



What's IN-cubating?

Jan – Apr 2025



Prof Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Director, IN-cube

Dear colleagues,

I am excited to share with you our recent activities at IN-cube. In the first quarter of this year, we focused on what many of us have been thinking about – the rising influence of generative AI.

We started the year with an in-person symposium about journalism studies and practice in the age of AI. This coincided with our efforts to investigate how AI has impacted newsrooms in Asia through our collaboration with the Asian Broadcasting Union. In this newsletter, we share some of the preliminary findings from a survey of Asian newsrooms that we conducted at the beginning of this year.

I am also happy to share the details of the latest two publications from our research labs based on IN-cube's biannual panel surveys. These studies are part of our growing collaborations across academia and the media industry and play an important role in our efforts to promote information integrity in Singapore and beyond.

Prof. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Director, IN-cube

Journalism Studies in the Age of AI Symposium



IN-cube organized the **Journalism Studies in the Age of AI** symposium on 20 February 2025.

The symposium featured three leading experts in the field from both academia and industry. In the discussion moderated by IN-cube Director, **Prof. Edson Tandoc**, the speakers provided further insights on the ethical implications of AI, how AI has shaped journalism education and practice, and the evolving role of journalists in the age of AI.

Prof Annika Sehl, Chair of Journalism at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, discussed the impact of AI on journalism and journalism studies. **Prof Folker Hanusch**, from the Department of Communication, University of Vienna, explored the potential opportunities and challenges of AI use in journalism. **Mr Warren Fernandez**, a veteran journalist and now a Senior Fellow at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies, shared the vital characteristics and skills of journalists necessary in a world transformed by AI.

Some 50 students, faculty members, and industry partners joined the symposium.



Watch the full recording of the symposium [here](#).

Publications

BEHAVIOUR & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
2025, AHEAD-OF-PRINT, 1-13
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0144929X.2025.2450008>



Development and validation of the online agentic and communal behaviour scale: implications for emotional well-being

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ABSTRACT

Agentic behaviours are often characterised as actions that revolve around being assertive and achievement-oriented, whereas communal behaviours are centered on cooperation, empathy, and promoting social harmony. While extensive studies have demonstrated how these behaviours can be reproduced in online environments from offline, there is a lack of a suitable scale to measure them. The current study focuses on developing and validating an online agentic and communal behavioural survey scale. Through exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses, two correlated factors emerged and corresponded with the definitions of the agentic and communal dimensions. Through linear regression modelling, it was found that although each dimension was negatively associated with Internet users' emotional well-being, the positive impact of online communal behaviour on emotional well-being is more pronounced at higher levels of online agentic behaviour. This reflects a theoretical perspective that both dimensions are complementary and should be 'balanced' to achieve optimal well-being. In a three-way interaction, it was found that gender moderates the above positive interaction effect in both gender groups. Specifically, gender differences play a part in determining the impact of high vs. low online AC behaviours on emotional well-being. This finding aligns with the theoretical framework explaining gender roles in societies.

Development and validation of the online agentic and communal behaviour scale: implications for emotional well-being

While extensive studies have demonstrated how these agentic and communal behaviors can be reproduced in online environments, there is no suitable scale to measure these behaviors. IN-cube Research Fellow, Dr. Goh Zhang Hao, and Asst. Prof. Zhang Xue from Xiamen University developed and validated an online agentic and communal behavioral scale.

Through factor analyses, two correlated factors emerged and corresponded with the definitions of the agentic and communal dimensions. Although each dimension was negatively associated with Internet users' emotional well-being, the positive impact of online communal behavior on emotional well-being is more pronounced at higher levels of online agentic behavior.

This reflects a theoretical perspective that both dimensions are complementary and should be 'balanced' to achieve optimal well-being.

Read the article [here](#).

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Towards ICCS 2025

Regulating Foreign Religious Content in the Virtual Space

By Amanda Huan

SYNOPSIS

Meta's recent decision to drop its fact-checking facility raises the question of who should regulate online content in Singapore, particularly foreign religious material. A recent survey found that most Singaporeans believe the government and religious organisations should take the lead. However, given the nature of the problem, a collaborative approach involving the different segments of society is likely to be more effective.

Regulating Foreign Religious Content in the Virtual Space

Dr Amanda Huan penned a commentary on the regulation of foreign religious content online for the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. In collaboration with IN-cube, 1,004 participants were surveyed on who should be responsible for the regulation of foreign religious content. The results found that 6 in 10 participants believe that the government and religious organizations should be responsible for regulating foreign religious content.

Given the complexity of foreign religious information, Dr Amanda suggests a whole-of-society approach is necessary with different stakeholders such as the government, religious organizations and content platforms playing a role in safeguarding social cohesion

Read the article [here](#).

