

INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM AND SOCIETY – THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN THE MODERN WORLD (IR245)

Course duration: 54 hours lecture and class time (Over three weeks)

LSE Teaching Department: Department of International Relations

Lead Faculty: Professor Charlie Beckett and Dr Shani Orgad

Pre-requisites: An interest in contemporary journalism and international politics and fluent understanding of written and spoken English. There is more information on this in the course content.

Course Outline:

This course is a unique opportunity to benefit from the LSE's outstanding research into modern journalism combined with talks by pioneering media professionals. It is taught by leading academics, including Professor Charlie Beckett who was an award-winning senior journalist with the BBC and who runs the LSE's international journalism think-tank, Polis. Every day there will be a lecture by a senior academic who teaches the LSE's post-graduate media and communications courses. There will also be a daily guest talk by a leading media practitioner giving you insights into contemporary cutting edge news media. The seminars will encourage you to think and act like a journalist facing all the dramatic ethical and technological challenges of reporting the complex and dangerous world we live in.

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We live in a world where information is an increasingly critical resource. The news media play a crucial role in the production and dissemination of that information. From Twitter to the New York Times, from Al Jazeera to Facebook, journalism is having an impact on our personal and political lives, and so it is vital to understand their role in the modern world.

Participants in this course will emerge with a better understanding of the shifts taking place in the practices, forms and processes within the news media and their consequences for the role of journalism in contemporary society.

Texts:

- C. Beckett, *SuperMedia*, Blackwell (2008)
- R. Silverstone, *Media and Morality*, Polity (2006)
- C. Beckett, *WikiLeaks: News In The Networked Era* Polity (2012)

Other Sources:

- POLIS blog: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/polis/>
- POLIS on Twitter: @charliebeckett

Course Structure:

- Lectures: 36 hours
- Classes: 18 hours
- Assessment: Formative assessment will be a presentation to be given in class. Summative assessment will be an assessed essay (50% of overall grade) and final two-hour examination (50% of overall grade).

Day 1**1. Introductory lecture: the media landscape (Charlie Beckett)**

This lecture will set out the structure and key concepts of the course. It will explain the context of current media business models and practice. Journalism is viewed here from the perspective of audiences as well as producers, publics as well as politicians. In the digital era media change opens up possibilities for political and editorial innovation, but in reality what are the effects of networked journalism?

Required Reading:

- Beckett, C 2008 SuperMedia, Blackwell, Chapter One pp 9-41

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Additional Reading:

- Beckett, C (2008) SuperMedia, Blackwell, Chapter Two pp. 41-87
- Rantanen, T (2009) When News Was New, Wiley, pp. 1-18
- Benkler, Y (2009) Wealth of Networks. Yale. available here:
http://www.benkler.org/Benkler_Wealth_Of_Networks_Chapter_7.pdf
- Beckett, C (2010) The Value of Networked Journalism. Polis. Available here:
<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/POLIS/Files/networkedjournalism.pdf>

Section One: What Is Journalism Today?**Day 2****2. What Is Journalism? (Charlie Beckett)**

What are the different ways that we can describe what a journalist is and what a journalist does? What is the historical context for modern news media? How do we understand the meaning of 'news' in a world where technology is changing the way it is produced, distributed and consumed? What are the different social, economic and cultural roles that journalism plays?

Required Reading:

- Marr, A, 2004, *My Trade*, pp1-6, pp50-55

Additional Reading:

- Schudson, M, 2003, *The Sociology Of News*, pp205-230.
- Rantanen, T (2009) *When News Was New*, Chapter One pp1-18
- Merritt, D in Tumber, H (1999) *News, A Reader*, Chapter 38, "Public Journalism" pp365-378
- Davies, N (2008) *Flat Earth News* pp49-73

Day 3

3. Media and Democracy (Charlie Beckett)

This lecture will look at the role of media and democracy. In a liberal democracy what is the function of the news media? How has political journalism has changed in the digital age. What difference have blogs, YouTube and Twitter made to the way that politicians communicate and the way that they are reported? Has the citizen become more powerful thanks to social media?

