

Reviews

The reviews pages are edited by Tor Clark. If you have a book you would like to review or have recently read a new book we should know about please get in touch. Also if you have recently had a book published and would like to see it reviewed, please contact Tor on tor.clark@leicester.ac.uk

Welcome to the latest *Journalism Education* Reviews Section, with once again an eclectic mix of titles, all of which we think are worthy of a place on your reading lists.

Our friends in the Routledge book marketing department will be pleased with JE this issue, as two of their huge and useful Companion series attract the attention of JE reviewers.

The Routledge Companion to Journalism Ethics offers a wide sweep across an increasingly important area in the study of journalism, according to regular reviewer Michael Foley from Dublin, while the Routledge Companion to Political Journalism offers varied insights in its area.

The BBC is celebrating its centenary and as the UK's most important vehicle for trusted news, earns its own People's History, which is reviewed with a wry nostalgic look by one of its former employees, John Mair.

Mair himself is these days best known to AJE members as the prolific lead editor of the hackademic series of books about journalism, and the penultimate text in the series is an edited collection about the reporting of the ongoing war in the Ukraine, including eye-catching despatches from the frontline, from the likes of Orla Guerin and Alex Thomson.

Finally, when we've finished travelling the world and examining big journalistic issues, our students need to know how to actually report the news in a changing technological landscape, so new reviewer, the long-time broadcast news executive turned journalism academic Kester Demmar, offers a useful insight into the updating of Paul Bradshaw's indispensable guide to digital journalism, *The Online Journalism Handbook*.

Plenty to keep us and our students informed as we enter a new academic year.

As always, we are always looking out for reviews and reviewers, so if you would like to review a book about journalism or suggest one for a future JE reviews section, please contact JE reviews editor Tor Clark at tor.clark@leicester.ac.uk

The Routledge Companion to Journalism Ethics, edited by Lada Trifonova Price, Karen Sanders and Wendy N Wyatt

Review by Emeritus Professor Michael Foley, Technological University Dublin, Ireland

It is instructive to look at the short lists of international journalism competitions, such as European Commission-funded Daphne Caruana Galizia prize for journalism.

What is striking are the number of entries from groups of investigative journalists working together, often across national borders, using data, information gathered online, operating with advanced technologies. It is this new journalistic world many of the essays in this collection are addressing, a world, that is according to one of the editors of this collection, Karen Sanders, 'a more participatory, networked set of communications practices and specialism, organised and disseminated in diverse ways'.

This is an important collection with an eye-watering number of contributions, 57, under four headings and while it is inevitable with such a large number of essays the standard can vary and the choice of subjects can sometimes be puzzling, the editors have managed to assemble an impressive list of contributors.

The book is divided into sections. The Development of Ethics and Perspectives from around the world, contains two especially interesting essays, by Karen Saunders, who places media ethics within the tradition of virtue ethics, and Tony Harcup, who broadens the discussion about 'slow journalism'. Enduring Issues has essays by Angela Phillips on the important issue of agency and Jackie Newton and Sallyanne Duncan who continue their discussion on reporting death and trauma. The Case Studies section takes examples from India, Russia, Hungary and Turkey, while Emerging Issues has an important essay on 'the right to be forgotten' by Ana Azurmendi as well as those big issues now impacting on daily journalism, big data, artificial intelligence, virtual reality.

The last section, Standards Setting, looks at how journalists and others have tried to formulate ethical codes and standards. There is a good essay by Chris Frost who draws on his expertise in the area of self-regulation, while Brian Cathcart describes the sorry state of self-regulation in the UK. Lada Trifonova Price, one of the editors, writes on ethics codes in Romania and Bulgaria, which has a special interest to this reviewer, who worked in media development in Bulgaria and fully agrees with the writer.

Some essays will lead to classroom debates. Pieter J Fourie suggests journalism ethics becomes something called communications ethics, but he fails to see journalism as a specific practice, independent of other media practices, that has a public good and operates in the public interest.

Despite the high number of contributions there are omissions. Why has the area that has challenged journalism ethics and practice since the 1960s and before been ignored so comprehensively? Northern Ireland. The political violence in that part of the UK has led to censorship, conflict, the death of two journalists (in the case of Lyra McKee only on 2019), challenged issues such as the absolute defence of source anonymity and the banning of documentaries and court cases. But Northern Ireland does not warrant even one reference in the index. Maybe this is in itself an ethical issue. Covering conflict generally has its own ethical issues, that is not included, nor are the issues associated with covering children and childhood.

