

# 2006 Communications Policy & Research Forum

## Journalism, citizens and blogging

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# Research Title

- The democratisation of journalism practice for a politically informed citizenry: the capacities of new media to re-engage citizens in public life



# Introduction to the problem

- A growing number of individuals are disconnecting from their role as citizens
- Gatekeeping media practices
  - Creates gaps and silences
  - The powerful set the agenda
- Democratic ideals
  - Inclusive media
  - Equality of access
  - Diversity of viewpoints

# netCTs to re-engage citizens?

- Internet Communication Technologies (netCTs) enable people to become both users and producers of news content
- “Interactive phase of modernity” (Hartley, 2005: 10)
  - Everyone has the opportunity to communicate with one or many
  - Mainstream media no longer the only source of news media

# Proposed Research

- How do commercial, public and alternative news media use blogs in their approach to citizen journalism?
- Case Studies
  - News Limited: *NEWS.com.au*
  - British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC): *BBC Blog Network*
  - *OhmyNews International*

# Online Media

- Mainstream
  - Most popular
    - Commercial (*News.com.au*)
    - Public (*BBC Blog Network*)
- Alternative
  - *OhmyNews International*



# Previous Work on Alternative Media

- *Media Channel*
- *Plastic*
- *Kuro5hin*
- *IndyMedia*
- *Active*
- *The Paper*
- *OpenDemocracy*
- *OhmyNews*
- *Crikey*
- *New Matilda*

# Preliminary Literature Review

- Journalism
- Representations
- Citizenship
  - Media and Citizenship
- Democracy
  - Democracy and News media
- Social and Behavioural Analysis

# Preliminary Literature Review

- Alternative Media
- Agenda Setting
  - Gatekeeping
  - Gatewatching (Bruns, A., 2005)
- Blogs
  - Is Blogging Journalism?
  - Traditional Journalism practices modified for the modern world

Blags | NEWS.com.au - Mozilla Firefox

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NEWS.com.au Fox Sports Herald Sun Adelaide Advertiser Sunday Times Daily Telegraph Courier Mail Mercury

## Blags

**News.com.au**

**Your Say**  
Contentious, pretentious - it's all grit for the mill. Share your views on the hot topics of the day in our news forum.

**Gotcha**  
Investigative reporter Gary Hughes shines a light into the underworld in a ground-breaking combination of crime reporting and analysis.

**Blog Cabin**  
Discuss everything from the latest movies and albums to the antics of Hollywood celebrities with our entertainment writers.

**Idol Chatter**  
AUSTRALIAN IDOL is back for a fourth series and we're told it's all about rock. Will the viewers roll with it this time around?

**Excess Baggage**  
Travel editor Jeanie St Clair dishes up a cure for travellers with itchy feet: a blog featuring travel news, views, interviews and anecdotes rolled into one.

**Travel Tips**  
NEWS.com.au readers share their travel tips.

**Fox Sports**

**Your Say**  
We put the questions to you. What's got your goat in sport these days? Does Punter's captaincy thrill you or kill you? Now's the time to get it off your chests. This is your say, your blog.

**League**  
It was all about the bit, but in the modern day, it's all about the blog. Rugby league, and its players, always provide a talking point, and don't think we won't be chatting on the issues in here.

**Rugby**  
Do you wanna be a Wallaby - or a world wide Webby? Check out the Fox Sports rugby blog to get a taste of both.

**Whistlestop**  
We put the questions to you. What's got your goat in sport these days? Does Punter's captaincy thrill you or kill you? Now's the time to get it off your chests. This is your say, your blog.

**Daily Telegraph**

**Piers Akerman**  
Piers has been one of The Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph's best-read columnists since 1993. One of the nation's most respected journalists he has worked

**Video**



Watch this Video NOW

**Art jumps out**  
English chalk artist Julian Beaver spreads the joy of his 3D pavement art all over Europe and Australia.

**Latest videos**

- Hidden drug haul
- Goal of the century
- Femal speeds into Australia
- Cricket star spits dummy

More Video

**Bring it back**



**Spinning around**  
Vinyl is popular again, sales figures show. Go what else would you like

- ### Our Blags
- > News (Blog (News.com.au))
  - > Your Say (News.com.au)
  - > Travel Tips (News.com.au)
  - > Gotcha (Crime)
  - > Blog Cabin (Entertainment)
  - > Idol Chatter (Australian Idol 2006)
  - > Alpha Magazine (Sport)
  - > From Lisa's Lips (Perth)
  - > Over the Fence (Perth)
  - > Sports Talk (Perth)
  - > Your Say TV (Perth)
  - > Sattler File (Perth)
  - > Your Say (Daily Telegraph)
  - > Piers Akerman (Daily Telegraph)
  - > Joe Hildebrand (Daily Telegraph)
  - > Anita Quigley (Daily Telegraph)
  - > Sydney Confidential (Daily Telegraph)
  - > Andrew Bolt (Herald Sun)
  - > Entertainment (Herald Sun)
  - > Australian Idol (Herald Sun)
  - > Sport (Herald Sun)
  - > Faithworks (Herald Sun)
  - > Robyn Riley (Herald Sun)
  - > Richard Berry (Herald Sun)
  - > Adelaide Scene (Adelaide Advertiser)
  - > Mia Handshin (Adelaide Advertiser)
  - > Straight Shooter (Adelaide Advertiser)
  - > Your Say (Adelaide Advertiser)
  - > Editor (Hobart Mercury)
  - > Vital Interest (Courier Mail)
  - > Community (Courier Mail)
  - > Watercooler (Courier Mail)
  - > Music (Courier Mail)
  - > Literature (Courier Mail)
  - > Arts (Courier Mail)
  - > Education (Courier Mail)
  - > Football (Fox Sports)
  - > Rugby (Fox Sports)
  - > League (Fox Sports)
  - > Whistlestop (Fox Sports)
  - > Your Say (Fox Sports)

