-arid subsistence farming systems. From 1997, she became conference manager at Agra Europe (part of the Informa group), then moving to the Oxford-based economic consultancy, LMC International Ltd., as Sales and Marketing Manager. Since July 2009, Angela has been our new Institute Administrator, with responsibility for finance, personnel, research support and administration of the Journalism Fellowship programme.

Kate Hanneford-Smith: Web Editor, Events and Communications Coordinator

Kate has a BA (Hons) in Italian and German from the University of Leeds. She has been at the Reuter's Institute since it started in 2006, and is now responsible for running the RISJ website, organising all of our events, seminars and book launches, and managing communications.



Alex Reid: Publications and Administrative Officer

Alex has a BA (Hons) in Religion and Literature from Bristol University and a postgraduate Diploma in Museum and Gallery Studies from St Andrews University. On leaving her career in museums, Alex became a fundraiser and event organiser and then worked in the local radio station, FOX FM, in sponsorship and promotions. She is currently responsible for all of our publications and supporting the Fellowship Programme and the Fellows on a day to day basis.



Elaine Hernen: Former Web Editor

Elaine is a producer and editor of cross-platform arts and media projects, and has held production and editorial positions at several media organisations, including the BBC and ITV. She holds a BA (Hons) and an MA, and is currently taking a break from her doctoral studies. Elaine left the Institute in February 2009.





RISJ

Governance

The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides strategic oversight to the Institute's activities.



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Appendix: Journalist Fellows 2008–9

Ms Amel Al-Ariqi: Managing Editor, *Yemen Times*
(sponsor: Mona Megalli).

Research Project: Middle Eastern Women in Media: A Battle Against the Stereotypes (Al-Jazeera case study)

Amel writes:

Negative stereotypes of women reflect and reinforce wider gender inequalities in any society. In addition, studies of the representation of women's issues can be used as a tool to evaluate media bias not just with regards to gender issues, but also to the media's political and ideological attitudes. The main objective of the research was to answer how Al-Jazeera English and Al-Jazeera Arabic portray Middle Eastern women.

As both Al-Jazeera English and Al-Jazeera Arabic are predominantly news-based, the study tracks the quantity of their inputs regarding women's issues in the Middle East over a certain period and examines particular cases to analyse the style, images, terms, interests and presentation style of their coverage of this topic.

Content analysis and critical discourse analysis (CDA) methods were used to analyse two feature programmes, *Everywoman* in Al-Jazeera English, and *For women only* in Al-Jazeera Arabic, as well as the output of Al-Jazeera.net.

The study concludes that, even though the Al-Jazeera network has paid special attention to Middle Eastern women's issues, its mission to break down the stereotypes of these women still needs more focus to fairly reflect women's issues. An assessment of the two-language versions of the Al-Jazeera programmes and news which deal with women's issues in the Middle East discloses a surprising number of differences regarding the way these topics are presented and treated. This different treatment has encoded itself in the different editorial selection of news, photos and ideological associations.



Mr John Conyngham: Editor of *The Witness* newspaper,
South Africa (sponsor: Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Research Project: Serving Readers in Fractured Societies: Case Studies from South Africa and the Balkans.

John writes:

Choosing the correct news recipe for a particular readership is always a difficult task, but it is especially complex in deeply divided societies whose different cultural communities have starkly conflicting world views. As a South African journalist I have been very aware of the challenges faced by newspapers and other media in serving a fractured society on which the hurts and humiliations of recent history weigh heavily.

This research analyses the climate of transformation after minority rule, the tensions created whenever a society has a market-dominant minority, the complexion of the debate in the public sphere, 'loyalty' and



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'disloyalty' in reporting, the strident standoff over HIV/Aids and Zimbabwe, and the emergence of the disturbing phenomenon of official cavalcades intimidating motorists on the country's highways, and how some of these issues have played themselves out in the press.

