



CALL FOR PAPERS for #ISOJ Journal 2022
Journal Theme: AI and News

Guest Editor:

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EXTENDED Deadline for extended abstracts:

September 19, 2021 (by 10 pm PT)

[Submission of abstracts here](#)

This special issue invites research papers that explore the full array of implications associated with artificial intelligence (AI) and its growing interconnection with news and journalism.

By many accounts, AI is having something of a moment, both across the information technology industries generally (Mitchell, 2019) and increasingly within the realm of media and communication as well (Broussard, Diakopoulos, Guzman, Abebe, Dupagne, & Chuan, 2019; Guzman & Lewis, 2020; Hepp, 2020; Hancock, Naaman, & Levy, 2020). AI refers broadly to the application of computing technologies to assume tasks normally associated with human intelligence, though when the multifaceted term AI is invoked, it often describes techniques of machine learning, or the training of algorithms over time to iterate on a relatively narrow task of interest (Boden, 2018; Broussard, 2018). In the case of journalism, for example, this includes a fast-growing variety of “smart” tools that are used by journalists, particularly at resource-rich organizations, to track sentiment on social media, personalize news for diverse audiences, automatically suggest edits on video clips, transcribe interviews at scale, and more (Diakopoulos 2019; Marconi 2020). “The hope,” as one report notes, “is that journalists will be algorithmically turbo-charged, capable of using their human skills in new and more effective ways” (Beckett, 2019).

Beyond the newsroom, this recent wave of enthusiasm and expectations surrounding AI has seen a number of scholars attempt to explain the potential applications and implications for journalism. This ranges from studying the use of AI in facilitating investigative reporting (Stray,

2019) and its role in powering news recommendation systems (Helberger, 2019) to broader matters of algorithms and automation as defining elements of journalism's turn toward AI (Thurman, Lewis, & Kunert, 2019). This line of research also ranges, on the one hand, from exploring the intricacies of tools for semi- or fully automated media (Diakopoulos, 2019) to considering, on the other hand, what this all means for how we conceptualize—at a fundamental, ontological level—the very essence of what journalism is and how it is communicated (Lewis, Guzman, & Schmidt, 2019).

However, research is still at an early stage in capturing the full range of implications—be they sociotechnical, political, economic, ethical, philosophical, legal, and so forth—at the intersection of news, media, and artificial intelligence.

This issue of the *#ISOJ Journal* welcomes studies that advance research in this domain. We invite submissions that explore AI and news from a wide variety of perspectives, including empirically based articles using quantitative, qualitative, computational, and/or mixed methods as well as conceptual articles that extend theoretical directions for this line of research. Interdisciplinary approaches that cut across research domains are also welcome. Additionally, papers could consider perspectives beyond a traditional focus on news production—such as a focus on design (Diakopoulos, 2019) or audiences (Guzman, 2019).

#ISOJ Journal, the official research publication of the International Symposium on Online Journalism (<http://isoj.org/research/>), is seeking extended abstracts (up to 1,000 words, with references included) for a special issue on this topic, to be published in conjunction with the next ISOJ symposium in spring 2022. A subset of the authors of selected extended abstracts will be asked to send full manuscripts.

All submitted manuscripts will undergo a blind-review process, and the authors of those articles selected for publication also will be invited to present their work at the symposium.

General inquiries about the journal and the submission process should be directed to journal editor and ISOJ research chair Amy Schmitz Weiss at aschmitz@sdsu.edu. Particular inquiries about this call for papers and the relative suitability of potential submissions should be directed to guest editor Seth C. Lewis at sclewis@uoregon.edu.

Note about submission: Extended abstracts (up to 1,000 words, with references included) should be submitted here.

Full manuscripts should be emailed to aschmitz@sdsu.edu.

Manuscript Requirements

- Only full papers, written in English, will be accepted for consideration.
- Manuscripts should be no more than 8,000 words, including references, and should be formatted using APA citation style.

- Authors also should provide a separate title page containing a 150-word abstract, a list of up to six keywords, a 100-word biographical sketch for each author, and full contact information for all authors.
- No footnotes should be used. Only endnotes are permitted.
- Manuscripts submitted for consideration should not have been previously published or presented previously.
- Tables and images should be submitted in a separate file (high-res gif/jpg quality)
- Multimedia files should be provided via a Dropbox or Google Drive URL with clear instructions for their placement in the text. (Because the accepted articles will also appear online, a multimedia component is welcomed – e.g., video, audio, interactive graphic, etc.) Multimedia components are optional, not required.
- Identification should be included in the text to indicate where graphs, tables or multimedia should be placed.
- If papers don't meet aforementioned requirements, they will automatically be disqualified and returned to the author.
- If your article is accepted and you are invited to ISOJ, all travel arrangements must be made by the presenting author (plan on two-night stay at minimum). *Note: this is dependent on the global pandemic of COVID-19 and if travel will be permitted at the time of the conference.*
- If your article is accepted and you are invited to ISOJ, your article cannot be published in another journal as it will be presented at the ISOJ conference and featured in the #ISOJ Journal (pending editors' approval).

Note: For papers that are accepted to the conference and journal, authors will not be charged or asked to make a payment in order for their articles to appear in the journal. ISOJ doesn't have article-processing charges.

TIMELINE:

- June 2021: Call for papers issued.
- EXTENDED Deadline for extended abstracts: September 19, 2021
- September 29, 2021: Notification to authors of a decision on their extended-abstract submission, including an invitation to submit a full manuscript (if applicable).
- November 10, 2021: Deadline for full manuscripts (sent via email to aschmitz@sdsu.edu).
- Mid/late December 2021: Notification to authors of decision on their manuscript, including revision requests for tentatively accepted manuscripts, as appropriate.
- January 27, 2022: Revised manuscript due.
- Mid-February 2022: Determination regarding final acceptance of the manuscript.
- Late March 2022 (estimated): Page proofs provided; one-week turnaround for authors.
- April 2022: ISOJ symposium in Austin, Texas; presentation and journal publication.