**School of Journalism and Media Studies**

**Introduction**

The school of Journalism and Media Studies had a productive year despite the circumstances. Continued funding by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the South African Reserve Bank and the National Research Fund (NRF) sustained an upward trajectory in senior postgraduate graduations. Staff members and students (co)authored three (3) book chapters and ten (10) journal articles, as well as creative work and international conference papers. The shift to remote teaching, learning and communication presented opportunities for research as well as organisation of virtual seminars with local and international guests.

**Postgraduates / Graduations**

The School graduated forty-two (42) Bachelor of Journalism, thirty (30) Bachelor of Arts, two (2)  
Postgraduate Diploma, twenty-two (22) Media Management Diploma, six (6) Honours, fourteen (14) Masters, and four (4) Doctor of Philosophy candidates. The Postgraduates were engaged in a variety of journalism and media studies projects, ranging from health and economics journalism to the study of digital inequalities, critical analyses of social media in the global South and more. **Under the leadership of Mr Francis Mdlongwa, the Rhodes University Sol Plaatje Institute received approval from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), Council on Higher Education (CHE), and Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to run a distance Postgraduate Diploma in Media Management. This is the first such distance programme offered by RU and will run alongside the existing fulltime PGDip in Media Management.**

**Distinguished Visitors / International Visits**

Prof Anthea Garman and Dr Adjin Tettey were invited to be part of the sustainable journalism in sub-Saharan Africa report/policy brief spearheaded by the Fojo Media Institute, Sweden, under the Consortium to Promote Human Rights, Civic Freedoms and Media Development (CHARM) project. It brought together scholars from Rhodes University, Wits University and Jönköping University, Sweden. The main objectives of the project policy brief were to explore how sustainable journalism could be applied in sub-Saharan Africa as well as its implications for media development in the region along with the provision of clear policy directions for its practice. The team conducted interviews with journalists in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Liberia. Interviewees acknowledged the importance of journalistic attention being given to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The policy brief recommends what can be done at the individual, organisational and systemic levels to ensure successful sustainable journalism practice in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, Prof Garman presented guest lectures at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

**Significant Research Aligned Events**

Prof Anthea Garman and a team of doctoral and post-doctoral students (Dr Theodora Adjin-Tettey, Ms Martina Della Togna, Ms Thandeka Bukula and Ms Thandi Bombi) all contributed towards the Covid-19 Country Report. The aim of the report was to examine how government, along with its social partners, managed and responded to the Covid-19 pandemic. As communications scholars focusing on listening theory, their research and writing of the chapter on communications centred on perspectives and insights geared towards understanding government’s communications strategy and the responses to it from the South African public.

Dr Alette Schoon and Prof Harry Dugmore, together with Dr Hayes Mabweazara (University of Glasgow) and Prof Tanja Bosch (University of Cape Town), edited the 2020 “African Digital Media Review”, a Special Annual Issue of *African Journalism Studies.* The special issue broadly explores debates that emerged from the first African Digital Methods Symposium, “African Digi-methods”, which took place at Rhodes University’s School of Journalism and Media Studies in June 2019. The commentary piece by Prof Jean Burgess and Prof Axel Bruns (Queensland University of technology) reflects on some of the key methodological challenges in the field as well as the contributions carried in the issue).

Dr Alette Schoon collaborated with Prof Janice Limson from Biotech Innovation in the Science Faculty on a joint research project funded by Biosafety SA in the field of Science Communication, examining how to develop a model for engaged science communication. The project engages with sugarcane growers in KZN about a new South African sugarcane GM product, developed by the South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI). The research project uses various tools such as questionnaires, in-depth interviews, multi-media animation and documentary film to document the process of developing and testing media with both commercial and small-scale sugarcane growers. It follows an action-research and practice-led approach to theorizing media practices within science communication.

Absa granted Rhodes University support to host a Data Journalism Master class for African Journalists from ten (10) African countries. The 2020 Data journalism Masterclass, facilitated by Dr Peter Verweij, (D3 Media) is part of a longstanding relationship between Absa and Rhodes University, which is centred primarily on capacitating African journalists to report on financial and economic matters on the African continent effectively. Research in this area is ongoing within the South African Reserve Bank Centre for Economics Journalism hosted by the School and headed by Mr Ryan Hancocks.

Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance granted Rhodes University support to host a Social Accountability Data Journalism Course for fifteen (15) journalists from Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The capacity building initiative sought to support the existing nucleus of investigative journalists to utilise data collection, analysis and visualisation tools to report effectively on social accountability issues related to food security, HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Southern Africa. The 2020 Social Accountability Data Journalism Course, facilitated by Mr Tatenda Chatikobo (Highway Africa coordinator), is part of the PSA Alliance project ‘Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa,’ which seeks to improve public service delivery in agriculture (food security), health (HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health and rights) and public resource management.