As a coda to these specifically South African features I have looked at the nature of journalism in the Balkans and what role it may have played in the violence that characterised that region in the 1990s when South Africa was, seemingly miraculously, peacefully transforming itself from an undemocratic minority government to a liberal democracy.



Ms Alexandra Frech: Foreign Affairs Editor, Austria Press Agency, Austria (sponsor: Austrian Press Agency)

Research Project: 'Mass Migration,' Crime and 'Decent People': The Portrayal of Polish Migrants in British Newspapers

Alexandra writes:

The research paper focuses on the British newspaper coverage of migration from Poland to the United Kingdom following the enlargement of the European Union in May 2004. The sample analysed in this study is taken from three national newspapers – the *Guardian*, *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail* – in the period between 1 April and 14 May 2008.

The first part of the analysis concentrates on the amount of reporting, central issues covered and, most importantly, the question of who is quoted and is thus able to convey his/her arguments publicly. One of the central findings is that all three papers quote politicians, institutions and think tanks on a regular basis, while 'ordinary' Polish citizens and their British neighbours very rarely seem to get a say. The second part of the paper is a case study of the first coverage of a report by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in April 2008 about challenges facing the police forces due to immigration from Eastern Europe. By means of a basic content analysis, it is shown that, even though the three newspapers quote similar facts and arguments, the messages of their news stories seem to be very different and thus raise questions concerning their neutrality and possible political positions.



Ms Eleanor Hall: Presenter, The World Today, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (sponsor: Australian Broadcasting)

Research Project: Political Campaigning in the YouTube Age: Transforming the Political Culture?

Eleanor writes:

The 2008 US Presidential election confirmed the significance of new media in political campaigning in the United States. YouTube didn't even exist at the time of the previous Presidential election. Four years later, seven of the 2008 Presidential contenders announced their candidacy on the video-sharing website. Barack Obama went from being a little-known Illinois senator to becoming the first Black President of the United States and the biggest campaign fundraiser in US history and credits his web campaign with playing a major part in that journey. Web 2.0 enthusiasts claim the Obama campaign as a victory not only for the candidate but for a new, more democratic form of politics.

At a time of growing disillusionment with mass-media style politics and of historic political upheaval in Britain, I wanted to know what lessons politicians outside the United States were taking from the Obama victory

as they prepared for future campaigns. Would they embrace new ways of campaigning in an attempt to re-engage citizens and reinvigorate the political culture or would they use web 2.0 simply to amplify the old style of political discourse, while trying to look modern? My research examines the extent to which the Obama e-campaign challenged the role of the traditional political and media gatekeepers and uses it as a case study to assess the potential benefits and risks for political campaigns of online social networking. I then look at the extent to which such e-campaigning methods are being applied in Britain and at some of the institutional and cultural barriers.

Mr Jeremy Hayes: Editor, *The World Tonight*, BBC Radio 4 (sponsor: BBC)

Research Project: A Shock to the System: Journalism, Government and the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Jeremy writes:

Four years after its introduction, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has become a game of 'cat and mouse' with Whitehall – with protracted delays and appeals to official arbiters like the Information Commissioner. Significant delays arising from a backlog at the ICO have meant that over 30 per cent of appeals remain unresolved after 12 months. This has hampered journalists' use of the Act to create new methods for news-gathering.

My research began by considering the contrasting approaches and experiences of different journalists. Interviews with officials at the Ministry of Justice and the Information Commissioner's Office, as well as political researchers offered insight into how the operation of the Act is viewed from other vantage points. The rows over MPs' expenses and the failure to release Cabinet papers relating to the war in Iraq, both of which originated in Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, have made FOI a highly topical issue.

Discussions with campaigners such as Maurice Frankel and reference to studies by researchers at UCL's Constitution Unit allowed me to draw conclusions about the likely trajectory of Freedom of Information in Britain based on their insights and international comparisons.

My conclusion is that if campaigning organisations like pressure groups and political parties become the prime users of the Act, this will lead to a news agenda driven increasingly by vested interests compromising the independence of journalists.

