

The Peculiar Predicament for Teaching Journalism in the Era of Trump

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Under Review

INTRODUCTION

Journalism is under attack. The very essence of the profession that is embedded within the history of America, has been reduced to frantic tweets and venomous outbursts, oftentimes from none other than the Commander-In-Chief himself. President Donald Trump's rants are unfortunately taking hold in American culture.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center shows Americans have only moderate trust in most news sources. ("Americans express only moderate trust in most news source types and continue to have much lower trust in social media," 2017) America is in unheralded territory. President Trump has become known for stating non-truths while labeling any unfavorable report about him or his administration as "fake news." He hides and attacks behind Twitter and boldly scoffs oftentimes in front of the camera. Former deputy secretary of state for the Obama administration, Antony Blinken, says that, "In times of crisis, credibility is an American president's most valuable currency." (Antony J. Blinken, 2017) In this regard, America's currency is worthless, and the press' role is more vital than ever...

Contribution and Impact:

I am the sole author of this journal essay.

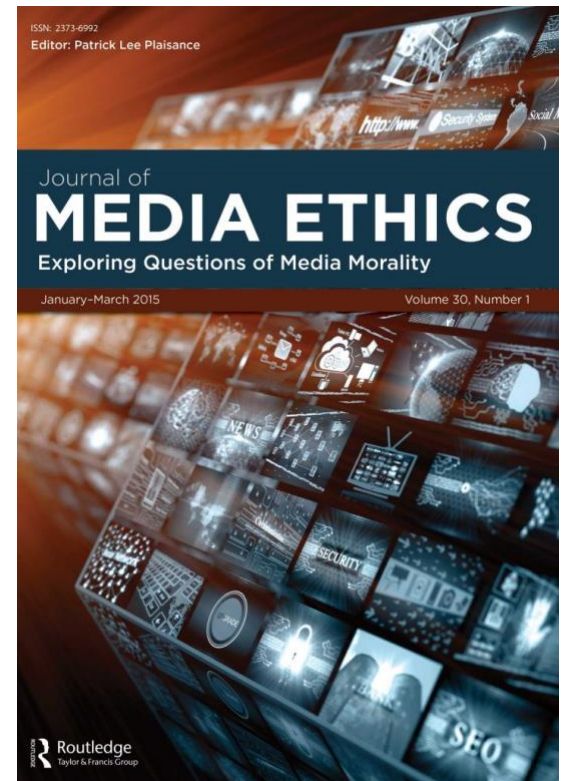
Today's political climate is a dangerous one for journalists—especially when they are being vilified by the president of the United States. Pres. Donald Trump has declared the media as "fake news," and journalists as "enemy of the people." This presents a very precarious role for professors who are tasked at teaching the importance of the First Amendment and for submitting to the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics. The journalist's role is to defend the public's right to know and to be a watchdog of the government. As the rhetoric grows from the Commander-In-Chief, journalism professors must revise their pedagogies for students.

This essay discusses the recent controversies surrounding the president's degradation of the press, and how media outlets and academicians are having to readjust to this climate. As a veteran journalist with NBC and CNN, I am able to add unique insight into this issue.

The relationship between the press and the president is being watched worldwide. It has become an ethical enigma for many on if and how the media should react to this criticism. This essay contributes to this discourse which is one of the most imperative issues facing both the industry and the academy.

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