

# Symposium Creating Impact with Data Journalism: Pathways to Civic Communication and Engagement

**Time & Place** 19 January 2024, 13-18 (CET), Aarhus University, Åbogade 34, building 5342, ADA Meeting Room 333, 8200 Aarhus N

**Online Meeting on Zoom** - Meeting ID: 672 4861 6234 - Passcode: 2024

## Agenda

- 13:00-13:15            **Christoph Raetzsch**  
Welcome and Introduction
- 13:15-13:30           **Yuya Shibuya (University of Tokyo)**  
Civic Data: Building Democratic Participation through Civic Tech in the Age of Data Capitalism
- 13:30-13:45           **Hendrik Lehmann (Tagesspiegel Innovation Lab, Berlin)**  
Advanced Journalism: Interactive Visualisation, Data Analysis and Collaboration for Empowering Citizens (followed by discussion)
- 14:15-14:30           **Break**
- 14:30-14:45           **Gianna-Carina Grün (Deutsche Welle, Data Journalism Team)**  
From Idea to Story: Establishing Data-driven Storytelling in an International Media Company
- 14:45-15:00           **Olaya Argüeso Pérez (CORRECTIV, Germany)**  
Strengthening Local Journalism Through Collaborative Data Practices
- 15:00-15:15           **Kristoffer Dahl Sørensen (DMJX, Aarhus)**  
Interdisciplinarity in Data Journalism: How Academia and Journalism Can Benefit Each Other (followed by discussion)
- 15:45-16:15           **Break**
- 16:15-16:30           **May Ee Wong (Aarhus University, Digital Design and Information Studies)**  
Retelling 'Environmental Data' through Critical Practice and Aesthetic Contexts
- 16:30-16:45           **Jacopo Ottaviani (Code for Africa)**  
How Data Can Amplify (and Measure) the Impact of Journalism Projects
- 16:45-17:00           **Christoph Raetzsch, Franziska Garms, Albína Mrázová, Marie Vestergaard Bengtson (InfraPublics Team, Aarhus University)**  
Infrastructures and Civic Communication Practices: Insights and Outcomes from the InfraPublics Project. Launch of the **InfraPublics Knowledge Base**.
- 17:00-17:30           **Closing Discussion Followed by a Reception (onsite only ;-)**

The symposium is supported by Aarhus Universitets Forskningsfond (AUFF) Project **InfraPublics**, **Department of Media and Journalism Studies (AU)** and the **Centre for University Studies in Journalism (CJU)**.



## Abstracts and Bios (alphabetical)



**CHRISTOPH Raetzsch** is Associate Professor at the Department of Media and Journalism Studies of Aarhus University (Denmark). He works in journalism studies and researches history and theory of media development and practice in journalism, public spheres and urban spaces. His recent research deals

with interpretations of smartness to animate civic innovation in cities, the interfaces and infrastructures of publics besides journalism, and the emergent potential of quotidian media practices to shape public discourses. He is the principal investigator of the AUFF-funded project "InfraPublics: Infrastructures and Interfaces of Publics: Journalism for Civic Communication in Urban Spaces" (2021-2024). From 2020-2022 he was chair of the ECREA conference *Rethink Impact* in Aarhus.



### **GIANNA-CARINA Grün**

**From idea to story: Establishing data-driven storytelling in an international media company**

Producing stories for an international audience poses particular challenges. How do we select ideas for stories and which criteria matter? How do our data-driven stories integrate into the overall journalistic output of Deutsche Welle? And how does data journalism add to a media outlet's coverage? Along these questions, I'll elaborate on the process of establishing and integrating a data unit within a traditional media company. I will also talk about how the presence of a data team adds value both to company culture as well as for audiences.

**Gianna-Carina Grün** is a data journalist and leads Deutsche Welle's Data-Driven Journalism Team that she founded in 2017. Since late 2021, she is also a research fellow and PhD candidate at Technical

University Dortmund. Both at TU Dortmund and beyond, she additionally works as a data-driven journalism trainer, sharing her skills and knowledge from more than ten years of experience in different areas of journalism. Gianna Grün holds a Bachelor degree in Life Sciences and a Masters Degree in Molecular Biomedicine from the University of Münster. She also completed the post-graduate Lede Program at Columbia Journalism School in New York City.

