



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH



# PSA Media and Politics Group Annual Conference 2023

## Re-imagining Media and Politics



University of Portsmouth  
[Richmond Building, Portland Street](#)  
[Portsmouth, PO1 3DE](#)

Thursday, 26 October — Friday, 27 October, 2023

@psampg #psampg2023

# Welcome to Portsmouth!

I am excited to welcome you to the PSA Media and Politics Group Conference 2023, “Re-imagining Media and Politics”.

## Presentation instructions

Presentations should be **15 minutes in length**. The panel chair will indicate when your 15 minutes are about to end.

Where there are three speakers on a panel, you can time your presentation for **20 minutes in length**.

To ensure that all online participants can fully participate, can those attending in person **please bring their PowerPoint or PDF slides on a memory stick or similar** - we cannot connect your laptops to the screen as we will be using Zoom for the online participants.

You may also email your presentation in advance to [james.dennis@port.ac.uk](mailto:james.dennis@port.ac.uk)

There will be a Zoom link for each room. These are included in the programme below.

## Conference location

The conference will be based entirely within the Richmond Building at the University of Portsmouth: [Richmond Building, Portland Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3DE](#).

All panels will take place in two rooms — LT3 and Seminar Room 0.10. There is an additional room available across the two days for participants looking to hold meetings or rest — Seminar Room 0.11. All rooms are on the ground floor.

## Event assistance

Each panel will have a chair and technical assistance on hand. If you need any additional help at any point during your time in Portsmouth, please contact James ([james.dennis@port.ac.uk](mailto:james.dennis@port.ac.uk)).

## Health and first aid

If first aid is required on campus, please contact a member of staff in the building or, for emergencies, call Security via an internal telephone on 3333 or externally on +44(0)23 9284 3333 - available 24 hours. The nearest emergency department is at the Queen Alexandra Hospital: +44(0)23 9228 6000.

## **Social media**

If Elon Musk hasn't destroyed the platform by October, the Twitter hashtag for the conference is #psampg2023.

Cheers, and have a wonderful time in Pompey,

James

PS - I've included some of my favourite places to visit at the end of the programme if you have some free time over the next few days :)

## Schedule

### Thursday 26 October

09:00-09:45	Registration opens — Coffee, tea, and pastries Richmond Atrium
09:45-10:00	Opening remarks Richmond LT3
10:00-11:00	Keynote: Prof. Dan Jackson, Bournemouth University Richmond LT3
11:00-11:15	Break + Coffee and biscuits Richmond Atrium
11:15-12:45	Panel 1A — Richmond LT3 Panel 1B — Room 0.10
12:45-13:45	Lunch (two course cold buffet — sandwiches) Richmond Atrium
13:45-15:15	Panel 2A — Richmond LT3 Panel 2B — Room 0.10
15:15-15:30	Break + Coffee and cakes
15:30-17:00	Panel 3A — Richmond LT3 Panel 3B — Room 0.10
17:00-18:30	Drinks reception Richmond Atrium
19:00-	Conference meal <a href="#">Still and West pub</a> — One mile walk from conference venue

**Friday 27 October**

08:45-09:15	Coffee, tea, and pastries Richmond Atrium
09:15-10:45	Panel 4A — Richmond LT3 Panel 4B — Room 0.10
10:45-11:00	Break + Coffee and biscuits Richmond Atrium
11:00-12:30	Panel 5A — Richmond LT3 Panel 5B — Room 0.10
12:30-13:30	Lunch Richmond Atrium
13:30-14:30	Keynote: Dr Anita Varma, University of Texas at Austin (Richmond LT3)
14:30-14:45	James Thomas Memorial Prize Ceremony Break + Coffee and cakes
14:45-16:15	Panel 6A — Richmond LT3 Panel 6B — Room 0.10

## **Keynotes**

### **Thursday — Professor Dan Jackson, University of Bournemouth**

#### ***Beyond the hype: A political economy of solutions journalism***

Solutions journalism (SOJO) is being enthusiastically endorsed by news organisations around the world and there is now an established body of literature that evidences its positive impact on audience emotions (McIntyre 2020), engagement with the news (Meier 2018), public knowledge (Curry and Hammonds 2014) and psychological empowerment (Zhao, Jackson and Nguyen 2021).

