Stephen D. Reese, **The Crisis of the Institutional Press***,* Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2021, 208 pp., $22.95 (paperback).

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The Crisis of the Institutional Press, written by Stephen D. Reese, provides an insightful analysis of the crisis of the press and an updated elaboration on the phenomenon of decreasing institutional trust with collapsing business models and increasing political attacks in a post-truth society. This cutting-edge book also covers a new concept—hybrid institution—and brings much attention to the threats within the current institutional press. This book is particularly valuable for practitioners, students, and scholars who are interested in journalism, media, political science, and communication in general.

This book contains seven chapters, except for a preface, acknowledgments, and an epilogue written by the author. In chapter 1, the author states that the current institutional press in society, under threats from the political front and economic challenges, does face a crisis. The author emphasizes that such a crisis should be treated seriously, and that we need to understand the concept of institution as a social structure valued in democratic societies, why institutional trust has declined in recent years, and what kind of institutional structure could continue promoting democratic values, such as justice and inclusion. At the end of chapter 1, the author also provides the basic framework of the book.

Chapter 2 addresses the enemies of the institution, such as threats from populism and the rise of counterinstitutions like hyperpartisan media. The author analyzes the impact of both left- and right-wing politics on the institutional press in the United States. Specifically, he states that there are strong and harmful delegitimizing attacks embedded in right-wing politics. For instance, some Republican politicians have made liberal-bias claims or referred to the press as the enemy of the people to decrease public confidence toward the mainstream media. Compared to left-partisan media, such as *The Nation*, which did not doubt or undermine professional journalism, the right-wing media allies, taking advantage of digital platforms such as YouTube and Facebook, as well as the power from the Trump administration and populist ideology, are deeply attacking the epistemology of the institutional press. The author lists several examples of right-wing media platforms, such as conservative channels on Fox News and 4chan, being regarded as right-wing media platforms containing disinformation and racist, pro-Trump, xenophobic content online. This chapter also mentions the influence of fake news on the journalism authority and trust in the institution. When Trump brought the term "fake news" into mainstream discourse and exploited conspiracy culture, his antagonism toward journalists continued to frame the press as enemies, which amplified threats toward traditional media institutions.
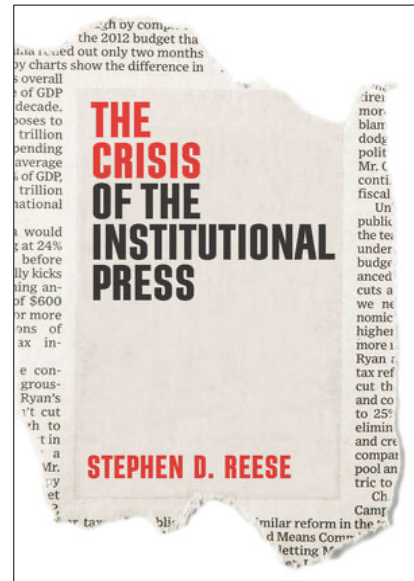
Chapters 3 focuses on the concept of the institution from different research perspectives and presents typologies to describe it at different levels of analysis. For instance, media scholars may apply survey research to study audiences' perceptions of news media, reports, or media organizations. A cultural perspective would conceptualize journalism as a reflection of deep cultural structure, taking an optimistic view toward the current institutional crisis. From a social system perspective, an institution can also be defined as a social structure. However, following this approach, the existing threats and their impact on the collapse of institutions would remain underexplored. The author, thus, offers his definition of an institution as "a complex social structure formed by an interlocking network of rules and activities, roles, technologies, norms, and collective frames of meaning, which work together to sustain its coherence, endurance, and value" (p. 57). Chapter 3 continues to argue that social science research should be based on the proposed conceptualization of an institution to analyze and examine the current crisis of the press.

Chapter 4 points out the shortcomings of current news institutions, and suggests that the press itself, specifically the commercial media system, must face the crisis and understand the reasons why it is losing public trust. For instance, commercial interest might have worked against the public interest when the mainstream media were benefiting from reporting news on Trump, and any degree of public engagement was ignored. The author also mentions that problems emerged from elite institutions and conspiracy beliefs. In conclusion, the author suggests that a broader and complex view of traditional institutions is necessary to face such challenges.

Chapter 5 illustrates the emerging hybrid institution, which may include news, social participation, professional journalists, and new technology. It also presents us with a typology to categorize different institutional forms, depending on the level of analysis (micropractice versus macrostructural) and structural emphasis (organization versus assemblage). For instance, traditional newsrooms or larger media systems represent the macrolevel of analysis and organizational structure. A new macrolevel hybrid form could include a collaboration of reporting between independent newsrooms or transnational work between nonprofit organizations and other civil society groups. Following a practical level, the author suggests that new technologies could also be applied to facilitate news reporting between traditional institutions in the hybrid structure. Other forms of hybrid institutions are represented by fact-checking platforms across countries without the banner of journalism or the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, representing a heterogeneous group of participants beyond traditional news organizations, such as activists, financial transparency groups, journalists, and scientists.

Chapters 6 and 7 delineate how institutions could become economically sustainable, and how to take an active step to defend aspirations for the U.S. news institution. In chapter 6, the author examines different approaches to journalism, such as economic and commercial models, nonprofit projects, the public option, and giant technology companies such as Facebook and Google. However, he also points out problems from each of these funding models, such as corrupting sources of support from Big Philanthropy, the spreading of misinformation on social media, or the lack of social values or public support. In chapter 7, the book calls for an explicit moral view of future journalism, and suggests a normative journalism study that must be brought about to help analyze institutions, evaluate new hybrid news structures, solve problems confronting democracy, and communicate actively with the public.

In summary, this book contains clear theoretical structures, introduces a solid typology to categorize hybrid forms of institutions, and conveys insightful thoughts on the normative journalism study. Compared to other recent academic publications, such as Cheng and Chen (2020a, 2020b) and Zimdars and McLeod (2020), focusing on fake news or misinformation, in particular, or Gasher and associates (2018), contributing to the understanding of journalism in Canada, this book offers a more holistic view of the definition, typology, and research on news institutions. Most significantly, Reese, as an outstanding scholar and prestigious teacher, demonstrates his in-depth consideration and long-term engagement on journalism education in the United States. This important work shows scholars and students a rigorous analysis of the current crisis within the institutional press during challenging times for democracy.

As an expert overview of professional journalism in crisis, merits of this book also include mentioning news reporting during the coronavirus pandemic and the complex relationships between news media systems and the broader political, cultural, and technological contexts. Future studies may enhance the current work by adopting the proposed conceptualization of institutions and exploring new forms of hybrid institutions for sustainable journalism serving social interests. Future scholarship could also continue examining publics' perceptions of fake news during the pandemic (Cheng & Luo, 2020), and investigate how new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, may influence the production of news and the public trust toward professional journalism.

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