

# between news and algorithms.

how does technology shape journalistic practice (and viceversa)?

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### a jungle of big data that tell stories



- a profession specialized in making information visible and accessible to large audiences is at the forefront of the 'data revolution'
- data journalism as the craft of finding stories into complex datasets
- a new set of skills:
   advanced research
   methods + computational
   methods (data processing
   + mining)

### the 'participative web'

#### web 2.0

it increasingly exploits the unprecedented level of interaction, user engagement and collaboration that digital technologies allow

## user-generated content

content created by users outside of professional practices and publicly available online.

#### citizen journalism

when citizens become part of the creation of journalistic products, instead of being solely their audience.

#### social media

online services that allow for different levels of social interactions between their users, allowing for the exchange of UGC.

journalism is crucial for our democracies

...but so are journalists?

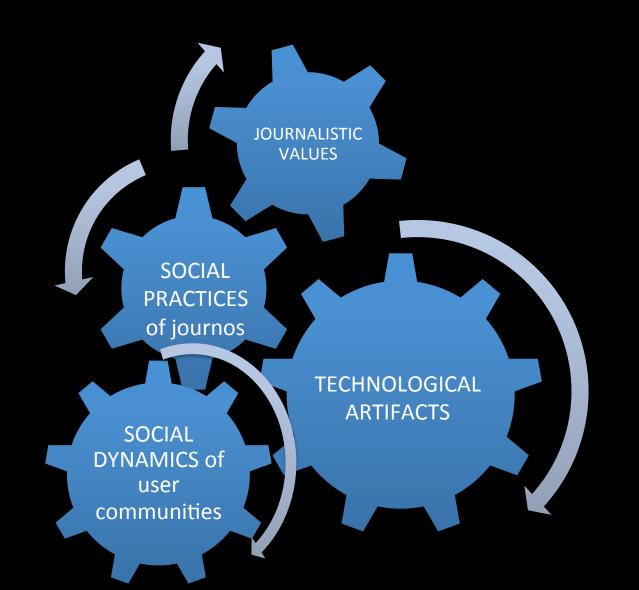


why could journalists become redundant?

if the values and processes that are embedded in the professional ethics and training of journalists can be inscribed/embedded in digital objects and processes by means of algorithms

>> then journalism can be practiced by virtually anyone

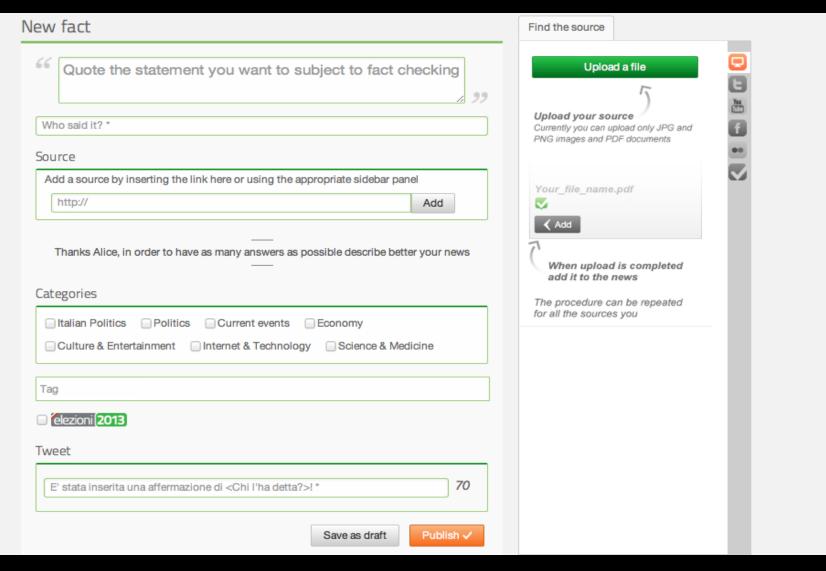
# technological artifacts?





a matter of social dynamics and technological artifacts

- what is the role of technology in shaping these new user-centered journalistic practices?
- what is the significance of these technological artifacts and practices in relation to the core values/conventions of the journalistic profession?



## users as documenters

## from newsmaking to algorithm



what are the choices and compromises that software developers face when translating the key elements of the journalistic profession into digital elements and processes?

journalistic value	social dynamic	technological artifact
accuracy	documentation through mandatory+fixed fields	'text', 'categories', 'links'
trustworthiness	reputation of the individual narrative voice	'reputation badge'
reliability of news	collective judgment	ʻjudgment' algorithm
accountability	transparency / visibility of documentation and news-making process	'forum thread'
independency	self-governed platform	'text', 'comments', 'flag button', 'voting arrows' algorithm
ethical commitment	agreement to follow a shared methodology	check box re: terms of service
democratic participation	debate	'comment'

## ... the way ahead?



- centered on the production of commonly shared knowledge and information flows
- promotes (hinders?)
  participation while
  maintaining quality of
  information and
  safeguarding the
  newsmaking process
- are 'civic social media' the 'killers' of the gatekeeper?





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