

# New media, old news practices and imagined communities

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# Representation of Montara Oil Spill in Australian and Indonesian Media

Dissertation by Theo Kartawijaya (2018)



# Research approach

How do online newspaper reports on the Montana spill by Indonesian media differ from reports on the same topic by Australian media?

- Select online newspapers with national, provincial & business readerships from each country: *Kompas*, *Pos Kupang*, *Bisnis Indonesia*, *The Australian*, *The West Australian* & *The Australian Financial Review*
- Collect archive of texts referring to Montara field from 2006 to 2017
- Select corpus of 52 articles for analysis (Flick, 2007)
- Analyse using a semiotic approach (Hodge, 2017)
- Identify & examine relationships within & between the texts

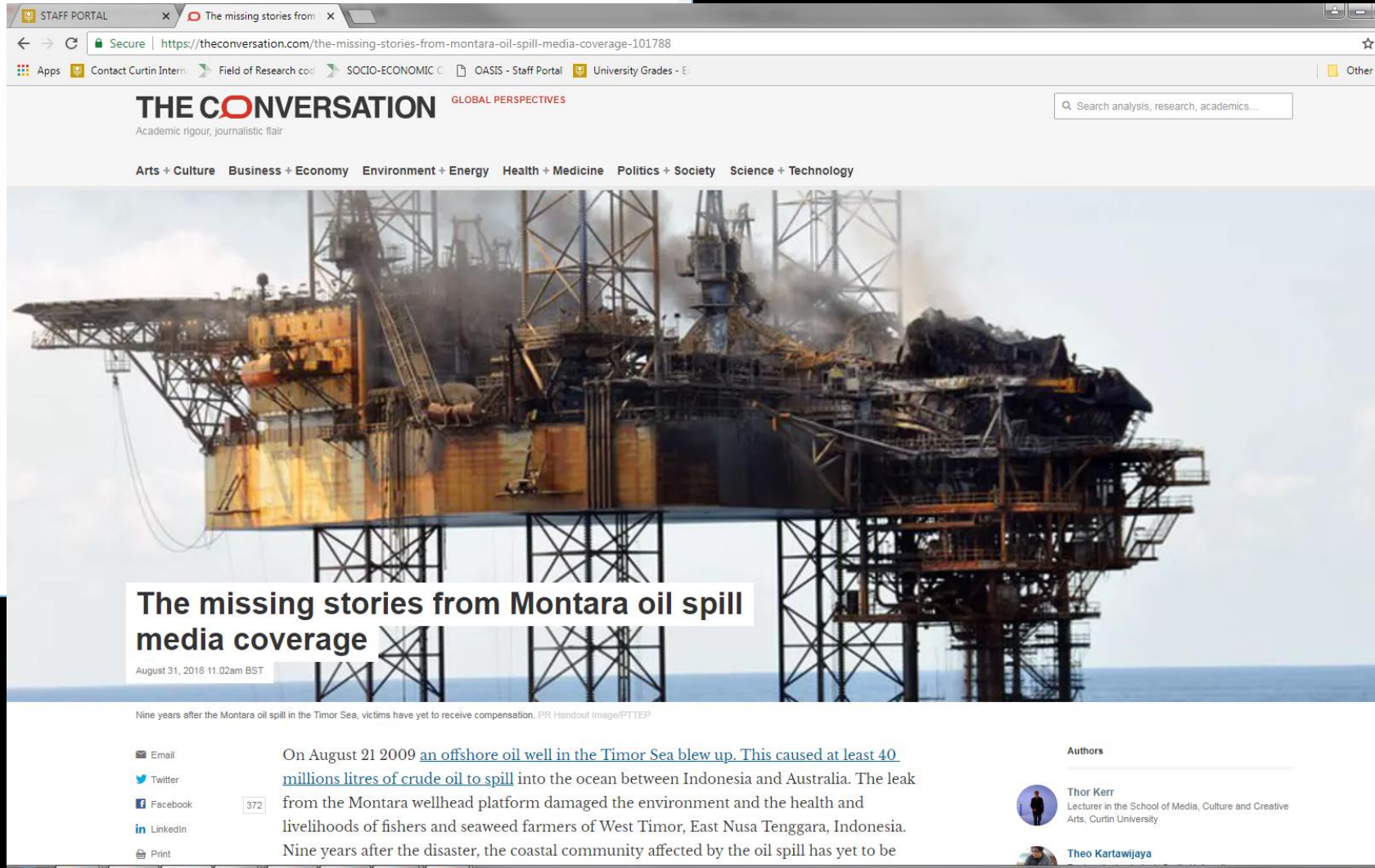
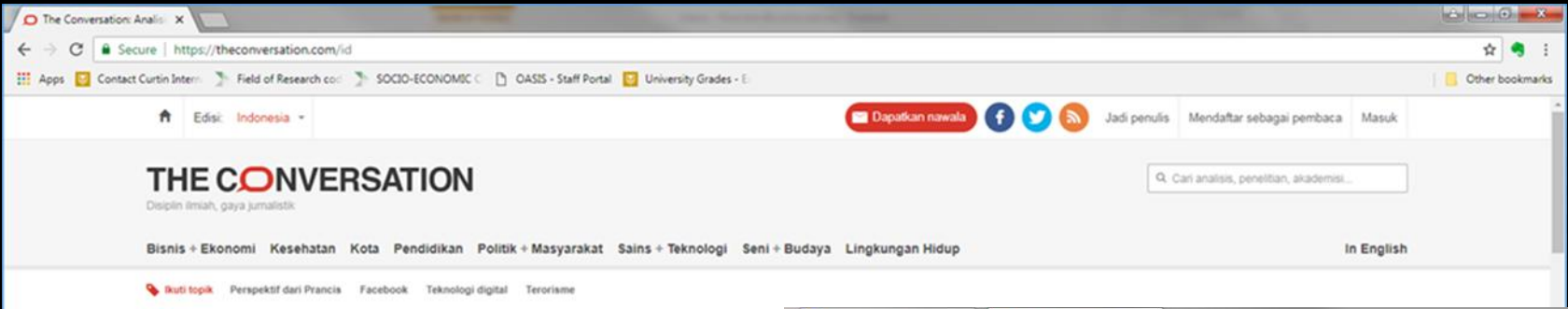
# Key findings

