

## Review Article

# Journalism Today: Expression or Suppression of Ideas?

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## A B S T R A C T

In an era defined by rapid information flows and intensified political polarisation, contemporary journalism faces renewed scrutiny over its ability to serve as a platform for the free expression of ideas. While digital technologies have expanded opportunities for diverse voices to enter the public sphere, they have also introduced new mechanisms of control, including algorithmic gatekeeping, corporate ownership pressures, and state influence. This article examines whether modern journalism operates primarily as a vehicle for open discourse or as an instrument of subtle and overt suppression. Through analysis of news-room practices, media economics, and the shifting dynamics of online communication, the study highlights the tension between journalists' professional ideals and the structural constraints that shape their work. Ultimately, the article argues that the future of journalism depends on reinforcing editorial independence, strengthening transparency, and cultivating media literacy to ensure that expression—not suppression—remains at the core of public communication.

**Keywords:** Freedom of Expression, Media Accountability, Censorship, Digital Journalism, Public Discourse

## Introduction

Journalism is a critical and multifaceted activity that informs the public about the world and empowers people to engage in society by sharing objective information about events and issues, clarifying their meaning and context, and exposing and scrutinising abuses of power. It helps citizens make sound decisions and shape their future and also serves as a watchdog, holding power accountable. Society calls on journalists to perform these important functions, and the profession responds with solemn commitments to provide truthful and comprehensible accounts of significant occurrences and issues and to monitor and probe power.<sup>1</sup>

While journalism has long been crucial to the public, few people in modern society have ever freely practised the craft. In many parts of the world today, journalists can

operate unimpeded. But no journalists can exercise the public commitments of the profession without confronting the central dilemma of whether their work constitutes expression or suppression.<sup>2</sup> Expressing ideas involves communicating information, interpretations, opinions, guides, and assessments to the world. Suppressing ideas means discouraging or limiting the flow or exchange of those communications.

## The Role of Journalism

The role of journalism, in its various forms, enjoys a constitutionally protected status in many democratic societies. These protections emerge from the perceived importance of the journalistic mission—namely, to inform citizens about unfolding events, to explain issues, and to serve as a guardian or watchdog over those in power.<sup>3</sup> Journalism

also fulfils a vital function in facilitating debate within civil society.<sup>4</sup> Some of the societal expectations surrounding the practice are thus to attempt to be truthful, to embrace transparency, and to engage with problems from multiple perspectives in the hope of bridging divides.

Concern about the links between journalism and democracy is not new and has recurred at various junctures throughout the existence of the republic. Some observers have begun to express anxiety that the democratic essence of journalism is at risk of being diminished as a result of various new challenges, such as the advancement of new information technologies.<sup>5</sup> Journalism, to varying degrees, privily engages in imposing limits on the pervasive public discourse it is nonetheless charged with reporting.

### Expressing Ideas in the News

Freedom of speech and of the press are vital rights. The First Amendment grants freedom of speech, protecting the expression of ideas, thoughts, and opinions. It also asserts freedom of the press and prohibits government restrictions on the medium by which that communication is expressed. Within this protection, reporters have the right to gather information, develop themes and ideas, and disseminate those messages to the public without prior restraint or the need for official licences.<sup>6</sup>

Newspapers, radio, and television have been granted the status of public forums by the courts. The public have the right to publish their opinions through these media. While the Fourth Estate is historically viewed as separate from the other three governmental branches, the courts recognise the media as a conduit between the government and the public. This responsibility includes covering the official actions of government, and officials themselves are obliged to make their actions and statements available to these mediums.<sup>7</sup>

### Free Speech and Press Freedom

Freedom of expression is a universal and fundamental human right incorporated into national constitutions and international law. Free speech enables everyone to engage in the public sphere: from petitioning the government and protesting to forming associations, joining political parties and putting out manifestos. Note that the term “press freedom” is often used interchangeably with “free speech”, but unlike “everyone”, the “press” is a specific sector or group providing information to society.<sup>8</sup> Journalists can only provide quality information about events, processes, and expert insights when free to report what they learn. Without appropriate freedom to report, innovations, mistakes, abuses, corruption and other incidents of strong public interest can be concealed. While journalists possess appropriate rights for their work, they also bear considerable responsibilities. The word “responsibility” comes from

the Latin “spondere”, which means “to promise”; it refers to “the constraints, limits, laws, norms, and obligations imposed on free speech”. Those with freedom become responsible not to harm or damage other free citizens or the life of society.<sup>9</sup>