Mr Sang-Kil Hwang: Staff of External Affairs Team of KBS (Korean Broadcasting System), South Korea (self-funded)

Research Project: How Europe's Public Service Broadcasters (PSBs) Sell Themselves to Society

Sang-Kil writes:

The Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), along with other Public Service Broadcasters (PSBs), is going through a critical period that stems in part from a weak and defensive position. KBS was originally a national broadcaster but changed to a public one in 1973. This change, however, was not to improve society, but to satisfy the needs of the ruling political regime. As a result, the broadcaster has encountered and also contributed to many problems, although the programmes and the way KBS justifies itself and the licence fee have improved.



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The PSBs need to justify themselves and the value of licence fee not only in general but also in debates and discussions about their future. My research project focuses on how the public service broadcasters in Europe, especially those financed by license fees such as the BBC, communicate with society and justify themselves. I wanted to understand their principles, strategies, organisational structures and systems at work, and compare them with KBS. The society with which the PSBs communicate includes licence fee payers, social organisations, political parties, parliament, the government and other media. Of course the regulatory systems of each country (laws, policies as well as political and cultural practices) are considered to be important.



Mr Toshiya Kaba: Environment and Energy News Writer, *The Tokyo Shimbun/The Chunichi Shimbun* (Japanese Daily Newspaper) (self-funded)

Research Project: Comparative Study of Media Coverage in Japan on COP3 and COP14 Conferences of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Toshiya writes:

It is generally said that the 20th century was the century of war. Historians will say that the 21st century was the century of climate change. Under the auspices of the United Nations, many countries have been discussing this issue for the last 20 years. The Kyoto Protocol, which is the only international climate treaty in the world, was adopted at the Conference of Parties (COP) 3 in 1997. After the withdrawal of the United States from the protocol, many people doubted its practical effect. But this stagnation is drastically changing as American President Barack Obama has appealed to the world with his 'Green Deal Policy'. 2009 is an extremely important year because a new protocol is expected to be adopted at COP15 held in Copenhagen.

My research aims to examine how media reports of COP3, which was attended by about 4,000 reporters, compare with the media coverage of COP14. By focusing on this, I would like to find out how to report accurate information about climate change and international negotiations to readers. The negotiation for the new protocol at COP15 will likely be very complicated. It is no exaggeration to say that a successful outcome depends to an important extent on media coverage of this negotiation process. Independent ways of thinking, continuity of coverage and worldwide networking are three factors that will be required of journalists helping to combat climate change.



Mr Firas Saleh Khatib: Editor-in-Chief, *al-Madina* Newspaper, Haifa; International Correspondent for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories for *al-Akhbar* Newspaper (sponsor: Gerda Henkel)

Research Project: The Palestinian Refugees in the British Press: The Issue as it was 61 Years Ago

Firas writes:

My research focuses on the British media's coverage in the *Guardian* and *The Times* of the events of the Arab-Israeli conflict of 1948. It concentrates in particular on the issue of the Palestinian refugees, which culminated in the same year and still remains one of the most intractable elements of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The research is based on British newspaper archives, and focuses on editorials and reports that deal with the Palestinian refugees' issue, while considering the political context that prevailed in the Middle East region. The research accompanies the evolution of the issue in the media in the 1960s, exploring some of the shifts that occurred in the coverage of the refugee crisis. It also examines press reports and events that took place behind the scenes at the newspapers. The research further addresses the technical aspects of the newspaper business, such as structure, design and working methods.

The research also draws on the many books that have been written about these events. It provides a brief background to the current conflict in Palestine, and attempts to find answers to the questions of how the British press dealt with the crisis, and whether it was anticipated that it would endure for all these years. Several motives underlie the emphasis that has been placed on the British media, most significantly the role that was played by Britain in the Middle East in 1948, and the fact that the region still remains an important subject for the British media.