Required Reading:

- Dahlgren, P (2009) *Media and Political Engagement*, CUP, pp172-181

Additional Reading:

- Curran, J (2012) 'Why has the Internet Changed So Little?', OpenDemocracy, Accessible here <http://www.opendemocracy.net/james-curran/why-has-internet-changed-so-little>
- Shirky, C (2011) 'The Political Power of Social Media', Foreign Affairs, Accessible here: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67038/clay-shirky/the-political-power-of-social-media>

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Day 4

Networked Journalism (Charlie Beckett)

How does journalism change as it becomes more participatory, interactive, and multi-dimensional? What new ethical challenges and opportunities are there for more democratic or cosmopolitan communication in a networked news environment? The practice and platforms of journalism are being transformed but in what ways? And what is the impact on journalism role in society and its relationship with the citizen?

Required Reading:

- Beckett C. (2008) Chapter 2 "Is It a Bird? Is It a Plane? No! It's SuperMedia!": Networked Journalism in Supermedia. Blackwell, London.

Additional Reading:

- Deuze, M (2009) Chapter 1 Journalism, Citizenship, and Digital Culture in Journalism and Citizenship: New Agendas In Communication ed Papacharissi (Routledge)
- Viner, K *The Rise Of The Reader*, 2013, Guardian Online:
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/09/the-rise-of-the-reader-katharine-viner-an-smith-lecture>

Day 5

5. Journalism and 'New' Media: Between Utopia and Dystopia (Dr Shani Orgad)

This lecture examines some of the key promises and challenges of new media for journalism. It argues that the debate on the impact of new media on journalism has been framed in polarized terms. On the one hand, utopian accounts celebrate the revival of journalism and the emergence of a 'new journalism'. On the other hand, dystopian accounts warn about the threats of new media for the quality, ethics and survival of journalism and lament the demise of the 'good old media/journalism.' The lecture argues that we need to move from this unhelpful polarization, towards an empirically-informed, context-specific understanding of journalism in a new media age. The discussion concludes by presenting a series of critical questions that would contribute to this direction.

Required Reading:

- Fenton, N. (2010). *New Media, Old News: Journalism and Democracy*. London: Sage. Chapter 1: 'Drowning or Waving? New Media, Journalism and Democracy' (pp 3-16).

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Additional Reading:

- Atton, C. and Hamilton, J. F. (2008). *Alternative Journalism*. London: Sage.
- Chapter 5: 'Contemporary practices of alternative journalism' (pp. 77-96), and Chapter 8: 'Future directions' (pp. 136-145).
- Gillmor, D. (2004). *We the Media: Grassroots Journalism by the People, for the People*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media.
- Hindman, E. and Thomas, R. (2014). When old and new media collide: The case of WikiLeaks. *New Media & Society*, 16 (4): 541-558
- Skoller, M. (2009). Why the news media became irrelevant – and how social media can help. *Neiman Reports* (pp. 38-40). Available at:
http://jclass.umd.edu/classes/jour698m/skoler_files/ContentServer.pdf Jeff Jarvis' blog has many relevant entries on new media and journalism: <http://www.buzzmachine.com/>

Section Two: News in the global context

Day 6

6. News, globalization and the nation (Dr Shani Orgad)

This lecture situates news in the context of globalization and the increasing opening up of the media landscape beyond national borders. The discussion reflects on some of the implications of what Thompson calls the 'new visibility', within which news is produced, disseminated and consumed.

Required Reading:

- Andén-Papadopoulos, K. (2013). Re-imagining crisis reporting: Professional ideology of journalists and citizen eyewitness images *Journalism - Theory, Practice & Criticism*, 14 (7): 960-977.

Additional Reading:

- Benson, R. 'Futures of the News: International consideration and further reflections'. In N. Fenton (ed.) (2010). *New Media, Old News: Journalism and Democracy*. London: Sage.
- Hafez K. (2006). *The Myth of Media Globalisation*. Cambridge: Polity. Chapter 6: 'International broadcasting polity' (pp. 118-27)
- Latham, K. (2009). Media, the Olympics and the search for the 'Real China'. *The China Quarterly*, 197: 25-43.
- Orgad, S. (2012). *Media Representation and the Global Imagination*. Cambridge: Polity. Chapter 3: 'Imagining ourselves: Representations of the nation'.
- Robertson, A. (2010). *Mediated Cosmopolitanism*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Thompson, J. B. (2005). The new visibility. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 22(6): 31-51.