### Fact, Opinion, and Bias

An opinion is defined as that which is not fact.<sup>10</sup> The writing may be accepted as evidence for an imputation. Reporters often ask that journalists distinguish news from opinion by using labels to identify clearly which is which. Public editor’s columns, editorials, and op-ed pieces are examples of well-defined opinion journalism, as these will be understood to present the view of someone other than the journalists reporting the news or writing the news analysis.<sup>11</sup>

### Challenges in Modern Journalism

The internet and digital technologies have brought numerous design innovations that enable journalists to cover events in real time and invite audiences to interact with the information they present. Journalists, however, continue to face systemic challenges from within and outside the profession that threaten their ability to deliver trustworthy information. Journalists must be cognisant of the techniques and practices that echo throughout society and verify claims before circulation. Systems for verification include, but are not limited to, direct confirmation from the initial source, examination of the context and placement of the information, corroboration with other reputable sources, cross-checking against known falsehoods, and looking for a history of credible information from the source in question.<sup>12</sup> Automated systems can assist journalists in tracing the origins of multimedia files and whether they have appeared elsewhere.

Organisations based on false claims can proliferate with alarming speed; very often, these falsehoods relate directly to societal fears and anxieties. Audiences searching for trustworthy information may find themselves directed to such outlets due to the algorithmic recommendations of social media and digital platforms. New subscribers need to be directed toward independent journalism that carefully distinguishes between falsehood and verified fact. Verified claims that counter the falsehoods deserve prominent placement in dissemination to offer audiences a route back toward credibility. This information should be reinforced with consistent outreach and frequent reminders that the outlet in question has respected truth even when doing so was inconvenient.<sup>4</sup>

News organisations can find opportunities to build public trust in their respective business models while also maintaining both independence and editorial responsibility. One fundamental norm within journalism remains the unconditional publication of a correction or clarification

whenever the organisation learns of a factual misstatement, regardless of medium or channel. With enough length or prominence attached to a statement, the outlet should be willing to assess any potential ambiguities and clarify whether they are being exploited. Where feasible, the journalistic outlet should disclose what has been learnt about the information, offering audiences even more context to assess the credibility, importance, and impact of the story surrounding the challenged material. When the outlet accepts authority or ownership over the item in question, then every opportunity to direct the public to the source should be simultaneously endeavoured, ideally bolstering the reach of the referred content rather than detracting from it.

### **Misinformation and Verification**

Many media and communication scholars consider verification to be journalism's defining practice;<sup>13</sup> however, numerous false claims proliferate daily through popular platforms.<sup>14</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic exemplifies this challenge. Guidance regarding the virus's transmission and treatment evolved rapidly, creating opportunities for unverified claims to spread. Authorities launched initiatives to counter such misinformation. In Taiwan, for example, the Taiwan FactCheck Center committed to verifying online information within sixty minutes.<sup>15</sup> Verification steps include determining the claim's significance, identifying the origin, consulting experts, and appraising supporting evidence. The European Union, the United Nations, and media organisations have collaborated to combat misinformation. This situation illustrates the coexistence of conflicting information and highlights the journalist's role as a mediator in determining truth and accuracy. Journalists often seek to align their work with public interest in verifying such information.

### **Commercial Pressure and Public Trust**

Commercial operating models for journalism can directly affect the values that media organisations convey through their reporting. When economic stability depends on maximising audience attention, journalism can offer less information about social and political issues and encourage individuals to voice their opinions more readily on increasingly polarised questions. The pressure to drive profit maximisation can limit a journalist's ability to report sensitive issues that the audience does not want covered. Alternative funding models that emphasise social value or enable extensive public discussions about the coverage of social and political issues can help better align journalism's economic incentives with shared values and trust.<sup>4</sup>

Minimising commercial pressure on the funding of public interest journalism increases the chances that audiences will find the information useful when deciding how to vote

or take civic action. It is important for media organisations to adopt practices that help build the public's trust. These practices include publicly clarifying the organisation's values and standards, differentiating clearly between opinion and news, delineating the limits of coverage, and openly recognising the degree of partiality—for instance, identifying purpose-driven coverage of climate change rather than pretending the coverage accounts for all views and misunderstandings.<sup>6</sup>

