



Monthly newsletter: January 2017



Message from Keith

Greetings,

I've always been a believer that journalism schools should be places not only where journalism is taught, but also where quality journalism is produced. And that is true now more than ever.

With the media industry in the throes of massive disruption, and traditional newsrooms retrenching and reducing staff, there's a need for in-depth, well-written, well-reported stories. Journalism schools, with a large body of eager and talented students, not to mention experienced professional staffers, can and should be filling that vacuum.

To that end, I see partnerships between journalism schools and media outlets as essential. That's why we at the JMSC have been pursuing strong partnerships—with Quartz/Atlantic Media, with Agence France-Presse, and now with our newest industry partner, [Asia Sentinel](#).

Asia Sentinel was born to address the dearth of top-notch regional reporting following the demise of *AsiaWeek* and the *Far Eastern Economic Review* at the beginning of the 2000s, and it has since established itself as an award-winning publication. Under our new partnership, JMSC students will pitch stories of local and regional interest to Asia Sentinel, allowing our

student journalists to work directly with professional editors to produce digital story packages for a general audience—in other words, producing journalism for wider readership, not just for the classroom.

This kind of learn-by-doing approach has sometimes been called the “journalism teaching hospital” method, meaning students, mentored by journalism teachers and working with industry professionals, producing original content and telling stories in innovative ways.

That experiential way of learning has long been a staple at the JMSC, particularly with our internship programme. Many of our MJ students are just returning to campus now from winter internships at news outlets in Hong Kong, mainland China, and further afield in places like Nepal, Myanmar and Malaysia. We can’t wait to hear about their adventures!

In the meantime, the first of our student articles will be appearing this week on Asia Sentinel. And as you will see from the accompanying newsletter, we’ve added to our staff George Russell (MJ 2016), an experienced writer and editor here in Hong Kong, who will take on a big role in working with students and helping shape their stories for publication.

As I’ve said before, this is an exciting time to be a journalist, and it’s a particularly exciting time to be in Asia. This year in Hong Kong, we’re facing a transition at the top, with the chief executive’s selection wide open following the surprise decision of the incumbent, CY Leung, not to seek a second term. And in China, President Xi Jinping looks set to cement his position for the next five years—and maybe beyond—following the upcoming 19th Communist Party Congress later this year.

There’s a transition under way in Thailand, with the ascent of the new King, and the military regime still promising to hold elections this year to return the country to civilian government. The Philippines’ mercurial President Rodrigo Duterte continues to make headlines with his bloody war on drug pushers and criminals, and his announced plans to strategically move closer to China and away from the US. South

Korea remains gripped by a leadership crisis with the impeachment trial of President Park Geun-hye.

And then of course there's the incoming presidency of Donald Trump in the US. With Trump's vow to get tough on what he has called China's currency manipulation and unfair trade practices, with tensions rising in the South China Sea, and with North Korea's young leader Kim Jong-un threatening to test intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching American soil, it all promises to be a chaotic first year of the new Trump administration—with Asia as a key potential flashpoint.

All in all, it's an exciting time to be reporting from this region, telling Asia's story. And it's the perfect time to be adding Asia Sentinel as one of our industry partners.

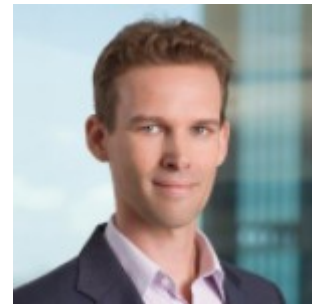
Keith

Keith Richburg
JMSC Director

New appointments

Tom Wright – Journalist-in-Residence

Tom Wright is Asia Economics Editor at *The Wall Street Journal* and will be helping to supervise students with their capstone projects. Tom and several colleagues were finalists for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for their coverage of the scandal involving Malaysian state investment company 1MDB and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.



Vivienne Chow – Honorary Lecturer

Vivienne Chow is an award-winning journalist and critic specialising in arts, culture and cultural politics.

She currently works as an independent writer and contributes to global media including *Variety*, Quartz, Artsy, and the BBC World Service as well as Hong Kong's *SCMP*. Vivienne will be teaching the Entertainment, arts and culture journalism course.