- Absences notable in both Indonesian and Australian media
  - reference to the problem of dispersants in Australian media
  - West Timorese fishers & farmers lawsuit absent in Australian media
  - Northern Territory lawsuit absent from Indonesian media
- Indonesian media more inclined to present binaries (us against them)
- Foreigners to blame (PTTEP Thailand by Australian media while Indonesian media blamed PTTEP & Australia collectively)
- Indonesian media relies on locally-based media sources as does Australian media despite the Internet

# Significance

- Australian public, generally, has little knowledge of how the coastal communities in West Timor lost their livelihoods due to the disaster
- The lack of substantive coverage has enabled the Australian government to blame the disaster on PTTEP, through the narratives presented to and reported by the Australian media studied
- Study identified a lack of connection between locally-based sources and overseas media
- The dissertation speaks to a need for media collaboration between countries during transnational environmental disasters









In mid 2011, people gathered on the road to Walmadany to stop land-clearing & drilling equipment arriving for a USD45bn gas project.



‘It is timely that the Government considers reforms that might improve the protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage, and land users to meet their obligations.’

Indigenous Affairs Minister Peter Collier



**‘Heavy police reinforcements were again used to... allow Woodside Petroleum to deliver earth-moving equipment to its James Price Point gas hub site’**

*The Australian*



**Aboriginal Heritage Act reform was ‘necessary to meet the new demands placed on the Act by mining and exploration, rapid State development and to accommodate native title’.**

**Indigenous Affairs Minister Peter Collier**














Protest fury: Police take away Janet Cox before the convoy breaks through.

Picture: Steve Ferrier



Controlled Businesses		SGH Ownership
WesTrac Australia		100%
WesTrac China		100%
AllightSykes		100%
Associates		
Coates Hire		45%
Seven West Media		35% + RCPS
- Seven Network		35%
- The West		35%
- Pacific Magazines		35%
- Yahoo!7 / Other		18%







## Heritage

### Our Aboriginal Heritage

### Site Preservation

### Land Use

### Place Search

### Contact

### Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

## Consultation

The State Government has released the draft [Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill 2014](#), drafted to allow for amendments to the way the State's Aboriginal heritage is managed.

These amendments offer a balanced suite of reforms that will satisfy the needs of those that work with the Act and provide greater protection, certainty, fairness and consistency.

Some of the key improvements proposed include:

- a much stronger compliance regime with increased penalties;
- a stronger voice for Aboriginal people;
- streamlined permitting processes; and
- increasing transparency and accountability.

### About the consultation

#### Discussion paper: 2012

The proposed amendments were informed through feedback obtained during an initial consultation process in 2012, during which the key amendments were outlined. 91 submissions were received as a result of this consultation, along with a number of responses which were not formal submissions.