Such research suggests that further newsroom integration of SOJO may have both commercial and public service benefits. Yet, we know much less about the conditions under which SOJO is successfully (or not) integrated into newsroom practices, especially outside of the most well-resourced national newsrooms (Bro 2019).

In this presentation, I will reflect on our experiences of a [project](#), partnered with the Solutions Journalism Network and Newsquest (owner/ publisher of over 120 local news brands), where we trained and then mentored 62 local journalists from across England and Scotland in solutions journalism practice. I will outline several structural factors that determine the successful implementation of SOJO, then document the model(s) of SOJO that emerged in response to the prevailing working conditions of local journalism. Finally, I use these findings as a point of reflection on what normative and practical models of SOJO the industry and the academy wish to pursue.

### **Friday — Dr Anita Varma, University of Texas at Austin**

#### ***Re-Imagining How We Imagine Ethical Journalism: The Enduring Connection Between Solidarity, Social Justice, and Journalism that Matters***

Solidarity journalism is often discussed as though it is a new strand of journalism. Fostered by digital platforms, networked social movements, and inequities laid bare by a global pandemic in 2020, solidarity permeating journalism in recent years has signaled a seismic – and potentially problematic – shift away from journalism that aspires for objectivity, some argue. Yet solidarity is a longstanding (though seldom acknowledged) ideal and set of practices in ethical journalism, dating back to the 1800s in the United States. In this address, Dr. Varma will explain what solidarity means and how it relates to ethical journalism. Then, she will trace the historical origins of solidarity journalism which persist in contemporary practice. What has changed is not the mere presence of solidarity in journalism, but the willingness of journalism practitioners to acknowledge solidarity as a key aspect of what motivates and justifies their craft. While some journalists reporting in solidarity have been dismissed, demeaned, and discredited for not remaining “impartial,” “neutral,” “unbiased,” or “objective” in the face of human suffering, solidarity journalism has also been awarded with the highest laurels of professional recognition for catalyzing concrete change. Solidarity, Dr. Varma argues, is at the core of ethical journalism. Acknowledging this requires reimagining how we imagine ethical journalism, and how we understand the enduring purpose of journalism in societies that continue to strive for justice.

## **Programme**

Blue text indicates the presentation will take place online.

All sessions will take place in either Richmond LT3 or Room 0.10.

Room 0.11 is free for the duration of the conference as a meeting/rest space.

### **Keynote 1 — Professor Dan Jackson, University of Bournemouth**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth**

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### **1A: Re-imagining the Relationship between Gender and Political Communication Richmond LT3**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Chair: Caroline Leicht, University of Southampton**

**Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth**

What do platforms have to do with it? Comparing responses to women politicians on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook

*Dr Emily Harmer, University of Liverpool; Dr Rosalyn Southern, University of Liverpool*

From out-group to in-group? A comparative analysis of gender differences in political attitudes towards social media adoption and activity

*Elise Storme, Ghent University*

Visibility as Vulnerability? Conceptualising solutions to gendered harm in the online political sphere

*Rachel Brock, University of Liverpool*

“Something has to give”: Family building and caring responsibilities in newsrooms — A study of Portuguese women journalists

*Dr Susana Sampaio-Dias, University of Portsmouth; Professor Maria João Silveirinha, ICNOVA/Universidade de Coimbra, Bibiana Garcez, Universidade de Coimbra*

## **1B: Re-imagining Political Communication in the United Kingdom**

**Room 0.10**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/87546393908?pwd=c3g3SW1mNytDN2NQNG5LQTZhYk5xdz09>

**Chair: Dr Jen Birks, University of Nottingham**

**Technical assistance: Dr James Dennis, University of Portsmouth**

Public engagement or public control? Nationalist rhetoric and the appeal to sentiment in the UK Government's response to COVID-19

*Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth*

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in the Media: Myths, Misunderstandings and Untruths

*Professor Ekaterina Balabanova, University of Liverpool; Dr Gemma Horton, University of Sheffield*

Transparency is not the new objectivity

*Paul Foster, University of Portsmouth*

The politician satirist

*Mara Anselmo, University of Warwick/CY Cergy*

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## **2A. The Impact of Satire on Contemporary Political Communication**

**Richmond LT3**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Chair: Niamh Cashell, University of Manchester**

**Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth**

Political Campaigning via Image-based Media on Facebook

*Dr Rosalynd Southern, University of Liverpool; Dr Liam McLoughlin, University of Liverpool*

#McKinnonForPresident - How Gendered Representations of Candidates in Political Satire Affect Public Discourse and Candidate Evaluations

*Caroline Leicht, University of Southampton*

Generative AI Politics - Satire, Abuse, or Disinformation? The use of generative AI to depict politicians

*Dr Liam McLoughlin, University of Liverpool*



**2B. Re-imagining Disinformation: A Global Perspective on Harmful Content and How to Combat It**

**Room 0.10**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/87546393908?pwd=c3g3SW1mNytDN2NQNG5LQTZhYk5xdz09>

**Chair: Dr Katy Parry, University of Leeds**

**Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth**

The Possibility of Digital Platform Democracy : The Approach to Combating Harmful Information in Taiwan (R.O.C.)

*Chiao-An Wang, University of Westminster*

Is There Bias? Is There Noise? Assessing Potential Errors in Political Fact-checking — Evidence from a Spanish Case Study

*Alejandro Fernández-Roldán, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia*

Following elections in a highly digitalised country: Icelandic voters and their media consumption habits

*Dr Jón Gunnar Ólafsson, University of Iceland*

### **3A. Re-imagining How Young People Experience Political Communication**

**Richmond LT3**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Chair: Professor Dan Jackson, Bournemouth University**

**Technical assistance: Dr James Dennis, University of Portsmouth**

Resisting and Reimagining Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers

*Scott Downham, Royal Holloway, University of London*

Young Londoners, injustice and insecurity: How young people communicate about obstacles to political efficacy

*Professor Ben O'Loughlin, Royal Holloway, University of London; Professor James Sloam, Royal Holloway, University of London*

“Save our Staff” - Can the Hotbeds of Activism theory explain the sudden media attention given to activism at the University of Brighton in 2023?

*Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth*

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### **3B. Re-imagining Visual Methodologies in Political Communication**

**Room 0.10**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/87546393908?pwd=c3g3SW1mNytDN2NQNG5LQTZhYk5xdz09>

**Chair: Dr Liam McLoughlin, University of Liverpool**

**Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth**

When Chinese Chairman Meets US President: A Visual Framing Analysis of Images of Chinese and US Leaders Pictured Together in *China Pictorial*

*Ziye Zang, University of Leeds*

Closing the methodological gap between text- and images-as-data? Comparing commercial AI image models tags of political campaign images

*Niamh Cashell, University of Manchester; Sarah Ledoux, University of Manchester*

Visual participatory methods in everyday politics with young care-leavers

*Dr Katy Parry, University of Leeds; Katy Thornton, King's College London*

#### **4A. Re-imagining Representation in the Media: Reflecting on the Creation and Contestation of Discourse**

**Richmond LT3**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Chair: Dr Ellen Watts, University of Nottingham**

**Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth**

Rise of the 'new inactives': Contesting dominant discourses around economic inactivity after the 'Great Resignation'

*Dr James Morrison, University of Sterling*

A brotherly blessing or a homage to hurt? The creation of community through the moderation and policing practices on incels.is

*Elsa Bengtsson Mueller, Goldsmiths, University of London*

Re-imagining political mobilisation? Legacies of the 2014 Scottish independence referendum

