

Media, Investigative Journalism and Technology Conference 2010 @ AUT University

December 4-5 2010

Investigative Journalism Masterclass

Investigative, agenda-setting, and public issue journalism sound like the high-powered and academic strains that most journalists never hope to reach. The very nature of these disciplines means the process will always present a challenge to even the most committed journalist. Then industry constraints and demands make the practice even more difficult. But to what extent should the skills of an investigative journalist simply be the typical tools of trade for an 'ordinary' reporter? How can young journalists learn these practical and perhaps essential skills, only gained from years of insightful and groundbreaking investigations?

This is a first-of-a-kind and rare opportunity for journalism students, graduates and young reporters to sit side by side some of the most experienced and celebrated investigative writers and senior journalists. The round-table approach will effectively create a peer-sharing and productive learning environment for all involved.

Organised by the Pacific Media Centre, School of Communication Studies, AUT University

www.pmc.aut.ac.nz

Resource People: Kunda Dixit, Bill Birnbauer, Professor Wendy Bacon, Dr Kayt Davies, Simon Collins, James Hollings and others.

Programme

Morning Session (following the Barbara Dreaver, Bill Birnbauer and James Hollings presentations 9-10.45am)

11.00-11.30	Simon Collins & James Hollings	Introduction of the Masterclass, followed by presentations by the resource people on their various topics
11.30-1.00	Kayt Davies & Prof Wendy Bacon	Methodologies, Techniques, Law and Ethics
1.00 – 1.45	Lunch Break	

Afternoon Session

1.45-3.00	James Hollings, Prof Wendy Bacon, Kunda Dixit and Simon Collins	Environmental Investigations and Social Advocacy Investigations
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3.00–3.15.00 Afternoon Tea

Plenary Wrap-Up

3.15-4.00	Simon Collins	The Future: Investigative Strategy, a panel discussion on lessons learned, issues dealt with and the formation of an investigative support group.
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4.00pm Conclusion of the Media, Investigative Journalism and Technology Conference 2010

Resource People



Simon Collins (*Facilitator*) is the social issues reporter for the *New Zealand Herald*. He has an economics degree from Victoria University in Wellington. His first job on Wellington's old *Evening Post* spanned rounds ranging from environment to film critic and ended with two years in the parliamentary press gallery in the early Muldoon era (1978-79).

Simon joined the *New Zealand Herald* in 1983 and was its economics reporter through the years of Roger Douglas's free-market reforms, writing *Rogernomics: Is there a better way?* (1987). He left in 1993 to cofound a worker-owned weekly community paper in Wellington, *City Voice*, which aimed to give a voice to the poor and powerless until it folded in 2001. He returned to the *Herald* in 2000.

Simon is a facilitator for the Investigative Journalism Masterclass and is also speaking on Saturday afternoon about the Jesson Journalism Awards.



James Hollings (*Co-facilitator*) is a Lecturer in the School of Communication, Journalism and Marketing at Massey University. James oversees the Graduate Diploma in Journalism and the Writing and Sub-editing, Global Journalism and Investigative Reporting papers of the Bachelor of Communication.

James has extensive experience in the industry, and has worked in senior roles in newspapers and radio, both in New Zealand and overseas. He has won several journalism awards, including the Jubilee Prize for investigative reporting, and co-produced and directed documentaries.

He is currently undertaking a PhD in investigative journalism, and is also interested in photojournalism, documentary, disaster reporting, the history of journalism and contemporary journalism practice.

James is a facilitator for the Investigative Journalism Masterclass and is presenting at the Conference on Sunday on "The Informed Commitment Model: A model of best practice for journalists engaging with reluctant and vulnerable whistleblowers."



Professor Wendy Bacon is director of the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism. A well known Australian investigative journalist and non-practising lawyer, she publishes with *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Crikey.com* and *Reportage Online*. Before joining UTS, she worked at Channel 9 (*Sunday* programme and *Sixty Minutes*), John Fairfax and Sons (*National Times* and *Sun Herald*) and SBS (*Dateline*). She won a Walkley feature writing award and Follow Me award for inspiration to women for her investigations into corruption.

Her current research interests include the reporting of humanitarian and environment issues, finding innovative ways to combine investigative journalism with scholarly research and developing e learning projects around simulation games and blogs. She produces large group investigations with UTS undergraduate and postgraduate students, including *Spinning the Media*, a study of the extent to which Australian news is driven by public relations.

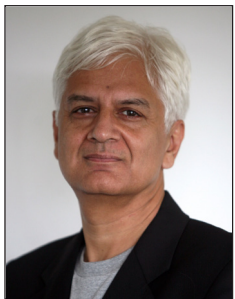
Professor Bacon has taught investigative reporting for John Fairfax and Sons and in PNG, Fiji, Vietnam and Indonesia. She is a contributing editor to *Pacific Journalism Review* and the Sage journal *Journalism Theory, Practice and Criticism*. Professor Bacon will be giving the second keynote address to the conference on Saturday, on "Investigating Aid and Environmental Journalism".



Bill Birnbauer is one of Australia's most senior journalists, with more than 30 years experience at *The Age*, *The Sunday Age* and *The Herald*. He joined Monash University journalism in December 2008. Birnbauer has reported on many high-profile issues and was *The Age's* chief-of-staff, news editor and night editor for almost six years. Bill has made two hour-long TV documentaries. *The Big Lie* (SBS) tracked lung cancer victim Rolah McCabe's battle with Big Tobacco, while *Sudden Death* (ABC) was a medical detective story about a rare genetic defect called malignant hyperthermia

In 1996, Bill led a team that won a Walkley award, Australia's most prestigious journalism award, for a narrative feature on the Port Arthur massacre. He has been a Walkley finalist four times. He won a Melbourne Press Club Quill award (he has been highly commended four times in the Quills), and has won the Victoria Law Foundation award (five times), the Human Rights Award, the UN Association's Media Peace Award and a Dart Award.

He is also a member of the invitation-only International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), a project of the Washington-based Centre for Public Integrity, and has engaged in major investigations for the consortium.



Born in Nepal, **Kunda Dixit** is the publisher of the *Nepali Times*, as well as director of the Panos Institute South Asia and co-publisher of *Himal Magazine*. A graduate of Columbia University, he worked as news reporter for the BBC at UN Headquarters in New York from 1985-86. He was Asia-Pacific director of the Inter Press Service from 1996, when he returned to Nepal to head Panos Institute South Asia, until 2000. He is the author of the book, *Dateline Earth: Journalism As If The Planet Mattered*.

Kunda is visiting New Zealand as the Pacific Media Centre's 2010 Asian Journalism Fellow, sponsored by the Asia New Zealand Foundation. He is giving the first keynote address to the conference on "Real Journalism for a Virtual World" and is also presenting the photographic exhibition *Frames of War* which will be launched at the conference on Saturday night. The photographs in this exhibition were a core of the book trilogy *A People War*.



Dr Kayt Davies is a senior lecturer in journalism at Edith Cowan University, and editor of the new online journal *Research Journalism*. Initially trained as a cadet journalist in business news, she has worked for *The West Australian*, Visnews (London), and edited community newspapers and magazines. She has a BA (psych) honours, an MPhil in English and Comparative Literature and her PhD was an ethnographic study of women's magazine editors. She is editor-in-chief of 3rd Degree, ECU's online student publication, and in 2009 she was awarded a Vice-Chancellor's citation and an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.

Kayt will be presenting at the conference on Saturday on the topic, "Using Journalism as a Research Methodology: How to do it."