



INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2019-2020

Solution journalism and the SDGs

MINT166 - Spring - 3 ECTS

3 & 4 April 2020

Friday 1:30-6pm

Saturday 9:00-6pm

Room S4

Course Description

This 3 ECTS workshop introduces students to the world of journalism, and more precisely the recent trend of constructive/solution journalism in the context of the SDGs.

For many, the first job of the press is to inform. Through its investigative work, but also through the hindsight it provides and the perspective it offers, the press often makes it possible to shed light on the injustices and relationships of domination at work in our societies. It is not uncommon for individuals to feel overwhelmed and paralyzed, as the necessary changes seem to be possible only at levels much higher than that of the ordinary citizen. Yet, the media have the power to bring inspiration, hope and awareness to some of the most pressing issues of today, by shedding light to solution-oriented initiatives around the world; they have the ability to make ideas and solutions travel the world. 2020 is the start of the decade of deliveries. With 10 years left to achieve the SDGs, it is more than ever necessary to write news narratives about the world in which we live in order to inspire citizens and leaders to take concrete steps towards a more sustainable planet. Solution journalism can help bring to light some of today's most pressing issues, while exploring areas that receive little media coverage (health, employment, environment, education), yet are priorities for people. It is finally starting from the recognition that every day, everywhere in the world, people are taking action against the difficulties of everyday life or the deeper problems encountered all over the planet. They innovate, create, invent, invest, propose: in short, they try to find solutions. Beyond the realm of journalism, communicating for impact is more than ever essential, to not only inform the target audience but also engage with it and share a powerful and positive message for the future. With this workshop, students will get the chance to delve deeper into the field of solution journalism as well as impact communication, and develop their writing skills, but also critical thinking in the light of current media coverage of the SDGs.

> PROFESSORS

[Anissa Saudemont](#)

[Camille Loiseau](#)

Syllabus

Agenda

Friday Afternoon 1:30-6pm

Students will discuss the emergence of social and environmental entrepreneurship and learn how to properly identify what projects are actual solutions.

We will also explore the different formats at the disposal of the media to share impact and constructive stories, while connecting with audiences in the age of likes, click-baits pressures and fake news.

Saturday Morning 9 to 12:30pm

We will look into the different interview techniques and develop concrete interview skills. 3 to 5 local entrepreneurs will come and pitch their project to the class. Students will then get the chance to discuss and interview them.

Saturday Afternoon 12:30 to 6pm

In groups, students will get the chance to take on the role of journalists and report on the entrepreneurs they met earlier. This will allow students to experiment with different journalism formats such as podcasts, news articles, videos, photo essays, etc.

The end of the day will conclude with a presentation of the student's productions in front of a panel of professionals (from the media and social innovation sector)

Course Evaluation

Performance in the course depends both on active participation and involvement in the group projects. Evaluation will be based on:

- The students attendance and participation over the course of the workshop 30%
- A written submission of the interviews 20%
- Group oral presentations 50%

Course Requirements

Required readings:

- Karen McIntyre (2017): Solutions Journalism, Journalism Practice, DOI: 10.1080/17512786.2017.1409647

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2017.1409647>

- Toni G. L. A. van der Meer, Anne C. Kroon, Piet Verhoeven & Jeroen Jonkman (2019) Mediatization and the Disproportionate Attention to Negative News, Journalism Studies, 20:6, 783-803, DOI: 10.1080/1461670X.2018.1423632

- [Journalism, Media, and Technology Trends and Predictions 2020](#) , Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

- [The decline of newspapers and the rise of digital media](#) , Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

- [The express guide to constructive journalism](#) , Giselle Green
- [Solution Journalism and news engagement](#) , Alex Curry, Natalie Jomini Stroud, and Shannon McGregor
- [Solution Journalism can thrive on social media](#) , Niamh Hutchings and Jacob Granger
- [The SDG Media Compact](#) , an initiative by The United Nations

Please explore those links before the workshop, as it will help you better grasp the different concepts explored.

Solution Journalism Learning Lab:

- [What is solution journalism](#)
- [How to connect with audiences in a meaningful way](#)

Solution/constructive journalism media websites

[Corriere Della Sera - Buone notizie](#)

[10vor10 - Die Idee](#)

[The Guardian - The Upside](#)

The BBC

[Crossing Divides](#)

[The BBC - People Fixing the World](#)

[So I Can Breathe](#)

[CNN - Impact Your World](#)

[The Figaro Demain](#)

[Le Monde - Des Solutions pour la Planète](#)