

Radial Journalism

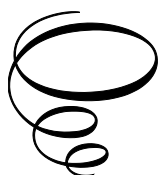
Radial Journalism:

Going Beyond Traditional Lines

By

Alexandra Kitty

**Cambridge
Scholars
Publishing**



Radial Journalism: Going Beyond Traditional Lines

By Alexandra Kitty

This book first published 2023

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2PA, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Copyright © 2023 by Alexandra Kitty

All rights for this book reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN (10): 1-5275-0174-4

ISBN (13): 978-1-5275-0174-4

*To Anton Lovac, who understood the games and gambits of war,
and chose a radial path instead. Oppo Joko!*

Until the lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunter. Zimbabwe proverb

Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.

—Viktor Frankl

I've had enough, I've had enough of talentless people putting their tick in the right box, not because it's in the national interest but because it's in their interest to achieve ministerial position.

—Charles Walker

You operate a propaganda platform.

—Elon Musk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface..... ix

Part One: Understanding Harmonisations

Chapter One..... 2
Pivotal Scaffoldings

Chapter Two 26
Radial Journalism

Chapter Three 37
Radial Mapping

Part Two: Understanding Radials

Chapter Four..... 74
Euclidian Sliding

Chapter Five 98
Radial Threads

Chapter Six 116
Radial Weaving

Part Three: Balances

Chapter Seven..... 130
Cartographical Gesamtkunstwerk

Chapter Eight..... 137
Radial Experimentations

Chapter Nine..... 147
Radial Extrapolations

Chapter Ten	166
Beyond Radials	
Postface	171
Hurt Feelings versus Corrected Feelings	
References	175

PREFACE

I am not a reluctant peer but a persistent commoner.
—Tony Benn

For those of you who have read my previous three books on the subject of psychological journalism (*A New Approach to Journalism*, *Therapeutic Journalism*, and *Organic Journalism*), you are now familiarized with the most basic trinity of scaffoldings, and these will be serviceable when you are under many different conditions; however, these techniques are simple by design as most will serve the investigative, independent and citizen journalist's needs as it gives flexibility of scaffolding and mandate, and is superior to any form of legacy journalism's methods. I have spent decades on these systems and can vouch for their integrity.

However, this harmonized form departs *significantly* from each of these texts in several ways, the most obvious is how it is used and presented. We can use elements of all three methods together in a more modern way, but radial journalism is a different application of the harmonized system. It is not data journalism but is meant to show the news consumer how to visualize information in ground-breaking ways.

Radial journalism has been specifically devised for independent and individual risk-takers who do not seek shelter in an established newsroom: the radial journalism system is for independent news producers who are brave and resilient and have complexity of thought, but the ability to connect in direct terms to an audience, eye-to-eye. It is the ability to create dossiers that defy traditional presentations and allows the news consumer to grasp complex information in an easy-to-understand way, stimulating the mind, brain, and body at once. It inoculates against manipulation and propaganda as it simultaneously stimulates the parts of the brain associated with a better frame of mind.

Radial journalism is in a sphere of its own, and its whole is far greater than the sum of its parts; however, this text will not go into the finer details of empirical, therapeutic, or organic journalism as these systems have already been discussed in detail in the aforementioned texts. Nevertheless, there is a general overview of the scaffoldings of these systems in the first chapter

where each is woven in with two more important factors of pivotal scaffoldings required for radial journalism before going into discussions of their application to radial journalism. If you are practising empirical journalism (analytical), therapeutic (emotional) and organic (primal), you will now have a new method which allows you to choose a core literacy as the lead but incorporate the other two to create a more potent form. Radial journalists are those who can use all three core literacies at once and are innate innovators who wish to push the boundaries to find new forms and paths of communication. Radial journalism can be used in non-obvious ways to inform a public outside the realm of traditional journalism, and it would be advantageous to experiment with those methods to create other forms of reportage.

This textbook is specifically designed for those who wish to take journalism in bold new directions, but wish to have a manual on complex psycho-journalistic finessing; however, as there are *other* literacies and harmonized scaffoldings, you should not confine yourself to this method alone. Experiment and use your results to compare and contrast to radial journalism. Find methods which are comfortable to you and produce results, but let radial journalism be your launchpad to your advanced journalistic techniques.

This is not a long textbook, as it is an epilogue to the other three books in this series. If you wish to better understand the core literacies behind radial journalism, you have my three previous texts as a reference point. The psychological strings are complex and require all three core literacies harmonized. You will also require to keep a journal of your visualization and personification processes, and will give you a basic scaffolding. While this text is firmly in the empirical realm, there are spiritual elements of both alchemy and the Chekov technique, but firmly grounded in pragmatism. The point of radial journalism is to use your mind, brain, and body along with your three core literacies to guide the news consumer and inform them in novel ways as well as use the system to create new forms of journalistic applications, from inquiries to private investigations to libraries and even *currencies*.

