



Editorial

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ABSTRACT

This is the editorial of *JOMEC Journal's* issue 16, which is an open issue covering a wide array of topics in the fields of journalism, media and culture. The editorial provides an overview of the contents, summarising the included articles and book reviews.

KEYWORDS

journalism studies, media studies, cultural studies, communication studies, film studies, interdisciplinary approaches

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This open issue collates and celebrates unique insights into journalism, media and culture. Although the themes of the contributions are wide-ranging, they are all interconnected by innovative arguments and approaches, which – we hope – are reflected in the structure of the issue. The first part includes five journal articles dealing with contemporary issues.

In the first article, Julia Boelle (2021), examines how the media deal with unknown information in the reporting of events by analysing the UK television coverage of airplane disasters. Considering concepts such as 'uncertainty' and 'ignorance', the article argues that, contrary to journalism's ideals of 'objectivity' and 'truth-telling', the media draw on modality and speculation to offer possible theories. These findings have implications for current times, with the COVID-19 pandemic making uncertainty and ignorance more prominent and the

study of the concepts' representation in the news more important than ever before.

The second article, written by Renáta Sedláková and Marek Lapčík (2021), presents an analysis of Czech Television's public service broadcasting of the Skripal news event in 2018, when a Russian double agent was poisoned in the UK, and its international repercussions. The case study analyses the representation of the event in five television news programmes and shows the naturalisation of the British narrative of the story by Czech television. The authors argue – consistent with the conclusions of other studies on the Czech public service media operation – that the mainstream media accept and reproduce official political discourse.

The third article by Abby Lauren Kidd (2021) investigates how Hollywood actor Scarlett Johansson is portrayed as a posthuman female in four science fiction films. The author shows how Scarlett Johansson's embodiment as the 'ideal' posthuman female is problematic from a feminist point of view. Kidd (2021) eloquently argues that discourses and representations of Johansson's posthuman characters are controlled by men and, therefore, in many aspects retrograde for women. This can also have an impact on how we perceive artificial intelligence and other technological advancements.

In the fourth article, Izzati Aziz (2021) challenges the traditional notion of modernity by discussing the concept in the Malaysian context and providing a valuable trajectory of the country's modernisation project through the lens of Malaysian identity, Asian values, multiculturalism and religious identity. The use of critical discourse analysis also provides insight into the role of newspaper journalism and how it is used as a vehicle for cultural change in Malaysia.

Last but not least, the fifth article, written by Michael J. Day and Merisa Skulsuthavong (2021), makes a postmodernist examination of how developments in the field of Web Science can be used to explore political activism in Thailand. The focus on hashtag activism by digitally native Thai activists brings fresh insights into the emergence of post-colonial resistance whilst also offering an intriguing conceptual model by which we can begin to understand the political culture that exists within the country. Situating the discussion within the field of Web Science also allows a multi-disciplinary approach that serves to enrich the study of journalism, media, and culture.

The second part of this open issue includes six reviews of recent publications in the fields. Given the ten-year history of *JOMEC Journal*, we decided to celebrate the recent work by scholars from Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture. The section kicks

off with the journal's very first Welsh-language contribution: Johanna Karlsson's review (2021) of Kerry Moore's book (Cardiff University) *Adrodd ar Dlodi: Naratif y Cyfryngau Newyddion a Chyfathrebiadau'r Trydydd Sector yng Nghymru* [Reporting on Poverty: News Media Narratives and Third Sector Communications in Wales]. Carolyne M. Lunga (2021) focussed the comparative review on the 2009 and 2020 editions of *The Handbook of Journalism Studies* edited by Karin Wahl-Jorgensen (Cardiff University) and Thomas Hanitzsch. Our very own PhD students, Andy Nelmes (2021) and Zizheng Yu (2021), reviewed the books *Community-Centered Journalism* by Andrea Wenzel and *Citizen Media and Practice: Currents, Connections, Challenges* edited by Hilde C. Stephansen and Emiliano Treré (Cardiff University). Kate Penney (2021) examined *Journalism, Gender and Power* edited by Cynthia Carter (Cardiff University), Linda Steiner and Stuart Allan (Cardiff University). Meanwhile, Julien Grub (2021) focussed the review on the book *Producing British Television Drama: Local Production in a Global Era* by Ruth McElroy and Caitriona Noonan (Cardiff University).

We as editors would like to extend our gratitude to all authors because the publication of this issue would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication. Equally, we would like to thank the anonymous peer reviewers for their detailed comments and suggestions which were critical in preparing and polishing the contributions for publication. Many thanks are also due to Paul Bowman, whose advice and guidance have been invaluable throughout the editorial process, and Lucy Aprahamian, who bravely took on the challenge of redesigning *JOMEC Journal's* layout and visually capturing the spirit of Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture.

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Julia Boelle is a PhD graduate of Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture. Cate Hopkins, Petra Kovačević, Andy Nelmes and Rachel Phillips are current PhD students at the School.

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