**Web:** <https://dw.com/data>



### **HENDRIK Lehmann**

**Advanced Journalism. Interactive Visualisation, Data Analysis and Collaboration for Empowering Citizens**

There have never been more ways to tell a journalistic story than today. With the majority of readers consuming journalism on their phone, amazing ways of storytelling become possible. At the same time, digital methods making use of collaboration both together with readers as well as with other media organisations internationally, allow for much deeper investigations. If you combine both, collaboration as well as visualisation with advanced data analysis, you can create new impactful stories that help tackle the challenges of our times. I will showcase work examples pointing in that direction.

**Hendrik Lehmann** is Head of Tagesspiegel Innovation Lab and coordinates a European research network for urban journalism. Him and his team work with investigative data analysis, dataviz and interactive web applications. They also try hard to make use of AI for journalism, especially for investigations. Recent projects include „Cities 4 Rent“, a „Female Fight for the Future“, #GhostDebts and #GroundControl. Hendrik has been awarded with the German Reporter Prize (2018, 2019 and 2021), the Data Journalism Award 2019, the Ernst Schneider Prize 2020 and the European Press Prize 2022. He studied Political Science at FU Berlin Berlin as well as Urban and Digital Sociology at Goldsmiths College London.

**Web:** <https://urbanjournalism.org/> & <https://interaktiv.tagesspiegel.de/>



**JACOPO Ottaviani**  
**How Data Can Amplify (and Measure) the Impact of Journalism Projects**

By dissecting real-world examples, I'll uncover how strategic data utilisation can elevate storytelling, uncover hidden narratives, and drive societal change and urban development. I'll delve into the symbiosis of data and

journalism, showcasing the power of open data and mapping tools in creating transformational data journalism projects. Measuring the impact of journalism is crucial both for the journalists and funders: based on real case scenarios and projects I had the chance to work on, we will look into how to possibly do that in practical terms.

**Key project:** <https://sigmaawards.org/mapping-makoko/>

Jacopo Ottaviani is a computer scientist who works as Code for Africa's Senior Strategist. As an International Center For Journalists Knight Fellow in 2016-2019, Jacopo built teams and programmes supported by the World Bank, Google News Initiative, GIZ and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. His mix of technical skills, as a computer scientist and data journalist, has resulted in a series of projects published by, among others, *The Guardian*, *Der Spiegel*, *El País* and *Internazionale*. He worked on multiple projects supported by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the European Journalism Center. He is a member of the European Press Prize preparatory committee and works as a trainer with BBC Media Action.

**Social: LinkedIn** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacopo-ottaviani/> **X:** <https://x.com/JacopoOttaviani>

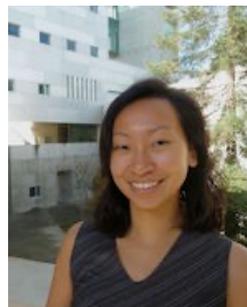


**KRISTOFFER Dahl Sørensen**  
**Interdisciplinarity in data journalism: How academia and journalism can benefit each other**

The world is becoming more digitised with tons of data available that can provide new insights to the public. From the Panama Papers to the mapping of Corona cases, drone strikes, soil pollution, urban development, and parking fines, data journalism is relevant – both in the daily news coverage and for larger, investigative projects

where reporters aim to connect the dots for a bigger understanding of events both globally and locally. The increasing amount of data gives journalism a new key role in analyzing and processing raw data into new knowledge in user-engaging and time-efficient ways, according to researchers. But data journalism needs to bring together several disciplines to make an impact. When one of the pioneers of data journalism, Philip Meyer, talked about precision journalism in the 1960s, it was based on the idea that social science methods could benefit journalism. Hypothesis testing and theory building were some of his tools as a reporter to provide better journalistic explanations to current events. From then until today, interdisciplinarity has been important in data journalism newsrooms, but how can academic skills more precisely strengthen data journalism? And how can classic journalistic virtues strengthen data journalism?