To be a humble muckraker and gadfly is the essence of being a genuine journalist as it is to be a persistent commoner. This textbook is not just about the mechanics of radial journalism, but also its *spirit*. Geist, flow, and logic will be woven together to combat atmosphere, narrative, and sophistry. For those of you who are familiar with my life's work, this text will be a reward, treat, and escapade for you. You will not only learn how to think like a journalist but also how to gain energy by having *fun* on your journey.

One final, but crucial note: there is no safe compromise when you give in or are lured by hubris or are driven by an agenda. Your past work can build credibility and goodwill, but you are always starting at the beginning when you launch each project. You cannot coast on reputation alone, nor can you ever rest on your laurels, take false comfort in a default delusion where you believe you are superior to legacy journalism by default of being an independent journalist or believe your work will not be compromised if you jockey to become part of a legacy media whose misdeeds have been chronicled in detail. Independence is one of the greatest gifts, and ensure that you keep yours to be a competent journalist whose work will withstand the test of time. Many independent journalists who broke through in 2020 have already compromised themselves three years later through the reliance on opinion over facts or issuing decrees without deep knowledge as they begin to curry favour with players and audiences who wish to use them as a Trojan horse, a predictable quagmire where fewer individuals can withstand. Be fearless, but always question your motives and abilities with each dossier you create.

—Alexandra Kitty

PART ONE:
UNDERSTANDING HARMONISATIONS

CHAPTER ONE

PIVOTAL SCAFFOLDINGS

That independent and citizen journalism has supplanted the legacy press is a remarkable feat, particularly as it began in 2020 when the world shut down. The difference between independent journalism's success and legacy's failure is that independent journalism began with the study of propaganda and empirical standards while the old guard still is unempirical and credulous by design. A typical legacy article which is short on primary data or research will use the ruse phrase of "experts say" as if it were divine decree; however, independent journalism does not play the same games, but examines empirical studies and does not appeal to other authorities for results. With empirical journalism, it goes beyond citing studies: these journalists create their own experiments and look at the *results*. While we are still in a transitory phase, it is important to ensure new journalism does not become tainted with the mistakes of the old model.

New journalism, whether it be independent journalism, folk journalism, or citizen journalism, began to take root in 2020 when citizens were locked down around the world and began to become their own news producers, breaking away from the old models which failed them for the last twenty years. The mindset of these ascending new players is humbler and more pluralistic than the legacy counterparts who alienated news consumers with name-calling and derision for those who have a different set of wants and needs than what mainstream and corporate interests try to impose to rig fixed outcomes. When billions of people defied these archaic scaffoldings, a new global era began; hence it should come as no surprise that emerging journalistic models came from these altruistic beginnings.

The hubris of legacy journalists continues to alienate news consumers who broke away when their own beliefs were vilified and disrespected. Journalism is about understanding others, not judging them, endangering them, and then becoming surprised when those who were publicly slandered fight back as was in the case in an article in the September 4, 2022 *Hamilton Spectator*:

After two and half years of covering the COVID-19 pandemic and receiving an avalanche of hate mail laced with anti-vaccine conspiracy theories (and more references to the Nazis than she can remember), The Hamilton Spectator's health reporter, Joanna Frketch, had come to believe nothing could surprise her anymore.

The article began with a boilerplate confirmation bias meant to control a narrative and confine critical thinking:

According to a 2021 IPSOS survey of more than a 1,000 Canadian journalists and media workers, harassment is on the rise and getting worse.

Some 72 per cent of respondents say they have been the targets of harassment, which increased dramatically during the pandemic thanks to the rise of anti-vaccine and anti-mandate groups that routinely demeans journalists — echoing Donald Trump's infamous declaration that the news media is the “enemy of the people.”

The groups targeted the most often are the ones facing the most harm, said Sanyama Sethi of IPSOS.

The insular mindset of the self-serving column then continues to frame the narrative as one of martyrdom:

“Journalists, as messengers, have always been the target of abuse,” he said “Recent developments have not changed how we cover the news, but we do think more about safe spaces, about how we approach interviews and how we conduct ourselves in the community. We take more precautions and we offer support, beforehand and after, when incidents occur.”

These are the same legacy players whose own sexism and racism have caused harm to others over the span of decades, caused wars, civil unrest, and the conviction of the innocent. When #MeToo began as a movement that gained traction in 2017, many in journalism lost their jobs as a result of the sexual abuses of their colleagues. When legacy journalists malign the dispossessed and endanger their lives, reputation, and livelihoods, and then distort their pain, it is a deliberate gambit used to justify abusing a weaker group, and it is the reason why the first permutation of journalism lost both clout and public respect. As *Blacklock's Reporter* noted on November 3, 2022:

The state of Canadian journalism is terrible, a former CBC executive [Sue Gardner] has testified at the Commons heritage committee. Legacy media are “memories of what they used to be” despite federal subsidies, MPs were told: “You need to give me money forever because nobody is buying my buggy whips.”