### **Digital Platforms and Echo Chambers**

Many large platforms use algorithms to determine which news stories users encounter. As a result, the information that reaches users can become distorted. Users often have their preferences amplified, creating echo chambers in which they remain unaware of ideas and perspectives outside their existing beliefs. Algorithms favour sensational content, misleading clickbait, and unverified information because those stories tend to generate more engagement and advertising revenue than high-quality, well-sourced reporting. Audiences encounter many more fringe ideas than they would through direct human selection. The same information, delivered through the wrong medium or presented in a different format, can lead to divergent interpretations and responses.<sup>9</sup> Some platforms allow easy sharing and reposting of unverified tips, whether by algorithms privileging incorrect information or by users deliberately amplifying falsehoods.

To mitigate these risks, platforms should invest in robust verification systems. Quality programmes require enough resources for human oversight, particularly when operating in under-resourced languages. They should support ongoing public awareness campaigns to educate users about the dangers of unverified information. Journalistic organisations must advocate for policies that increase transparency and rein in power.

### **Ethical Considerations**

The line between permissible coverage and violations of privacy remains fuzzy. Personal lives of public figures have considerable public interest and overriding public responsibility. Material already in the public domain also has less justification for withholding. Coverage may be considered when serious offences, especially violent or sexual violations, raise questions of responsibility, endorsement, or a character inconsistency in public figures. People receive more stringent coverage on their private lives when they mix public and private spheres by running for office or becoming spokespersons of certain communities. Crime, scandal, or gossip involving public figures is often launched due to the specific criss-cross. Further, when content involves public funds, disclosures become more frequent.

An approach sensitive to impact on public welfare should also balance privacy with other considerations. Coverage claiming privacy defence may sustain minimal harm. Full exposure is justifiable in some cases, nonetheless. Disclosure of a number of affairs or a newly opened case can animate a wider coverage for a limited period. It is also justifiable to expose an offence committed during an individual's previous office before he or she returns to public life. Even a re-exposure of a known case fallen into silence, provided that it clashes with prevailing standards, may be credible to maintain a larger public interest.<sup>8</sup>

### **Transparency and Accountability**

The public expects journalism to reveal what happens in society and hold powerful people and organisations accountable. To do this, journalism requires a measure of freedom, both for reporters and for media organisations [12]. The concept of "freedom of expression" is relevant, but it describes a much larger idea than what journalism needs. Freedom of expression allows people to express any thought, feeling, or opinion they wish, through any medium they wish. Journalism requires a narrower kind of freedom, namely, freedom from restrictions that prevent the reporting of facts, truthful commentary on those facts, and the application of professional judgement in selecting which facts should receive attention in the first place. This kind of freedom comes in two forms: "press freedom", which refers to the degree of freedom available to all media organisations collectively, and "freedom of the press", which refers to the degree of freedom available to individual journalists working in those organisations. Press freedom may be thought of as the external dimension of the freedom of the press: the state of the news marketplace, including legislation governing that marketplace, as captured by indices that measure various dimensions of media independence from public authorities. Freedom of the press, in contrast, is typically treated as an implicit aspect of individual rights to free speech and expression in legal documents since the latter terms were not always included.

The concepts of press freedom and freedom of the press have evolved substantially since their first formal articulation in various documents during the 17th and 18th centuries. In common law jurisdictions, press freedom began to gain traction with the publication of pamphlets questioning the doctrine of the divine right of kings in the 1600s. In 1792, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man explicitly affirmed the freedom of the press as an important liberty, although with restrictions at the discretion of the national government. The First Amendment to the US Constitution, ratified in 1791, stated, "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

adopted in 1948, includes among its principles, "Everyone has the right ... to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." Within these frameworks, press freedom and freedom of the press are further delimited by a series of milestone rulings and their subsequent interpretations relative to other forms of communications, other types of information, and other kinds of media, in particular the right to circulate ideas and opinions that are of general interest rather than exclusively private and individual, thereby defining the journalistic interest in the information of the public.