Highway Africa, the continent’s biggest and oldest conference series run by Rhodes University, launched a series of four high-level webinars dubbed ‘’Our Futures, Our New Normals’’ to seek practical solutions to challenges that face African media and journalism in the era of Covid-19 and how to exploit emerging opportunities. The first webinar, titled "The future of journalism and media in Africa", sought solutions to the challenges that face African media and journalism in the era of Covid-19, platformisation and fake news and reflected on how to exploit emerging opportunities. In the second webinar, titled "Journalists, scientists, whistle-blowers, governments: who are the truth-tellers?", four media experts from across the African continent discussed how to navigate the rocky terrain of deciding who to trust amongst journalists, scientists, governments and whistle-blowers in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The third webinar, titled "Building trust, practising credibility, journalism's challenge" looked at the credibility of news content of our media and the role audience trust plays in the economic and financial fortunes and misfortunes of media houses and their journalism. The fourth and final seminar, titled"Thinking globally, acting locally: sustaining South African media in a post covid world" explored and discussed what South Africans can learn from global debates about funding independent journalism and the new media economics of news.

In addition:

* Dr Jeanne du Toit presented on a case study of a service-learning course that forms part of the third-year programme. This is part of a broad ongoing effort in the school towards innovative curriculum development and to explore synergies between teaching, research and community engagement. Mr Shepi Mati, Mr Rod Amner, Ms Jane Viedge and Dr Priscilla Boshoff are part of the team.
* Mr Jan du Toit, a wildlife filmmaker and lighting DOP, presented a seminar about the ethical debates around making wildlife films, drawing on his expertise documenting the lives of meerkat and wild dogs.
* Senior students in the School of JMS hosted a virtual seminar series called Owning the Future, designed to be of benefit to students who are about to graduate and enter the working world of media. Over multiple sessions organised as panels, graduates from the School of JMS who have now established themselves as media practitioners spoke about their experience of media work and offered advice to new graduates about how to find pursue their own career paths. All students in the School of JMS were invited to subscribe to the Owning the Future network's regular newsletter, contribute to the webinar series by suggesting panellists and debate questions, or help to create compelling artwork to promote the series, such as posters and a logo.
* [Ms Heather Robertson, the inaugural editor of the Daily Maverick newspaper, shared her challenges as a newspaper editor in this economic climate as well as her excitement about this new venture.](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uva.nl%2Fen%2Fprofile%2Fd%2Fe%2Fm.j.p.deuze%2Fm.j.p.deuze.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHg-j1zaqVpGmKdDmQWqUW83muzgQ)
* [Dr Mark Deuze](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uva.nl%2Fen%2Fprofile%2Fd%2Fe%2Fm.j.p.deuze%2Fm.j.p.deuze.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHg-j1zaqVpGmKdDmQWqUW83muzgQ), a Professor of Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam, and [Dr Tamara Witschge](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rug.nl%2Fstaff%2Ft.a.c.witschge%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGE3wMj1L3KqKMkJK-d9iRGH_mEhg), the Rosalind Franklin Fellow at the University of Groningen, shared some insights into new forms of journalism and presented their new book *'Beyond Journalism'*. In the context of profound transformations in the professional, business, technological and social context of journalism, it is crucial for journalism studies and education to move beyond limited approaches to the discipline. Among the most significant changes affecting journalism worldwide is the emergence of start-up culture, as more and more journalists strike out on their own. The authors combine extensive global and comparative fieldwork with the aim to recognize new and emerging voices as legitimate participants in the discourse about what journalism is, can be and should be. The virtual seminar was chaired by Prof Anthea Garman.

**Dr Jean Du Toit**

**Head of School**

**Mr Ryan Hancocks**

**Deputy Head of School**

**Prof Lorenzo Dalvit**

**Deputy Head of School**

Books/Chapters/Monographs

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** (2020) Healthcare gets smarter: smart and digital technology usage by maternal and neo-natal healthcare providers. In: *Mobile Devices and Smart Gadgets in Medical Sciences (pp. 39-55).* USA: IGI Global. p.39-55. ISBN: 9781719825210.

**Garman, A.**

**Garman, A.** (2020) Anger, pain and the body in the South African public sphere. In: Cowling, L. and Hamilton, C. (eds.). *Babel Unbound: Rage, Reason and Rethinking Public Life*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press. p.239-259. ISBN: 9781776145898.

**Schoon, A**.  
**Schoon, A.** (2020). SciFest Africa, a model for science communication in Africa. In L. Peschke (Ed.), *Let’s Write About Science: Case studies and best practices of science popularization and storytelling*. Peter Lang. [https://doi.org/10.3726/](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.3726%2Fb17778%2F17&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFb-dvjfya8Qauvrs1Use-85nUh2w)

Concerts, Exhibitions, Performances, Workshops, Events

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** Panel Member. GBC @ 85 panel discussions on Media and Democracy. *GBC @ 85 Panel Discussions on Media and Democracy*. Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Accra. Ghana. 3 November 2020.

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** Interview. The Honest Truth (Radio Show). *Gender bias in news coverage*. Smile 90.4FM, Cape Town. South Africa. 20 October 2020.