The insensitive and self-serving me-centred focus ignored the damage done by traditional journalists who try to use misdirection to hide the extent of their abuses. No competent journalist fears insult or criticism: the journalist must be emotionally and cognitively mature enough to understand organic plurality and know the difference between an insult as ruse and a cry of agony. Journalists who gang up on regular citizens to ostracize them have relinquished their rights to complain when the insults return to them.

However, competent journalism doesn't partake in puerile and self-important antics. It informs neutrally and ignores taunts. True journalism uses a you-centred focus to show a map of reality. New journalism looks at the world through academic rigours. Legacy journalism was always unempirical, but more importantly, corrupted by narrative, sophistry, and atmosphere: when an appeal to authority is presented as indisputable fact, it is a cognitive shortcoming which creates an opinion that is neither reliable nor valid. A true journalist is forever looking for the current state of reality, not what perceived insult was hurled in their direction. Journalism is not about applause, but information. What legacy journalists perpetually failed to realize to their own detriment is that we reap what we sow.

Citizen and independent journalism break away from these confines and focus on facts, not placing the news producer as a character in a melodrama. As it is a grassroots phenomenon with many who previously worked in academic settings, it has branched into many different subsets, giving information texture and encouraging the news consumer to look for multiple sources to get a bigger picture of the mosaic. New journalism challenges the status quo and shows news consumers the strategies behind slander, insult, and demonization, willing to use their own experiences as an empirical starting point.

New journalism goes further as it seeks more freedom for others to speak of their feelings, while legacy media tries to rig perceptions into rote binary fabrications, and are belligerent to those who ask questions which challenge the unrealistic presentations of reality. Only those who try to prevent others from asking questions are those with something to hide, and those whose schemes will collapse should someone point out the flaws and contradictions. Fear-mongering and hate-mongering necessarily rely on carney: all news consumers need to remember is the fear-mongering over Y2K with grand decrees that the world would fall apart because computers supposedly couldn't handle the shift from 1999 to 2000. When that narrative was exposed as a farce, it should have been clear that legacy journalism has always been much ado about nothing.

On the other hand, alternative forms of journalism *expose* fear-mongering and show news consumers how to be both independent and authentic. It is not about creating psychological dependence, but by fostering *independence*. The scaffoldings are different: legacy encourages an abusive dynamic, while the empirical model encourages exploration and finding uncharted territory while using our three core literacies: the analytical, emotional, and primal.

Legacy journalism's workplaces ensured to maintain rigged scaffoldings by fostering toxic and dysfunctional work environments. In an August 26, 2022 edition of the *Toronto Star*, even the most coveted newsrooms are rife with abuses:

Bell Media launched two separate investigations into allegations of bullying, sexual harassment and inappropriate workplace behaviour last year, documents show.

Taken together, the investigations raise more questions about the workplace culture of a company whose newsrooms have come under increased scrutiny since the controversial firing of CTV News anchor Lisa LaFlamme.

The article noted how the first investigation came to be:

According to multiple sources close to CP24, several employees filed complaints with the newsroom's human resources department and the workers' union in late 2020 and early 2021 when Bell Media's current head of CTV news Michael Melling was general manager of the station. The complaints cited a "toxic" and "stressful" workplace environment that prompted at least four staff members to take leaves of absences.

In the following months, sources say, roughly 15 employees — some of them well-known news anchors — left CP24.

Nothing was learned or altered as a second investigation became necessary to give an appearance of due diligence:

The second investigation, which was conducted internally by Bell's Workplace Practices Team, looked into a grievance filed by an employee at the CTV News Toronto newsroom alleging a co-worker would regularly make comments that were "sexual in nature and inappropriate" to the person filing the grievance. The grievance said the harassment continued after she asked him to stop.

Note that while the internal investigation absolved its own, outsiders had a different view of the reality of the ecosystem:

The investigation initially concluded that the allegations of sexual harassment were unfounded, but the union representing the workers challenged Bell's findings. An independent arbitrator ultimately ordered the company to compensate the victim for pain and suffering.

However, the *Toronto Star* could carry no virtuous airs as the *Financial Post* noted in an August 19, 2016 article:

But recent allegations surrounding the suicide of award-winning reporter Raveena Aulakh open the organization up to questions about whether its practices are adequate and how a company should respond when employees raise allegations of inappropriate behaviour.

In the weeks and months before Aulakh's death, she emailed numerous colleagues and friends on a near-daily basis, expressing concerns about a workplace environment that she considered toxic. Her relationship with a co-worker – a newsroom leader, although not her direct manager – had ended after she discovered he was having an affair with another senior editor, his boss.