The distinct emphasis placed on restricting the state's ability to control these specific forms of expression reflects journalism's role in society. Journalism is expected to inform the public about significant events in the world, to explain important social issues, and to monitor the behaviour and actions of leaders in politics, business, culture, and the judiciary. News about, and opinions on, such questions can be legitimately qualified as journalism only when steps are taken to ensure a degree of professionalism in the coverage that both distinguishes journalism from other forms of information and counselling and reinforces the value of a free press as a public service.

Accountability to the public and to victims of various forms of mistreatment are two themes widely recognised as appropriate ethical foundations for journalists and journalism. From this perspective, an obligation exists to disclose the identity of the news organisation for which their work is being performed, the sources from which information is cited or transmitted, and the professional practices, protocols, and criteria employed to shape, select, and present the news as such. Such a foundation affirms the editorial responsibility of individual journalists and their freedom to employ independent judgement in shaping news content.

### **Privacy and Harm**

Privacy supports human dignity by enabling reflection, contemplation, and autonomy, consistent with the ideals of freedom articulated by both the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Privacy permits individuals to pursue their individual visions of the good or to decide whether to express their opinions at all. As the European Court of Human Rights recognised, everyone has the right to the respect of their private life, family life, home, and correspondence.<sup>16</sup> In a public arena saturated with information about moral behaviour, people need protection from excessive voyeurism, which might deter individuals and groups from enjoying liberties assured by law. The simple publication of unverified accounts of private motives or conduct, especially concerning sexual and romantic matters, may inflict immense psychic pain, stigmatisation, and ostracism. Consideration of these po-



tential harms might warrant the imposition of limitations when deciding whether to publish such materials.<sup>17</sup>

## **The Balance Between Expression and Suppression**

An important consideration coupled with the question of expression versus suppression is the definition of censoring ideas. A different perspective further divides censorship as the restraint on expression or the prevention of certain ideas becoming public.<sup>18</sup> Although the responsibility of a journalist is to publish, the need to consider whether that publication affects the dignity of a particular group or individual more than the public interest of the information published remains a critical balancing act. An equally important concept is how the words present ideas and shape interpretations of individuals or groups.

Ideas and topics requiring engagement in journalism can likewise represent an intersection between ideas expressed and those prevented from public engagement. Commercial pressure may define what topics are important to address, such as what reflects positively on an organisation fund or is tied to the news cycle or a breaking report. Public interest or the desire to inform the civic duty may further affect what or how topics arise for engagement contrary to the intent to deliver. To publish information in an appropriate manner, congruent to topics mentioned, journalism is further defined as a balance between ideas of expression and constraints, with pressure aiding external engagement. The decision of whether to inform always accompanies the question of how to protect and uphold the dignity of an individual or group within the knowledge expressed.

Language provides the opportunity to instil an interpretation; every nuance in wording assists a desired narrative even when the overall content appears innocent. Consideration arises whether to define or label individuals convenient to the priority of the story. Words may also frame reporting in favour of one position versus another. Framing provides a second decision once documental information is gathered; every idea or placement influences an interpretation as more information undergoes rental arrangement to a complete piece.

Censorship and responsibility represent an interconnection between expression and suppression, each at risk of becoming censorship at the wrong extreme. The risk of free expression is a journalist's responsibility, informing the basis of criteria able to identify the balance of such a connection. Periodically ideas bent the balance in a manner guiding withholding versus publication or delaying killing a report. Provocative elaboration generally guides a report toward an extreme of withheld publishing. The central decision of whether or not to publish becomes providing greater consideration within a journalistic perspective on whether

extending expression elevated expression accordingly or proportionate suppression transformed repression.

## **Censorship vs. Responsibility**

To censor or not to censor? Censorship—defined as suppression of ideas—presents a dilemma for reporters. It is generally agreed that publication of false, misleading, or incendiary material will seriously harm the journalistic enterprise, yet most publications feel compelled at times to eroticise, exoticise, sensationalise, stigmatise, or otherwise contaminate socially relevant material. In decades past, the common remedy was merely to ensure tighter adherence to the formal structure of news. Such an approach presumed unquestioned confidence in ideas and a corresponding expectation that the choice of voice would not bias the value claims on which ideas turn. Today that level of faith seems misplaced—or, at least, unduly grand.