*Maïke Dinger, University of Stirling/University of Strathclyde*

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#### **4B. Re-imagining the Role of the Media in War and Conflict**

**Room 0.10**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/87546393908?pwd=c3g3SW1mNytDN2NQNG5LQTZhYk5xdz09>

**Chair: Dr Paul Reilly, University of Glasgow**

**Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth**

Understanding the role of the Colombian media in a peace process during crisis times: The 2014 escalation of the conflict

*Dr Jose David Ortega Chávez, University of Winchester*

Cyborg warriors and technomascularity: Constructing whiteness, masculinity and authority on arms manufacturers' social media

*Dr Natalie Jester, University of Gloucestershire*

Gendering the Military on Social Media: (Re)Defining Masculinity, Femininity, and Ontological Security

*Veronica Barfucci, University of Warwick*

Re-Imagining the Caliphate: Exploring the Interplay between Media, Political and Citizens' (Self)Representations of Islamic State

*Dr Jared Ahmad, University of Sheffield*

## **5A. Re-imagining Political Participation: Reflecting on Innovations in Digital Engagement**

**Richmond LT3**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Chair: Dr Rosalynd Southern, University of Liverpool**

**Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth**

Climate Apptivism: Can we trust green apps to foster effective climate action?

*Dr Brendan Lawson, Loughborough University; Olivia Mitchell, Loughborough University*

Are unwitting participants 'fair game'? Ethical dilemmas in researching sousveillance on YouTube

*Dr Paul Reilly, University of Glasgow*

Anti-austerity politics and social media in the UK: The role of non-traditional political communication beyond 'tangible' change

*Dr Christopher Robertson, Leeds International Study Centre*

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## **5B. Re-imagining Who Controls Narratives in Political Communication**

**Room 0.10**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/87546393908?pwd=c3g3SW1mNytDN2NQNG5LQTZhYk5xdz09>

**Chair: Dr Emily Harmer, University of Liverpool**

**Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth**

Strategic Narrative and Public Diplomacy: What Artificial Intelligence Means for the Endless Problem of Plural Meanings of Plural Things

*Professor Ben O'Loughlin, Royal Holloway, University of London; Professor Alister Miskimmon, Queen's University Belfast*

Conspiracy Theories Left, Right and... Centre: Political Disinformation and Liberal Media Discourse

*Dr Stephen Harper, University of Portsmouth; Dr Tom Sykes, University of Portsmouth*

The underlying driver of all political narratives: The political spectrum of group-boundary definition

*Nathan J Murphy, Prepolitica*

**Keynote 2 — Dr Anita Varma, University of Texas at Austin**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth**

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**6A. Re-Imagining Journalism**

**Richmond LT3**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/86908562356?pwd=R21aZXJyMXp0c0UzZi9CVXBLTUxWdz09>

**Chair: Dr Ellen Watts, University of Nottingham**

**Technical assistance: Jason Searle, University of Portsmouth**

Toward Argumentational Journalism

*Dr Jen Birks, University of Nottingham*

“It Forces You to Publish Some Shit”: Towards a Taxonomy of De-democratising Journalistic Practices

*Ricardo Ribeiro Ferreira, University of Edinburgh*

Journalistic Courage and Resilience under Authoritarianism: Carl von Ossietzky’s journalism during the 1920s Weimar Republic

*Dr Antje Glück, Bournemouth University*

Revitalising Peace in Global Policy Discourses: Journalism's Role in Supporting Deliberative Processes During Crises

*Dr Giuliana Tiripelli, De Montfort University*

**6B. Re-imagining Audience Reception**

**Room 0.10**

<https://port-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/87546393908?pwd=c3g3SW1mNytDN2NQNG5LQTZhYk5xdz09>

**Chair: Dr James Dennis, University of Portsmouth**

**Technical assistance: Kris Nolan, University of Portsmouth**

News Scepticism in Times of Polarisation

*Dr Marta Cantijoch, University of Manchester*

Beyond Mean World Syndrome: Social Media Information Consumption and Threat Perception

*Miaofang Guan, King's College London/University of Sao Paulo*

Want to be retweeted? What explains retweet proneness in the 2020 American Presidential Election Campaign

*Luís Andrade, Nova University of Lisbon*

## **Conference Theme**

Theme: Re-imagining Media and Politics

The orthodoxy of political communication has been challenged in recent years. The impact of digital media, alongside socio-cultural changes, has transformed the roles and relationships between citizens, the media, and political organisations. As the work of our keynote speakers demonstrates, this opens up potential exciting democratic opportunities and disruptive innovations.

