

Media academic warns over digital surveillance, calls for new ethics

A LEADING media academic has voiced concern at the high levels of digital surveillance facing journalists today and has urged journalists to adopt a new ethical model of reporting for social good.

Dr Mark Pearson, professor of journalism and social media at Griffith University in Australia and the Australian correspondent for Reporters Without Borders, spoke at the inaugural UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2013 lecture on May 3, organised by AUT's Pacific Media Centre.

The lack of press freedom in the Asia-Pacific region was well documented with media in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Fiji needing government licences to operate, and journalists in Malaysia facing 53-year-old "internal security" laws under which they could be detained for long periods for "prejudicing national security".

But Professor Pearson said his concerns were not limited to these cases, and that his major worry was the "ever-increasing government regulation of media and social media everywhere", including the anti-terror laws introduced all over the world since 9/11, modelled on the US Patriot Act.

These laws "typically give intelligence agencies unprecedented powers to monitor the communications of all citizens. There is also an inordinate level of sur-

GLENN JOWITT PHOTO GALLERY FOR PMC



PACIFIC photographer Glenn Jowitt has donated a series of six poster images to the Pacific Media Centre.

They are on display in the centre foyer in new Sir Paul Reeves communication precinct building at AUT University and will be "opened" this week on behalf of the Dean, Desna Jury.

Glenn recalls about the above picture – one of the donated images:

I was travelling in the Cook Islands and these folks were delivering the VW to the island of Mauke from a Silk and Boyd ocean freighter.

They surfed the boat into their unloading channel and about 20 men carried it onto land. A following boat that I was on was flipped by the swell we were riding in on it and it was a miracle no one drowned.

I had new cameras on board and as the oarsman said, "I am out of here," and dived through the huge swell. I, being a bit of a fish, did the same. The boat sank to the bottom and we watched from the safe side if the swell watched it flip.

Many thanks to our chair, Isabella Rasch, for the donation.



Professor Mark Pearson, UNESCO communication adviser Susan Isaacs, UNESCO National Commission Secretary-General Elizabeth Rose and PMC director Professor David Robie at the media freedom event.

veillance, logging and tracking technologies in use in the private sector – often held in computer clouds or multinational corporate servers in jurisdictions subject to search and seizure powers of foreign governments" said Dr Pearson.

This had disturbing implications for journalists' protection of their confidential sources, especially government or corporate "whistleblowers".

Investigative reporters today potentially had to contend with geo-locational tracking of their phones and vehicles, toll-point capture of their motorway entry and

exit, easily accessible phone, email and social media records, CCTV in private and public places, and facial recognition in other people's images, perhaps posted to Facebook.

Investigative reporting was also under threat through cost-cutting measures in Australia and New Zealand.

While in New Zealand, Professor Pearson also conducted an external moderation review of the Pacific Media Centre and of the postgraduate Asia-Pacific paper, taught from the centre. – Anna Magavu



Jon Stephenson with BBC journalist Bilal Sarwary discuss the reality in Afghanistan today.
Image: Del Abcede/PMC

Media freedom ‘big achievement’ in Afghanistan, says BBC man

AFGHANI journalist Bilal Sarwary has hailed media freedom as one of the accomplishments in Afghanistan over the last decade.

The Kabul-based reporter working for the BBC expressed this view at a Pacific Media Centre seminar in AUT University.

In a Q&A session with New Zealand journalist Jon Stephenson, who has also done extensive reporting in Afghanistan, Sarwary noted the big steps Afghanistan has taken in media freedom.

But he also warned of the many risks journalists working in Afghanistan face.

“There’s definitely a lot of progress made in that area. For example we have many FM radio stations, we have many television stations, but media freedom is open to abuse.

“The life of a journalist is fraught with danger. [...] The threat is there: The kidnapping of local reporters, a lot of them have been killed, intimidation is there. And as I said, you know, the freedom of media is truly one of the achievements in the last 10 years, but how do you protect that?” Sarwary asked.

Talk to people

Sarwary, 30, urged more journalists to simply sit down, drink tea and talk to people in Afghanistan.

The BBC reporter, who has also worked for Radio New Zealand, ABC Australia and ABC in the US, said journalists needed to be patient in Afghanistan:

“[I]n Afghanistan everything is almost done, or all the deals are done, over green tea. You have to have the patience to go, sit down, whether that’s a shopkeeper, bus driver, tribal elder or someone who’s lost a member of his family.

