



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**
SINGAPORE

**Centre for Information
Integrity and the Internet**

Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information

What's IN-cubating?

October - December 2024

As we welcome the new year this week, IN-cube also looks back on a productive 2024. In the last quarter of last year, we organised the first of our ongoing AI in the Media panel discussion series, published new studies related to digital well-being, updated our Fake News Detective computer game, and completed data collection for the Wave 9 of our ongoing State of the Internet and Media in Singapore Survey (STIMS). We share more details about these initiatives in this edition of our quarterly newsletter.



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

This quarter, as IN-cube celebrates its fourth anniversary, we also would like to invite you to the second panel discussion of our AI and the Media series, titled "Journalism Studies in the Age of AI." To be held on February 20, 2025, the panel brings together journalism scholars from around the world to discuss how we should teach and research journalism as journalistic work turns to AI for an increasing number of processes. I hope you can join. You will find more details below.

Register: Journalism Studies in the Age of AI

The poster features the Nanyang Technological University logo and the Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet. It includes the event title, date, time, and a QR code for registration. Below the poster, there is a list of guest speakers and a moderator.

SYMPOSIUM

**JOURNALISM STUDIES
IN THE AGE OF AI**

Date:
20 February, 2025

Time:
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

REGISTER NOW

How should we study and teach journalism amid the rise of AI?
While AI has improved efficiency in journalism, it has also raised concerns about ethics and quality. Join us for an engaging panel discussion featuring experts from academia and industry as we explore the evolving role of AI in journalism education and practice. Share your thoughts and meet with experts.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Prof. Folker Hanusch**
Professor of Journalism,
Vice Dean for Career
Development and International
Affairs, University of Vienna
- Prof. Annika Sehl**
Chair of Journalism Studies,
Catholic University of Eichstätt-
Ingolstadt
- Mr. Warren Fernandez**
Senior Fellow, RSIS,
Director of Industry
Engagement, COMSATS NTU
- Prof. Edson Tandoc**
Director, IN-cube
Associate Chair, research &
strategy

MODERATOR

For any queries about the event, email us at incube@ntu.edu.sg

Join us on February 20, 2025 at WKWSCI from 11am to 1pm as we talk about the evolving role of AI in journalism education and practice, including concerns about ethics and quality. This is part of IN-cube's ongoing *AI in the Media* series in celebration of IN-cube's fourth anniversary.

Mr. Warren Fernandez, Senior Fellow at RSIS, will join Prof Annika Sehl from Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and Prof Folker Hanusch from University of Vienna in the panel discussion.

Mr Fernandez is an experienced journalist and editor. Prof Sehl is Chair of Journalism with a focus on media structures and society, while Prof Hanusch is the Editor of *Journalism Studies*, a top-tier academic journal. Prof Edson Tandoc will be the panel moderator.

We have limited seats so please register [here](#) if you'd like to join us.

AI in the Media Panel Discussion Series



We would like to thank everyone who attended the first edition of our AI in the Media panel discussion series. Titled “Journalism in the Age of AI,” the panel on October 18, 2024 brought together industry leaders in Singapore and beyond to share about how AI is being used in the newsroom and with what implications.

Our panellists included: Ang Yiting, Associate Editor of Lianhe Zaobao; Chua Chin Hon, Lead, AI Strategy & Solutions at the Mediacorp News Group; Edmund Chua, Head of Consumer Insights & Analytics at AsiaOne; and George Anders, a Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist in the United States. Dr. Sherwin Chua, a member of IN-cube, moderated the discussion.

With an audience composed of students and media practitioners, the discussion centred on how newsrooms are automating various stages of news production, with questions from the audience focusing on how we can better prepare students and future journalists for an AI-powered news industry. The rich discussion led to the planning of our second panel discussion on “Journalism Studies in the Age of AI,” to be held on February 20, 2025. For those who were unable to join the discussion last quarter, you can watch the video recording [here](#).

Be S.U.R.E. Roadshow

DIGITAL FOR LIFE PLAY IT FORWARD NLB National Library Board Singapore NLB

BE S.U.R.E. TOGETHER

Gen AI and Deepfakes Edition

Sat & Sun, 6 & 7 Jul 2024
10 am – 6 pm
One Punggol

Sat & Sun, 24 & 25 Aug 2024
11 am – 8 pm
Our Tampines Hub

Sat & Sun, 28 & 29 Sep 2024
10 am – 6 pm
Toa Payoh HDB Atrium

Sat & Sun, 19 & 20 Oct 2024
10 am – 6 pm
Keat Hong Community Club

REAL OR FAKE



The IN-cube team participated in a roadshow organised by the National Library Board on October 19-20, 2024 at the Keat Hong Community Centre. Titled *Be S.U.R.E. (Gen AI and Deepfakes Edition)*, the roadshow sought to educate the public on generative AI and deepfakes.

Continuing IN-cube's work to promote information integrity in the internet, the team invited players, including children and seniors, to try an updated version of IN-cube's *Fake News Detective* computer game. Now with a mobile-friendly version, the computer game tests players' ability to spot fake news and provides fact-checks along the way. You can play this game on your phone by clicking [here](#).