Ms Christina Larson: Contributing Editor, *Foreign Policy* magazine; *Washington Monthly* magazine
(sponsor: Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Research Project: Coverage of Climate Change in the Chinese Media
Christina writes:

At time when China's position regarding climate change has increasingly attracted the attention of the international media, my aim has been to understand how climate change has been covered by the domestic Chinese press – as a way of looking, albeit with limitations, at the shape of climate discourse within China, as well as at the evolving role of Chinese media and civil society.

This I have done by a content analysis of select Chinese publications, as well as interviews with working and former Chinese journalists and discussions with experts to provide context, including China-based environmental lawyers and NGO leaders.

Relatively little coverage of climate change appeared until 2006, when the Chinese government formulated its positions and framed the parameters of possible public discourse. Since then, coverage has increased significantly. But the Chinese media have played a different role than media operating in a Western context: their focus has been on elaborating the impacts, not the causes of climate change; articles emphasise points of consensus, not debate (as in the Western debate over 'climate sceptics'); the government's position that developed and developing countries should bear 'differentiated responsibilities' in reducing greenhouse gas emissions is reflected in story and headline selection; and reporters most often look to government officials as sources, as well as international scientists and business leaders. One voice not often heard in the public debate, or quoted in media coverage, is that of China's domestic civil society.



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Mr Wing-Chung Law: Deputy Assignment Editor, Ming Pao Newspapers Limited, Hong Kong
(sponsor: Chevening Scholarship)

Research Project: The Print Media in the Digital Age – Some Reflections
Wing-Chung writes:

Newspapers journalists and proprietors know it is the time for a change. Readers have changed their habits: instead of grabbing a newspaper from the newsstand, they click, post, share, tweet and re-tweet. Over the past decade, the print media industry has tried to modify itself to fit into the rapidly changing technology landscape but little has been done to prevent the two 'R' curves – readership and revenue – from plummeting, except those in Asia, South America and Africa, where freedom of speech has recently started budding and demand for news has soared.

Despite its proximity to China, print media in Hong Kong have enjoyed few advantages from its rapidly growing motherland. The crumble of the financial markets in late 2008 revealed that the media industry was not as resilient as we imagined. The declines in advertising revenue and readership project a gloomy future. The time for a change has come.

There is significant debate on how the newspapers should change their business model to survive. Yet, as a journalist, I am more concerned about how we win new readers, as you cannot monetise anything before you have a strong reader base. My research paper reviews what newspapers, in particular those in Hong Kong, have done in response to the rise of internet. It focuses on how the production of news has (or has not) changed and the shift of relationships between professional journalists and their readers. I argue that the traditional 'gate-keeping' role of journalists is blurring and the paradigm will no longer remain a monologue by the journalists but shall shift to a dialogue with the readers.



Ms Tran Le Thuy: Reporter, Tuoi Tre, Vietnam,
(sponsor: Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Research Project: Comparative Study of Libel Law in Vietnam and the UK

Tran writes:

By comparing the way in which the Vietnamese courts have handled what are essentially libel actions with UK defamation legal practice, this study examines some important aspects of the press legal framework in Vietnam and offers insights into several of the means that might be used to answer some of the profound legal questions that the Vietnamese media are raising. Through a combination of case studies and contextual analysis, this research proposes several suggestions as to how the courts in Vietnam need to pursue justice by balancing the public interest and private rights.

The study, in particular, recommends the public interest defence to Vietnamese journalists in order to encourage responsible journalism and minimise the negative impact of bad journalism, conflicts of interest and manipulation. Moreover, the introduction of absolute and qualified privileges, as well as a clear definition of malice, standard of opinion and the Reynolds test, will be essential in providing a much clearer role for the Vietnamese press. It will be a shield in reporting cases where the facts should be freely known as a matter of public interest.