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Day 7

7. Reporting war and conflict (Dr Shani Orgad)

The lecture focuses on the role that the press plays in turbulent times of war and conflict. The discussion examines the characteristics of war reporting in the current media environment and the ethical challenges and promises they present for journalism, in particular, in relation to the presentation of violence.

Required Reading:

- Cottle, S. (2009). *Global Crisis Reporting*. Maidenhead: Open University Press. Chapter 6: 'New wars and the global war on terror: On visceral, vicarious violence' (pp. 109-126).

Additional Reading:

- Andén-Papadopoulos, K. (2014). Citizen camera-witnessing: Embodied political dissent in the age of mediated mass self-communication. *New Media & Society*, 16 (5): 753-769.

- Andén-Papadopoulos, K. (2009). Body horror on the internet: US soldiers recording the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. *Media, Culture & Society*, 31(6), 921-938.
- Allan, S. & Zelizer, B. (2004). *Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime*. London: Routledge. Introduction: Rules of engagement: journalism and war (pp. 3-22).
- Orgad, S. (2009). Watching how others watch us: The Israeli media's treatment of international coverage of the Gaza war. *The Communication Review*, 12 (3): 250-261.
- Shapiro, S. and Humphreys, L. (2013). Old and new media: Comparing military blogs to Civil War letters. *New Media & Society*, 15 (7): 1151-1167.
- Tait, S. (2011). Bearing witness, journalism and moral responsibility. *Media Culture Society*, 33(8): 1220-1235.
- Wall, M. (2005). 'Blogs of War': Weblogs as News. *Journalism*, 6(2): 153-172.

Day 8

8. The Representation of Suffering (Dr Shani Orgad)

The lecture explores some of the key questions and themes in current debates on media representation of suffering. The discussion reflects on ideas such as the naturalisation of suffering, compassion fatigue, media fatigue, the death of distance / the distance of death.

Required Reading:

- Cohen, S. (2001). *States of Denial: Knowing About Atrocities and Suffering*. Cambridge: Polity. Chapter 7: Images of Suffering (pp. 168-195).

Additional Reading:

- Hoijer, B. (2004). The discourse of global compassion: the audience and media reporting of human suffering. *Media, Culture & Society*, 26(4):513-531.
- Moeller, S. (2006). "Regarding the pain of others": Media, bias and the coverage of international disasters. *Journal of International Affairs*, 59 (2): 173-196.
- Pantti, M., Wahl-Jorgensen, K., Cottle, S. (2012). *Disasters and the Media*. New York: Peter Lang,
- Chapter 2: Media and disasters in a global age (pp.13-34)
- Chapter 9: Transformations in disaster visibility (pp. 178-199)
- Scannell, P. (2004). What reality has misfortune? *Media, Culture & Society*, 26(4): 573-584
- Sontag, S. (2003). *Regarding the Pain of Others*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Zelizer, B. (2010). *About to Die: How News Images Move the Public*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Day 9

9. Newsrooms perspective on suffering (Charlie Beckett)

This lecture will take a critical approach to claims on journalism regarding its ability to promote cosmopolitan agency. It will look at the role of formula in editorial production, the significance of human interest and the role of the cycle of sensitivity in journalistic reflection. What is the potential of networked journalism to overcome limits of time and distance and to foster interest and action about distant suffering?

Required Reading:

- Beckett, C (2008) *SuperMedia*, Blackwell, Chapter Two pp 41-87

Additional Reading:

- Starkman, D (2011) *Confidence Game*, CJR Available here: http://www.cjr.org/essay/confidence_game.php?page=all
- Hafez, K (2007) *Myth of Globalisation*, Polity, Chapter One

Section Three: Journalism and ideology

Day 10

10. News, journalism and gender (Shani Orgad)

This lecture discusses gender in relation to journalism as a profession and to news representations. The first part of the lecture focuses on journalism as a profession and addresses issues such as the participation of women in journalism, patterns and practices of discriminations in news production, and claims about the 'feminization of journalism' and its consequences. The second part considers the representation of gender in the news – how men and women, femininities and masculinities and gender issues are presented in the news, the construction of 'feminine' and 'masculine' sub-categories of news and the sexualization of women in news portrayals. The lecture looks at current changes in this field, in particular the potential, as well as limitations and challenges, of social media and other new platforms (e.g. *Everyday Sexism* blog) for changing gender power relations in news, journalism and culture.