#### Ongoing consultation: 2012-2014

In the two years following, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs actively engaged with those that work within the confines of the Act – including industry and relevant Aboriginal organisations – to ensure the proposed amendments were balanced and would be effective.

# The West Australian

Thursday, November 27, 2014

 [thewest.com.au](http://thewest.com.au)

27 NOV 2014

\$1.50

Geelong, Week Day \$1.60; Perth, Adelaide \$2.35; GST inc.



**WEST BUSINESS**  
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LUNCH WITH ADELE CARLES



**TEARS FOR A MATE**  
HUGHES STILL IN CRITICAL CONDITION  
**NEWS P6-7**

## HERITAGE RORT

### Approval process flaws and hold-ups cost \$100m a year

**EXCLUSIVE**

■ Colleen Egan

Rorting, overcharging, duplication and delays are rife in the Aboriginal heritage approval process that is costing an estimated \$100 million a year.

An "industry" of predominantly white consultants has been charging exorbitant fees for survey reports that are sometimes simply cut-and-paste duplicates, according to the State Government.

A report last year by analysts Ernst & Young found that bureaucratic flaws and consultants, including archaeologists and an-

thropologists, caused significant delays to resources projects.

Ernst & Young surveyed some of WA's biggest companies, which "all raised concerns that the process is open to conflicts of interests and abuse of powers".

The report found the average cost of a Section 18 heritage application was about \$382,800, with \$213,000 going into archaeological reports and \$47,800 in ethnographic work. An average of just \$42,000 was spent on consultation with Aboriginal elders.

Aboriginal Affairs Department deputy director Aaron Rayner said traditional owners deserved payment to help protect

sacred sites but professionals were profiting from an outdated system.

"These service providers have taken advantage of the uncertainty and cumbersome-ness and created a market for services that do not often provide value for money, nor significantly enhance heritage protection outcomes," he said.

The report also blamed department mismanagement for waste and delay. It was released ahead of the Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill, which will change the approval process.

The Bill has been met with dismay by some Aboriginal elders

who agree the legislation needed updating but fear the measures vest too much power in the department and do not give enough safeguards to ensure traditional owners are properly consulted.

In a joint statement, traditional owners from across WA said the reforms put sacred sites at risk.

"The amendments make it easier for mining and development to destroy Aboriginal sites and puts us even further out of the picture," they said.

"Traditional owners must have real say over the protection of their heritage."

Aboriginal Affairs Minister

Peter Collier met the group and agreed to review whether there should be an appeal mechanism included in the legislation.

Shadow Aboriginal affairs minister Ben Wyatt said the traditional owners' concerns were valid.

"It's not like the Aboriginal people don't want change but they have been left aghast that the consultations have ended with all references to Aboriginal people taken away," he said.

"The rorting that's caused concern is the industry that's grown around the heritage process, and by and large Aboriginal people want that stopped."

‘The aim of this bill is to make a series of amendments to the act to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, while ensuring the continued and enhanced protection of Aboriginal heritage.’

Dr Hames, *Hansard 27 November 2014:*  
*Second Reading of Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill*

‘AN ACT to make provision for the better protection and care of the Aboriginal inhabitants of Western Australia.’

*Aborigines Act 1905*

The CEO's functions include the following — (a) to evaluate on behalf of the community the importance and significance of places and objects alleged to be associated with Aboriginal persons;... (c) to recommend to the Minister places and objects that, in the opinion of the CEO, are, or have been, of special significance to persons of Aboriginal descent and should be preserved, acquired and managed by the Minister.

*Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill 2014 (WA)*

The Chief Protector may undertake the general care, protection, and management of the property of any Aboriginal or half-caste, and may — (1.) Take possession of, retain, sell, or dispose of any such property, whether real or personal.