Mr Kimmo Lundén: Business and Economics Reporter,
Kauppalehti, Finland (sponsor: Helsingin Sanomat Foundation)

Research Project: The Death of Print? Challenges and Opportunities Facing Print Media on the Web

Kimmo writes:

My research project offers a detailed overview of the challenges and opportunities created by the web to developed media markets. It explores the impact of market changes on the value chain of news media, the key trends, responses and reactions of the media industry to the market changes.

The news industry faces a dilemma in the era of the web: newspapers are more widely read than ever before when the number of website visitors are included. However, the problem is that advertising on the internet is a lot cheaper than it is in printed editions.

I examine the different strategies of moving to the web. There are opportunities for niche media. Local and regional general news media are under threat because of plummeting circulations and revenues. To survive, both the printed and online media have to find ways to pay for the content creation.

Newspapers are undergoing structural change. The ongoing global financial crisis has brought even more economic pressures onto the industry. Editorial jobs and costs are cut everywhere, but my study concludes that newspapers are not dead. They will have to concentrate on what they do best, and possibly outsource for the rest of their content.

The web and the way audiences use it has changed, and will change, the media landscape. Search engines have become new gatekeepers to online news media. There are also threats to the quality of news and news coverage if click-hunting is allowed to guide journalistic decisions too far.



Mr Suren Musayelyan: Managing Editor, *ArmeniaNow*
online magazine (sponsor: Wincott Foundation)

Research Project: Armenia – Building a Competitive Economy

Suren writes:

Armenian aspirations of decades or even centuries to live as an independent nation-state and enjoy political and economical self-governance were fulfilled in 1991 when the tiny South Caucasus nation gained independence after living for nearly 70 years under Soviet rule. Yet the heavy legacy of the Soviet past, including decades of living under a centralised planned economy system, as well as an extremely difficult geopolitical situation in the volatile region, bode ill for a smooth transition to a free market economy.

The objective of my research was to outline a vision of the future of Armenia's development given the necessity of enhancing competitiveness both in the public and private sectors of the national economy in order to meet the mounting global political and economic challenges to small newly independent nations in the present-day world.

I conclude that competitiveness and increasing efficiency and productivity are necessary for Armenia, especially at this period of its development. The continuing global economic crisis has slowed down Armenia's economic growth hitherto mainly driven by diaspora investments into construction and services and migrant worker remittances that kept consumption on a fairly high level. This is yet another signal for the



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government to start realising in earnest its long-declared goals of converting to a knowledge-driven and knowledge-based economy in which science-intensive sectors become priorities.



Ms Annikka Mutanen: Science Journalist, *Tiede* popular science magazine, Finland
(sponsor: Helsingin Sanomat Foundation)

Research Project: To Do or Not to Do God – Faith in British and Finnish Journalism

Annikka writes:

My study researched the conventions that restrict coverage of religion in British and Finnish journalism. In interviews with 25 British and Finnish journalists, I asked respondents to comment on several example stories which were about the religious views of politicians or personal spiritual experiences, expressing harsh criticism of the church or ordinary believers and questioning the rationality of faith, for example.

Conventions turned out to be similar in both countries, though journalists obey them to different degrees. British journalists keep more distance from intimate religious experiences, whereas Finns are more reticent about mixing religion with politics. Finns are much more moderate in their criticism of churches and believers, though the latter are mostly seen as lacking taste and discernment in both countries.

The British editors-in-chief, in particular, had strong views that religion is becoming a much more important subject in journalism. The rise of radical Islamism, especially in its violent forms, has forced religion onto the news agenda. It has also sensitised journalists to see religion as a phenomenon that has the power to shape people's views and actions and which therefore should be covered more in depth than has been the case in recent decades.



