

Centre for Media Transition



Hi there

This has been a budget week and money is on our minds. Cash counts. Without it we wouldn't be able to take on new research or new people – both of which, we are happy to report on, in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, Google last week [announced](#) its biggest ever investment in news – a \$1bn (USD) investment in a new news product called News Showcase. It will give 200 leading publishers more cash for, and control over, their content. Some commentators are [calling](#) this a cash splash in the hopes of avoiding regulation. It also reveals the priority of the tech giant to work directly with industry rather than through governments.



Time will tell if this particular cash will make a difference. In the meantime the world of news rolls on with elections near and far and our (expanding) First Draft team are being kept very busy building partnerships and fighting mis- and dis-information.



Chrisanthi Giotis
CMT Postdoctoral Fellow

Introducing Esther Chan



This fortnight we are lucky to have Esther Chan join the Centre as the new First Draft Australia bureau editor. She will be working closely with Anne Kruger as the team expands its work in the APAC region.

Esther comes to First Draft via TV journalism in Hong Kong, then *Storyful*, where she worked in User Generated Content discovery and verification work for breaking news events and recently, a senior role in AFP Fact Check Australia.

By way of introduction, we grilled her on her role over a laksa (because that's how we roll at the CMT), and here's what we learned:

What do you see as key in this role? With First Draft expanding across the region my job will be initially focused on Australia and New Zealand and continuing the monitoring work we're already doing. I also have Cantonese and Mandarin language skills so the next thing I want to do is help expand monitoring of Chinese language misinformation.

What makes you passionate about this job? There are a lot of places rife with misinformation and in some cases with deadly consequences. Media literacy and raising awareness that the information you get from social media is not always right is just so important.

And what about for you personally? I love being at the cutting edge of new developments and so much has happened in this space in just the last few years.

My first job in TV news was for quite an old fashioned newsroom and so going to *Storyful* and getting to work on verification of User Generated Content was really exciting. The news agency was also one of the initial First Draft partners so we got to be part of the [award winning work](#) done by CrossCheck during the French election. Then going to work at AFP, I was able to really hone in on my debunking and fact checking skills, as well as contributing to long form investigations into the online disinformation landscape.

Now at First Draft being able to extend the understanding of the disorder environment even further and draw connections around networks of misinformation, it really is the next step in promoting media literacy and collaborative efforts across newsrooms. Being able to facilitate that, really excites me.

Trusted media countering info disorder

First Draft, the International Fact-Checking Network at Poynter and the Google News Initiative co-hosted the third annual APAC Trusted Media Summit on 1 - 2 October. This year's virtual event brought together some 700 journalists, academics and NGOs involved in fact-checking and fighting misinformation across Asia-Pacific.

First Draft founder Claire Wardle opened the summit with a keynote address. I delivered a presentation on the APAC Bureau's vision as we expand into Chinese language social media monitoring, and deliver First Draft's projects throughout the region. Jack Berkefeld delivered a wrap of our monitoring from Australia for the past year.



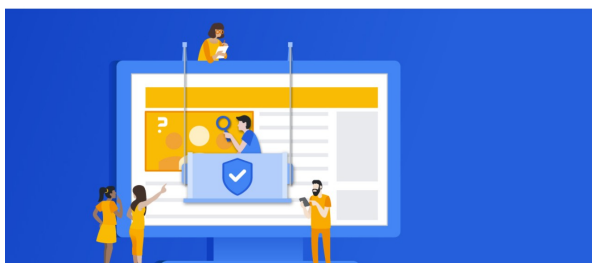
I find the Trusted Media Summit one of the most rewarding events professionally. For many of us, this is not a 'once a year catch up', but rather a celebration of the work that we collectively encourage through regular engagement with our peers from around the region.

The event was held under strict Chatham House Rules so that journalists, policy makers and platforms could chat openly about ideas that are in many cases still being developed. For this year's event and previous years, these rules have helped to foster a greater understanding between stakeholders. Having said that, we are working with the speakers and attendees at present for permission to release keynotes and presentations and will share these with you in due course.

Engagement at this year's event did not disappoint despite it being online. The group chats were a constant stream of sharing and networking.

Meanwhile in New Zealand...

Google



APAC Trusted Media Summit 2020

The Summit kicks off a year of ongoing virtual activities for the fact-checking community in the region. First Draft APAC has already begun the first of the follow up events with the premier New Zealand simulation held online on Tuesday. First Draft's live simulations place journalists at the heart of a high-intensity breaking-news

story and challenges them to make reporting decisions in real time. This online simulation was presented within a New Zealand context in preparation for their October 17 elections. Thought provoking discussions among different news editors and reporters reflected on a simulated story about conspiracy theories that many attendees noted later was not too far removed from reality!

This was the icing on the cake for the series of five pre-election trainings that First Draft Australia has held since July for major Kiwi media organizations from *NZME* which includes mastheads such as the *New Zealand Herald*, to *The Spinoff*, *MediaWorks*, *Newshub* and *Radio New Zealand's* digital division. Importantly journalists from regional and remote areas and mastheads were involved with the trainings as well as their metro peers.

