

COMPLETION REPORT

Re-thinking Journalism Pedagogy in Japan and ASEAN in the Digital-Global Age

Ms. Pauline Gidget Resterio Estella(+1)
Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant
Institute for Media and Communication Science
Technische Universitaet Ilmenau(Germany)

The research project on journalistic competence and journalism education in ASEAN and Japan was completed in March this year, largely through the support of the Sumitomo Foundation. The project, titled “Re-thinking Journalism Pedagogy in Japan and ASEAN in the Digital-Global Age”, relied on qualitative methods: in-depth interviews with experts worldwide and with selected academicians in ASEAN and Japan, as well as document analysis (e.g. analysis of curricula)

Based on related literature and experts’ insights, two frameworks were created: 1) a global framework of journalistic competence and 2) a framework of journalism education as a system. These two frameworks were used to study in particular the ASEAN and Japanese notions of journalistic competence as well as journalism education in these areas. We interviewed selected experts from Japan and representative ASEAN countries (Singapore, Vietnam, and Philippines) and looked into relevant documents, especially course curricula.

Apart from the main research objectives, another important goal was to establish a research community in ASEAN and Japan, comprised of scholars who want to collaborate in projects related to journalism education. The fieldwork in these countries made this networking possible.

Across the four countries, the experts interviewed believe journalists in the Digital-Global Age should have audience-oriented, entrepreneurial, critical-reflexive, and technological-quantitative competencies. This is on top of the “evergreen” competencies, or the core competencies that are deemed necessary in newswork with or without the technological disruptions (e.g. mastery of professional research techniques and core attitudes).

The internet coming of age gave rise to more and more sources of information, many of which are free to access, thus leading to intense market competition and “erosion” of the gate-keeping role of journalism (Drok, 2019). Therefore, as the findings of the study suggest, journalists are now expected to produce news forms that are more engaging or compelling and to employ more systematic means to know the audience (hence, “audience-oriented”). This audience-orientedness is also related to entrepreneurial and venture management competencies, which gained currency in the time of shrinking media markets and “de-industrialization” of journalism (Broersma and Peters, 2016). Entrepreneurial journalism, characterized by innovation and venture creation, makes sense in a time of lay-offs, journalist labor precarities, and commercial pressures in the industry.

In this disruptive age, journalists in Japan and ASEAN need to be critical-reflexive, according to the interviewees. This means that to adapt to the changes and serve the societal mission of journalism, a journalist needs the tools to critically reflect on the environment and the profession. This critical reflexivity balances the technological-quantitative competencies (e.g. competencies ranging from working with social media to data journalism skills) that a journalist in this time is expected to have.

The project also extends to the discussion on how journalistic competencies, journalistic roles, and the media system influence journalism education. This will be published in several studies scheduled to be submitted to international journals this year, in addition to the book containing the findings and points for discussion. A copy of these studies and the book will be sent to selected scholars and practitioners worldwide.

Broersma, M., & Peters, C. (2016). *Rethinking Journalism Again: Societal role and public relevance in a digital age*
Taylor and Francis.

Drok, N. (2019). *Journalistic Roles, Values and Qualifications in the 21st century: How European journalism Educations view the future of a profession in transition*. Windesheim, Zwolle: Ipskamp Printing Enschede

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Estella P.(2021) A global perspective on journalistic competence in the Digital Age: Toward a transformative framework. Phd Thesis. Technische Universitat Ilmenau.

Estella, P.(2020, in press). The journalism ‘toolbox’ of competencies in the Digital Global Age: Reflections on the global state of research, Pacific Journalism Review, 26(1)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

‘Journalism competence and Journalism Education in Japan and ASEAN’(report on the project that we intend to publish this year or early 2021

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Authors: Pauline Gidget Estella and Jonalyn Paz