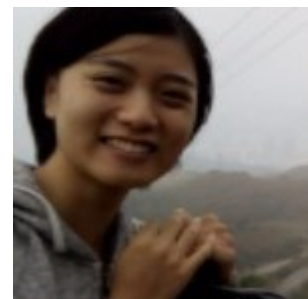
George Russell – Editor

George Russell is a writer and editor whose work primarily focuses on business but also includes law, accounting, and social and cultural matters. George's writing has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, Bloomberg, *Variety* and the *New York Post*, as well as specialty trade and business magazines. George will be helping to supervise students with their writing and reporting work.



So Ka Ue – Research Assistant

So Ka Ue has joined the Hong Kong Documentary Initiative team as a Research Assistant. Ka Ue graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Film and Television School two years ago and has since worked in the local film and television industry.



Highlights last month

Class of 2016 graduates

Big congratulations to all JMSC students who graduated in December as part of the Class of 2016, along with BJ Programme Director Jeff Timmermans who received his PhD. Photos from the 196th Congregation



for the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre are [here](#), and photos of some of our MJs outside Eliot Hall [here](#).

Master of Journalism Info Session

Prospective MJ applicants visited Eliot Hall and the HKU campus on 1 December to learn about the MJ programme for the 2017–18 academic year and try out the JMSC's brand new broadcast studio and production facilities. Photo album [here](#).



Journalism can help Cambodia find true democracy, says Master of Journalism student

Nov Povleakhena was born in Cambodia as the country was embracing the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, following decades of civil war and Cold War manoeuvring that left a trail of misery and destruction. Now an MJ student, she hopes her training here can help in Cambodia's rebirth. Read more [here](#).



In front of and behind the camera: Cantopop singer enriches herself with HKU Master of Journalism programme

Venus Yiu describes herself as a 'slash'—the new term for someone pursuing multiple career paths at the same time. As well as being a singer-songwriter in Hong Kong, Yiu has also been working in the PR and media industry for over five years,



and has now just finished her first semester as an MJ. Read more [here](#).

BBC correspondent speaks to students about how the BBC covered the missing booksellers story

Juliana Liu, the BBC's Hong Kong Correspondent, spoke to MJ students about how the BBC Hong Kong team covered the dramatic case of the missing booksellers. Read more [here](#).



JMSC joins Google News Lab University Network

The JMSC is proud to be part of the Google News Lab University Network, comprised of an initial cohort of 46 journalism schools from all over the globe. Read more [here](#).



Best journalism advice ever received?

Keith Richburg discusses the best journalism advice he ever received, his most over-the-top assignment, and more in this [Q&A interview](#) by the Overseas Press Club of America.



Hong Kong Transparency Report 2016 published

[The Hong Kong Transparency Report 2016](#) was published in December. More analysis on the Report's findings by Hong Kong Free Press [here](#).



Full house for the *Tongzhi in Love* screening

It was a full house for the *Tongzhi in Love* [screening and Q&A session](#) in Hong Kong with Ruby Yang on Saturday 3 December.



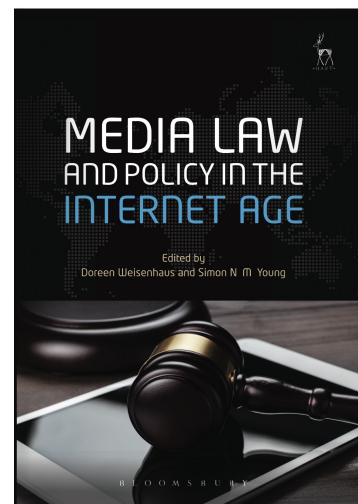
Digital Asia Hub newsletter: AI
Digital Asia Hub produced a [bumper anniversary issue](#) of their newsletter all about artificial intelligence to celebrate a year since the hub's soft launch.