An Islamic Perspective on Media Ethics by Saadia Izzeldin Malik, argues western ethical values and principles such as individual freedom and autonomy, truth-seeking, human dignity, accountability and also core values in Islamic ethics. She also suggests development journalism as the model through which these Islamic ethical values could be served. The reconciliation between western ethics and Islamic teaching is interesting but at the end one wonders what she believes journalism is for. She teaches at Qatar University, a country where there is no press freedom and Al Jazeera, funded by the government, and probably operating within a broad western ethical approach, can criticise other states, but not Qatar.

Yayu Feng's Confucian approach to journalism ethics is fascinating. During the Covid-19 pandemic the Chinese government dismissed several senior officials and the press coverage played an 'important role in ensuring that those in power were accountable'. She argues that: 'Aligned with the Confucian conception, the Chinese government openly acknowledges the importance of the public and the media in holding power to account'. That might be one way of reading it, but another is contained in the latest edition of *Index On Censorship*, where Dan Chen suggests the stories that appear on Chinese local TV exposing government corruption is 'a sly way of entrenching state power'. He continues: "While the initial media reporting is critical, the resolution of each issue becomes a positive news story that signals the effectiveness of the Chinese system."

This is an important collection and, given the number of contributors, difficult to do justice to in a review. It will be a huge aid in teaching journalism ethics and contribute to debates.

The Routledge Companion to Journalism Ethics, Edited by Lada Trifonova Price, Karen Sanders and Wendy N Wyatt, published by Routledge, 2022, Oxford and New York, pp552, RRP £35.99, ISBN 9780367206475

The Routledge Companion to Political Journalism, edited by James Morrison, Jen Birks and Mike Berry

Review by Tor Clark, University of Leicester, UK

Political journalism is the most important part of journalism, the main vehicle for journalism to make positive changes. It may not be the most popular, it may not be the specialism journalism our students most have a burning desire to enter, but its vital to help normal people make their own big decisions and it leads the news list most of the time on the best journalism platforms.

All of which makes it even more of a mystery why there are not many, many more books about political journalism, especially books trying to get below the surface to the mechanics of political journalism. What do the political journalists do? How do they do it? What sort of compromises must they make for their stories and their long-term success off the page, off the screen, behind the camera and microphone?

Here's a big expensive book trying to give us a lot more detail about what political journalism is, what it does and its influence all over the world.

It deconstructs political journalism before taking us on a tour of the craft all around the world. Our guides are editors James Morrison of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Jen Birks of the University of Nottingham and Mike Berry of Cardiff University, three Journalism academics well known to AJE members.

Dr Morrison is also a hero to generations of NCTJ-qualified journalists, thanks to his long-time editing of the NCTJ textbook, *Essential Public Affairs for Journalists*, which is the set text and indispensable bible for all students trying to pass their NCTJ PA exams. He won't mind me saying he is political geek, or perhaps he might prefer 'enthusiast', who has been of huge service to so many would-be reporters trying to make sense of local government organisation and the like, so he is a worthy guide to the wider world of political journalism.

Over 40 chapters this book offers us a history of political journalism, a look at its relationship with media systems, a discussion of its role in pluralism, partisanship and populism, public engagement, agenda-setting, media effects, voting behaviour and finally political controversy around the world.

The editors have assembled a stellar cast of chapter authors from around the world, including Brian Cathcart, John Corner, Karin Wahl Jorgensen, Erik Neveu, Darren Lilleker, Shelley Thompson, David Deacon, Dominic Wring, Elena Vartanova and my old colleagues Richard Danbury and Stuart Price. Touchingly the book is dedicated to the late Professor Jay Blumler, the doyen of academics in media and politics.

These authors investigate wide and deep phenomena of political journalism from both general and geographically-specific perspectives. Stopping-off points outside the UK and US include Africa, Scandinavia, Brazil, Hungary, Malaysia, Myanmar, Italy, Greece and Spain. Scotland and Russia both get a couple of chapters each.

Of course, with so many authors, it is impossible to offer an overview of the theoretical direction of the book, but better to suggest general chapters are used for introductions to important aspects of political journalism, such as its history, its role in elections, the importance of fact checking and the impact of social and digital media while the country-specific chapters offer insight into particular phenomena in a narrow but instructive national context.

