

Issues in Contemporary Journalism Education and Practice in Nigeria

Volume 1

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and

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Series in Critical Media Studies



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This book is dedicated to communication scholars and professionals in
Nigeria, and the diaspora.

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Foreword

The ever-increasing-sophistication of the media and communication landscape has created an intense desire for the National Universities Commission (NUC) to recently announce the unbundling of the traditional Mass Communication degree programme in universities in Nigeria to eight disciplines in Communication and Media Studies (Journalism, and Media Studies, Information, and Media Studies, Advertising, Public, Relations, Development Communication, Broadcasting, Strategic Communication, Film and Multimedia Studies). This development, coupled with the enormous growth in the media industry in Nigeria in terms of the number of media organisations and adoption of best global practices and technologies, has created the need for new and more specialised instructional and reading materials relevant for use by stakeholders in tertiary educational system in Nigeria. In this context, *Issues in Contemporary Journalism Education, and Practice in Nigeria* is a book designed to not just fill the gap in instructional materials for the new disciplines but a contribution to Communication and Media studies scholarship and practice that touches on the relevant contemporary issues in journalism.

The dynamism in journalism in the digital age demands nothing short of good-quality books that elucidate, and illustrate the emerging or evolving concepts, and principles for better comprehension of theories, and methods by students, scholars and practitioners. This book provides a widely useful compilation in this regard, and in terms of objectives, principles and concepts on issues in journalism education.

The book is indeed timely, especially in respect of the unbundling of Mass Communication in Nigeria. Overall, the book offers students, practitioners and scholars a concrete, useful, and in-depth look at topical issues in Journalism. Clearly written and well organised.

I congratulate the authors and wish them greater energy to do more for the strengthening of the body of knowledge in the area. I hope that students pursuing their undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Journalism and Media Studies, as well as communication scholars/practitioners, will greatly benefit from the contents of this book, and thus, the motive of the book will be achieved. I invite you to get a copy of this book for yourself and get another copy for someone. It should be in every school's professional library.

Professor Joseph Wilson
HOD of Mass Communication,
Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria.

Preface

Journalism in the digital age has taken a different dimension both in theoretical, and practical application. The trends and dynamics accelerated by technology in the industry have created ways for new approaches to better journalistic practice. Today, technology-rich societies are consolidating their alignment with the demands of the digital age, and media industries are grappling with new opportunities which call for fresh insight into issues in contemporary journalism education in Nigeria. The need to expose students to content that will sufficiently prepare them for global challenges is fundamental in this era of digital journalism.

In traditional journalistic writing, news must only be found, verified, and skilfully reported via established mass communication media. The advent of online platforms for doing journalistic business has brought about a transformation in the conventional news production chain. There are phenomenal changes in the ways global citizens communicate and interact. The era is one in which the mass media industries are highly disrupted. With mediatisation, digitalisation, and audience participation in the public sphere, old theories, concepts, curricula, and pedagogy of communication and media studies are increasingly put to the test.

This book, therefore, focuses on diverse issues, including the utilisation of the digital space for economic and national development, social activism and political participation, the spread of fake news and hate speech, security challenges, public relations, media consumption, and mediated experiences.

Issues in Contemporary Journalism Education, and Practice in Nigeria employs a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches to address contemporary issues, to provide students, professionals, and scholars critical perspectives in journalistic engagements. The way society consumes news, and content and the pedagogical context of issues in journalism have changed dramatically.

Current issues in journalism education are presented in ten Chapters. Chapter One examined the mass media, classification and types of mass media, historical development of the print media in Nigeria, electronic media discourse, the internet, the internet in Nigeria, social media in Nigeria, types of social media, uses of social media in Nigeria, challenges of social media, characteristics of the internet, and social media, factors that influence the development of mass media in Nigeria, and the combat press of the Nigerian civil war, and boom in government, and private press.

Perspectives on journalism and Nigerian women, factors that determine news selection in journalism, other elements that affect news selection, the basic principles of journalism, gendered journalism, and factors fuelling gender discrimination in Nigerian news media, common hindrances encountered by Nigerian women journalists were the focus of Chapter Two. Issues addressed in Chapter Three include Nigerian media, and the watchdog role, as well as watchdog journalism in broadcast media.