While the *Toronto Star's* newsroom has been plagued with dysfunction, it is typical of the nature of legacy media's ecosystems. Most incidents do not make the news, but when they do, there will always be an attempt to spin the problem to seem as if there was a positive resolution as noted in the August 26, 2022 edition of the *Financial Post*:

But, more critically, the real impact of the investigation is to act as a smokescreen, deferring further anger and kicking the scandal so far into the future that the public's attention has turned elsewhere by the time the investigator reports.

Does Bell Media really need to investigate? What facts are unknown to it? It made the decision to fire LaFlamme, knows why it did it and knows whether it was tainted, as alleged, by her age or gender.

If management at the highest level made the decision, there is nothing to investigate. If it was lower management, then higher management can call them on the carpet tomorrow and get the answers they need. And they can do so far more effectively than some outside investigator with no powers and no knowledge of Bell Media's policies, culture or personnel.

Legacy media's toxic work environments encourage rigged thinking, such as appealing and appealing to authority to gain control of the mindsets of the messengers. When LaFlamme was terminated from her role as a news reader, many elites wanted her to remain in place as she was deferential to them as noted in an August 28, 2022 article in the *Globe and Mail*:

A group of prominent Canadians, including artists, journalists, civil rights activists, politicians and business executives, is calling on Bell Canada to "make things right" after the dismissal of CTV News anchor Lisa LaFlamme.

In an open letter published on Saturday in *The Globe and Mail*, they say Bell Media's decision to oust the award-winning journalist "in the very prime of her career" has had a profound impact on everyone.

"In making their 'business decision,' Bell confirmed one sad truth: even after all the progress women have made, they continue to face sexism and ageism at work everyday in a way which is unacceptable. Period."

The letter was signed by more than 70 prominent Canadians, including singer Anne Murray, bestselling author Louise Penny, entrepreneur and philanthropist Jim Balsillie and former prime minister Kim Campbell.

The list of names was white and wealthy Establishment players, meaning LaFlamme was sanctioned by those who should have feared her. When a journalist is given accolades by those in power, it is not a good sign, meaning there will be little chance of incompetence and corruption being exposed. The patronizing tone of the letter and the fact that those who should have been accountable lost an ally showed just how out of touch CTV is with reality.

Note that legacy journalists blame both news consumers and their employers for their misery, but they portray themselves as helpless and persecuted victims, yet this psychological projection and deflection are not merely a symptom of legacy journalism's dysfunctionality: it is a sign of collective unwellness. As Cikanavicius noted in 2019:

[T]o be perceived as a noble martyr, the malignant narcissist slowly constructs their image in the minds of others. Mostly, it involves lying about what they believe and what they did, do, or have done. They like to pretend that they have strong principles that they heroically follow, such as standing up for what's right, speaking the truth, protecting others, or being kind and helpful.

In reality and to the detriment of others, they have no real principles and don't really care about anything or anyone but their own needs. They are not decent people, they are pathological liars, they only protect themselves and other horrible people when it benefits them, and they routinely abuse and exploit those who are in need or in a disadvantaged position.

Narcissists blame others for their own misdeeds, from deception to manipulation – all while claiming others are partaking in the dysfunctional behaviour. These individuals will not take responsibility for their own bad actions, but *always* blame someone else for their incompetence. New journalism is mindful of these pitfalls and has sagely managed to avoid them. The scaffolding is not one of expecting applause for heroic deeds, but merely to inform others about the current state of reality.

Independent journalism has also become self-sufficient with its own independent business models, unlike its legacy ancestors who now require corporate “pensions” to subsist. While these outlets spend lavishly on lobbyists and C-suite salaries, they also continue to lobby governments for more funding as noted in the September 16, 2022 edition of *Blacklock's Reporter*:

Global News is “on the brink,” an executive with the country’s number three television network yesterday told a Senate hearing. The assessment came despite millions in federal subsidies and a 38 percent profit margin in TV: “We can no longer do this alone.”

Despite receiving millions of dollars and waivers of millions more in fees, Troy Reeb, executive vice president of Global’s parent company Corus Entertainment Inc., wanted government funding for institutional media outlets that are supposed to examine that same government critically:

Traditionally we have offset our news losses through more profitable entertainment programming, but this is no longer a feasible strategy.

Reeb used the confirmation bias to ignore that former “news deserts” now had independent outlets that did not require funding to report on events:

Our ability to provide local, fact-based news in large parts of the country, in small markets, in places like the English-language minority community in Montréal, it all teeters on the brink.

The melodramatic narrative used bombast, fear-mongering, and clichés to ask for more money from the highly-partisan regime:

The future of an entire Canadian industry is hanging in the balance.

