Title:

Journalism education in liquid modernity: the case of tertiary journalism student's media internship experiences

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Abstract:

Zygmunt Bauman's idea of 'liquid modernity' has been widely discussed as the features of modern society. Applying this idea, this paper aims to explore the nature of tertiary journalism education based on students' media internship experiences. Zygmunt Bauman maintains that the society has been transiting from 'solid' to 'liquid' phase of modernity, in which all social forms melts faster than new forms to cast. The fact of this liquid formation can no longer serve as the frame of reference for human actions and long-tern life-strategies. In this passage, Capital flow, organizational disintegration and flexibility bring about unreliability, instability and sensitivity.

Journalism education is deeply affected in such liquid-modern condition, and is soon at once reflected in the student's media internship experience during their college years. This paper examines student's subjectivity of journalism, through interviewing their internship experiences, exploring their understanding of journalism career and reflection of journalism education. We argue that student's media internship experience reveals the fact of multiple facets of border-crossing that take place in the interfaces of contemporary journalism academia and news industry. Moreover, they are manifested in terms of time and speed, professor and student relationship, curricula stability and the significance of journalism education. This research contributes to the literacy of tertiary journalism education research and development.