



rethought narrative that makes sense of journalism to young people? Rather than an ‘end’ or being lost in a ‘media bubble’, we need a more dialogic, community-empowering news model—a form of trustworthy journalism that is a conversation between journalism, sources and audiences.

This book has 14 chapters with various interpretations of digital media change and strategies, from the impact of the Leveson Inquiry into media phone hacking and journalism ethics in the United Kingdom; how Middle East journalists tweeted the Arab Spring; ‘terrorism radio’ and illiteracy in the tribal areas of northwest Pakistan; to Berlusconi, Murdoch and the ‘power of persuasion’ over Europe (with special relevance post-Brexit, although written before then).

One chapter of considerable Antipodean interest is Twitter ‘gatematching’, an assessment of media tweeting and sharing patterns at Australian news and comment sites (p. 181). The findings may be surprising to some. Trusted ‘quality’ broadsheet style (largely ‘compact’ these days) news sites dominate Twitter dissemination, suggesting critiques on the decline of legacy media on social platforms may be misconceived, or certainly premature. *The Sydney Morning Herald* tops the 21 news sites surveyed, followed by the ABC, with Murdoch’s news.com.au a distant third. Of the seven opinion and commentary sites, the non-profit academic public interest outlet *The Conversation* (founded in 2011) has made a strong impact as a trusted ‘high

brow’ and engaged contributor to the twittersphere.

The ATNIX (Australian Twitter News Index) is a valuable tool created for this project. Sadly, there is no equivalent research into the New Zealand media, which recently came close to signing the death warrant of its own media plurality with a failed merger proposal by NZME and Fairfax to the Commerce Commission.

Reference

Postman, N. (1996). *The end of education*. New York, NY: Vintage Books.

Powerful, unadulterated insight into West Papua

The Earth Cries Out, by Bonnie Etherington. Auckland: Vintage, 2017, 285 pages. ISBN 978-0-14-377065-7

AT FIRST glance, Bonnie Etherington’s debut novel may not seem to be more than an exploration of grief amid family tragedy. On closer inspection, woven among and intertwined with a young family’s attempt at atonement and healing, is the story of a nation crying out for freedom from Indonesian repression. The political and social issues raised by Etherington—self-determination, colonialism, exploitation, mass murder, racism, mortality—reflect West Papua’s dark history of colonialism. This is made all the more real through the eyes of the young protagonist, Ruth. What greater way to chart almost 50 years of repression of a Pacific nation than through the innocent eyes of a child?



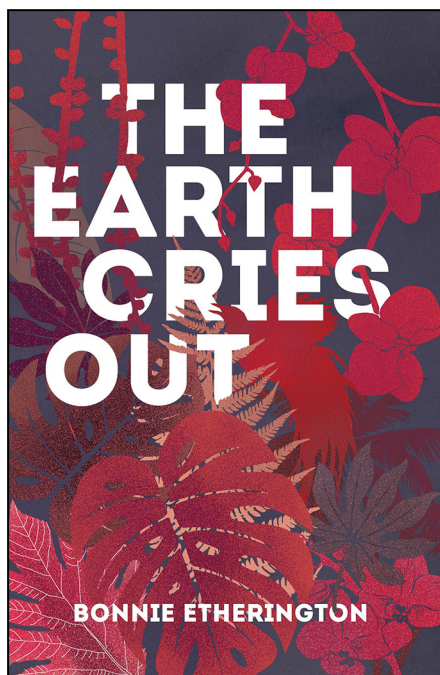


The Earth Cries Out represents a useful tool for journalists. Due to the political and social issues raised, journalists who read this book will gain a powerful, unadulterated introduction and insight into West Papua—where the word self-determination is met with Indonesian bullets:

The people in Yuvut knew how to be afraid and not trust anyone...From a long time ago, when the Indonesian Army first came, the villagers had memories sunk inside them, in between the ulcers in their stomachs and the malaria in their livers. Memories of arrows against guns. Memories of huts burning quick as grass, families nailed inside. They had stories of airstrip massacres. (pp. 83-84)