The dire and nebulous demand for money was a curious outburst, even though independent outlets produce more genuine journalism at a fraction of the cost. The world is not dependent on a single source for their information, and hence, the argument collapses. Smaller outlets are not intimidated by legacy outlets, yet legacy outlets have the compulsion to malign smaller outlets, a red flag that the structure of traditional media isn't sound, and this is the reason why independent journalism has flourished in a short period.

More interestingly, the subsidies have brought more disrepute to legacy media, as the September 26, 2022 edition of *Blacklock's Reporter* noted:

Unpopular federal subsidies have turned corporate media into targets of public scorn, the Commons heritage committee has been told. Taxpayers believe reporters are "on the take," testified an Alberta editor: "I don't want money from this government."

Journalism is supposed to be the chronicle of reality and take no one's side or narrative as truth. What fortifies the fortunes of a billionaire decimates the fortunes of the destitute. Without checks and balances, communications can turn into attempts at cognitive engineering and propaganda. Those in perceived positions of power will often cry foul when public discontent can no longer be denied or hidden. Journalists are to chronicle the discontent, not try to spin it to a politician's benefit, as one article did in the September 5, 2022 edition of the *Hill Times*:

"While the isolated incident with Minister Freeland was despicable, it likely was not a threat to national security," said Shull. "However, it is a symptom of a disease that might be."

Alluding to the incident in September 2021 when a man threw gravel at Trudeau during a campaign stop in London, Ont., the verbal harassment of NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, B.C.) in May 2022 when protestors hurled profanity in his face in Peterborough, Ont., before and after a rally during the Ontario election campaign, as well as what most recently happen to Freeland in Grand Prairie, Alta., Shull said the events show a "darkening trend of aggression toward political figures and people with opposing views."

The article's manipulations went so far as to equate political discontent with mass murder:

The “most insidious aspect of this same trend” are the Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism attacks in Canada, he said, including the deadly Quebec City mosque attack in 2017, the Toronto van attack in 2018 that killed 10, and the murder of a woman at a Toronto spa in 2020. “When polarization and aggression tip into IMVE, it is clearly a national security threat.”

Linking frustration with terrorist activities was highly unscrupulous as neither mass killing mentioned in the piece was politically motivated, especially as the writer provided no evidence that rants against unpopular politicians who were elected to power by a mere one-third of the electorate was a sign of treachery: one set of events (political ranting) had no bearing on the other (criminal violence). Nor had there been any instance recorded for such a link, or else the writer of the article would have outright stated it. The article was political theatre, nothing more.

However, what the article failed to mention was that far worse threats are part of the reality of many front-line workers, from nurses to teachers to police who are often injured or killed on the job. The exaggerated and misaligned response shows how weak and out of touch those Above are to the realities of those Below: a leader who cannot accept criticism or understand the depth of pain of the dispossessed will behave poorly and will go on for weeks over any real or perceived slight, a slap in the face for those whose lives have been altered or even destroyed. If a single meaningless insult results in endless melodramatic articles from the legacy press, then how would those in charge be trusted to deal with a genuine threat?

When there are calls for censorship from those in power, it is a de facto admission of cognitive misalignment with reality, yet it should be noted that a popular leader rarely calls for censorship: it is only when a leader has many scandals of incompetence that the individual wishes to erase away or hide; however, the reality of the fallout will be evident regardless of old and puerile gambits. Rote binary thinking dictates suppression that exposes someone as being a 0 when the goal is to be seen as a 1, yet the journalist must never fall for these ruses or gambits but expose them.

If democracy is so fragile that unflattering information will cause it to collapse, then that democracy never existed and it is an illusion. Those who are corrupt or inept will always frame their demands in murky and unproven moral posturing, hoping to deflect attention away from their inability to complete their tasks successfully. It is essential not to fall for obvious ruses, yet it can be difficult to do so without psychological understanding and training. When newsrooms are this abusive, no accurate or reliable information

can be found within the product. When manufactured or exaggerated “threats” are used to justify their methods and existence, the thuggery alienates audiences who prefer respectful and spirited alternatives to not only inform them but develop partnerships in social progress to cultivate positivity and innovation.

Independent and citizen journalism has altered the way news consumers understand both information and the effects of propaganda, and these outlets are more likely to present raw data objectively and without talking down to news consumers. Legacy journalism cannot compete as the mindsets of the public have altered: news consumers now seek genuine raw information which takes manipulation into its equations, while legacy journalism is ill-equipped to even begin such an undertaking. News consumers now wish to think for themselves and do their own research, and are seeking outlets of worth who aid them in their quest for the knowledge of reality. Because independent outlets have currency by the very nature of their independence and psychological scaffolding: legacy journalism is dependent on authority decrees for their currency, while independent outlets are focused on separating perceptions and reality that aids in the creation of their own intellectual currency.