Ms Salla Nazarenko: Project Leader at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (sponsor: Helsingin Sanomat Foundation)

Research Project: With or Without Georgia? The Portrayal of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in the *New York Times*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, the *Guardian* and *Novaya gazeta* during the conflicts of 2004, 2006 and 2008
Salla writes:

My research analyses how the break-away regions of Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia were reported in four liberal newspapers during the escalations of conflicts with Georgia in 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Using content analysis, I examined whose voice gets through when journalists cover Abkhazia and South Ossetia. My paper analyses the geography of news, noting the geographical locations of journalists when covering these regions, and uncovers how several words, concepts and historical comparisons are used in news texts. The latter approach was motivated by the extensive propaganda and professional PR around the South Ossetian war of August 2008. Interviews with journalists covering the war and experts on Georgian affairs offered more thorough insight into factors affecting the coverage of a little-known region in conflict.

Results of the content analysis showed that Abkhazia and South Ossetia do appear in foreign news when there is an escalation of conflict; however, they are frequently covered either from Moscow or from the newspapers' offices. Views represented in the news are very often official ones, with Russian and Georgian officials quoted frequently, while South

Ossetian and Abkhazian de facto officials, and citizens, are seldom quoted.

Analysis of the language of news revealed a pro-Georgian bias in the coverage of the August 2008 conflict. However, it did not seem systematic. Russia was depicted as the aggressor by the papers, and the fact that Georgia is a democracy was taken for granted. Russian war propaganda, however, also got through. This research demonstrates the difficulty of journalists in covering a little-known conflict in the era of 24/7 news: there is little time for fact-checking and little room for analysis.

Mr Nic Newman: BBC Fellow, Future Media and Technology (sponsor: BBC)

Research Project: The Rise of Social Media and its Impact on Mainstream Journalism

Nic writes:

This study explores newspaper and broadcast responses in the UK and US to a wave of participatory social media, and a historic shift in control towards individual consumers. The aftermath of the Iranian elections has provided the latest example of how powerful new internet tools like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter are changing the way the media are produced, distributed and consumed. User-generated picture or video scoops regularly lead television bulletins and the front pages of newspapers, whilst a new category of opinionated blogging is redefining the frontiers of journalism itself.

This study analyses how journalists at leading news organisations in the UK and US are increasingly involving audiences in the way they research and tell stories. It explores the dilemmas and issues raised by greater audience engagement through case study interviews with leading practitioners and managers, drawing on previously published interviews and research.

It also explores how mainstream media coverage of breaking news events is being transformed by social media tools and citizen journalism, using case studies of the use of social media at the London G20 protests (April 2009) and during the Iranian street protests (June 2009).

The paper provides evidence of the growing importance of social networks to news production, discovery and consumption, by increasingly focusing their attention on social networks appointing twitter correspondents and social media editors.

The conclusions are framed within a wider debate about the importance of these developments to the changing shape of mainstream media organisations, to levels of civic engagement, debates about quality, trust and accuracy, and to discussions about the practice and future of journalism itself.

Mr Mohammed El-Sayed: Reporter for *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Egypt (sponsor: Mona Megalli)

Research Project: The Rise of Islamic Satellite Channels

Mohammed writes:

In recent decades the Arab world has witnessed an unprecedented boom in the number of international television services. The Arab satellite television industry began in the early 1990s in the wake of the first Gulf War. Arab entrepreneurs and governments then became interested in launching regional Arabic-language satellite channels, the former in pursuit



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of financial gain; the latter in search of regional influence over editorial lines, programmes, and pan-Arab public opinion.

Amid these flourishing circumstances and a broader move toward specialisation, Arabic-speaking religious Islamic satellite channels emerged in the latter part of the 1990s. With the launching in 1998 of the first religious Islamic satellite channel, Iqraa, a new trend of launching religious channels began to gain momentum.

The research paper is aimed at giving an overview of the history of the religious Islamic satellite stations and the factors that helped to boost the proliferation of these channels. In addition, the research sheds light on the social, political and economic dimension that contributed to catapulting these channels to fame. Among the issues tackled by the research is the business model adopted by these channels and to what extent these models proved to be successful. The paper also tries to give a critical analysis of the different versions of Islam as well as the type of content aired by these channels. Finally, the research estimates the future challenges and opportunities that remain open for these channels as far as competition and market saturation are concerned.