“Just sit down, and keep talking and keep drinking tea until you get the story, until you create that layer of confidence. And part of the problem is that a lot of the time that doesn’t happen. Even those in the Afghan media, they have their reports on certain topics, but the people are missing, although the report is about the people.”

Hopeful

The journalist acknowledged that Afghanistan faced an array of big problems, such as corruption, torture, terror and others. Nevertheless, Sarwary said that Afghanistan today had made progress compared to the Afghanistan of 10 years ago.

That makes him hopeful for a better future, also after the international forces leave the country at the end of 2014.

“I believe there’s a great opportunity for Afghanistan on this very dangerous journey for peace that the country has begun the last 10 years. But how the next government comes in, how we elect the new president, or how someone comes in to power will all contribute to that.” – Daniel Drageset

The full interview is on PMC Online www.pmc.aut.ac.nz

PMW airs Pacific track record

A NEW ZEALAND-based media freedom monitoring and advocacy agency has played a significant independent role in the Pacific region for almost two decades, a global media and protest conference has heard.

Originally founded jointly at the University of Papua New Guinea and the University of Technology, Sydney, in September 1996, *Pacific Media Watch* is now based at AUT University’s Pacific Media Centre.

The case of the unjust jailings of the “Tongan three” in a celebrated contempt of Parliament case in the kingdom of Tonga in 1996 led to the formation, of *PMW*, said PMC director Professor David Robie.

“The Tongan jailing of *Taimi ‘o Tonga* publisher Kalafi Moala—one of the doyens of South Pacific media—led to the genesis of *PMW*,” he told the Protest and the Media conference hosted by the University of Westminster and *British Journalism Review*.

The *PMW* paper presented at the conference gave case studies of coverage of key issues and also cited the experiences of current and past editors on the service, including Taberannang Korauaba (*Kiritati Independent*), Josephine Latu-Sanft (ACP states media liaison in Brussels), Alex Perrottet (Radio New Zealand International) and Daniel Drageset (Radio Norge).

Dr Robie is going on a six-month sabbatical in July and will be writing a book and travelling to Indonesia, Fiji, France, Timor-Leste and Scandinavia; carrying out research; and presenting guest lectures and papers at conferences during this time. Professor **Barry King** is acting director; **Daniel Drageset** is editing the *PMC Online*, *PMW* and *Pacific Scoop* websites; **Dr Allison Oosterman** is acting editor of *Pacific Journalism Review* and **Del Abcede** is doing the *PJR* layout and editing *Toktok* in his absence.



Dr David Robie during an interview with University of Westminster journalism students at the Protest and the Media conference in London, United Kingdom.
Image: UOW News



The genesis of Nga Iwi E and the NFIP movement seminar - 27 March 2013



Pacific Scoop Internship launch - 10 April 2013



UNESCO WPFD lecture: Press freedom, social media and the citizen - 3 May 2013



Film Raro workshop - 30 May 2013



Pacific Journalism Review mailout - 30 May 2013

John Pulu

Director/Reporter, Tagata Pasifika TVNZ
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Television

While still at high school John Pulu was lucky enough to get work experience through Gateway on TVNZ's *Tagata Pasifika* programme.

Work experience opens doors

"I then kept in touch with *Tagata Pasifika* during my study – just persisting nicely – and one holiday break they arranged work for me on TV2's *Studio 2*."

John also took up other work experience offers, including freelance reporting for Tongan TV programme, *TNews*, and a bit of radio announcing with *Niu FM*.

His industriousness paid off. After John graduated at the end of 2009 *Tagata Pasifika* employed him on contract and in 2011 he became a permanent staff member.

Gaining practical skills

"The hands-on experience I gained through the Television major, which included directing, camera operation and presenting, prepared me well for this job. I also really enjoyed creating visual documentaries."

"Another great resource was AUT's Pacific Media Centre," says John.

The Pacific Media Centre offers courses and information for Pasifika students studying towards a career in the media industry.

Future in Pacific media

John feels strongly about telling Pasifika stories. "In the future I would like to pursue documentary making because there are so many tales from the Pacific yet untold."

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