

## WJEC 2022 Online Conference

### Expert reports

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#### *Research-Led Journalism Education*

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Chair: Susanne Fengler  
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*A full report will be posted in mid-May. If you would like to contribute examples or lessons from initiatives in research-led journalism that has occurred within your setting or challenges in applying a research-led approach to journalism education, please contact me on [a.romano@qut.edu.au](mailto:a.romano@qut.edu.au)*

**Abstract:** The shift in the 20<sup>th</sup> century away from journalism apprenticeships towards journalism training at universities and other centres of tertiary education has necessitated that almost all journalism education be research-led to some extent. Regardless of whether journalism educators and program managers draw from scholarly research and ‘black literature’ or more applied research from consultation with industry stakeholders and ‘grey literature’, educators use research to shape at least four overlapping domains of journalism education:

**Themes, Goals and Standards:** Research is used to define the core themes that will be studied; the overall knowledge, skills and capabilities that students should acquire; and the measures for determining that students have met minimum standards in order to pass:

- The overall study program, e.g., a degree, diploma, certificate or other qualification in journalism or journalism specialism
- Each specific course/unit that makes up the overall study program, e.g., an applied course in newswriting, a theoretical course on journalism ethics, or an internship experience

**Lessons and Academic Content:** Research is undertaken to ensure the curriculum and learning materials are based on pertinent, accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date and engaging information, examples, theories and principles

**Approaches to Learning and Teaching:** Research informs the strategies that educators use to design and deliver program content and learning resources, to facilitate learning of knowledge and skills, to construct effective learning environments, and to measure and assure learning outcomes through assessment

**Change Management:** Research enables improvements in the design and delivery of journalism education to enable nimble, constructive response to changes in technological,

legal, economic, cultural and other social factors impacting on journalism and journalism education.

There is no formal literature that tries to map how much journalism education is research-led or how research is influencing education. Research is currently being done for this Expert Report to study the major journalism, media and communication journals to determine how many articles about journalism education show evidence of journalism curriculum or educational settings being shaped by research. A meta-analysis of those articles will be conducted to identify what exemplars of use of research in journalism education, what type of research is being drawn from, how that research has impacted on the design, delivery or efficacy of education, core challenges in adopting a research-led approach, and other themes.