For political elites, these changes have resulted in a media environment that is harder to manage than ever before. As the sources of political information become more abundant and diverse, and the significance of relationships with journalists is called into question, parties and candidates have experimented with new forms of digitally-mediated communication. From micro-targeted adverts to social media campaigns, direct communication raises new questions about the agency of political elites in framing political messages and their implications for democracy.

For the media, digital disruption is radically changing existing business models. With advertising revenues and print circulation declining, news organisations are seeking to generate funding through other means, such as paywalls and membership models. Many rely on social media platforms for traffic, with news increasingly filtered through opaque and unpredictable algorithms. These changes raise normative questions about the role of journalism in society and its form, style, and tone, with innovations such as emotional storytelling, solidarity journalism, and constructive journalism reflecting scholarly recognition that the norms of political reporting may need to adapt if they are to appeal to the needs of contemporary audiences.

For citizens, new technologies have transformed audiences from passive observers to active participants in political communication. From citizen journalism to digitally-enabled social movements like Occupy Wall Street and #MeToo, scholarly work has demonstrated the disruptive role that citizens now play. However, such opportunities are not equally distributed across society. Changing news consumption habits give rise to fears about news avoidance and, worse still, exposure to misinformation and disinformation that can harm the quality of public life.

This conference invites empirical and theoretical contributions that seek to analyse and understand these transformations.

## **Local accommodation**

Several hotels are within walking distance of the conference venue and a train station. These include (and in no particular order):

- [Travelodge — Portsmouth City Centre](#). Closest to Portsmouth and Southsea train station.
- [Holiday Inn Express Portsmouth — Gunwharf Quays](#). Closest to Portsmouth Harbour train station.
- [Premier Inn — Portsmouth City Centre](#). Closest to Portsmouth and Southsea train station.
- [ibis — Portsmouth Centre](#). Closest to Portsmouth and Southsea train station.

## **Places to visit**

Going beyond the typically recommended sights in Portsmouth, including the seafront, the [Historic Dockyard](#), and [Spinnaker Tower](#), here are a few of my personal favourite spots that you might enjoy (which are not endorsed by the university, I've been told to add!).

### **Coffee**

- Hunter Gatherer Coffee — <https://www.huntergatherer.coffee/>
- Hideout Coffee Company — <https://www.hideoutcoffeecompany.com/>
- Baffled Coffee — <https://baffledcoffee.com/>

### **Pubs**

- The Hole in the Wall — <https://theholeinthewallpub.co.uk/>
- The Brewhouse — <https://www.brewhouseandkitchen.com/venue/portsmouth/>
- Staggeringly Good Brewery — <https://www.staggeringlygood.com/>
- The Guildhall Village — <https://theguildhallvillage.com/>

### **Food**

- Southsea Beach Cafe — <https://www.southseabeachcafe.co.uk/>
- Outside-In Food Court — <https://outsideinfood.com/>
- Bread Addiction — <https://www.breadaddiction.co.uk/>
- The Garage Lounge — <https://www.thegaragelounge.co.uk/>
- Andre's Food Bar — <https://andresfoodbar.com/>
- HUIS — <https://www.huissouthsea.co.uk/>

### **Books**

- Pigeon Books — <https://pigeonbooks.co.uk/>

### **Taxi firms**

- Aqua Cars — 02392 654 321 | <https://www.aquacars.co.uk/>
- Uber operates in Portsmouth