



MMCC3031

Forensic Media

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer and tutor

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Room 255, 10 Hadenfeld Avenue

Fridays 10-12 and 2-4 and by appointment

Tutor

Uzma Aleem

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the crucial roles that forensic media play in news media organisations. It offers a brief history of the historical emergence of forensic media, tracking the development of the inked fingerprint, police mug shot, forensic photography and the establishment of criminal archives. It then examines the broad spectrum of contemporary technologies that are shaping the field of forensic media, including: forensic typical body charts, border technologies, satellite imaging and crisis mapping, CCTV, surveillance technologies and social media. It also examines the manner in which fictional television series, such as CSI, represent forensics and the manner in which they have influenced actual forensic practices. Forensic technologies have now become foundational for news organisations in order for them to illustrate and evidence their news stories – from social media apps to record and communicate unfolding newsworthy events to forensic satellite imaging to evidence humanitarian and environmental crises. This unit places forensic media within news media contexts in order to address the ethical, geopolitical and social questions that the use of such media raises.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are

available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: research and evaluate the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.

ULO2: apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.

ULO3: analyse local and international perspectives on forensic media.

ULO4: apply critical argumentation skills in order to articulate and evidence different viewpoints on the social, geopolitical and ethical uses of forensic media.

ULO5: communicate the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.

ULO6: apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical contexts.

General Assessment Information

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT NOTICE:

*Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to written reports and recordings only. **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs **will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.***

Final essay to be electronically submitted via Turnitin.

NB: In your final essay, do not write on the same topic that you used for your tutorial presentation.

Final Essay

Assessment Type 1: Essay

Indicative Time on Task 2: 54 hours

Due: 03/11/2023 11.55pm

Weighting: 60%

A formal essay that fulfils the conventions of the academic genre, including critical address of key issues, analytical argumentation and buttressing of all assertions with relevant evidence. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research and evaluate the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
- apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
- analyse local and international perspectives on forensic media.
- apply critical argumentation skills in order to articulate and evidence different viewpoints on the social, geopolitical and ethical uses of forensic media.
- communicate the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.
- apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical contexts.

Tutorial Presentation

Assessment Type 1: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task 2: 44 hours

Due: On the day of the scheduled presentation

Weighting: 40%

A task that demonstrates a student's disciplinary knowledge and skills through verbal communication to the class.

For your tutorial presentation you are required to:

1. Select a topic from the tutorial schedule of topics and readings.
2. Identify the key issues and arguments as outlined in the lecture and relevant readings.
3. Evidence and illustrate your presentation of key issues and arguments with relevant audio-visual material, e.g., videos, images, interviews, case studies and so on.
4. In the course of your presentation, you must pose to the class probing questions on the topic's

key issues in order to generate engaged discussion.

5. Keep your presentation to 15 minutes maximum time. There is no submission of print material to this assessment task. You will be assessed solely on your in-class presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research and evaluate the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
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- communicate the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.
- apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical contexts.

If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Final Essay	60%	No	03/11/2023, 11.55pm
Tutorial Presentation	40%	No	On assigned presentation week

Final Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 54 hours

Due: **03/11/2023, 11.55pm**

Weighting: **60%**

A formal essay that fulfils the conventions of the academic genre, including critical address of key issues, analytical argumentation and buttressing of all assertions with relevant evidence. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research and evaluate the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
- apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
- analyse local and international perspectives on forensic media.
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Tutorial Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 44 hours

Due: **On assigned presentation week**

Weighting: **40%**

A task that demonstrates a student's disciplinary knowledge and skills through verbal communication to the class. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research and evaluate the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
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- communication the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.
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¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

All lectures and tutorials commence in Week 1 of semester.

This unit includes pre-recorded lectures and online and on-campus tutorials. Please see the timetable for further information

All lectures will be delivered electronically and will be recorded and made available at the ECHO 360 link on the unit's iLearn site.

An MMCC3031 Forensic Media Reader will be available online from the MQ Library. All required reading list titles will be available via 'Unit Readings' in

MultiSearch:<http://multisearch.mq.edu.au/?course> and via the Leganto link on the MMCC3031 iLearn site.