So this is a long-overdue consideration of a wide range of aspects of political journalism which is worth its place on any reading list concerned with political journalism. None of our students will actually buy it, but there is a lot of material within it to make useful contributions to their studies from the safety of their university library's ebooks catalogue.

The Routledge Companion to Political Journalism, edited by James Morrison, Jen Birks and Mike Berry, published by Routledge, 2022, pp450, RRP £190. Print ISBN: 9780367248222 eBook ISBN: 9780429284571

The BBC, A People's History, by David Hendy

Review by John Mair, producer, author and educator, UK

This is a stunner of a book. Brilliantly researched and a great read. All 570 pages. Hendy deserves plenty of kudos for it. He calls it 'a people's history' and unlike some other official BBC histories it does reach down from the BBC Brahmin caste to the depths of producers and cleaners at the Corporation and the unseen, the audience.

Hendy uses the comprehensive BBC Written Archives Centre as well as the Mass Observation archives at his Sussex University as sources. He also interviewed some of the actors to the century-old drama that is the national broadcaster's eternal fate. 'This place is always in crisis', as the current Director-General Tim Davie once told me.

The century starts in 1922 with the creation of the British Broadcasting Company. The Corporation came five years later. John Reith and his original lieutenants may have been visionary but in a very Presbyterian way. Broadcasting to them was social medicine to be taken and do good to the populace. Hence the JR triptych mission statement 'Inform, educate and entertain'. The latter was kept under 'Auntie's' skirts until wartime on radio, and on television until the launch of competitor ITV in the mid-1950s.

Hendy gets well into the warp and weft of the 'BBC boss class' as we rebels in Lime called them, but also into the BBC in British national life. Sometimes it gets the national mood right, sometimes wrong. On the 1926 General Strike Reith proclaimed the BBC was for the government and Winston Churchill. He was wrong. The Corporation redeemed itself in spades in the Second World War and more recently as the go-to source of trusted information in the Covid pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The BBC has simply got better at understanding and not talking at its audience over the decades. It has had to.

One audience it will never satisfy is the British political class. Former Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries, with her 'whack-a-mole' tactics on the licence fee, was just the latest iteration. Politicians, of all shades, seem unable to distinguish a public from a state broadcaster. It belongs to the licence payers not the party in power. Former PM Boris Johnson, like his role model Winston Churchill, thought by huffing and puffing they would blow the BBC house down. They won't so long as the BBC retains the public's trust.

Hendy chronicles well the attempts over the century to 'tame' the BBC, sometimes directly with their man/woman on the inside, sometimes not. Usually it fails. The BBC is lucky to get away with just one government clash each year. They are all predictable and all soluble. Just.

Current Affairs is the cutting edge of the output by its very nature. The outpost of Lime Grove the source of many of the rows. Jeremy Paxman once said the motto of the old Lime Grove was 'How can we piss off the government this week'. Former DG John Birt may have tamed that spirit of rebellion but he did not dowse it for good. The occasional Panorama still can cause quite a stushi.

The 'storms' are not always in news either. The conspiracy of silence over the paedophile activities of Jimmy Savile and Stuart Hall shows the power of on air talent to do the unspeakable and get away with it. Hendy is good on talent power.

The BBC is at heart about making great programmes. Plenty of them across all genres. The archives are testament to that. Great programmes are made by great, creative producers given space to roam their imaginations by managers protecting their freedoms.

Birt has a positive legacy. He 'found' digital on the US west coast and found it early. Thanks to him BBC Online is now world-leading as is the clunky but pioneering BBC i-player. Throughout its history, as Hendy shows again and again, the BBC has been a broadcasting amoeba moving effortlessly into new unexplored areas. Radio domestic then the Empire/World Service; television reluctantly at first until the ITV rocket, then entertainment galore; digital on-line and more recently podcasting. This conquering of new empires annoys the hell out of commercial competitors.

What of the future after the next charter in 2027? Dorries wanted to kick the licence fee not just into the long grass but out of the park. This household poll tax will need much creative thinking if it and the BBC are to survive in an age of deep pocketed streaming services like Netflix and Amazon. The former has 17 million subscribers in the UK alone.

Hendy is a vital tool in any fight for the Corporation to survive beyond 100. He is the best and most readable BBC historian to date. Buy the book. Force it on your students. It will lift your PSB spirits.

The BBC, A People's History, by David Hendy, published by Profile Books, 2022, RRP £10.99, ISBN: 9781781255261.

