8th Australian Media Traditions Conference

Places, Spaces, Networks and Intermedia

Brisbane
November 2013
One tune, three dances:

Using a traumatic stress framework to understand trauma survivors as networked news sources

Amanda Gearing
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Three dances

- approach and avoidance
- fragmentation and integration
- resilience and vulnerability
Network theory has been used in many disciplines to explain patterns of relationships between people, groups and artefacts such as documents. Scott, 1991.

Centralised

Decentralised

Distributed

Dominant functions and processes in the Information Age are increasingly organized around networks’.

‘A new communication system, increasingly speaking a universal, digital language, is both integrating globally the production and distribution of words, sounds and images . . . shaping life and being shaped by life at the same time (Castells 1996, 2).’

Berglez: ‘global’ journalism
Web-based communications
Need for further research

- How journalists can find, or how they are being found, by stories.
- What forms of social media are being used in investigations and with what effect.
- How reporter collaborations can work.
- How media outlet collaborations can work; and
- Whether interaction between social media and legacy media can provide new synergies.
A model for using emerging technologies in investigative reporting

- New ways to find, and be found by, stories
- New investigative techniques
- Collaborating with domestic and transnational reporters
- Collaborating with domestic and transnational media outlets
- Using new technologies to follow up stories
Research question
How do emerging global investigative journalism practices allow for the reporting and publication of sensitive or controversial material?

Sub question
In what ways can social network theory be used to produce a model for enhancing emerging global investigative journalism techniques?
Methods

- Two case studies
- Interviews with prize-winning investigative newspaper journalists
UK-Australia collaborative investigation

- News source (Eli) in the UK located a reporter in Australia
- An Australian reporter in the UK met Eli
- Church memo reveals there is an ‘Australian complaint’
- Tracked him down.
Symptoms of trauma after sexual abuse by clergy

• post-traumatic disorders
• depression
• anxiety
• anger
• self-destructiveness
• risk-taking
• substance abuse
• low self-esteem
• feelings of shame

• compulsive and addictive patterns of sexual behaviour
• mistrust of other people, especially authorities
• sexual confusion and dysfunction
• hopelessness
• a loss of religious faith or belief in a God figure

(Courtois 2012, 97)
Newman and Nelson’s three pairs of dances:

1. approach and avoidance
2. fragmentation and integration
3. resilience and vulnerability

(Newman and Nelson 2012, 19-21)
Three dances
Bim Atkinson

Memories from St Barnabas Boarding School, Ravenshoe Nth Qld...

I had Bother Ted Neville Kennedy House, Brother Mark Burgess[deceased] John Oliver House as my housemasters. My scoutmaster was Fiery Fred. My pedophile Headmaster and abusive caner was The Most UnReverend Robert Waddington. Some of my other teachers were Brother Peter Gilbert[a Waddington induced pedophile who is now in goal], Tony Smith, Brother Philip Lamb, Irene Wilson did the laundry, Siter Monica the First Aid, Commander Birch followed by Paul Rodwell were the Farm Managers, and Les Bolton was the Pony club/horse riding instructor.
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Case study 1

network of reporters and news contacts
Child sex scandal in two countries rocks church
Archbishop in ‘cover-up’ over abuse scandal

Church failed to report accusations to police

The Church of England’s Archdiocese of York has been accused of a cover-up over allegations of abuse.

The case involves a former member of staff who was employed by the Church in the 1970s.

The Church has denied any wrongdoing and said it had followed its own procedures.

But the lawsuit claims the Church did not report the allegations to the police.

The Church’s handling of the case has been criticized.

The Archdiocese has said it is co-operating with the investigation.

The Church of England has been under pressure to address allegations of abuse for many years.

In recent years, the Church has faced a number of high-profile cases involving allegations of sexual abuse.

The Archdiocese has said it is committed to addressing the issues and has set up a task force to investigate the allegations.

The Church has also been criticized for its handling of complaints.

The Archdiocese has said it is committed to ensuring that people who come forward with complaints are taken seriously.

The Archdiocese has also said it is committed to ensuring that any allegations are investigated properly.
Banished priest's cycle of abuse stretches beyond 50 years to first posting

The alleged priest, who was also involved in the founding of the Royal Australian Defence Force, was found guilty of abusing three children aged 10, 11 and 12 in the 1970s.

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Web-based communications
Global journalism
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