#### ETHICS IN JOURNALISM

Credibility, Honesty, Ethics, and Politeness in Academic and Journalistic Writing (CHEP 2018)

Andrej Blagojevic

#### ETHICS IN MEDIA – An Oxymoron?

- What is the role of media and journalists?
- What are the biggest problems journalism is facing nowadays?
- Are the ethical principles important for journalists?
- What mechanisms should we use in order to improve ethical writing in journalism?

#### THE ORIGIN OF JOURNALISM

- First journalist Hermes
- First newspapers Egypt/Babylon
- First information service Rome (Caesar)
- A breaktrough Gutenberg's printing press
- First modern newspapers *Relation*, Strasbourg 1605
- First state newspaper La Gazette, France 1631



#### THE RISE OF THE MEDIA





- First amendment of US constitution and French constitution 1791
- XIX century The progression of informative and political press
- > Decreasing of costs made bigger chance for a profit/formation of professional journalists and agencies
- XX century The era of new media
- First radio station aired in 1920 and first tv station in 1928, both from USA

#### **ETHICS**



- Ethics system of moral principles
- ☐ Ethical theories in moral reasoning:
  - Deontological (Duty-Based) theories
  - Teleological (Consequence-Based) theories
  - Virtue Theories: Aristotle's Golden mean
- A model of moral reasoning (DAD):
  - 1. Definition of the situation
  - 2. Analysis of the situation
  - 3. Decision

#### **ETHICS**



#### Example:

- A woman, 9-months pregnant enters a taxi, and suddenly starts giving birth. She urges the taxi driver to drive fast to the hospital. On the way, there were many traffic lights.
- a) The taxi driver should wait at the every traffic light and drive within the speed limit
- **b)** The taxi driver should break the rules, and save the mother and the child

#### **MEDIA ETHICS**

- Can the ethics be learned, and can journalists really learn ethics in classes?
- The aim endorsing the values of ethical behaviour
- It is uncertain what outcome of learning ethics will be in terms of professional journalism
- The moral agents are slightly changing through decades, and as much the codes and practice differ from country to country, one can always find some similarities of ethical principles in journalism

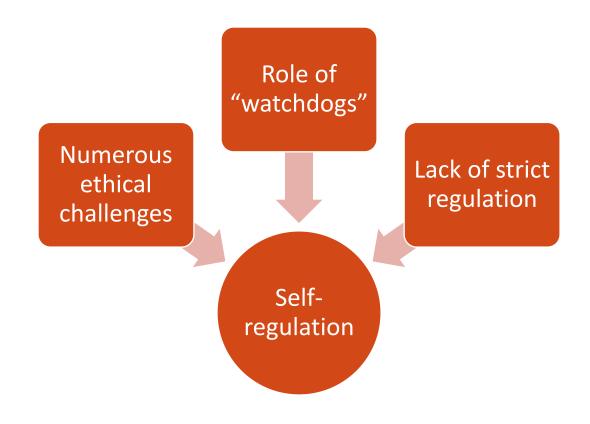
#### **MEDIA ETHICS**



#### Example:

- Mr. X shared a photo of a celebrity on Instagram with a comment below: "You damned rapist!"
- **a)** Mr. X shared his personal opinion regarding the celebrity
  - **b)** Mr. X noted the facts regarding this celebrity

#### JOURNALIST'S ETHICS



#### **MEDIA ETHICS**

- Credibility
- Politeness
- □Honesty
- □ Ethics

- 1. Invasion of privacy
- 2. Revealing the confidential sources
- 3. Conflict of interest
- 4. Fake news
- 5. Economic and political pressure
- 6. Plagiarism texts and photographs
- 7. Sourceless information
- 8. Hate speech
- 9. Shocking and disturbing visuals
- 10. Pornographic content
- 11. Unauthorized use of audio/video recording device
- 12. Corruption/bribe
- 13. Presumption of innocence
- 14. Using children as a source
- 15. Undercover journalism
- 16. Reveiling the names of victims of suicide, rape or tragic accidents











Albanac

DOTAKLI SMO DNO

SE IGRAJU FARME

provocirao srpskog

premijera, a Dodika

nazvao ludakom

**VUČIĆ ZA KURIR** 

Sada smo na dobrom putu

Ponosan sam što sam Srbin,

ponosan sam na naše građane.