Articles, publications and presentations

***Media Law and Policy in the Internet Age* goes to press**

Associate Professor Doreen Weisenhaus' latest book, *Media Law and Policy in the Internet Age*, went to press in late December with Hart Publishing. The book features essays by Weisenhaus and co-author Simon Young of HKU's Faculty of Law, along with some of the world's leading experts who examine the emerging landscape of media law and policy reform in nations with variable political and legal contexts, and provide a framework for understanding the dynamics of technology-driven change. The book will be published in February and is [available for pre-order now](#).



Hong Kong bamboo climbing frame project aims to change how children play

Honorary Lecturer Marianne Bray wrote [this piece](#) for the *South China Morning Post* about an initiative to draw Hong Kong children closer to nature.



CMP articles: Clickbait, Christmas and American media

Reports by David Bandurski and the China Media Project last month included [Beijing Declares War on “Clickbaiters”](#), [Christmas in the People’s Daily](#), and [The Objective Failure of American Media](#).



When a typo is no laughing matter

David Bandurski discusses the dangers of editing mistakes in Chinese media in [this article](#) for SupChina.



New China policy may give Trump and the US an early win

Keith Richburg looks at how Trump's bold moves on China may be one of the few bright spots in his forthcoming presidency in [this article](#) for the Nikkei Asian Review.



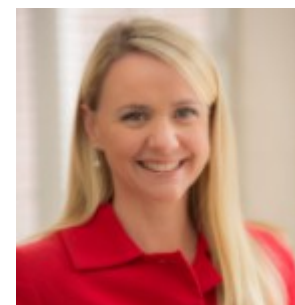
From Diamond Village to Wukan: An Interview with the China Media Project’s David Bandurski

An [interview with David Bandurski](#) about his book *Dragons in Diamond Village*, and more, by *Los Angeles Review of Books*.



JMSC's news literacy projects highlighted by The Splice Newsroom

Anne Kruger and the JMSC's news literacy initiatives were mentioned in [The Splice Newsroom's newsletter](#). The aim of the organisation is to transform media newsrooms and support media-startup entrepreneurs.



Presentation at BarCamp Hong Kong

PhD candidate Chan Chung Hong won the [best presentation award](#) for his talk at [BarCamp Hong Kong](#) on 10 December about the pressing issues of social media. His slides from the presentation can be found [here](#), and some photos from the talk [here](#).



HKDI Oscar Masters Symposium covered by Initium Media (Chinese article)

Hong Kong Documentary Initiative's 2 November Oscar Masters Symposium 'Storytelling for a global audience' was covered in this [Chinese article](#) by Initium Media.



Student news

Year in Review 2016: Mannequin Challenge

Joy Pamnani and other BJ students produced [this 2016 review video](#) with a twist.



MJ students on internship at the *Nepali Times*

MJ students interning at the *Nepali Times* have been busy producing stories. Qiu Tian and Pan Lan wrote [Nepal-China trade goes online](#) and [No restrictions on Chinese Tourists](#), and Qiu Tian wrote [Strawberry mountains](#) (photos by Kristina Shperlik, video by Pan Lan), looking at a unique cooperative which brings together Japanese entrepreneurship and Nepali farmers. Kristina Shperlik wrote [Federalism is the talk of the town in the Tarai](#).



In Hong Kong, a Model for Aging with Grace

MJ student Shen Xinmei reports on [an agency specialising in older models](#) for U.S. News and World Report.



Freelancing at Hong Kong Free Press

BJ student Eric Cheung freelanced at Hong Kong Free Press for a week in December. Click [here](#) to see the articles that Eric wrote.



Photo gallery: A Day in Tai O

[Photos and captions](#) of Tai O fishing village in Hong Kong from current BJ student Elizabeth Utley.



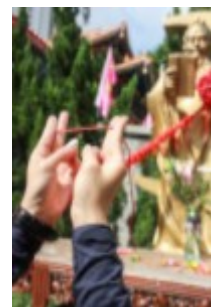
Fading Traditions: Pushkar camel fair 2016

This [final video project](#) for the TV News production course by current MJ Sonali Devnani looks at the semi-nomadic camel herders struggling to sell their animals at the Pushkar fair in India's Rajasthan.



Photo story: Wong Tai Sin

Current MJ Venus Yiu published [this photo story](#) about rituals at Wong Tai Sin Temple in Hong Kong.



