



-- CALL FOR PAPERS --

Preconference at the 2017 ICA, San Diego

co-sponsored by the Political Communication Division and the Center for Politics and Communication (CPC)

Online and Newsworthy

Have Digital Sources Changed Journalism?

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This preconference will serve scholars who are interested in **how digitalization has changed journalistic news sourcing techniques**. The use of reliable sources is one of the most important aspects of journalistic news production. However, when making news, journalists now increasingly use social media, websites, wikis, and online encyclopedias as sources. In today's 24/7 news cycles, online sources offer a quick, convenient, cheap, and effective way for journalists to gather information on developing stories, and they increasingly also trigger news stories. But, what are the consequences of online sourcing for the quality of news and the journalistic profession? Can all online sources be reliably verified? Do online sources change the power relationship between political actors and journalists?

For this preconference, we are interested in showcasing research that focuses or is related to one of **four** aspects of online sourcing:

- First, we ask **which online sources** are most prominent within news reporting, and/or whether they have replaced more traditional sourcing techniques?
- Second, we want to show research that asks **why and how** journalists use online sources during their daily work and in the newsroom.
- Third, we focus on the consequences of online sourcing for **audience perceptions** of journalism, for example in terms of the credibility of news and journalism.
- Fourth, we aim to investigate potential changes in the **relationship between journalists and (elite) actors as sources**, who now have multiple options to communicate with audiences directly.

We welcome **both theoretical and empirical papers** for the proposed preconference, and want to encourage PhD students and young researchers to submit. We also aim to bring together both qualitative and quantitative researchers, ranging from methods such as ethnographic research, interviewing, to content analysis, big data, survey and experimental designs. We encourage the use of different theoretical approaches to understand online journalistic sourcing techniques (e.g., framing, journalistic role perceptions, storytelling, conceptions of the newsroom).

How to participate: Please submit your abstract with a maximum of 500 words to Sophie Lecheler (sophie.lecheler@univie.ac.at). Deadline for submissions is January 20th 2017. Successful applicants will be notified not later than February 20th. The preconference will be a half-day conference (8.30 am to 1 pm), held at the ICA conference hotel in San Diego on Thursday, May 25 2017. Full papers will need to be submitted no later than April 30th, 2017 and will be made available to all those participating in the preconference.

If you have questions, please contact Sophie Lecheler (sophie.lecheler@univie.ac.at), Sanne Kruikemeier (s.kruikemeier@uva.nl), or Sarah Van Leuven (Sarah.VanLeuven@ugent.be).