

**University of Macau,  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Department of English.**

**International Roundtable Seminar  
*Changing Discourses of Broadcast News***

December 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, Macao.

Convenor: Martin Montgomery, Chair Professor and Head of the Department of English.

**Rationale**

Significant upheavals are taking place across the news industries as a whole with consequent changes in the ways that news itself is defined, configured, produced and consumed. There are financial and commercial pressures on news providers, there are technological changes in the platforms available for delivering the news and there are changes in the ways that audiences seem to prefer to consume it. While broadcast news remains the dominant form of news it is clearly undergoing rapid change.

But not only has the discourse of broadcast news received little systematic study. Hardly any work has been done on the history of it as a form of broadcast discourse. And yet its public availability and the existence of archives of recorded data provide a unique opportunity to analyse and chart discursive changes over time. There is hardly any important public institution in modern society where spoken discourse is so central to its conduct and where we have such a wealth of archived, recorded data.

Studying changes in the discourse of broadcast news can thus provide a unique opportunity to look at discursive change in the public sphere. Dealing with a change in a central genre of broadcast output, the findings of the research will be of wide interest in the fields of media and television studies, journalism studies, and discourse studies. They will cast light on broadcasting history, discursive change and journalistic practice.

**Research Questions**

It is intended that the proposed seminar will address questions of the following kind:

- (a) In what ways have the communicative styles of broadcast television news presentation changed over the last twenty years?
- (b) In what ways have styles of news interviewing changed?

(c) What are the pressures that produce, and the dynamics of, discursive change in a major institution of communication?

Other areas to be addressed include discursive shifts in the news agenda involving a greater degree of personalization.

### **Participants.**

The participants for the seminar have been selected on the basis of highly regarded specialist publications on news discourse, including explorations of historical change. They come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds including Sociology, English Linguistics, Communication Studies and Journalism. They also come from Universities as far afield as Sweden, the United States, Italy, Scotland, England, Wales, Israel, and Australia.

Participants include: Stephen E. Clayman, University of California at Los Angeles, USA; Alison Duguid, University of Siena, Italy; Mats Ekstrom, Örebro University, Sweden; Richard Fitzgerald, University of Queensland, Australia; Michal Hamo, Netanya Academic College, Israel; Louann Haarman, University of Bologna, Italy; Michael Higgins, University of Strathclyde, UK; Åsa Kroon Lundell, Örebro University, Sweden; Martin Montgomery, University of Macau; Marianna Patrona, Hellenic Military Academy, Greece; Angela Smith, University of Sunderland, UK; Joanna Thornborrow, Cardiff University, UK.