*Aborigines Act 1905 (WA)*





# One Day in Fremantle: City announces event to replace Australia Day celebrations

November 25th, 2016, 08:30AM | Written by Jessica Nico | Fremantle Gazette **NEWS**





ABC News, 25 August 2016



# Seven News, 25 November 2016

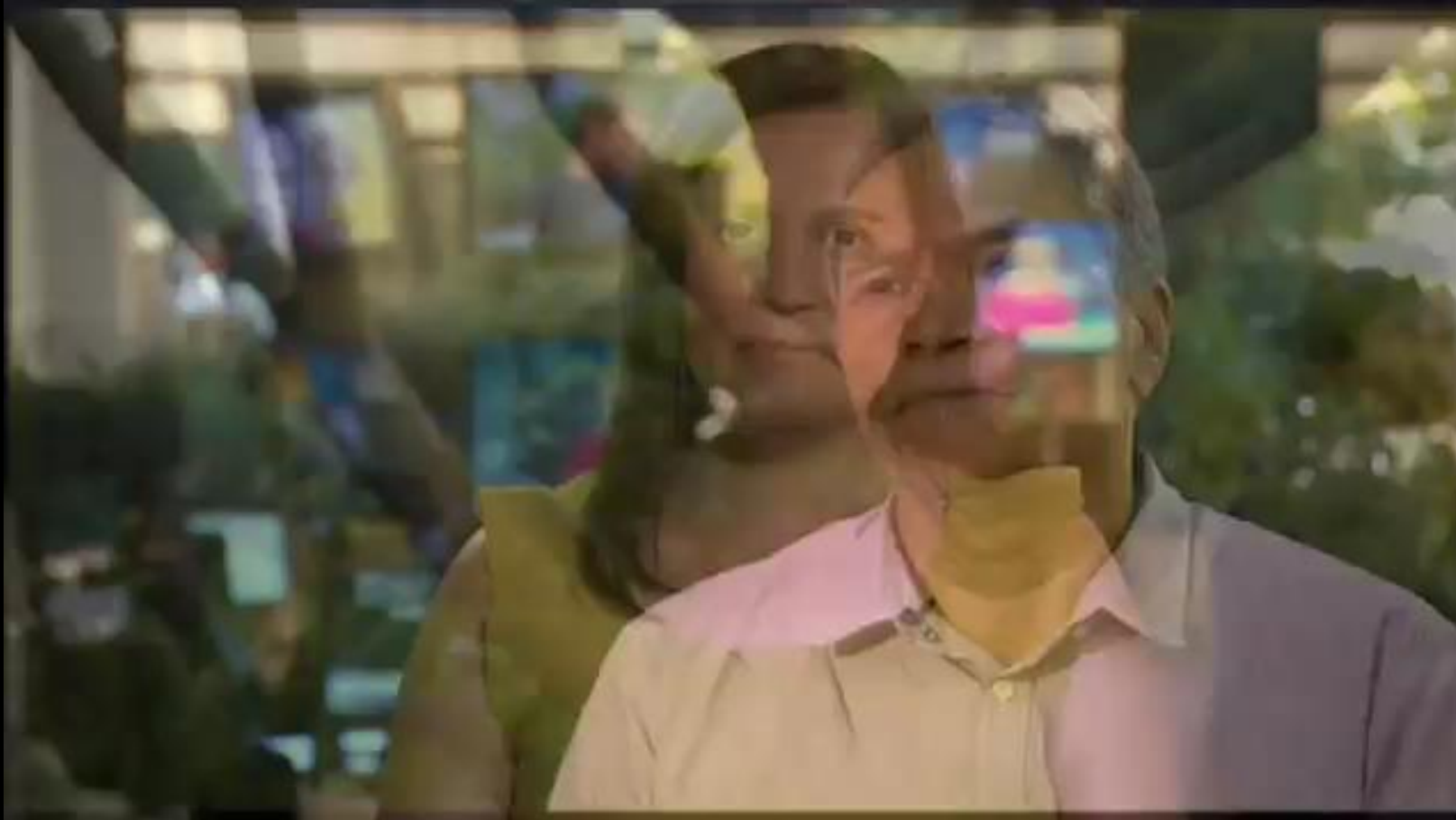


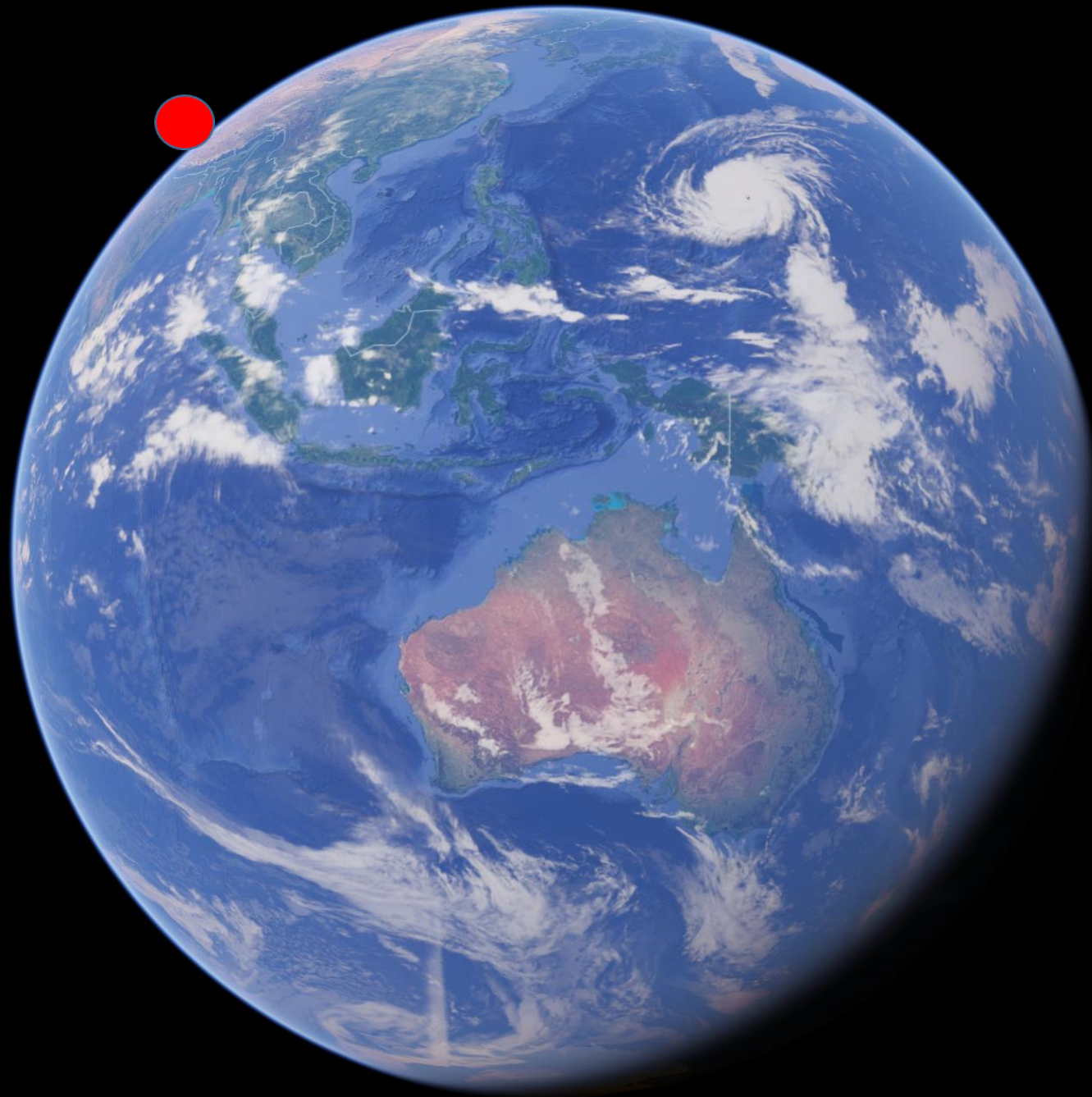


# SBS News, 28 January 2017



NITV News, 29 January 2018







# Media activism to create and sustain radical activist communities

Dissertation by Raymond Grenfell (2017)





# Research approach

How does media activism create & sustain radical activist communities?

- Examine the political history and significance of activist media network Indymedia
- Investigate the connection between media activism and radical activist communities
- Identify and critique the contemporary tools employed by media activists
- Produce a mixed-media creative non-fiction account of the G20 Summit protests
- Write an exegesis answering the above research question

# Findings

“Without knowing exactly what was planned we chose to join the feminist purple block, both on account of identifying as feminists and it conveniently being relatively close to our flat for an early morning start. Unfortunately neither of us had any items of purple clothing but I decided that my maroon 'goodnight white pride' jumper would suffice.



As we arrive at the fish market, hundreds of people in purple are assembling. Some carry inflatable toys, as some basic protection from police batons, others are in white jump-suits with purple visors or clear plastic face masks to protect from pepper-spray. Within moments of arriving we are moving, those in white jump-suits leading us back toward the city.”

# Significance

- This study on Indymedia and the independent media centre at the G20 Summit in Hamburg is useful in understanding the impacts of capital-intensive social media services on counter-hegemonic communities
- The study showed that although media activists at the G20 protests relied on Twitter and other corporate social media services, they found the platforms limiting and endangering
- Twitter & Facebook were problematic in telling complex stories, so alternative community media platforms filled this role
- The study indicates a need for more research on the experimental media practices of activist communities