Etherington's novel allows journalists to learn of West Papua's social and political turmoil. It introduces them to the nation's origins and traces some of its tumultuous history, despite the fact the book largely charts Ruth and her family's time there during the 1990s. This passage occurs a few pages into the novel and its themes recur throughout the book:

Dutch New Guinea, West Irian, Irian Jaya, West Papua. The name of this province changed (and still changes). Its history is one of invasions and divisions. Everyone hungry for a piece of 'Java's Kitchen'. Take some sandalwood here, some oil there, and don't forget the gold and copper. Dad told me about the big invasions (the Dutch, the explorers, the Americans and Japanese and Australians in the Second World War, the missionaries, the miners, the Indonesian Army). (p. 21)



More importantly, *The Earth Cries Out* offers journalists the ability to understand the consequences of colonialism and colonisation—non-native plant and species invasion and sexually transmitted diseases—something which Etherington likens to ‘smaller invasions’. Such introductions are made all the more jarring—and eye-opening—by Etherington's unfettered and frank approach to the situation in West Papua:

It was Suharto who was President in 1969, when Indonesia officially grew by over 162,000 square miles, thanks to Papua. The United Nations had a conversation, men in offices drew lines, and the front half of New Guinea's bird body remained separated from its back half, its sweeping tail,



because the Indonesian Army had guns and friends, and the men in offices thought that Papua's bird mouth would never open and speak for itself. (p. 22)

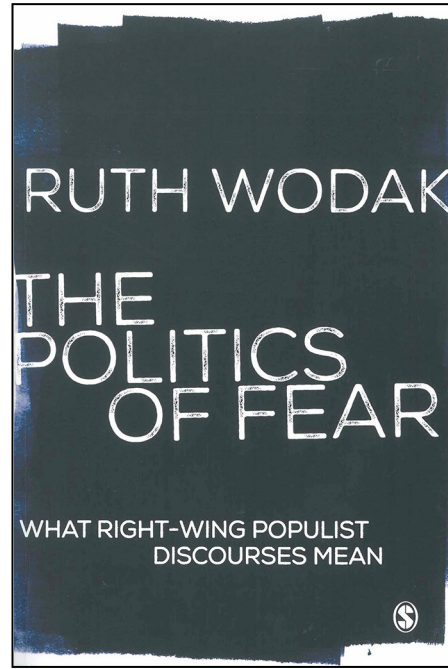
Etherington's book highlights the human rights violations occurring in a country where no media spotlight is allowed and contributes to public consciousness-raising about West Papua. Ultimately, *The Earth Cries Out* documents a nation crying out to be heard, crying out for its freedom. *The Earth Cries Out* implores for the silence about West Papua to come to an end and for journalists to play their role in making this happen.—*Kendall Hutt is Pacific Media Watch freedom project editor.*

Right-wing rhetoric makes the unpalatable normal

The Politics of Fear. What right-wing populist discourses mean, by Ruth Wodak. London: Sage, 2015. 256 pages. ISBN 978-1-4462-470-0-6

AS WE observe political events unfolding in the United States, the Brexit vote in the UK, the discourse around Korea, the French elections and the rhetoric of European nations, Wodak's book provides a timely insight into the discourse of right-wing populism and why it is successful.

In each of the eight chapters, Wodak provides campaign materials, images, online data, television interviews and news stories. A total of 15 vignettes/political snapshots are used to help the reader decode right-wing populist messages. Un-



derstanding the range of rhetorical devices being used to normalise nationalistic, racist and anti-Semitic discourses, explains why and how these political actors and discourses have constructed their appeal and as a result are becoming mainstream in the public sphere.

Identity construction and the reshaping of nationalism through immigration policies are covered, along with an historical tracking of political actors and parties and their discourse and strategies in the early chapters. The reader is helped to understand how these political actors set the agenda and frame media debates today. Wodak provides the reader with an in-depth deconstruction of how individual and collective identities are used by right-wing populist groups to justify their views about who should be considered