The contemporary New York Times serves as one key example. The outlet finds itself under siege for failing to be dimensionally rich throughout. Outside opinion offers some solace: "We must guard against any misapplication or abuse of the language of rights to suppress responsibly expressed positions." Between the extremes lies a simple precept: For every rash deed, act with care. A paragon of both listening and sense-taking. When stymied, checks are many and varied; they conduct both the communicator and the audience, each rendering the other—albeit indirectly—a puppet to the complete action.

## **Language, Framing, and Narrative Control**

Various aspects of language formulation and presentation in news stories affect how ideas, events, and actions are framed for the audience [19]. The choice of words, grammatical structures, and ordering of information can all shift a reader's understanding, even between closely related claims. "India is winning the World Cup final", "India leads the World Cup final", and "India is ahead in the World Cup final" all convey differing levels of certainty regarding the outcome. Different verbs and modals can indicate various likelihoods of future events, while precise specifications (e.g., dates, durations) can clarify actual versus anticipated circumstances [20]. By emphasising particular information over others and using either denotative or connotative wording, storytellers can shape interpretation. Framing can thus be "motivational" or "persuasive", urging specific actions, and fall into categories including political, economic, social, and personal.

The tension between expression and suppression emerges powerfully in the realm of framing, where journalists navigate the chasm between unacceptable censorship and responsible storytelling. Presentation choices affect interpretation profoundly. Journalistic and deliberative norms emphasise neutrality that enables audiences to form

their own views and express them in societal discourse. Where frames persuade, journalists may allow audiences less latitude to think independently. Creative expression described previously supports independent judgement; persuasive framing undermines it. A chart, photograph, or map presenting a concept, statistic, or idea directly constitutes creative expression, while editorial cartoons, design choices, and songs may cross into persuasion. Differences between pictorial and textual forms enhance the complexity of categorisation.

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design choices, and songs may cross into persuasion. Differences between pictorial and textual forms enhance the complexity of categorisation.

### **Community Standards and Moderation**

Journalism's central purpose is to provide information and explanation to the public and to watch for power abuses. Media professionals regard themselves as having great responsibility toward the society they serve and the readers who consume what they produce.<sup>22</sup> The public engages with journalists and journalism through feedback, tips, ideas, and advice when issues arise. Features on the audience perspective abound in news coverage, including public participation opportunities. Such audience engagement fosters interaction and trust, deepening information flows about important public issues.<sup>23</sup>

The public voice takes form through messages or information submitted to a news outlet or an offering of participation in civic affairs. News organisations frequently offer their audiences a formal invitation to contribute to their journalism through various means. Audience comments provide readers with a chance to extend the dialogue attached to news stories. Comment sections serve as an open forum for public engagement on topics deemed important, inviting further information, opinions, contrasting points of view, and related stories missed during initial reporting. Feedback helps news organisations address the public's information wants and needs. Information incentives prompt the audience to step forward, enabling journalists to identify gaps by engaging readers in discussions, offering clarifications on tough-to-get topics, and inviting audience voices to highlight additional factors for consideration. To promote participation and foster a sense of community, many news organisations encourage public involvement through tips or community sections detailing issues deserving attention. Coverage of local events or personalities is a staple reporting activity that generates value for audiences and nurtures a connection to the community.

### **The Future of Journalism**

Emerging tools for journalism stand to enrich reporting, analysis, and civic engagement, expanding the breadth of both stories told and voices heard. Innovation, inclusion and greater accessibility enhance coverage by better connecting people to information about issues that matter in their lives.

As personal broadcasting platforms democratised mass communication, new recording, networking, and editing tools have transformed the production and distribution of still images and moving pictures. Visual journalism that combines video, illustration, and pictures with information, analysis, and perspective enables citizens to better connect and explore the world around them.

By improving how journalists accompany content with rich multimedia, augmented and mixed reality systems afford even deeper immersion, deeper context, and improved understanding. Beyond conventional screens, the art of storytelling is enriched by enabling participation in an alternate form of reality through spatial computing delivered via advanced communication technology.