More interesting, new forms of independent journalism devise counter-surveillance on private intelligence operations: no longer can vested agents who intimidate, malign, and sabotage alternative voices and whistleblowers through methods to “discredit, disrupt, and destroy” do so in the shadows are unimpeded: new journalism can now easily turn the tables and expose the behind-the-curtain machinations of corrupt and inept players.

The proliferation of independent investigative journalism has reignited interest in hard news and objective reportage and has made those who once profited and gained power from partisan distortions try to find ways to return to sanctioned manipulation. With independent outlets now gaining audiences and reinvesting in journalism, those who gain through deceptions and manipulation are trying to prevent a free flow of information and ideas under various subterfuges; fortunately, the more vested interests connive, the more of their true motives and abilities become exposed.

Yet partisan games destroyed legacy press credibility as an August 26, 2022 article from the *Associated Press* explained:

As Trump attacked the network, CNN returned fire. Under previous leader Jeff Zucker, CNN figures became more opinionated on the air than they ever had before. Anderson Cooper once likened Trump to

“an obese turtle on its back, flailing in the hot sun, realizing his time is over,” a remark he later apologized for.

“All mainstream media took a hit with the ascent of Donald Trump,” Costello said. “I really think he did a number on journalism in general, not just CNN. For a time we all played into it, and our reporting was kind of hysterical.”

CNN’s tone had a lot to do with changes in the network’s reputation, said Mark Whitaker, a veteran newsman and former CNN executive. CNN had higher ratings and more buzz under Zucker, but, Whitaker asked, “Was it worth it in terms of the way it changed the brand perception?”

The profound lack of self-awareness of both CNN and the *Associated Press* explains why legacy models are inadequate, but also why independent journalism has now supplanted it: as those who began independent journalism were not groomed or trained in a restricted setting, they used their knowledge, observations, and innovations – cognitive bootstrapping – and invented a superior forum for hard news. The press was already an inert and toxic form by the time the refreshed alternative to information dissemination came into its own. The first version of the profession had already collapsed as disenfranchised news consumers were incensed that they were not receiving factual information, but opinions in news reports, and decided to become news producers instead. The new generation of journalists is curious and humble citizens who ignored the decrees of those who tried to hide the true state of reality and began to report with raw data and a focus on the factual. Organic plurality is a foreign concept to legacy journalists, but it is a starting point with modern independent journalism.

Traditional legacy systems are still impeding the profession, and in many places, are difficult to transform. While these systems are often presented as some new element, the presentation reveals the difficulty of making true and systemic changes and reinventions. Such was the case in the September 6, 2022 edition of *Rolling Stone*:

Students will be guided through the history of the profession and outline the current challenges journalists face.

Rolling Stone, New York University and the online education platform Yellowbrick have joined forces to teach aspiring journalists.

Modern Journalism is a six-part educational content series that features Rolling Stone Editor-in-Chief Noah Shachtman, Adam Pennenberg, NYU’s director of online programs for journalism, Delisa Shannon, supervising

producer of news video at Rolling Stone, and Elizabeth Spiers, adjunct professor of journalism at NYU.

Radial journalism is both a response to the dysfunctional scaffolding of legacy journalism, and also an ascension of three modern alternatives: empirical, therapeutic, and organic. While there are many obstacles to reporting organic plurality, radial journalism allows the news producer to circumvent these rigs and present them to the audience in a variety of creative and innovative ways. Unlike conventional journalism, radial journalism can improvise and use other media other than traditional print, radio, television, or even the Internet and places control firmly in the hands of news producers and news consumers without manipulations from vested interests.

Adding Currency to Terminology

Independent and citizen journalism has successfully filled a void left by legacy media, which has led to an interesting transitional phase: low trust for the old guard as there is increased use of the new model, leading to confusion in some quarters. As the September 20, 2022 edition of *Baekdal Plus* noted:

There is both a troubling and a fascinating thing happening at the moment. The fascinating thing is that many of the trends we currently see are in favour of the media. Unlike in the past where most trends pointed away from the media, we now see many trends that point people towards the media.

That's very good but... the bad thing is that we also have a world in crisis, with massive inflation, an energy crisis, and key parts of our media consumption are under gigantic pressure, with low trust, news avoidance, and many other problems.

Modern independent journalism can have a single news producer's newsletter with thousands of paid subscribers and gaining more each day for a reason: the diversity and plurality of voices stimulate the brain and are a portrait of realism, unlike legacy media's monolithic and bland arbitrary decrees used to hide incompetence and rig rote binary outcomes. The positive brave and bold new visions of an innovative and independent future expose the timid and patronizing abusive missives from those who cannot compete with independent and individualistic thinkers who embrace empiricism and fact-based reportage. Static and predictable legacy journalism has no currency, while its replacement has become currency in itself.

