JOURNALISM REDUNDANCIES IN AUSTRALIA: FINDINGS FROM THE NEW BEATS SURVEYS, 2014-2017

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Journalism, media, precarity and sociology

- Public sphere and democracy
- Control of, and access to, production, content and spread of information = power in network society
- Disruptive innovation
Fairfax to shed 1900 staff, erect paywalls

By Chris Zappone
18 June 2012 – 9:44am

Fairfax Media will cut 1900 staff and begin charging for content on the websites of its two main metropolitan newspapers as the company adjusts to shrinking advertising revenue.

- Rinehart steps up board battle
- Fairfax lowers stake in Trade Me
- Fairfax announcement to the ASX
- Union slams company over printer cuts

Fairfax, publisher of this website, will also shift to compact-sized versions for those two newspapers, *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, from March 4, 2013. The size of the broadsheet papers
New beats: where do redundant journalists go?

December 2, 2013 6.28am AEDT
New Beats research project

• In 2012, it was estimated that Australian journalism lost 10% of its workforce. Ongoing job losses ever since

• New Beats project to explore what has happened to these journalists since redundancy

• ARC Linkage and Discovery funded, 6 universities, and partnerships with NLA, MEAA & ABC

• Conducted four annual surveys of journalists (2014-2017) who took redundancies in 2012-2014; life interviews

• Internationalisation of project, involving Canada, Netherlands, Indonesia, South Africa, Brazil, Finland, US
Confronting challenges

- Trauma of redundancy
- Income: source and amount
- Challenges to professional identity
- Precarity and uncertainty
Creating opportunities

- New work and careers
- Transferable skills
- Re-invention of self and identity
- Networks and relationships
- Flexibility and choice
- Happiness and well being
Journalism, precarity and ongoing challenges

• Technology is powerful but not determining

  Critical sites of agency

• Managing the individual transition: professional and personal
• Emerging organizational forms and work practices
• Political, policy and societal context

http://www.newbeatsblog.com/