Ms Ramata Soré: Investigative Journalist and writer, *L'Événement*, Burkina Faso bimonthly, Burkina Faso (sponsor: Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Research Project: The Murder of Norbert Zongo: a History of Investigative Journalism in Burkina Faso

Ramata writes:

My research focuses on the challenging conditions in which investigative journalists work in Burkina Faso. The beginning of a free press started in Francophone countries such as Burkina Faso in 1990, with a powerful speech delivered at La Baule by the former president of France, François Mitterrand, who encouraged democratisation. The media started to blossom in this new era, and some journalists took the opportunity to expand their work in investigative journalism. However, they quickly learned that their work was restricted by certain elite interests.

Few journalists are willing to look for truth and evidence to shed light onto hidden events and issues in order to bring justice. Those who dare to show such commitment are subject to many threats, harassment and even death. The brutal murder of Norbert Zongo on 13 December 1998 is one example. Before his death, he tracked down the political regime and its elites; he denounced certain political practices and revealed the contradictions to the public. Globally, he fought against illegitimate decisions, mismanagement, corruption in the government and business sectors, and social unrest.

With his murder, some great changes have been seen in the media of Burkina Faso. One is the start of nationwide protests and demonstrations. Another change is that more journalists (even if they are still a few) dare to investigate wrongdoings despite the threats and harassment they receive. Because Norbert Zongo's death has moulded the media scene and led to commitments to investigative journalism, some experts say that it also helps to tell a history of investigative journalism.

Ms Laura El-Tantawy: Freelance Documentary
Photographer, Corbis/Africa Pictures
(sponsor: Thomson Reuters Foundation).

Research Project: In the Shadow of the Pyramids: A Case Study of Free Expression in Egyptian Media, 2004–9

Laura writes:

Since 2004, Egypt's media sector has undergone what looks like a substantial makeover, particularly in the area of print journalism and on-line blogging, where the government has deliberately allowed more leeway for freedom of expression to an extent never before observed in the country's history. It is difficult to evaluate whether this is in response to the unwavering campaign launched by the United States government to promote democracy in the Middle East in the aftermath of 11 September 2001, or simply an awakening stimulated by the popularity of satellite television in the Middle East and the role it has played in re-shaping the Arab media landscape and enriching the expectation of its viewers beyond the habitual realm of state-fed news. What is obvious is that the Egyptian government has appeared more tolerant of traditional journalists and internet bloggers venting their frustration against the regime. However, the extent of this freedom remains largely in question, given the government continues to employ old-fashioned bullying tactics and in many cases, heavy handling, towards journalists and bloggers who exercise more freedom of expression than the government is currently willing to sanction.

My research examines the role played by independent newspapers and internet bloggers in pushing the boundaries of freedom of expression. It also analyses how the government tends to deal with them in an effort to gauge the degree of free speech in Egypt and understand whether the government's current strategy is one of sincere resolve or simply an act of showmanship.



Ms Haiyan Wang: Chief Editor, *Southern Metropolitan Weekly*, China (sponsor: Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Research Project: A Case Study of Investigative Journalism in China

Haiyan writes:

It has long been held in the West that investigative journalism presents itself as an adversary to officialdom by exposing problems in the public domain and demanding the response of public officials. However, much of the literature is based on experiences in the US and the UK, and so the way in which investigative journalists in other countries and cultures interact with politicians is not represented sufficiently.

My research commences by asking whether or not investigative journalism in China holds the same adversarial position against officialdom as does its Western counterparts, and, if not, what the relationship looks like. Through a case study of reporting on massive official corruption, the research concludes that Chinese investigative journalism operates within a patron–client network and reinforces the clientelistic relationship through transmitting the voice of the political powerful and building a favourable image in exchange for political protection, economic profit and individual gain.





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