Reporting the War in Ukraine, edited by John Mair, with Andrew Beck

Review by Tor Clark, University of Leicester, UK

Regular *Journalism Education* reviewer John Mair, is also a prolific editor of books about journalism, as AJE members will know – 48 and counting. And Mair's USP is not messing about when a decent subject around journalism and politics turns up.

His last feat of publishing magic was to produce a book about Boris Johnson's premiership between the blond bombshell's resignation speech in July and his actual departure from Downing Street in September.

Before that he had sprung into action earlier this year when he realised the war in Ukraine was a particularly modern phenomenon and would therefore create new ways for journalists to work in wartime and produced this book, packed full of A-list authors from the frontline, published of course while that war still rages.

Mair's modus operandi, is to use his extensive contacts book to simply ask people directly involved with his subject if they will offer him a couple of thousand words for absolutely no fee at all. His cheeky punts around his extensive network of former colleagues from his days in TV and academia are remarkably successful and Reporting the War in Ukraine has produced a great set of authors.

Legendary BBC World Affairs editor John Simpson writes the foreword and is followed by chapters from journalists either in the thick of the action, like the BBC's Orla Guerin, and Channel 4's Alex Thompson, to those directing their efforts and their channel's coverage such as John Ryley of Sky News and Jon Williams of RTE.

He has big name international authors such as Pulitzer Prize-winner David Cay Johnston, Jim White of the Daily Telegraph and Kim Sengupta of the Independent, but also a host of academics, well known to an AJE audience, including Ivor Gaber, Alex Connock and Paul Lashmar.

This book earns its place in this reviews section because reporting war and conflict must have their places in every Journalism programme's curriculum and so this collection, updating an audience used to hearing war stories from Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan, can now hear updates of how hot war on the European mainland is changing how war reporting is carried out for major TV networks.

Topics tackled included reporting on the frontline, naturally, but also associated issues such as risk in war reporting, the ethical issues grappled with daily by reporters and editors, and how the war is reported in a variety of different countries including the US, China and Russia.

If our students are to learn about the importance of war reporting, its danger and extreme ethical challenges, they need to know how reporters work on the frontline and the decisions, dilemmas and dangers they face every day in doing so in the latest conflict.

This almost instant book offers general readers and students the chance to find out and many of its chapters deserve places on the readings lists of our modules which examine the journalism of war and conflict.

Editor's note: The reviewer has previously co-edited five hackademic books in this series with John Mair, but was not involved in the editing this book and purchased copies for himself and his library from the publisher.

Reporting the War in Ukraine, edited by John Mair, with Andrew Beck, published in 2022 by Abrams, pp142, RRP £19.95. ISBN 978-1-84549-802-3

The Online Journalism Handbook: Skills to Survive and Thrive in the Digital Age (2nd Edition), by Paul Bradshaw

Review by Dr Kester Demmar, University of Leicester, UK

The first thing to do when you pick-up this revised edition of TOJH is not to panic. That advice goes as much to the lecturer who intends to use it as a course book as it does to the students asked to read it as a set text. There is more than enough within the 358 pages of this second edition. Enough to form the bases of a three-year hands-on practical course at any university.

Published in 2018, this update is substantially rewritten and developed to reflect the substantial changes in online journalism which have occurred since the first edition in 2011. From chapters on writing live social media content to an introduction to drones for journalists. If only I could persuade my Vice-Chancellor to establish a drone course!

Author Paul Bradshaw is well-known to AJE members, having established and led the MA in Data Journalism and the MA in Multiplatform and Mobile Journalism programmes at Birmingham City University.

Tim Crook, Professor of Media and Communication, head of media law and ethics and radio at Goldsmiths, University of London, provides an excellent chapter pointing out the many and varied legal pitfalls awaiting anyone involved in online journalism.

The book provides just the right level of insight for students without weighing them down with too much technical information or going into areas, which most probably wouldn't be their concern if working for one of the big media operations. For example, most journalists at the BBC wouldn't need to be an expert on search engine optimisation nor be able to code. However, having an understating about how to make your tweet or post attractive to search engines and audiences is vital. Just as understanding a little coding can help journalists to dig out stories.

Recent Ofcom research (July 2022) shows the speed with which interaction habits change. There are now almost four million people getting their news from TikTok, up from 800,000 in 2020. Half of these new users are aged 16-24. Journalists need to go where the audiences are and The Online Journalism Handbook helps them do that. It's packed with useful advice and helpful hints from practitioners who are engaging with the technology used for finding stories and connecting with audiences.