OPET NASILJE U "PAROVIMA"

ER-0812 BIR I www.kumze VUČIĆ PRESLIŠAO SARADNIKE Većina članova Vlade se posle slikanja u skromnim uslovima niške kasarne brže-bolje vratila luksuznom načinu života → PREMIJER ODBRUSIO VUKU JEREMIĆU







Fashion designer Darko Kostic arrested: "HE WAS GIVING COCAINE TO THE BOYS, AND THEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED THEM"- BLIC, 23.6.2018.





Karleusa's godfathermonster: "DESIGNER PEDOPHILE ARRESTED – HE WAS RAPING THE BOYS" – Kurir, 23.6.2018.







Nezakonit pritvor zbog širenja vesti o kvalitetu





#### Niška vlast poklonila aerodrom Beogradu



ćutanju orpskih vlasti na zabranu ulaska u Srbiju Malići: Vučić prevazilazi i aroganciju Miloševića · Moni i mie mnogo utalu do

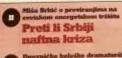
posetir Vuridevoj i Dačićevoj Sebiji, radije bih ih zaobišao i ignorisao, ali postogi i normalna Srbija, fjudi sa kourna sam saradivau od osamileseth godina, shog kojih i dalje vredi da se radi. na stvarnoj svakodisevnoj normalizaciji odnosa jeckonsčivo mi ame spsedi.

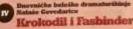
■ Opozicija i inicijativa "Ne damo siški nerodrom" najevile tužbe Ustavnom sadu

■ Gradosačelnik tivalio Vučica, a kad ga je opozicija kritikovala, predsednik Skupštine iznikao opomenu.

Vlade hoja se francuskom Vansija obayezala da u Niña node înti vite ind nsilion putalka ili ĉe mu u suprotnen









lovan Lole Vasiljević Od vremena hedonizma



#### **Fashion designer Darko Kostic arrested** (not on the front cover) -DANAS, 23.6.2018

#### Sednica o v. d. rektora 27. juna?



#### U dve reci

bograf / Disjoir (bris Lott: toj ji prijecije se vitealie:

#### Koburović Saglasni sa Venecijanskom komisija

#### ETHICAL CODES AND SELF REGULATION

- ➤ Ethical codes in journalism a set of principles, a guide that encourages all who engage in journalism to take responsibility for the information they provide
- Press councils bodies that monitor the observance of codes by solving complaints made by individuals and institutions related to media content
- Pros/Cons

#### ■ AUTHENTICITY OF REPORTING

- A journalist is obliged to report on the events of public interest accurately, objectively, comprehensively and in due time
- The obligation of journalists and editors to make a clear distinction between the facts they transmit and comments, assumptions and speculations
- A journalist is obliged to indicate the source of information (unless the source does not want to be revealed), and to consult as many sources as possible, and enable them to present their views

- □ PRESSURE-FREE JOURNALISM
- A journalist should resist any pressure, as well as any form of censorship, and economic and political interests of a publisher must not affect the editorial policy
- PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- A journalist must not receive or request financial or any other benefit for collecting, publishing, postponing or preventing the gathering or publishing of information
- A journalist should do everything possible to avoid situations that could lead to a conflict of interest, real or apparent, and that could lead them to compromise their reputation or the reputation of the profession

#### □ JOURNALISTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- A journalist is obliged to respect the presumption of innocence and must not proclaim anyone guilty before the Court's verdict
- A journalist is forbidden from using inappropriate, disturbing, pornographic and other content that may have harmful effects on children
- A journalist is obliged to respect and protect the rights and dignity of children, victims of crimes, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups
- A journalist nurtures the culture and ethics of the public word, respects the right to reply, apology and correction
- A journalist /an editor must not agree to place in any media format any form of commercial advertising orpolitical propaganda