Legacy journalism will use un-empirical speculation and phrases that have not been operationalized: a counter-opinion is not misinformation. As there will always be a debate about how the same reality will impact individuals and groups differently, such manipulative terms have no place in the news product. Even words such as verified and vetted can be exploited to give a false appearance of utility. Reality operates in a grey zone, not black and white. When you begin your work as a radial journalist, you need to define what you mean by your terms. What do you mean by vetted? What do you mean by verified? What do you mean by propaganda? When words have values, so do your facts: you will need to produce worth based on your word alone, meaning you are giving worth or *currency* to your words.

Understanding journalistic currency is crucial to using radial journalism: the reports and dossiers you create will have *value*, and be independent of other currencies (monetary, crypto), but far more stable and valuable. As we will see in later chapters, your news reports will allow you financial independence and generate income regardless of region and its confines. While radial journalism is not a printing press to create endless currency, it will be the basis of merging value with the results of your findings, and thus, currency is a *pillar* of radial journalism, though other areas, such as academia, can also use the same scaffolding to generate worth with the results of the research.

Understanding Competent Leadership

At the heart of journalism is a single concept: gauging leadership competence. A dysfunctional leadership necessarily means a dysfunctional ecosystem, and corrupt leadership necessarily means gambits of censorship, panic, oppression, contrived controversy, othering, fear-mongering and war will be used to deflect attention from the leadership's ineptitude. These are curtains used to hide from the audience the true state of affairs. A bad journalist will fall for these ruses time and again, but a true journalist will look behind the curtain to see why such machinations have been employed to disorient the public.

A leader is not someone who constricts paths or opportunities and decrees what is reality and then is presumptuous or abusive enough to order people what to do: a leader is an individual who can negotiate to encourage people to *want* to do what *needs* to be done and then take the initiative to successfully and efficiently do it as the leader gauges shifts and changes and listens and observes feedback. The dynamic between a leader and the group is itself a deal: the group agree to relinquish *some* powers to the leader in

exchange for improvement and progress. Here, the investment is in the leader because the leader is a visionary with primal, emotional, and analytical sensibilities. The leader relinquishes freedoms as the primary focus is on others, but in exchange is more power and sway over the group. Each side has rights and responsibilities until the results of the solutions become evident. When the remedy or innovation is completed, the leader may be given a new mandate, or gracefully exits with the task completed, while a new leader arrives to deliver.

It is arrival and deliverance which is at the heart of leadership competence. When a leader wags a patronizing finger at the group with threats of what will be given and what be denied – or tries to rig conditions to hold on to so-called power or condition the public to make do with less while the leader plunders more, there is no leadership, but parasitic manipulations. On the other hand, if the group demands unreasonable rewards and keeps moving the goalposts so the leader will always fail, there is no group, but another set of players manipulating the dynamic to harvest resources.

When leadership is incompetent, it will stoop to demonizing those who question it and will use propaganda and censorship in a feeble bid to cling to perceived power. Leadership that manipulates will use horrific tactics and abuse innocents to hide the true state of reality. Such as case was revealed in the September 29, 2022 edition of the *Guardian*:

A former eBay executive was sentenced on Thursday to almost five years in prison for leading a scheme to terrorize the creators of an online newsletter that included sending live spiders, cockroaches, a funeral wreath and other disturbing deliveries to their home.

David Steiner, who along with his wife was the target of the harassment campaign, told the court that eBay's former senior director of safety and security James Baugh and other eBay employees made their lives "a living hell". He expressed fear that other companies would use it as a blueprint to go after journalists in the future.

The corporate thuggery went to extreme lengths to silence independent journalists:

Court records in the case show how the top eBay executives became enraged by the Steiners' newsletter and readers who posted comments criticizing the company on their site, which eBay viewed as a threat to its business.

The scheme was hatched in August 2019 after Ina Steiner wrote a story about a lawsuit brought by eBay accusing Amazon of poaching its sellers. A half-

hour after the article was published, then-CEO Devin Wenig sent another top eBay executive a message saying: “If you are ever going to take her down ... now is the time,” according to court documents. That executive sent Wenig’s message to Baugh and called Ina Steiner a “biased troll who needs to get BURNED DOWN”.

However, in this case, the husband-and-wife team did not cave into these intimidation tactics, and not only exposed the machinations but brought justice with their work: their own victimization turned into a wealth of facts and data points that they could use to show corruption and turned a potential pitfall into a journalistic triumph as the extreme methods of abuse stood no chance of silencing the pair. A power balance was restored in the radical centre and this case should be your starting point in understanding the mechanisms of balance and humble those who believe they can manipulate, malign and intimidate with impunity.

