

ANZCA Editorial

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We are delighted to welcome you to this special issue of *Platform: Journal of Media and Communication* in collaboration with the Australian and New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA). The special edition showcases a selection of outstanding work by graduate students and early-career researchers presented at the 2024 AANZCA conference and hosted by RMIT University.

This special issue takes its point of departure from the AANZCA 2024 conference on “PAUSE”. Researchers across media, communication, and journalism studies were invited to consider the act of pausing during a period of accelerating global crisis. The conference call identified a world under simultaneous pressure from climate change, eroding public trust, geopolitical instability, far-right resurgences, and the rapid proliferation of generative AI and asked, in that context, whether pausing might itself constitute a form of meaningful action.

Our special issue includes three papers that explore these issues. The papers span quite different fields feminist print culture and archival theory, digital media and gender politics, and political communication and framing theory—yet each slows down to examine how power is embedded and contested within media systems, usages, and histories.

The issue starts with an examination of how a Tradwife influencer, and her followers respond to feminist criticism on TikTok and Instagram. In the article “Negotiating criticism and contradictions: Tradwife discourse as recruitment strategy”, Claudia Young finds that Tradwife influencers and their followers deploy three rhetorical strategies invoking choice feminism, neoliberal individualism, and victimhood narratives to make a reactionary, gender-essentialist ideology appear palatable and broaden its appeal.

Continuing the topic of gender politics, Tessa Maxwell uses archival analysis of the New Zealand feminist magazine *Broadsheet* to trace its response to the restrictive 1977 abortion law. In “‘STOP PRESS—Not abortion again’: Disrupting linear time through archival analysis of *Broadsheet* magazine, Tessa argues that the contrast between the state's use of parliamentary urgency and the Collective's chronic resource scarcity reveals how time itself operates as a mechanism of power and that the archive disrupts linear narratives of feminist progress, showing reproductive rights as always contingent and never secure.

The final article by Boming Li and Wenjing Fei is titled “Framing and Political Communication: A Literature Review of Theoretical Foundations and International Conflict Reporting”. The article offers a review of framing theory and its application to international conflict reporting, showing how media frames in war coverage, humanitarian crises, and economic disputes consistently reflect and reinforce existing power structures by naturalising some definitions of events and some assignments of blame while rendering alternatives invisible.

As editors for this special issue, we would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne, Australia. We thank the Staff Editorial Advisory Committee for their guidance. A special thanks to all contributors

for their insightful engagement with the theme of this issue, and to our peer reviewers, whose generous and thoughtful feedback greatly strengthened the final publication.

Editorial Team

Brittany Craig is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne and the University of Potsdam. Focusing on the work of Lisa Robertson, Annette Messager, and Rei Kawakubo, her thesis examines how experimental aesthetics across literature, fashion design, and visual art are used to explore and contest feminist issues related to gendered embodiment and subjectivity.

Iván Kirschbaum is a PhD candidate at the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne. His current research focuses on the mediation of cities and the intersection of digital media and urban precarity. His PhD thesis examines how Latin American immigrants living in Melbourne use digital media to navigate everyday challenges in housing, work, and practices of belonging.

Jingxian You is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. Her thesis investigates the globalisation of mobile applications and their role in the merging of virtual and physical spaces. Her research interests include digital governance, app globalisation, transnational digital policy, and digital city.