Collaborations



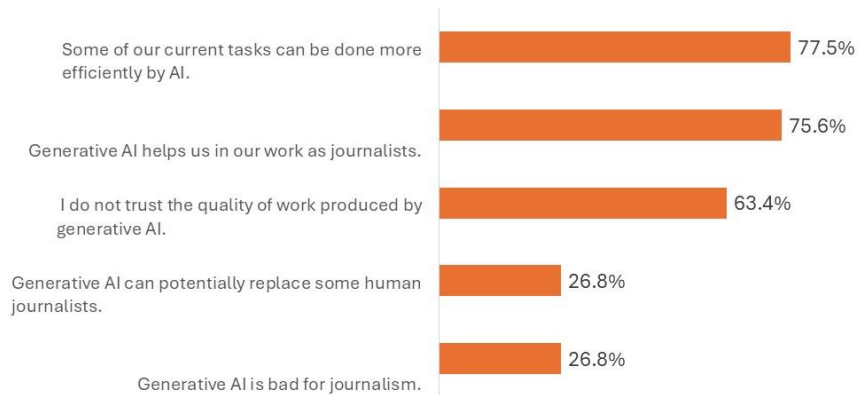
Survey with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union

IN-cube has collaborated with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union for the 2025 Future of News survey. The survey data was collected between January and early March 2025.

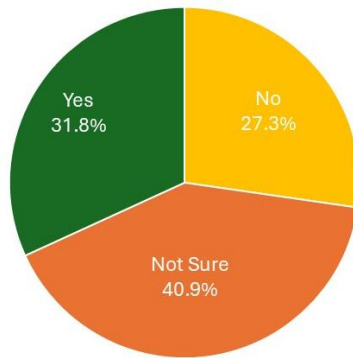
This survey involves 41 editors, producers, TV presenters, reporters, and journalists from more than 10 different Asian countries (including Sri Lanka, Fiji, Myanmar, and Thailand). The survey examines newsroom challenges, priorities, and responsibilities, audience behaviour, and generative AI usage.

Below are some of the preliminary findings. The full results will be presented at the Global News Forum in Turkey this month.

*How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements that describe the use of generative AI in journalism?
(Percentage of “agree/strongly agree”)*

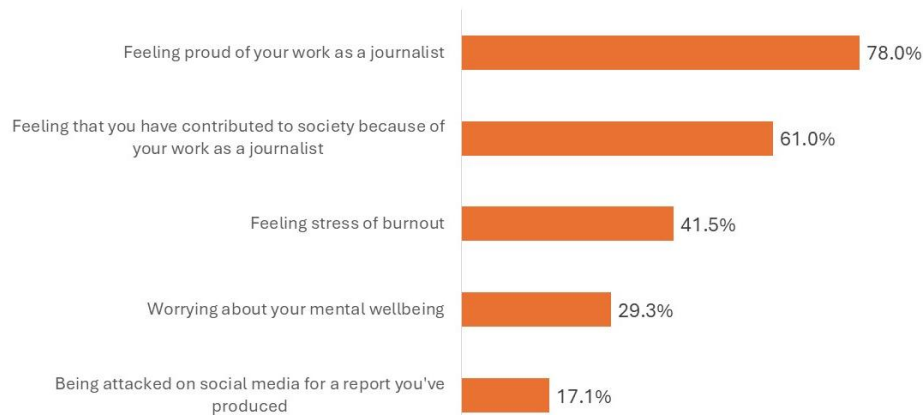


Does your company have ethical guidelines in place related to the use of generative AI in your newsroom



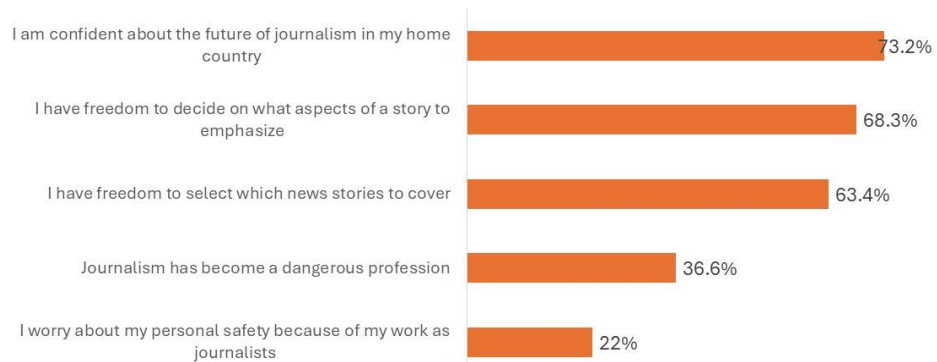
While most respondents agree that some of their work can be done more efficiently by AI, more than half do not have trust in the quality of work produced by generative AI. While many newsrooms allow the use of generative AI, some still have no organizational guidelines on the ethical usage of generative AI.

Please indicate how often do you experience each of the following? (percentage of “often/very often”)



The majority of the respondents take pride in their work as journalists, feel a certain degree of press freedom, and are confident about the future of their profession. However, despite the upbeat sentiment about their jobs, a substantial proportion feels the stress of burnout.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following. (Percentage of “agree/strongly agree”)



About IN-cube

IN-cube stands for Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet, a research centre at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University Singapore. It aims to contribute to promoting information integrity in online spaces, especially in an era of misinformation and disinformation, through timely, rigorous, and relevant research that links academics, policymakers, industry players, and the public. Learn more about IN-cube [on our site](#).