Conserving the pink dolphins

Current MJ Alessandro Meccheri accompanied researchers on a trip out to the waters around Hong Kong airport and the huge new Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge construction project for [this video report](#) about the conservation of pink dolphins.



Alumni highlights

Getting Social With Content

Suhani Jain (BJ 2012) discusses her role as Social & Content Director at Grana and wider interests in [this interview](#) for the online fashion startup.

GRANA

Meet the Girl: Ishita Desai, Founder of Aanya

Ishita Desai (BJ 2014), founder of lifestyle brand Aanya, was

ESEMBLĒ

interviewed by ESEMBLE about her reasons for starting the company, its fair trade practices and Hong Kong. Read the interview [here](#).

Covering the 2015 earthquake in Nepal

Sonia Awale (MJ 2016) talks about covering the devastating 2015 earthquake in Nepal, and how her reporting trips also became relief missions in this [video](#) for the current MJ admissions campaign.



The age of the cyborg

MJ 2010 Jonathan Stray looks at [how AI is coming to journalism](#), but perhaps not in the way you might have imagined.

Columbia Journalism Review.

Covering the Hong Kong Open

2016 MJ Bridgette Hall [covered the Hong Kong Open for the Associated Press](#) with several reports during the golf tournament.

AP

Hong Kong Ombudsman: Government Should Stop Stonewalling Digital News Outlets

2015 MJ Cal Wong reported on [criticism of the Hong Kong government's treatment of digital-only media outlets](#) for The Diplomat.

THE DIPLOMAT
Read The Diplomat, Know the Asia-Pacific

Time-Lapse: 72 Hours of Air Pollution in Shijiazhuang

MJ 2015 Wang Yiwei got her first byline for Sixth Tone with [this article](#) about smog in northern China.

SIXTH TONE

Cambodia's microcredit boom: a blessing but also a curse

Erin Hale (MJ 2014) looks at [how the business of](#)

[issuing small loans to impoverished borrowers](#) is booming in Cambodia.



RTHK Radio 3 Backchat: News credibility and 'fake' news

Tom Grundy, who recently completed his MJ, spoke on [RTHK's Radio 3's Backchat](#) about news credibility and 'fake' news on 5 December.



Study: Singapore, HK lead with women fund managers

2016 MJ graduate Francis Nikolai Acosta [reports on a recent Morningstar report](#) for Fund Selector Asia.



MJs reporting for Asia Times

MJ alumni Fatima Valente and Poo Yee Kai worked together on [this report about the inaugural Macau film festival](#). 2016 MJ Olivia Lin Wanxia also co-wrote [this piece](#) about China's foreign exchange stockpile for the publication.



Turning science fiction into fact: exploring virtual reality

2016 MJ Sonia Awale looks at [how VR, robotics and artificial intelligence are helping](#) with innovations in medicine, manufacturing, and construction that would have been science fiction a few years ago.



Coming up this month

MJ 2017–18 Admissions Webinar

Potential MJ applicants are invited to join us on 14 January to learn more about the MJ application process, student life and career progression, including the JMSC's extensive internship programme and what some of our alumni are doing today. More info [here](#).



Book launch: *The Gaze of Exile: Witnessing China's Documentary Movement* (15 January, Putonghua event)

Written by Huang Wenhai with support from the JMSC, this book looks back on more than a decade of development in Chinese independent film, with interviews with many of the movement's key figures, including Hu Jie, Ai Xiaoming and Ai Weiwei. *The Gaze of Exile* is an essential contribution to the history of film in contemporary China. More details [here](#) (Chinese) and [here](#) (English).



21st annual Human Rights Press Awards now open for entry (deadline: 31 January)

Asia's most prestigious honours recognising outstanding human rights reporting are now open for entry. The goal of the Awards is to increase respect for people's basic rights and to focus attentions on threats to those freedoms. Read more [here](#).



'Making Sense of the News' starts

The free online course—with English, Chinese and Spanish subtitles—started on 9 January on Coursera. Watch a sneak preview of the lesson on debunking viral news, presented by Anne Kruger, [here](#). Register for the MOOC [here](#).