Radial journalism, as we will see throughout this book’s mandate, is to use the real world as your journalistic medium. The focus is on turning any element into a journalistic medium that goes beyond print, radio, television, and the Internet. Like radial balance in photography, radial journalism is a symmetrical balance of relevant elements under consideration, which begin at a nucleus before radiating outwards from the core. There is balance, movement, and depth, bringing focus to the centre of an ecosystem, event, group, or person using all three core literacies at once while using all five loci of focus, and all time and space frames. The nucleus is the backbone of the pivotal scaffolding of radial journalism, and the goal is to expose the true nature of reality while giving news consumers the time and space to find their own solutions. It is an inversion of Marshall McLuhan’s observation that the *medium is the message*. Radial journalism shows that the message can become the medium itself.

Core Literacies

To understand journalistic psychology, it is imperative to understand the three core literacies, how they function, how they can be deceived, and how to prevent manipulations from overtaxing the brain. While this overview is meant to orient you, it is important to understand how we can see multiple facets of reality depending on the filters we use. Internal conflict arises when two core literacies see different things of the same element, be it an environment, event, person, group, or theory. Radial journalism is using these core literacies together with equal weights:

Analytical/Empirical: This is evidence-based journalism which uses experimental elements. The analytical requires *logic* to function, but manipulators will use *sophistry* to confuse analytical thinking. The purpose of this form of journalism is to find facts in reality through measurable tangible evidence, and present raw data as it is compared and contrasted to other data.

Therapeutic/Emotional: This system weighs facts to find equilibrium. The emotional requires *flow* to function, but manipulators will use *narrative* to confuse emotional-based thinking. This form of journalism uses verbal and non-verbal cues, data points, and sensitivity to find what elements are causing harm to groups.

Organic/Primal: This is survival and progress-based journalism. The primal requires *geist* to function, but manipulators will use *atmosphere* to confuse primal-based thinking. This form of journalism focuses on safety and progress to help the news consumer overcome obstacles through independence and cooperation.

Radial journalism, on the other hand, weaves all three forms of a new journalism to present impromptu news dissemination regardless of medium or confines. A *harmonized* form of journalism goes beyond logic, flow, and geist, but also *momentum*: building energy from previous choices, thoughts, beliefs, values, words, and actions. If momentum is the functional scaffolding of thought for radial literacy, then what is used to confuse the harmonized literacy or momentum? In this case, *impulse*: instead of the individual having control over the build-up of cognitive energy and the results of progress, the person is at the mercy of the decrees and dictates of others.

The literacy used in radial journalism is a *meta-literacy*: it is a form of *pre-cognition*, but not in the dictionary definition of fortune telling, but nebulous feelings in a grey zone: as the future is unknown in the present, we make educated guesses based on previous actions and outcomes.

Unlike other forms of independent journalism, radial journalism allows the journalist to create new media to present information to give information about the potential outcomes of the future based on the literacy of momentum. In this case, a radial journalist can use traditional outlets, or even use an academic paper, speech, or even *graffiti* to relay information, depending on the circumstances. Liberation from the medium is key and the message itself becomes the medium. To begin this process of liberation, there are two dynamic and flexible ideas to keep in mind:

Risk/Gamble: A risk involves self-assessment of the environment with the underlying question *Am I competent enough to solve the problem with my solution?* A gamble, on the other hand, involves hoping the environment will provide the solution to you with the underlying question *Will the environment align with my organic state to provide my solution?* A risk requires an active and humble mindset, while a gamble is a passive method of thinking. Radial journalism requires risk, yet you must always be aware of the environment as you assess yourself and your surroundings.

Data Points/Facts A data point is an emotional-based *ping* that may be non-verbal but relays information. A fact is an analytical-based piece of information which anchors what data points mean. A data point hints at a fact, while a fact puts a data point in context.

A risk, by definition, is a primal-based piece of information, which gives hints about the future based on both data points and facts. It is predictive and requires all three core literacies to work together. Radial journalism is a form of weaving risk, data points, and facts together to better define future success. Risk requires momentum, while gambles rely on impulse. When you are graphing out your strategies you require to consider these factors:

Optimal Strength: Data point (flow)+ fact (logic)+risk (geist) = positive momentum

Propagandistic vulnerability: nudging/gaslighting (narrative) – propaganda (sophistry) – gamble (atmosphere) = negative impulse

Should any of these factors become co-opted by manipulative elements, an actor loses positive momentum. We require data points, facts, and risks to gain momentum of competence and success. If we are emotionally, analytically, and primally illiterate, we become risk averse as we no longer trust our instincts. Radial journalism ensures cognitive and emotional independence and individuality in organic plurality with a focus on maintaining positive momentum.

Locus of Focus

Radial journalism looks at perceptions as much as reality, and part of the mandate is to compare and contrast mindsets to find overlap and balance. Selfish people and selfless people work from different scaffoldings, and the altruists mustn't become subjugated and turned into units to be exploited