

ICA 2025 Preconference
Artificial Intelligence in Journalism from a Global Perspective:
Past, Present, and Future

Edited by Maximilian Eder and Helle Sjøvaag

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Introduction

Maximilian Eder and Helle Sjøvaag

Over the past two decades, there has been a notable shift towards automation and data-driven news production processes in many countries worldwide, partially supported by artificial intelligence (AI). Research on AI in journalism addresses a broad field of applications, with AI applied as “an umbrella term for a range of technologies such as automated statistical data analysis, machine learning, and natural language processing” (Deuze & Beckett, 2022, p. 1914).

Initially, early applications of AI were utilized for automated tasks such as data analysis and news aggregation to alleviate routine journalistic tasks, allowing news organizations to streamline their operations and produce content more efficiently (Napoli, 2014). AI’s role in journalism has since grown significantly and introduced new possibilities and challenges within the news ecosystem. Today, especially with the emergence of generative AI models such as OpenAI’s ChatGPT in 2022, these technologies can now assist journalists with “a wide range of activities such as interview transcription, workflow automation, content generation, and personalization” (Sirén-Heikel et al., 2023, p. 355).

Looking ahead, the future of AI in journalism holds further promises. As AI-based technologies continue to advance, there are possibilities for entirely new approaches to journalism through hyper-person-

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alized news ecosystems where content is tailored in real time based on individual user preferences (Gartry, 2024). However, these advancements will likely come with new challenges related to the ethical dimensions of AI decision-making and editorial independence (Becker, 2023), as well as the impact of AI on jobs within the journalism industry (Simon, 2024). Moreover, the relationship between AI and the public's trust in media will further become an issue as societies must grapple with questions about the role of AI-generated content in maintaining the credibility and integrity of news sources (Fletcher & Nielsen, 2024).

The academic abstracts collected in this edited volume are the result of a preconference held on 12 June 2025 at Metropolitan State University (MSU) Denver before the 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA). The preconference entitled *Artificial Intelligence in Journalism from a Global Perspective: Past, Present, and Future* was organised by Maximilian Eder (LMU Munich) and Helle Sjøvaag (University of Stavanger) as part of an international project on responsible AI for local journalism funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The event marks the second time our project team has hosted such an event, following the preconference to the 72nd Annual ICA Conference in Paris on the dynamics of (ir)responsible AI in journalism and algorithmically shaped news flows.

This year's preconference focused on understanding and studying AI- and algorithm-based technologies concerning journalism to provide an opportunity for discussing the past, present, and future of the complex relationship between technologies and journalism from various perspectives. Moreover, the event addressed the specific uses of (generative) AI in countries from the Global South and Asia, which have sometimes been late adopters of such technologies.

A key focus of the program was to address the transformative AI shift happening in the news media industry in many countries worldwide, through different lenses within communication science, namely computational communication, journalism studies, audience studies, information law, and ethics. To achieve this aim, the preconference brought together young, emerging, and senior scholars working with innovative research designs and qualitative or quantitative methods.

The 14 accepted abstracts, of which 13 are published in this edited volume, were selected after a double-blind peer review process. The submissions come from different countries on five continents, including Australia, China, Germany, the Netherlands, the USA, Switzerland, and Qatar.

The organising committee wants to thank the Volkswagen Foundation for funding the preconference and this volume. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the local organising committee at MSU Denver, P. Mukherjee, E. James, and J. Kirby, for their support.

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