Kristoffer Dahl Sørensen has a Bachelor's degree in Media Studies and a Master's degree in Analytical Journalism from Aarhus University and The Danish School of Media and Journalism (DMJX). He is associated with DMJX as a teacher in journalism on the Master's supplementary subjects and on the Mundus Journalism programme, where he has taught data journalism. Kristoffer has experience with data-driven journalism from the nonprofit Danish-Swedish Øresundsinstittutet, where he was an analyst for several years and prepared business reports combining qualitative and quantitative methods. He has also worked with investigative, data-driven journalism at The Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR).



**MAY Ee Wong**  
**Retelling 'Environmental Data' through Critical Practice and Aesthetic Contexts**

This talk introduces "Design and Aesthetics of Environmental Data", a research project funded by the Aarhus University

Research Foundation (AUFF), consisting of project leader Jussi Parikka, Paolo Patelli and May Ee Wong. It relates the project's thematic concerns that examine the epistemic and cultural basis and assumptions of 'environmental data', which is commonly regarded as digital information of the environment. The project asks fundamental questions of what 'environmental data' is, how 'environmental data' is constructed and how it relates to the material, spatial and infrastructural contexts that shape its production and uses. This talk touches upon the group's theoretical and methodological approaches that reflect and experiment with the material and situated character of environmental data. It presents the group's

environmental audiotour in the 2023 Helsinki Biennale as an artistic and curatorial intervention that addresses multiple geographical scales and temporalities with regard to the public space of Helsinki.

**May Ee Wong** is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the "Design and Aesthetics for Environmental Data" project at Aarhus University. With a Cultural Studies PhD from the University of California, Davis, her interdisciplinary research interests lie at the intersections of critical conceptions of the built environment, feminist Science Technology and Society (STS) Studies, environmental media and humanities and contemporary media, design and visual culture.

**Project:** <https://cc.au.dk/en/dafed>



**OLAYA Argüeso Pérez**  
**Strengthening Local Journalism Through Collaborative Data Practices**

Local journalism has been one of the main victims of the media crisis of recent years. However, almost half of Europeans claim to have read local news in the last week, second only to political news. In other words, local news is still interesting material. At CORRECTIV, we are committed to strengthening the local press in Germany and Europe with two initiatives that aim to create networks of local journalists. What have we learned? What are the challenges?

**Olaya Argüeso Pérez** is editor-in-chief at CORRECTIV, where she leads the international investigations since 2019. After more than a decade reporting about economy, business and finance at the most important radio network in Spain (Cadena SER), Olaya decided to expand her expertise into data journalism and joined the Lede Program at Columbia University. After joining CORRECTIV as a reporter, she took part in cross-border investigations like The CumEx Files and Grand Theft Europe, which exposed multi billion tax frauds happening all over Europe. In 2021, together with her colleague Justus von Daniels, she was appointed Editor In Chief of the Year in Germany.

**Web:** <https://correctiv.org/> & <https://correctiv.org/lokal/>



**YUYA Shibuya**  
**Civic Data: Building Democratic Participation through Civic Tech in the Age of Data Capitalism**

Civic data, which is both captured and owned by citizens for citizens, is essential for addressing local issues that affect current and future generations. This data empowers them with knowledge and resources to take action. As large technology companies continue to collect more top-down data, the value of civic data will rise as a representation medium for local issues. In this talk, I will discuss the potential and limits of civic data in building democratic participation by exploring some civic tech initiative cases and highlighting gaps in administrative statistics, big data generation, collection, and analysis.

**Yuya Shibuya** is an Associate Professor at the Center for Spatial Information Science at The University of Tokyo, Japan. Her research focuses on the interaction between digital and physical worlds, designing and promoting democratic participation in the digital era. She uses quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods to explore and design data and digital intervention and to understand its impact on people and society.

**Web:** <https://www.yuyashibuya.com/>