With the election just around the corner, First Draft's monitoring with partners on the CrossCheck platform continues to support these journalists, and our daily findings can be found regularly in [First Draft's Daily News Briefings](#).



Anne Kruger
First Draft APAC Director

Research Recognition



The [Journalism Education and Research Association Australia \(JERAA\)](#) plays a vital role in Australia in encouraging academic excellence in journalism and promoting research. This includes the annual JERAA Research Award, of \$6,000 for mid-career journalism academics to improve their research experience.

This year's award was [announced](#) yesterday and I am very pleased to say I won! The project 'Teaching each other trust in the fake news era' will connect a

mainstream journalist with engaged and disengaged news consumers and together they will examine specific pieces of reportage on controversial topics. This will give the journalist greater access to a variety of perspectives and give the public greater confidence in the processes of journalism. The judging panel commended the [frame reflection interview](#) methodology, we will use for the project, which has also been put into practice at the centre on a variety of other projects.

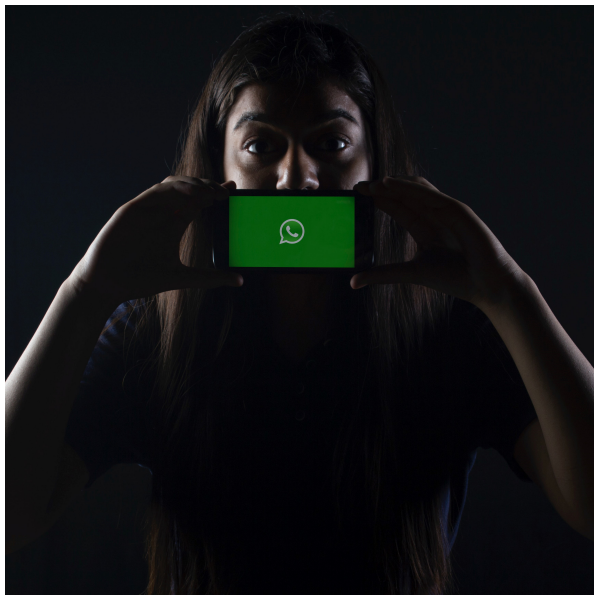
The judges said: 'the development of this approach could usefully inform journalism practice and research, and help the media build better community relations around the coverage of contentious issues'.

It's exciting to get that vote of confidence from my academic peers. I'll be looking to recruit a journalist for this project soon – watch this space!



Chrisanthi Giotis
CMT Postdoctoral Fellow

Upcoming event - Consumer Safeguards



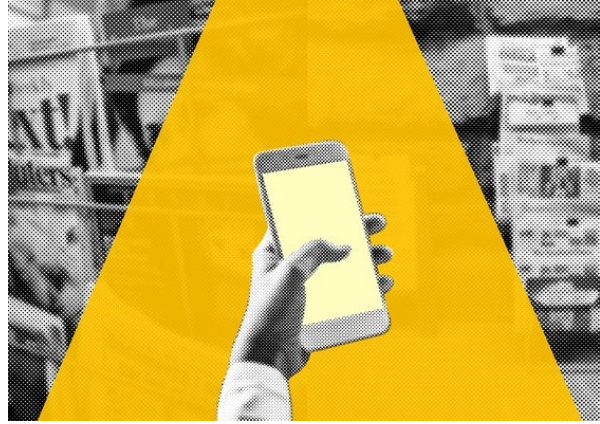
In our [last newsletter](#), Derek Wilding spoke on the [submission](#) that he and Karen Lee made to the Department of Communication's Consumer Safeguards Review. While this is primarily a telecommunications consumer issue around choice and fairness, it has implications for development of broadcasting codes of practice and how these might be enhanced.

As part of his work with the International Institute of Communications, Derek has now helped organise a webinar on this issue - with Karen as a panelist! Also on the panel are Michael Ackland, Group Executive for Consumer & Small Business at Telstra, and Teresa Corbin, CEO of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network. Cristina Luna-Esteban, Director of Consumer Policy at Ofcom in the UK, will provide an international perspective. The event will be chaired by Chris Cheah, former full-time Authority member with the ACMA.

This free webinar, '[Choice and Fairness for Telco Consumers](#)' will be held at 4.30pm on Tuesday 17 November. Register [here](#).

Pandemic sparks critical reflection on journalism

As societies worldwide have struggled to come to terms with the pandemic in their own communities, so too the role of journalism in helping to structure those responses, has come to the fore.



This was highlighted recently by the Baha'i World News Service in [their article](#) on the media during the pandemic which included examples of critical reflection taking place in Jordan, Spain and right here in Australia. The transnational issues that the various roundtables highlighted include commercial agendas, the conflict imperative in journalism and growing polarisation.

The Centre for Media Transition together with First Draft and the Australian Baha'i Community will continue to bring together journalists, academics and community members and find space to step back and reflect on guiding principles.

#ICYMI You can read more of our publications and the reports below on our [website](#).



Have a great weekend!

Please visit our [website](#) or [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) for more information about us.

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The Centre for Media Transition and UTS acknowledges the Gadigal and Guring-gai people of the Eora Nation upon whose ancestral lands our university now stands.

We pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these places.



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