

PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE FORUM

Sydney 2013



Program

- 10.15 Registration and morning tea Studio Theatre Foyer
- 11.00 Official welcome and introduction Studio Theatre
Bates Gill and Marie Ficarra
- 11.10 Session one: The nature of journalism Studio Theatre
Jonathan Holmes, Walter Russell Mead and Jay Rosen *with* Leigh Sales
Are internet-enabled platforms for journalism amplifying existing characteristics of the news media, such as partisanship and commercial pressures, rather than creating new challenges? Was journalism ever 'objective' and does it need to be in order to perform a useful function in society? What are the implications for citizens of a partisan or ideologically driven media? What does a 'post truth' environment mean for journalism and the political debate? Has public confidence in the rigour and usefulness of the news media declined in a permanently damaging way?
- 12.00 Session two: News media as watchdog Studio Theatre
Melissa Chan, Mary Kissel and Eugene Robinson *with* Helen Dalley
How has the technological and economic disruption of the media business affected journalism's ability to hold institutions accountable? Do newspapers and other traditional media organisations still play a dominant role in setting the public agenda? Are new media organisations, individual journalists, or other institutions (such as universities) capable of filling gaps created by resource cuts in traditional media organisations? Are some important subjects or communities affected by this deficit more than others? What is the appropriate role of citizens in the watchdog process? What are the implications for journalism of the current national security climate?
- 13.00 Lunch: A conversation Northern Foyer
Conrad Black and Bob Carr
- 14.45 Session three: Common ground Studio Theatre
John Judis, Mary Kissel and Iain Walker *with* Sara James
In a world of fragmented audiences and time-shifted media consumption, has our shared understanding been undermined? Who determines what information is considered important after the traditional bundle of news has been dismantled? Does an increased reliance on niche and partisan news sources change people's relationship to politics? What, if any, implications does this have for social cohesion, the health of our democracies and public policy making?

4 NOVEMBER 2013 | SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

@PKFSydney #publicknowledge facebook.com/publicknowledgeforum

PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE FORUM

Sydney 2013



15.35 Session four: Engaged audiences

Studio Theatre

Hal Crawford, Nicole Hemmer and Jonathan Rauch *with* Julia Baird

What affects have the use of social media platforms had on journalism? Does having direct and active relationships with the audience change the way stories are chosen and told? Does this engagement represent a welcome corrective to the imperfect closeted journalism of the past or is it a threat to the quality of public knowledge and political participation? What are the implications of the rise of social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, as popular vehicles for sharing and distributing news?

16.25 Afternoon tea

Studio Theatre Foyer

16.55 Session five: News as serious business

Studio Theatre

Jay Newton-Small, Robert Schlesinger and Kate Torney *with* John Barron

Is the market for news being set by audiences' tastes and expectations or the incentives and preferences of media organisations and journalists? Is it a cause for concern that 'worthy' news might attract small audiences or has it always been that way? Is our usage of the internet as a platform for news degrading or enhancing the quality of our public conversations? Many consumers of news are overloaded with information, but do they know less than ever about current events?

17.45 Session six: Where to from here?

Studio Theatre

Eric Beecher, Paul Kelly and Jay Rosen *with* James Fallows

In this dynamic media environment are there causes for optimism about the viability of serious journalism and the standard of political debate? What are the most promising approaches being taken by news media organisations and other institutions, such as governments and universities, to meeting the information needs of communities?

18.35 Cocktail dinner

Drama Theatre Foyer

21.30 ABC Q&A

Concert Hall

publicknowledgeforum.org

The Public Knowledge Forum is an initiative of the United States Studies Centre and is supported by the NSW Government