Unit Schedule

MMCC3031 FORENSIC MEDIA UNIT SCHEDULE

LECTURES

Week One: 26 July: Introduction to Forensics and Forensic Media

Week Two: 2 August: Forensic Art and Illustration

Week Three: 9 August: Forensic Drone Media

Week Four: 16 August: Forensic CCTV

Week Five: 23 August: Crime Scenes: Using Forensic Evidence in Nonfiction Writing

Week Six: 30 August: Forensic Media of Indigenous Deaths in Custody

Week Seven: 6 September: Forensic Media of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Deaths at the Border

RECESS: 11 September to 24 September

Week Eight: 25 September to 1 October: READING WEEK: NO CLASSES

Week Nine: Week 4 October: Forensic Genetics and the 'CSI Effect'

Week Ten: 11 October: Geopolitics of Forensic Geospatial Technologies

Week Eleven: 18 October: Forensic Uses of Social Media

Week Twelve: 25 October: Forensic Biometrics

TUTORIALS AND READINGS

Week One (Commencing Tuesdays) 25 July: Introduction to Forensics and Forensic Media

Readings: Simon A. Cole 2013, 'Forensic Culture as Epistemic Culture: The Sociology of Forensic Science,' *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological Biomedical Sciences*, vol. 44, pp. 36-46.

Greg Siegel 2014, 'Accidents and Forensics,' in Greg Siegel, *Forensic Media*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, pp. 1-30.

Week Two: 1 August: Forensic Art and Illustration

Readings: Joseph Pugliese 2005, "'Demonstrative Evidence": A Genealogy of the Racial Iconography of Forensic Art and Illustration,' *Law and Critique*, vol. 15, pp. 287-320.

Sarah Cascone, "Textbooks Only Depict White Patients. So He Drew His Own Illustrations – and They Went Viral," *Artnet News*, 7 December 2001, https://news.artnet.com/art-world/diversity-medical-illustrations-chidiebere-ibe-2045122?utm_content=from_www.artnet.com&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20NEws%20Afterno0n%2012%2F8%2F21&utm_term=EUR%20Daily%20Newsletter%20%5BAFTERNOON%5D

Shaila Dewan, "With George Floyd, a Raging Debate Over Bias in the Science of Death," *New York Times*, April 14, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/14/us/george-floyd-death-forensic-science.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage§ion=US%20News>.

Week Three: 8 August: Forensic Drone Media

Readings: James H. Hamilton, 'Drone Journalism as Visual Aggregation: Toward a Critical History,' *Media and Communications*, vol. 8, no. 3 (2020): 64-74.

John V. Pavlik, 'Drones, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality Journalism: Mapping Their Role in Immersive News Content,' *Media and Communications*, vol. 8, no. 3 (2020): 137-146.

Pugliese, J, 2016, "Drone Casino Mimesis: Telewarfare and Civil Militarisation," *Journal of Sociology*, 53.3: 500-521.

Week Four: 15 August: Forensic CCTV

Readings: Gary Edmond 2012, 'Just Truth? Carefully Applying History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science to the Forensic Use of CCTV Images,' *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, vol. 44, pp. 80-91.

Katherine Biber 2006, 'The Spectre of Crime: Photography, Law and Ethics,' *Social Semiotics*, vol. 16, pp. 133-149.

Week Five: 22 August: Crime Scenes: Using Forensic Evidence in Nonfiction Writing

Readings: Katherine Biber, Peter Doyle and Kate Rossmanith 2014, 'Perving at Crime Scenes: Authenticity, Ethics, Aesthetics: A Conversation', *Griffith Law Review*, vol. 22, no. 3, pp. 804-814.

Dominick Dunne 1984, 'Justice', *Vanity Fair*, March,

<http://www.vanityfair.com/magazine/archive/1984/03/dunne198403>

Week Six: 29 August: Forensics of Indigenous Deaths in Custody

Readings: Amanda Porter, "Reflections on the Coronial Inquest of Ms Dhu," *Human Rights Defender*, vol. 25, no. 3, November 2016.

Suvendrini Perera and Hannah McGlade, "Report of the Inquest into the Death of Ms Dhu (Perth, 16 December 2016)." In *Indigenous Legal Judgments: Bringing Indigenous Voices into Judicial Decision Making*, edited by Nicole Watson and Heather Douglas. London: Routledge.

Bronwyn Carlson, "Data Silence in the Settler Archives: Indigenous Femicide, Deathscapes and Social Media," in Suvendrini Perera and Joseph Pugliese (eds.), *Mapping Deathscapes: Digital Geographies of Racial and Border Violence*, Routledge ebook @MQ Library, 2022, pp. 84-105.