IN the News

FACT SHEET: Tropical cyclone alerts, in context



Prof Edson weighed in on the Facebook posts in the Philippines that mislabeled severe tropical storm Kristine (international name: Trami) as a typhoon and super typhoon. In an interview with Philippine news site Vera Files, Prof Edson highlighted that while these classifications may be just labels, inconsistencies between what the scientists and authorities say may affect institutional trust on organisations who issue such alerts. Mislabeled can also undermine public preparedness, as people might underestimate future warnings based on misclassifications. He argued that aligning labels with on-the-ground experiences is crucial to ensure effective disaster response.

You can read the article [here](#)

New Publications

Original Manuscript

People, Platforms, and Places: The Conditional Effects of Psychological Distances on Livestream Viewership

Zhang Hao Goh¹, Minzheng Hou², and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.¹

Abstract

Reducing the social distance between livestreamers and viewers is known to enhance viewership as well as generate desirable psychosocial and economic outcomes. However, apart from the social dimension, scholars have not explored other distance dimensions that may induce the same benefits. Leveraging the construal level theory, the current study explicates the concept of distance in the form of three different perceived psychological distance dimensions (i.e., perceived response latency, heterophily, and spatialization) to examine how it can induce viewership in the context of livestreaming. A survey conducted in Singapore ($n = 401$) found that the effect of perceived heterophily affecting viewership in livestream was moderated by viewers' chronic construal tendencies, demonstrating a construal fit. The current study provides insights into how chronic differences in viewers' construal can influence viewership.

Keywords

chronic construal level, psychological distance, livestream, construal level theory

Livestream viewership is fundamental to livestreamers and platform providers seeking to maximize public exposure and revenues through content. One way to encourage viewership is to reduce the perception of "distance" (e.g., Chou et al., 2022; Watts et al., 2021; Xue et al., 2020) among viewers and livestreamers in the livestream sessions. Livestream viewers' perception of social distance in livestream sessions has been found to generate desirable outcomes, such as increased purchase intention (e.g., Ma et al., 2022) as well as increase viewership through the building of interpersonal trust or enhanced interactions between livestreamers and viewers (Ma et al., 2017) and flow, or sense of immersion, community, and enjoyment (e.g., Li & Peng, 2021; López & Johnston, 2022). Therefore, livestreamers and platform providers (e.g., Twitch and

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People, Platforms, and Places: The Conditional Effects of Psychological Distances on Livestream Viewership

Dr Goh Zhang Hao investigated how psychological distance influences livestream viewership beyond the commonly studied social dimension. Drawing on construal level theory, it examines three dimensions of perceived distance—response latency, heterophily, and spatialization—and their impact on livestream viewership. A survey reveals that perceived heterophily's effect on livestream viewership is moderated by viewers' chronic construal tendencies, demonstrating a construal fit. The current study provides insights into how chronic differences in viewers' construal levels can influence livestream viewership. **Read the article [here](#).**

JOURNALISM PRACTICE
https://doi.org/10.1089/jpr.2024.238217



Life After News? How an Online Community of Journalists Discuss Stress and Provide Social Support

Matthew Chew¹, Lydia Cheng² and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.¹

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ABSTRACT

Journalists have been leaving the industry in droves due to stress and burnout. This study examines an online community of journalists discussing their "Plan B" to understand what they identify as job stressors, as well as how they, as a community, discuss the health impact of these stressors. Guided by concepts of social support, we attempt to understand the strategies they employ to deal with the stressors. We found that the journalists collectively articulate their hopes and convictions on the functions and future of journalism. Next, they empower one another by providing emotional, informational, instrumental and appraisal support. Lastly, the journalists build their collective competence by discussing the skills and values needed for new beginnings. This study provides insight into how journalists provide community support, as well as how the field can reform the profession and retain journalists at a time where they are needed now, more than ever.

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KEYWORDS
burnout; community support; stress; quitting journalism; professional identity; social support; community empowerment; collective competence

Introduction

In recent years, journalists have faced increasing stress from job uncertainty. Newsrooms have closed or cut budgets due to declining advertising revenues, with about 16,160 newsroom jobs in the US axed in 2020 (Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., 2023). This can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic (Nare 2021) and losses made to the competition like alternative news sites, social media platforms and influencers (Chew and Tandoc 2022). Beyond that, journalists have also faced health risks, especially but not exclusively due to the recent pandemic. They also experienced other work-related stressors like audience harassment and unrealistic work targets. Many journalists have reported a heightened sense of exhaustion and have been looking for a "Plan B" to leave the industry. A global Facebook community group called "What's your Plan B?" was created in 2014 to provide a space where journalists discuss their stress, strategies and successes in changing to a new career. The group has since grown to 18,200 members.

MacDonald et al. (2016) identified exhaustion and cynicism as factors that push journalists to leave the field; these studies (see also; Monteiro, Marques Pinto, and Roberto 2016) on journalistic stress are often conducted through interviews or surveys with

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This article has been corrected with minor changes. These changes do not impact the academic content of the article.
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Life After News? How an Online Community of Journalists Discuss Stress and Provide Social Support

IN-cube's doctoral student, Matthew Chew, led this study that examined an online community of journalists discussing their "Plan B" to understand what they identify as job stressors, as well as how they, as a community, discuss the health impact of these stressors. The team found that the journalists collectively articulated their hopes and convictions on the functions and future of journalism. They also empowered one another by providing emotional, informational, instrumental, and appraisal support. Lastly, the journalists build their collective competence by discussing the skills and values needed for new beginnings. **Read the article [here](#).**



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 by visiting our website: ntu.edu.sg/incube