BBC NEWS | Have Your Say - Mozilla Firefox

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/taking\_point/default.stm

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**BBC NEWS** News and analysis

News Front Page

**Have Your Say**

YOUR COMMENTS: "Hard to say whether protests in Hungary will bear fruit" - C. Addison

**What should be done about Darfur?**

The African Union has decided to extend the mandate of its peacekeeping force in Darfur until the end of the year. Send us your reaction.

**OTHER TOP DEBATES**

- Brazilian poll: Will you be voting?
- Romania and Bulgaria in the EU?
- Hungary riots: Your experiences
- Your views on Pope's apology
- Is the West failing Afghanistan?
- IAEA comment on reporting
- Mexican presidential election
- Do you back the 'war on terror'?
- Zimbabwe: Is it worth protesting?

**Richard Hammond: Your messages**

Top Gear presenter Richard Hammond is seriously ill after crashing a jet-powered car during filming for the show. Send your reaction.

**Can democracy survive Thai emergency?**

Leaders of Thailand's coup have banned all meetings and other activities. Can democracy survive?

**Is the UN too disunited?**

How can the United Nations be effective if its member states are so often divided on what to do and how to do it?

**YOUR STORIES**

- Budapest violence** Hungarians give their views on the ongoing political crisis
- Peace and conflict** War zone bloggers comment on the UN's Day of Peace
- Coup reaction** Views from Thailand on the ousting of Thaksin

**MORE FROM HAVE YOUR SAY**

- CIA secret prisons: Your reaction
- Does World Bank measure up?
- Are you a Brit abroad?

**BLOGS**

- Nick Robinson's Newslog
- Green Room
- The Editors' Blog

**STORIES AROUND THE WORLD**

Europe/Americas

- Hungary violence
- Asia
- India blasts
- Middle East
- Lebanon weapons
- Africa
- Bombs in Beidoua

**have your say on air**

Have Your Say: Is the UN too disunited to be effective?

**WORLD HAVE YOUR SAY BLOG**

**AFRICA HAVE YOUR SAY**

**CONTACT US**

- Your stories** Did you witness a news event? Got a good story idea?
- Your pictures** Send us your photos and video footage
- Your say** What do you want the world to talk about?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/thread.jspa?threadID=3081&editon=2

# BBC

## All BBC Blogs

### CHILDREN (CBBC)

Blue Peter  
Level Up - Maria  
Level Up - Ryan  
Newsround

### COMMUNITY

Action Network  
Island Blogging (Scotland)  
Manchester  
North East Wales  
Ouch (disability)

### FREE THINKING (RADIO 3)

Free Thinking Liverpool  
Free Thinking UK  
Free Thinking World  
Free Thinking Tenantspin

### MUSIC AND COMEDY

Annie Mac (Radio 1)  
Chris Evans (Radio 2)  
Chris Moyles (Radio 1)  
Comedy  
Jazz  
Mista Jam (1Xtra)  
One Music (Radio 1)

### NEWS

The Editors  
Magazine Monitor (News)  
Open Secrets (Freedom of Information)  
PM (Radio 4)  
Talk to Newsnight

### PEOPLE

William Crawley (Northern Ireland)  
Nick Robinson (Political Editor)  
Jeff Zyrinski (Radio Scotland)

### PROGRAMMES

Planet Earth (Radio 4)  
Five Live Breakfast  
Horizon on Everest  
Pods and Blogs (Five Live)  
Saturday Live (Radio 4)

### SPORT

BBC Sport Editors  
Test Match Special (Five Live Sports Extra)  
World Cup

### WORLD

World Have Your Say  
World Update with Dan Damon  
World Cup Have Your Say

### WORLD (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)

Blog da Eleição (BBC Brazil)  
Los blogs de BBC Mundo (BBC Spanish)  
بومونت ابى منى العربية (BBC Arabic)  
BBC 中文新聞 (BBC Chinese)  
وبلاگ ابى منى فارسى (BBC Persian)  
وبلاگ روز سخت (Rozae Hafton)  
ابى منى اردو بلاگ (BBC Urdu)





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# Conclusion

- Perspectives
  - Journalism
  - Citizenship
  - News blogging
- Research seeks to develop an understanding of how participatory journalism affects citizenship.

