



New Perspectives on Trial by Media: A One-Day Workshop

Centre for European Law and Internationalisation (CELI), Law, Media and Communication Research group, University of Leicester

Online via Zoom. Free registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/637172900297>

Friday 30th June 2023

This one-day workshop brings together researchers from a variety of disciplines to consider the different meanings and dimensions of trial by media. It encourages new perspectives on the complex and evolving interfaces between courts, media and justice. The presentations will reflect on high-profile cases of trial by media, the enduring significance of so-called legacy media for public perceptions, the rise of amateur sleuthing on social media platforms, and the potential of various media to provide an alternative space for justice. The workshop will also consider the implications of trial by media for jurors and court reporters.

Draft programme:

8:00-8:20: Virtual coffee and networking

8:20-8:30: Welcome by Lieve Gies (University of Leicester, UK) and Sean Callaghan (Strategic Impact UK)

8:30-9:30: Panel 1: Gender and Trial by Media from Lindy Chamberlain to Nicola Bulley

Belinda Middleweek (University of Technology Sydney, Australia): 'Revisiting the Chamberlain case as historical benchmark of trial by media processes'

Deborah Jermyn (Roehampton University, UK) and Tanya Horeck (Anglia Ruskin University, UK): 'Re/solving Nicola Bulley'

Tanya Horeck: 'Nicola Bulley and the TikTok Detectives: Missing White Woman Syndrome in the Social Media Era'

Deborah Jermyn: 'Arresting 'the change': Constructing and resisting the pathologisation of menopause in the Nicola Bulley case'

9:30-9:45: Discussion round one: *The inquisitorial public: Can it be stopped? Should it be stopped?*

9:45-11:15: Panel 2: Trial by Media and Amateur Justice

Katrina Clifford (Deakin University, Australia): 'Serial offenders?: The troubles and triumphs of true crime podcasting'

Azi Lev-on (Ariel University, Israel): 'Social-media activism works! Evidence from interviews and surveys of local- and national-level impact of the public activity for justice for Roman Zadorov in Israel'

Stefan Machura (Bangor University, UK): 'Trial by film: Cases and causes in popular legal culture'

11:15-11:30: Break

11:30-13:00: Panel 3: Reconceptualising trial by media

Maria Rae (Deakin University, Australia): "'How we brought down a war criminal": Defamation trials as an alternative space for justice'

Simon Statham (Queens University Belfast, UK): 'The critical-forensic interface: Linguistic perspectives on trial by media'

Chris Greer (University of Essex, UK) and Eugene McLaughlin (City, University of London, UK): 'Gotcha: Trial by Media and Scandal Activation'

13:00-13:30: Lunch

13:30-13:45: Discussion round two: *Open justice and fair hearing: Can they ever be fully reconciled (again)?*

13:45-14:45: Panel 4: Trial by Media and the Embattled Courtroom

Anat Peleg (Bar-Ilan University, Israel): 'Between a rock and a hard place: Israel's court room journalists in the digital age'

Burkhard Schafer (University of Edinburgh, UK): 'Courting trouble: Trial reporting and the automation of journalistic compliance'

14:45-15:00: Discussion round three: *How can the courtroom adapt to the contemporary mediascape?*

15:00-15:15: Update on publication plans and close