

Introducing the Arena Papers: reflections on journalism practice in Europe

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Arena Papers is a **series** of thoughts about journalism practice in our time written predominantly by and for journalism practitioners. The challenge is to observe, analyse, reflect and develop journalism practice in an era our profession and the context in which we publish are changing fast, as are societal and technological developments. This affects the ethics, culture and purpose of doing journalism in a given society or community as well as journalists' roles. The overall question must be how we as journalists best can serve our communities, our societies. In short: the Arena Papers are a space for reflection on practice and practical reason in order to strengthen journalism in the public interest.

The **purpose** of the Arena Papers is to share knowledge, raise issues to address and indeed create a room for discussion and development. Our focus area is in-depth, collaborative, data and digital, investigative journalism as well as other related categories of the profession. This also includes context considerations such as for example publishing structures, entrepreneurship or funding to make journalism happen.

Arena Papers do not have a fixed **format**. Short calls for discussion, practical observations, well-argued opinion pieces and concise conference papers are just as welcome as longer research based on practical reason or academic methods. We hope to include in-person gatherings for lively exchange and encouragement.

The primary **target group** for the Arena Papers are fellow practitioners and students of journalism. Secondary target groups may include media and journalism scholars, publishers, sociologists and some civil society actors as well as anyone interested in journalism in the public interest in these turbulent times.

Arena Papers will be **published** on the Arena for Journalism in Europe website as well as in partner publications that are interested in the question at hand.

Further reading

Meyer, Gitte (2024): Some Problems of Bridge-Building. In: Handbook of Applied Journalism: Theory and Practice, L. Barkho, J.A. Lugo-Ocando and S. Jamil (eds.), Springer, p. 205-220. (Springer Handbooks of Political Science and International Relations). <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-48739-2>

In this chapter, Gitte Meyer observes the profession of journalism tied between two institutions – the media and universities. However, journalism being a field of practice and not of science, she argues in favour of “shared platforms for reflection and exchange on shared challenges, tasks and responsibilities” between journalism practitioners and academics in the field of journalism studies.

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, book 6, chapters 5 and 7–13.

Read Aristotle himself or more recent literature on the Aristotelian concept of “phronesis” or how to apply sound judgement about practical matters. Also dubbed ‘practical wisdom’, it is one of the intellectual virtues as defined by the Greek philosophers. Practical wisdom or practical reason means to think and act in relation to values and morals about things that are good or bad for human beings. Aristotle distinguishes it from other kinds of knowledge such as scientific (*epistemē*) or the crafts (*technē*).