Each chapter covers a specific area. Chapter six looks at live blogging and mobile journalism. The objectives of the chapter are clearly defined at the start. For chapter six, it includes a definition of what live blogging is, the equipment you need to do it, ideas on what to liveblog and how to do it. There are 'Closer Look' sections in each chapter which provide more detail on specific aspects, the sorts of ingredients required for a live blog, for example, and case studies from those working as mobile journalists (mojos). Once you've got the basics each chapter has an activities list, useful for lecturers looking for something to workshop. Chapters end with pointers towards, further reading, online resources, and specific bibliography; a neat way to allow for immediate following-up on any areas the reader is interested in.

Keeping on-top of the constantly changing world of 21st century journalism is a tricky ask. No sooner do you think that radio and podcasting are dead, 'Then, in late 2014, Serial changed everything' (Bradshaw 2018, p.159). Ironically a podcast about the murder of an American student breathed new life into the format. Bradshaw's text delivers a well-researched and written guide to the state of play in our industry as it was in 2018. It's an excellent introduction to the subject and likely to remain core reading on all journalism courses for many years to come.

But the industry is in a constant state of flux and that places constant demands on those teaching journalism courses to be up-to-date and relevant. I expect another update of the book soon with specific details on how BBC News will look when it's portrayed as a TikTok dance.

The Online Journalism Handbook: Skills to Survive and Thrive in the Digital Age (2nd Edition) 2018, Paul Bradshaw, published by Routledge, 368 pages, RRP £38.99 paperback, £35.09 ebook. ISBN 9781138791565.

Dr Kester Demmar is a lecturer in journalism at the University of Leicester. He had a long career as a television journalist working for both ITV and the BBC before moving into academia.

Style guide

Please provide a title and an abstract and author details together with a 50-70 word biography for each author on a separate sheet to allow for anonymization. This sheet will be separated from the article before being sent to referees so please put the title only at the start of the article.

- Sub-heads should be in bold
- Second order sub-heads should be in bold italic
- Please use single quotation marks (double quotation marks for a quote within a quote)
- Indent long quotes of two lines or more.
- Please do not use the enter button to insert space between paragraphs or headings.
- All illustrations, tables and figures should be sent separately either at the end of the MS Word file or as attached JPGs. Clearly label approximately where they should be placed with fig 1, table 1 etc.

Citations and bibliographic references should be in Harvard style.

Part I: Citations

Place references in your work in the following order: Name, Date: page number(s)

For example,

1. Directly quoting an author

It is sometimes forgotten that ‘English is one of the most flexible and expressive languages in the world’ (Hicks, 1993, p.1)

He goes on to say, ‘In brief, the reigning media consensus has been characterised either as overly liberal or leftist or as conservative, depending on the view of the critic’ (McQuail, 1992, pp.255-6).

2. Indirectly quoting an author (where you sum up what is being stated in your own words). This must be grammatically correct, as well as accurate.

E.g.: Hargreaves (2003, p.47) believes that Henry Hetherington’s populist journalistic techniques, employed by him in the 1830s, were the basis of tabloid journalism.

3. Referring broadly to ideas you have read in a publication (not to a specific point/quote). You don’t need to cite page number in this case. E.g.: Franklin (1997) has highlighted the effects and reasons for so-called dumbing down in the media.

4. If the same person is referred to immediately after a previous citation, you can use *ibid*.
5. If there are more than two authors, you can use *et al*.

Part II: Bibliographic References

A list of Bibliographic References is required at the end. Please provide the FULL name of the author (including first name) and provide references in alphabetical order of surname. With an author who has written a number of books and articles that have been cited, list them all separately, with the most recent first (see Manning).

Examples of how to present Bibliographic references for Journalism Education are given below

Bibliographic references

Franklin, Bob (2003) ‘A Good Day to Bury Bad News?’: Journalists, Sources and the Packaging of Politics in Simon Cottle (Ed.), *News, Public Relations Power*, London: Sage pp. 45-61

Hall, Stuart, Critcher, Chas, Jefferson Tony, Clarke John, and Roberts, Brian (1978) *Policing the Crisis. Mugging, the State and Law and Order*. London: Macmillan

Harcup, Tony (2004) in Susan Pape and Sue Featherstone (2006) *Feature Writing*, London: Sage.