Important supplementary material: "At a Lethal Intersection: The Killing of Ms Dhu," available at the Deathscapes site, National Library of Australia: <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20201103065140/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/173410/20201103-1648/www.deathscapes.org/case-studies/ms-dhu/index.html>

Week Seven: 5 September: Forensics of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Deaths at the Border

Readings: Tony Birch, "The Last Refuge of the 'Un-Australian,'" in Timothy Neale, Crystal McKinnon, Eve Vincent (eds.), *History, Power, Text: Cultural Studies and Indigenous Studies*, Sydney: UTS ePress, 2014,

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1w36pd7.17>

Perera, Suvendrini and Joseph Pugliese, 'Repetitions of Violence: On David Dungay's and Fazel Chegeni Nejad's Inquests,' *Overland*, 28 August 2018, <https://overland.org.au/2018/08/repetition-s-of-violence-the-inquests-for-david-dungay-and-fazel-chegeni-nejad/>

Maria Giannacopoulos 2019, 'Debtsapes: Australia's Constitutional Monopoly,' *borderlands e-journal*, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 1-16.

Important supplementary material: "Villawood: A Suburban Deathscape in Plain Sight," available at Deathsapes Project, National Library of Australia: <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20201103065140/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/173410/20201103-1648/www.deathsapes.org/case-studies/villawood/index.html>

RECESS: 11 September to 24 September

Week Eight: 25 September to 1 October: READING WEEK: NO CLASSES

Week Nine: 3 October: Forensic Genetics and the 'CSI Effect'

Readings: Barbara L. Ley, Natalie Jankowski and Paul R. Brewer 2012, 'Investigating CSI: Portrayals of DNA Testing on a Forensic Crime Show and Their Potential Effect,' *Public Understanding of Science*, vol. 21, pp. 51-67.

Simon A. Cole 2013, 'A Surfeit of Science: The "CSI Effect" and the Media Appropriation of the Public Understanding of Science,' *Public Understanding of Science*, vol. 0, pp. 1-17.

Pugliese, J, 1999, "Identity in Question: A Grammatology of DNA and Forensic Genetics," *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law/Revue Internationale de Sémiotique Juridique*, 12.4: 414-444.

Week Ten: 10 October: Geopolitics of Forensic Geospatial Technologies

Readings: David Campbell 2007, 'Geopolitics and Visuality: Sighting the Darfur Conflict,' *Political Geography*, vol. 26, pp. 357-382.

Lisa Parks 2009, 'Digging Into Google Earth: An Analysis of "Crisis in Darfur,"' *Geoforum*, vol. 40, pp. 535-545.

Joseph Pugliese 2013, 'Technologies of Extraterritorialisation, Statist Visuality and Irregular Migrants and Refugees,' *Griffith Law Review*, vol. 22, pp. 571-597.

Week Eleven: 17 October: Forensic Uses of Social Media

Readings: Bronwyn Carlson and Jeff Berglund, "Introduction," in B. Carlson and J. Berglund (eds.), *Indigenous People Rise Up: The Global Ascendancy of Social Media Activism*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2021, pp. 1-13.

Stuart Middleton, Lee Middleton and Stefano Modafieri 2014, 'Real-Time Crisis Mapping of Natural Disasters Using Social Media,' *Social Intelligence and Technology*, March/April, pp. 9-17.

Patrick Meier 2011, 'New Information Technologies and Their Impact on the Humanitarian Sector,' *International Review of the Red Cross*, vol. 93, pp. 1239-1263.

Mathew Ingram 2014, 'Social Media has Changed the Way that War Reporting Works – and That's a Good Thing,' *Gigaom*, 28 July, <https://gigaom.com/2014/07/28/social-media-has-changed-the-way-that-war-reporting-works-and-thats-a-good-thing/>.

Week Twelve: 24 October: Forensic Biometrics

Readings: Kelly Gates 2006, 'Identifying the 9/11 "Faces of Terror,"' *Cultural Studies*, vol. 20, pp. 417-440.

Joseph Pugliese 2005, 'In Silico Race and the Heteronomy of Biometric Proxies: Biometrics in the Context of Civilian Life, Border Security and Counter-Terrorism Laws,' *Australian Feminist Law Journal*, vol. 23, pp. 1-32.

Martin Kevorkian, "Integrated Circuits," in Martin Kevorkian, *Color Monitors: The Black Face of Technology in America*, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2006, pp. 74-114.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au)

[du.au](#)) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)

- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

New readings have been included on the forensics of Indigenous deaths in custody.