

IDEAS-BE Seminar Fall 2021

Journalism and Architecture

Paper Review – Firdous Nizar

Title?

- Used to be:
 - **Blogging as Designing:
Journalistic Storytelling for Architectural Education**
- Now confused between:
 1. Investigative Journalism for Community Engagement in Sustainable Development Projects
 2. Development Journalism for Community Engagement in Architecture and Sustainable Development Projects

Comments from JAE reviewers

- Makes **several points**, which, when aggregated do not amount all amount to the last argument: newsgaming as a mode of disseminating architectural content to a wider audience.
- **Similarities between architecture and journalism disciplines seem too questionable**
- Develops many small trajectories; **difficult to unearth main idea**; need to provide one clear idea
- **More figures** when explaining the online newsgame and publication examples
- Potential question: **How can blogging and creative journalism "push the discursive boundaries of relevant issues in housing and development" by expanding its methodological scope** and being also evaluated within academic recognition?

Moving away from Blogging (for now)...

- Lot of issues regarding ownership of news content generated and distributed in blogs
- Journalistic rigor not reinforced in blogs which are more open-ended and fluid due to social media
- May not always engage the right audience around housing and development issues
- Need to look more broadly at what type of popularly established category of journalism could be useful in reporting developments in housing projects, etc.

...and looking into Investigative Journalism

- Investigative Journalism means the unveiling of matters that are concealed either deliberately by someone in a position of power, or accidentally, behind a chaotic mass of facts and circumstances - and the analysis and exposure of all relevant facts to the public.
- The investigative journalist works solely by evidence in an iterative and empirical manner in order to weigh both sides of its validity and justify a full-fledged investigation.

...or Development Journalism

- Development journalism promotes and contributes to humane development, which focuses on helping people meet their basic needs, empowering people to articulate their concerns and manage their development and ameliorating poverty and inequality.
- Development journalism is democratic and emphasizes communication from the “bottom up.” Bottom-up reporting results in news that includes the voices and perspectives of people most adversely effected by modernization. By prioritizing the views of people at the grass-roots level, development journalism allows them access to mass audiences and policy makers.

Investigative/Development Journalism for Community Engagement in Architecture/Sustainable Development Projects

~~Blogging as Designing:~~

~~Journalistic Storytelling for Architectural Education~~

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Abstract

In the late twentieth century, online publications in architecture, engineering and construction have taken over much of the knowledge accessed by researchers, practitioners and the public in order to be better informed about sustainable development projects. These publications are distributed in various digital formats such as blog posts, magazines, journal articles, etc. that are predominantly catered to update practitioners of innovative project precedents and construction trends. However, there is a lack of in-depth engagement and dialogue with community members by these publications on sustainable development projects that directly or indirectly affect their lived experiences in the city. In this article, we argue that this gap in community engagement for architecture and sustainable development projects could be addressed by leveraging investigative/development journalism and its knowledge production and distribution ideologies and approaches. Through literature review and case studies of 3 recent publications, this paper explores the potential of investigative/development journalism to: (1) enable democratic accountability and right to the city, (2) facilitate real-time access to project knowledge, (3) empower active commentary, and (4) foster multimodal and multicultural exchange of new knowledge. Based on these case studies and potentials, we discuss the possibility of implementing investigative/development journalistic reporting as communication strategies for sustainable development projects to increase community engagement.

This paper is divided into...

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Professional synergies between Architecture and Journalism
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