

Truth and post-truth in the over-mediatised world of Trump, Putin and Brexit

Professor Guy Starkey, Associate Dean (Global Engagement), Faculty of Media and Communication, Bournemouth University, UK

When allegations of 'fake news' in established media become routine, and right-wing populist clarion calls prevail among populations more used to continuity than to seismic change, we are right to question the roles of truth and post-truth in modern-day society. That new media platforms offering unprecedented access to wide audiences should be suspected of misrepresenting the world around us is perhaps to be expected, but what of *traditional* media platforms, the press and broadcasters among them? Can it be that the world is now *over*-mediatised, now that almost anyone with the technology and a certain set of skills is able to become a content creator, producing content within both established and emerging genres and distributing it online? What are the implications for democracy and can we be reassured that 'things' can only get better, and not worse? In this keynote presentation, Professor Guy Starkey considers how the proliferation of digital technologies has not only disrupted traditional norms in gatekeeping, but also destabilised truth in story-telling and provoked a crisis of trust in mass media in ways that may have serious consequences both now and in the future.