**Schoon, A.**

**Schoon, A.** Invited Speaker. Creating for digital platforms part III: tips from the experts. *National Arts Festival Webinar*. Zoom, Makhanda. South Africa. 27 May 2020.

**Schoon, A. and Jacobs, J.**  Webinar Co-Hosts. Journalists, scientists, whistle Blowers, governments: who are the truth-tellers? *Highway Africa Webinar Series* Zoom, Makhanda. South Africa. 5 August 2020.

Creative Writing

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** (2020) The media have muted the voices of women during COVID-19: can the tide be turned? In: Leshilo, T. (ed.). *The media have muted the voices of women during COVID-19: can the tide be turned?* South Africa: The Conversation.

**Rennie, G.**

**Rennie, G.** (2020) Here is the river. In: Moolman, K. and Murray, S.M. (eds.). *New Contrast: South African Literary Journal 191*. Cape Town: South African Literary Journal NPC.

**Rennie, G.** (2020) Five hundred grams. In: Moolman, K. and Murray, S.M. (eds.). *New Contrast: South African Literary Journal 191*. Cape Town: South African Literary Journal NPC.

**Rennie, G.** (2020) Bots aloes. In: Owen, H. and Fox, R. (eds.). *In Tandem: Poetry to Imagery (https://nationalartsfestival.co.za/show/in-tandem-poetry-to-imagery/)*. Makhanda: National Arts Festival.

Distinguished Visitors

**Garman, A.**

**A Garman**. University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. *Lecture*. April 2020.

**A Garman**. University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands. *Lecture*. April 2020.

**A Garman**. Fojo Media Institute, Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden. *Research collaboration on Sustainable Journalism*. October 2020.

Peer Reviewed Non-Subsidy-Earning Journal Research Publications

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** (2020) Can ‘digital natives’ be ‘strangers’ to digital technologies? An analytical reflection. 12 (1). p.11-23.

Peer Reviewed Subsidy-Earning Journal Research Publications

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**, Allotey, E., Ogoe, A.S. and Anyomi, H. (2020) Public relations as strategic management function in selected organisations in Accra, Ghana. *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Organizational Studies*. 15 (1). p.13-28.

**Berger, G.**

**Berger, G.** (2020) New opportunities in monitoring safety of journalists through the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. *Media and Communication*. 8 (1). p.78-88.

**Chatikobo, T. and Dalvit, L.**

**Chatikobo, T.** and **Dalvit, L.** (2020) Services, schools and skills: mobile media and local development in a South African Rural Area. *Smart Innovation, Systems and Technologies*. 158 (2020). p.219-231.

**Garman, A.**

**Garman, A.** (2020) Truth-telling in unsettling times - experiments with truth: narrative non-fiction and the coming of democracy in South Africa by Hedley Twidle. Woodbridge, Suffolk: James Currey, 2019. *Literary Journalism Studies*. 12 (1). p.201-203.

**Patnala, S.**

Kalyatanda, G.S., Archibald, L.K., **Patnala, S.**, Paul-Satyaseela, M., Kiran, P.R., **Srinivas, S.**, Byrne, A., Lin, Y., Chekuri, V.N., **Limson, J.L.**, **Paphitis, S.A.**, **Tandlich, R.** and **Hornby, D.** (2020) No human exists in isolation or as an island: the outcomes of a multidisciplinary, global, and context-specific Covid-19 consortium. *American journal of disaster medicine*. 15 (3). p.219-222.

**Prinsloo, J.**

**Prinsloo, J.** (2020) Prototypical women - EDITORIAL. *Agenda : A journal about women and gender*. 34 (4). p.1-2.

**Rennie, G.**

**Rennie, G.** (2020) One moment, three Bullets, a lifetime. *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*. 35 (3). p.645-665.

**Robertson, H.L. and Dugmore, H.**

**Robertson, H.L.** and **Dugmore, H.** (2020) 'But is it journalism?' Reflections on online informational roles and content creation practices of a sample of South African lawyers. *African Journalism Studies*. 40 (3). p.107-122.

**Schoon, A.**

de Lanerolle, I., **Schoon, A.** and Walton, M. (2020) Researching mobile phones in the everyday life of the 'less connected': The development of a new diary method. *African Journalism Studies*. 41 (2020). p.35-50.

**Schoon, A. and Dugmore, H.**

**Schoon, A.**, Mabweazara, H.M., Bosch, T. and **Dugmore, H.** (2020) Decolonising digital media research methods: positioning African digital experiences as epistemic sites of knowledge production. *African Journalism Studies*. 41 (4). p.1-15.

Research Papers Presented at Academic/Scientific Conferences (Non-peer-reviewed Proceedings)

**Dalvit, L.**

**Dalvit, L.** Mobile communication and urban/rural flows in a South African marginalised community. *The Network Society Today*. Online, Barcelona. Spain. November 2020.

**Garman, A.**

**Garman, A.** When the listening stops: South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission two decades later. *International Communication Association*. Online, Goldcoast. Australia. May 2020.