Chapter Four covers the topics of investigative journalism, its purposes, the characteristics of an investigative reporter, the distinction between conventional and investigative journalism, obstacles facing investigative journalism, its prospects, and how to get started. Chapter Five focuses on political journalism and reporting, political news reporting, components of excellent political reporting, political news reporting in Nigeria, and political reporting principles.

The topics covered in Chapter Six include citizen journalism, the opinions of academics on it, its global emergence, its advantages and disadvantages in Nigeria, and its implications for mainstream media. Chapter Seven covers peace journalism and conflict management; the principles, the ten commandments, the emergence of peace journalism, its characteristics, its five guiding principles; the practice of peace journalism in Nigeria; its challenges; journalists as conflict perpetrators; the post-conflict peacebuilding process; conventional strategies for reporting conflict; lessons from American versus Chinese approaches to conflict resolution; and media, and conflict reporting in Nigeria.

Chapter Eight examines conflict reporting in journalism, perspectives on conflict, phases of conflicts, triangles and levels of conflict analysis, conflict and manifest conflict reporting, and latent conflict reporting; and the Niger-Delta crisis. Chapter Nine explores artificial intelligence and algorithmic journalism, its advantages and disadvantages, challenges, and potential future implementation of algorithmic technology in journalism practice. While global journalistic threats, mapping threats to journalists in the world, and protection, and mitigation strategies to the threats are the focus of Chapter Ten. Chapter Eleven is the summary chapter that highlights the main issues discussed in all the previous chapters.

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About the Authors

Nosa Owens-Ibie, PhD, University of Ibadan (1992), is a Professor of Communication, Media and Development, and former Vice-Chancellor, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, Nigeria. He earned his B.Sc. (Honours) and M.Sc. degrees in Mass Communication from the University of Lagos, in 1980 and 1983. He was the first to be appointed a professor by Caleb University in 2011, became the first substantive Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University in 2018, was variously Head, Department of Mass Communication, Dean of Students, Dean, College of Social and Management Sciences, and Dean, College of Postgraduate Studies. On April 9, 2013, he delivered the maiden inaugural lecture of the University *Communicating an Implosion: Signs and Wander, Popular Culture and the Crumbling of Empire*. He coordinated the establishment in 2013 of the Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria and was the General Secretary until 2024. He has authored and co-authored academic and professional articles in Nigeria and other parts of the world. He was a columnist in *The Guardian on Sunday* and *Sunday Punch* newspapers for a decade and scripted for programmes on television and radio. A panellist for over two decades for Diamond Awards for Media Excellence (DAME) in Nigeria, he has consulted for International development agencies including WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and IOM, facilitated trainings and other capacity building programmes for government agencies, multinational companies and non-governmental organisations, and coordinated the development of toolkits for ActionAid Nigeria in the areas of Health and Women's Right. His coordination activities in ACSPN includes several collaborations with UNESCO, including on the production of the Media and Information Literacy Non-Curricular Activities Materials for Sierra Leone, four of which have now been adopted globally by UNESCO, and available on the UNESCO website UNESDOC Digital Library. A former Federal Government of Nigeria postgraduate Scholarship beneficiary, he is a Fellow of the International Institute of Journalism, Berlin, Germany and Salzburg Seminar, Austria. He is a member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Associate Member, Advertising Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON), and member of both the Nigerian Academy of Letters and International Association and the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR).

Eric Msughter Aondover, Ph.D, is a lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication at Caleb University, Imota, Lagos. Aondover is a communication scholar and has published papers in several national and international scholarly journals and attended and participated in several

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He is the author of the following textbooks: Foundations of Communication and Media Studies (2024), Media Narratives on Hate Speech in Nigeria (2023), New Approach to Mass Media Writing (2022), Fundamentals of Media English (2022), Media Law and Ethics in Nigeria: Issues, Principles and Practices (2021), Contemporary Approach to Social Science Research (2020), A Prescriptive Approach to Development Communication (2020), Fundamentals of Mass Media and Communication Research (2018), Selected Themes in Specialised Reporting (2018), A Prescriptive Approach of Peace Journalism and Development (2018), Understanding Safety and Protection in Nigeria's Journalism (2017), The Ghost Gun (2015), Tears of Destiny (2012) and many more.

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