

# Call for Academic Papers

Academic Conference on SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS: *Press Freedom and Media Capture*

23 and 24 April 2020

Press Freedom: journalists should be able to practice their work without arbitrary restrictions, all over the world. Nevertheless they are the target of harassment, threats and violence. Journalism today undergoes many pressures from actors trying to capture or intimidate media in order to harm journalists in their daily work and by doing so, influence the flow of free and independent information. And thus limit the oxygen for a healthy democratic society. To support joint efforts to protect journalism, there is a growing need for research-based knowledge on this issue. Academia can play a substantial role in achieving this goal, delivering input from its own unique perspective. This is why Leiden University takes the lead on hosting an Academic Conference on SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS: *Press Freedom and Media Capture* as part of World Press Freedom Conference 2020.

We call upon academics active in this field from all over the world to submit their paper and poster presentation to participate in the academic conference. Gender-sensitive approaches to research are encouraged

UNESCO, as the mandated agency within the United Nations, promotes freedom of expression and freedom of the press as well as leads the coordination of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

This Academic Conference on SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS: *Press Freedom and Media Capture* on 23 and 24 April is part of World Press Freedom Conference, *Journalism without Fear or Favour*, jointly organized by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and UNESCO, in The Hague / Netherlands on 22, 23 and 24 April 2020.

The Academic Conference brings together researchers from different disciplines working on issues related to the safety of journalists. It also offers the possibility for researchers to connect with decision-makers and media practitioners. During the 23rd edition of the WPFDF celebration (held in 2016 in Helsinki, Finland), the Journalism Safety Research Network (JSRN) was launched, coinciding with the first edition of the Academic Conference. The network aims to strengthen the field of research and ultimately contribute to safer environments for journalists by creating a space where multidisciplinary research on the safety of journalists can be developed, shared and promoted worldwide. The event

aims at bridging the gap between academic research and the experience of journalists on the ground. The theme of this year's Academic Conference is **SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS: *Press Freedom and Media Capture***.

For information about the Academic Conference please contact:

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For more general information about the World Press Freedom Conference (22-24 April) please click [HERE](#)

**Encouraged topics for the 2020 Academic Conference:**

- Securing safety of journalists in challenging environments
- Strengthening safety of journalists in countries with low levels of violence
- Safety of journalists in small local communities
- Safety measures: practice, protocols and policies of news organizations
- Journalists at risk engaged in fact-checking and countering disinformation
- Specific risks faced by women journalists in the course of their work
- Risks and strategies of journalists engaged in crime reporting
- Violence and aggression against journalists in public spaces
- Violence and aggression on social media against journalists
- Historical views on journalist safety and independent journalism: lessons learnt

**Submission for the Academic Conference:**

- Scholars can present their research in two ways: by presenting their research results in an academic paper presentation or in a poster presentation. (The conference organisation can eventually advice to schedule an academic paper as a poster presentation.)
- Requirements for the poster will be available in due time.
- Please submit abstracts for a paper or a poster of a maximum 300 words by 24 January, 2020 to: [wpfd@unesco.org](mailto:wpfd@unesco.org). Abstracts that exceed 300 words will not be taken into account.
- Selected papers will be announced on 12 February.
- After acceptance, the deadline for full paper submissions is 14 April 2020.
- In compliance with UNESCO's policy, the academic conference committee will respect gender balance and diverse geographic representation in all sessions; participation of young researchers is encouraged.

**Please note:**

No registration fee will be charged. UNESCO and Leiden University will investigate publication opportunities for the best papers presented at the Conference.

UNESCO and Leiden University do not provide funding. However, a limited list with available funds and sponsorships for covering flights and hotel accommodation will be published on the conference website. Based on the availability of funds, a limited number of partial/full sponsorship may be available for covering flights and hotel accommodation, with priority given to academics based in the Global South.

On behalf of the organizing committee of UNESCO, The Netherlands and Leiden University,

Prof. dr. J.C. (Jaap) de Jong

Dr. A.W.M. (Willem) Koetsenruijter