

towards the ‘thousands of nameless victims, [or] the corruption caused directly by war’ risks inviting another terrorist atrocity equally as audacious as 9/11 (p. 334).

#### Reference

Ackerman, S. (2016, July 1). Obama claims US drones strikes have killed up to 116 civilians. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/01/obama-drones-strikes-civilian-deaths>

*DR JAMES HOLLINGS* is a senior lecturer in journalism at Massey University.

## Valiant on digital media, lacking on indigeneity

*Media and Journalism: New Approaches to Theory and Practice* [3rd ed.], edited by Jason Bainbridge, Nicola Goc and Liz Tynan. Melbourne: Oxford University Press., 2015. 504 pp. ISBN 9-780-1955-8801-9.

THIS IS an updated version of a well-established media text by three prominent Australian media academics. Like the first edition, it is aimed at beginner media studies students,

# DON'T SPOIL MY BEAUTIFUL FACE

MEDIA, MAYHEM & HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PACIFIC

DAVID ROBIE



“This is an extraordinary ‘secret history’ of a vast region of the world of which David Robie has been a rare expert witness. What makes this epic work so timely is that it allows us to understand the Asia-Pacific at a time of renewed cold war ambitions and dangers.” – John Pilger

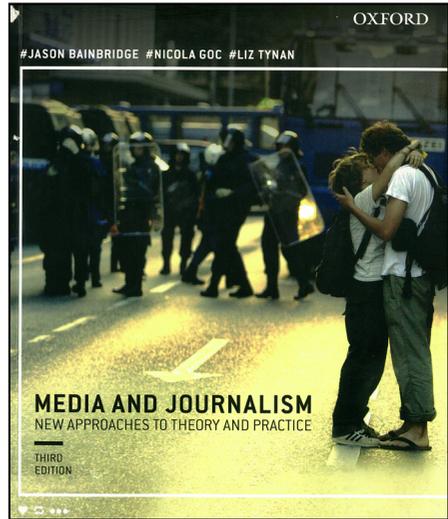
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providing them with a basic introduction to media, communication, journalism studies and public relations concepts, all in a friendly, informal tone.

It is divided into five parts, each containing three or four chapters, case studies, and ‘tools’ or student learning material. Part one is an overview of media and journalism, and their role and history, with a case on World War One and the Anzac legend. Part two looks at media institutions, including radio, film and television and public relations, with a ‘tool’ on how to conduct a media conference. Part Three focuses on media analysis, with a case study on journalism and gender, and a ‘tool’ on textual analysis. Part Four, ‘Making News’, is on journalism practice, with chapters on news writing, subediting, news value, broadcast writing, and an exercise on writing features. Part Five, Frameworks and Social Contexts, looks at ethics, media law, convergence, and postmodernity, with a case study on free speech and an exercise on digital and social media and journalism practice.

Much of this will be familiar to owners of the second edition. What is new here is the rise and dominance of digital and social media, which the authors have made a valiant attempt to cover. Also, the chapter on Ethics is much revised to take account of the Finkelstein Inquiry. Many of the case studies have also been updated, such as that on the rise of online misogyny.

For many first-year students, or those completely new to the media studies field, this will be a helpful



doorway to a sometimes overwhelming field. For those with specialist knowledge, some of the analysis may seem a little too superficial, however.

For example, I found the chapter on writing and subediting under par. While it contains many well-worn truisms and rules of thumb of the subs' bench, it doesn't situate these within a conceptual understanding of editing, such as might be provided by a reference list which included two of the classic root texts for editors: *The Chicago Manual of Style*, or the *New Oxford Style Manual*.

Thus, for instance, we have an unhelpful explanation of when to use apostrophes with plurals, which could have been avoided by reference to Chicago's superb and, in my opinion, unsurpassed rule.

Likewise, the chapter on rounds reporting, while well-grounded in Australian journalism practice, doesn't give much hint of the wealth of scholarship on the topic, such as Baranek and

Chan's classic study of beat reporters, *Negotiating Control*.

Again, the chapter on the Fourth Estate does not appear to take account of the large and growing body of academic research on journalists, their perceptions of their roles, values, ethics, and practices, which is now starting to map the commonalities and differences that define journalists across the globe. Of course, one cannot include everything in a book like this, but surely, at least the lists of further reading could be enhanced.

I was also a little puzzled by some of the exercises, which seemed to lack model answers; the ones on subbing news stories, for example.

Another big problem is the lack of interest in Indigenous journalism, let alone the wider Pacific region; a section on indigenisation manages to avoid the word 'aborigine', which also does not appear in the index. The occasional mentions of New Zealand, for example in the chapter on media law, are not enough to make it useful.

It is basic, it is too rough in places, and it is going to infuriate some media academics. But I still found myself flicking through sections with interest, drawn in by the engaging and undoubtedly passionate voice of the writers. If the next edition included expanded, more thoroughly researched references and further reading lists, and material on Indigenous media and the wider region, this could become the classic core text on Oceania media studies.

*LYNNE TRENWITH is an Auckland-based communications academic and consultant.*

## Can democracy and citizenship be reclaimed?

***Citizenship***, by Etienne Balibar. Cambridge: Polity Press. 2015. 180pp. ISBN-13:978-0-7456-821-9 pbk

**I**N LIGHT of recent world events, Pacific Island democracy issues and various articles exploring the concept that democracy is under threat, leading philosopher Étienne Balibar's book *Citizenship* is a timely publication. The book is a collection of seven lectures, many printed as individual essays, first published as a collection in Italy in 2012.

The book is not an introductory text to the concept and politics of citizenship and democracy, but rather a composite analysis—an argumentation, concluding with seven 'theses' or 'theoretical propositions' in the final chapter. Balibar explores the dialectic around the constitution of citizenship and democracy from ancient Greece onwards and interrogates the different theories and practices of representation, making the distinction between simply an 'authorisation' of representation to that of the power and action of the represented.

He asks why there is a need to argue that democracy and citizenship are