Rather than amplifying opinions, the 2020 pandemic revived calls for newsrooms to enhance coverage of people, public policy, and societal trends shaping everyday life by expanding surveys and intercepts. Dedicated engagement editors had joined journalists conducting consultations on ongoing reporting and proposals for future coverage.<sup>9</sup>

### **Innovation and Inclusion**

News publications worldwide are experimenting with new tools, technologies, and formats to enhance coverage. They are also broadening their perspectives and sources by integrating underreported voices into their work. Greater variety among journalists strengthens coverage of developing issues and complex stories. Reporting benefits as more outlets recruit individuals with disabilities, even in roles not directly tied to accessibility.<sup>12</sup> These enhancements also foster participation by individuals typically excluded from the mainstream conversation.

Many emerging projects, policies, and technologies are designed to promote wider access to journalism and engage underserved communities. These efforts encompass tools that expand storytelling options and outreach for marginalised groups. Recently established initiatives illustrate the movement:

- The Associated Press partnered with Google to make news articles accessible to a wider audience through audio playback, translation, and summary features. Lists of credible sources enable audiences to delve deeper into AP stories. The Frontera Fund generates interest in the U.S.-Mexico border crisis via text-message delivery of Spanish-language coverage and updates from other sources.
- Digital News Innovations (DNI) seeks local and hyperlocal journalism projects that provide reliable information to underserved communities.
- The diversity initiative at the San Francisco Chronicle widens coverage by engaging individuals typically overlooked by the newsroom. In 2018, the publication invited seven new contributors to participate in a month-long experiment exploring missing perspectives, resulting in 17 articles and extensive audience involvement [24].

New tools and technologies play a critical role in fostering inclusion across the media landscape. Instruments such as audio, video, and interactivity expand options for engaging people with differing needs and preferences. Greater variety among perspectives enables more comprehensive coverage of important issues.

### **Education and Media Literacy**

Educators should teach students to think critically, investigate sources, and consume media responsibly. Some activities include verifying the creator of an email, checking sources, and assessing potential bias. Students search for key terms online to evaluate claims and discuss the reliability of sources such as tabloid newspapers. News-literacy curricula sometimes examine how news outlets fail to adhere to high standards and teach students to evaluate the fairness, sourcing, and context of articles. Critics argue that news-literacy instruction must address the realities of modern journalism, including partisan politics and sensationalism. Some curricula aim to help students become more savvy media consumers by producing their own content, which enables understanding of how media messages are constructed and how words can be manipulated.<sup>25</sup>

Media education and the preparation of active citizens in schools are virtually nonexistent despite media and technology's potential to act as a democratising force. The role of media in politics is ubiquitous, from traditional news media to social media. The use of digital media in democratic movements outside formal institutions has little relevance to citizenship education in most K–12 schools. The potential for using media and technology strategically to promote democratic or social justice goals is largely left outside the school system. Public schools are meant to provide citizens with tools and skills to participate actively in their country.<sup>26</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Journalism is often seen as a platform for self-expression and the free exchange of ideas. In many countries, it is protected by laws explicitly intended to guard against censorship, and writers and editorial boards across the world enjoy the liberty to share their opinions broadside. So long as the line between fact and opinion is correctly drawn, nearly unrestricted self-expression seems to be widely accepted as a universally valid end goal for journalism. The advent of the Internet has only made this trend more pronounced. On social media platforms, anyone is free to speak their mind in public forums, often anonymously; blitzing the press with comments, tips, and news stories is almost ubiquitous; and fact-checking services that fall far outside the traditional journalistic domain have proliferated almost overnight, freer than ever to develop their news coverage and append notices to existing articles.

Yet unchecked abuses can also thrive in this same environment, alongside the potentially constructive engagement that comes from a broader public voice. Various platforms have taken steps to contain and moderate these abuses, significantly affecting the idea of self-expression and offering guidance on the conditions under which it is suppressed.



Depending on the perspective adopted, these measures can be seen either as censorship or—as any decision made by the overwhelming majority of the news industry to invest in abstraction over detail—as a more responsible form of journalism<sup>9,21</sup>. While profusion and diversity of voices increase the likelihood of overlooked topics being brought to light, it remains unclear whether broader coverage inevitably yields better journalism or only still greater superficiality.

It is no longer sufficient to think of journalism simply as the expression of ideas. The outpouring of opinions, however sincere, undercuts journalism's traditional epistemic authority and invites questions about the category itself. Covering an ever wider array of unfolding events in real time might still leave citizens better informed, but confining coverage to public incidents would obviate the need for the term 'journalism' altogether. The balance between expression and suppression has shifted.

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