#### □ JOURNALISTS' ATTENTION

- A journalist must not blindly trust sources of information
- A journalist must be aware of the danger of discrimination being spread by media and will do everything to avoid discrimination based, among other things, on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social belonging

#### □ RELATION TO THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION

- A journalist is obliged to respect a request for anonymity from the source of information.
   Inventing anonymous sources is a serious offense to the standards of journalists' professional conduct
- Juveniles, as a rule, may be interviewed only in the presence of, or with the consent of their parents or legal guardians
- A journalist must not unjustly create fear among people or instil false hopes\*

#### □ RESPECT FOR PRIVACY

- A journalist respects the privacy, dignity and integrity of the people they write about. The right to privacy is narrowed when public figures are in question, especially public officials
- A journalist is obliged to ensure that a child is not endangered or placed at risk due to the publication of their name, photograph or recording with their image, house, the community in which they live or recognisable surroundings

#### ■ METHOD OF OBTAINING THE INFORMATION

- Journalists and editors must not publish material acquired by using hidden cameras, listening devices, or unauthorised wiretapping, except when the public interest is involved
- □ PLAGIARISM
- Media and journalists respect and application of current legislation on copyright. When permission for reproduction from another source is received, this is done with respect for the author and with naming the source

#### ETHICAL CODES AND SELF REGULATION

- Invasion of privacy
- Economic and political pressure
- Authenticity of reporting
- Plagiarism texts and photographs
- Sourceless information
- Hate speech
- Ethics and culture of public word
- Shocking and disturbing visuals
- Pornographic content
- Unauthorized use of audio/video recording device
- Presumption of innocence
- Using children as a source
- Revealing the names of victims of suicide, rape or tragic accidents



#### **MOORS MURDERER DEAD AT 79**









laing on cake for

Frances

AND STATES



Give us a bigger house

TO SHOW

### 'MADDIE' FOUND IN IRELAND

Shock as blue-eyed girl discovered with second Roma family



ALCOHOL: STATE OF

# The weight no mother should ever have to bear

citing return to family frome

























#### EXCLUSIVE LIBS' PLAN TO 'DRAW BLOOD' FROM PALMER

STEVEN SCOTT

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Hundreds of young girls raped, beaten, sold for sex and some even killed over 40 years, as authorities fail to act

EXCLUSIVE
IN GERALDINE MAKELVIE
UP to 1,000 children could have suffered in Britain's worst known abuse scandal. Sex gangs taggeted girls as young as 11. Five deaths were linked to abuse in Telford, Strops

including amon victim Lucy Lowe, 16.
FULL STORY: PAGES 445

#### the inside STORY @

## SINS OF THE Father Eirsch was trusted in his parish. But

#### A GIRL'S ABUSE BY HER PRIEST

#### By David Hechler

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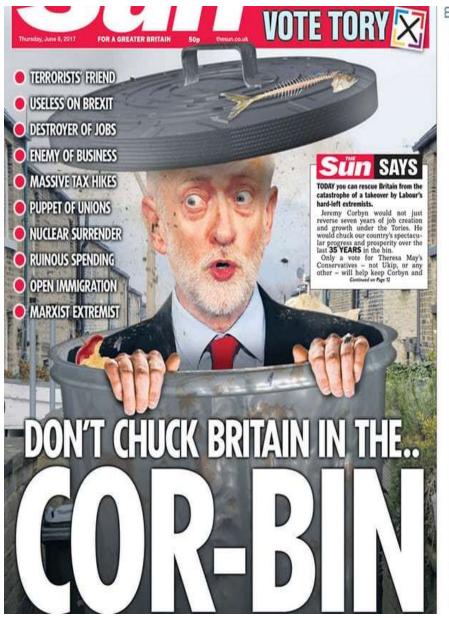
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#### KEY PROBLEMS IN JOURNALISM

- □ Determining the limits of privacy
- □Spreading the authentic information before the others
- ■Respecting the presumption of innocence when reporting
- ■Nurturing the culture and ethics of the public word
- □Struggling for maintaining the editorial independence in spite of various interests
- Facing plagiarism in journalistic writing in general

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