Required Reading:

- Bates, L. (2014). *Everyday Sexism*. London: Simon & Schuster. Chapter 6: Women in the Media (pp. 182-211).

Additional Reading:

- Baxter, L. and Cosslett, R. C. (2014). *The Vagenda: A Zero Tolerance Guide to the Media*.
- Byerly, M. C. (ed) (2013). *The Palgrave International Book of Women and Journalism*. Palgrave MacMillan.

- Garcia-Blanco, I and Wahl-Jorgensen, K (2012). The discursive construction of women politicians in the European press. *Feminist Media Studies* 12(3).
- Gill, R. (2007). *Gender and the Media*, Polity Press, Chapter 4 News, gender and journalism, pp. 113-140.
- Ross, Karen (2013) *Gendered Media: Women, Men, and Identity Politics*, Rowman & Littlefield, Chapter 4 Women in/and news: The invisible and the profane, pp. 89-122.

Background articles on the *Everyday Sexism* blog, which will be discussed in the lecture:

- <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/everyday-sexism-blog-reaches-milestone-of-50000-posts-9003493.html>
- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/24/laura-bates-interview-everyday-sexism>

Day 11

11. WikiLeaks and Snowden: News In The Networked Era (CB)

This lecture will look at the significance of WikiLeaks and Ed Snowden as a challenge to mainstream politics and to mainstream media. It will ask what is new about WikiLeaks and Snowden and whether they represent a sustainable model for radical journalism. It will also set WikiLeaks and Snowden in the context of wider changes in political communications, especially those exploiting networks such as the Internet.

Required Reading:

- Beckett, C (2012) *WikiLeaks: News In The Networked Era* (Polity) Chapter One

Additional Reading:

- Benkler, Y (2010) A Free irresponsible press: WikiLeaks and the battle over the soul of the networked fourth estate
- Available here: <http://benkler.org/Benkler%20Wikileaks%20CRCL%20Working%20Paper%20Feb%208.pdf>
- Keller, B, (2010) Dealing With Assange (New York Times) Available here:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/30/magazine/30Wikileaks-t.html?_r=1

Day 12

12. Celebrity and journalism: Beyond the 'dumbing down' thesis (Dr Shani Orgad)

While celebrity is often dismissed as 'dumbing down' the culture of journalism and regarded by some as "trash" genre, this lecture asks that we consider celebrity and its tight relationship with journalism seriously. The lecture highlights the historically intertwined relationship and the fit between journalism and celebrity. Celebrity is not only a central object on which the news reports, celebrities increasingly act as mediators and sometimes as journalists themselves. How does the celebrity shape and transform the discourse and practice of journalism today?

Required Reading:

- Turner, G. (2014). *Understanding Celebrity* (second edition). London: Sage. Chapter 4: 'Celebrity, the tabloid and the democratic public sphere' (pp. 78-95)

Additional Reading:

- Goodman, M. and Barnes, C. (2011). Star/poverty space: the making of the 'development celebrity'. *Celebrity Studies*, 2(1): 69-85.
- Greenslade Blog. (23 August 2011). 'Coverage of Gérard's little pee illustrates, again, how celebrity culture undermines journalism'.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/greenslade/2011/aug/23/celebrity-newspapers>
- Marshall, P.D. (2005). Intimately intertwined in the most public way: Celebrity and journalism (pp 19-29). In S. Allan (ed), *Journalism: Critical Issues*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Ponce de Leon, C. L. (2002). *Self-exposure: Human-interest Journalism and the Emergence of Celebrity in America, 1890-1940*. North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press.
- Scott, M. (2014). The role of celebrities in mediating distant suffering. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*. Published online before print May 8, 2014.

Credit Transfer: If you are hoping to earn credit by taking this course, please ensure that you confirm it is eligible for credit transfer well in advance of the start date. Please discuss this directly with your home institution or Study Abroad Advisor.

As a guide, our LSE Summer School courses are typically eligible for three credits within the US system and 7.5 ECTS in Europe. Different institutions and countries can, and will, vary. You will receive a digital transcript and a printed certificate following your successful completion of the course in order to make arrangements for transfer of credit.

If you have any queries, please direct them to summer.school@lse.ac.uk