



# “Minding the Gap”: Reflections on Media Practice & Theory

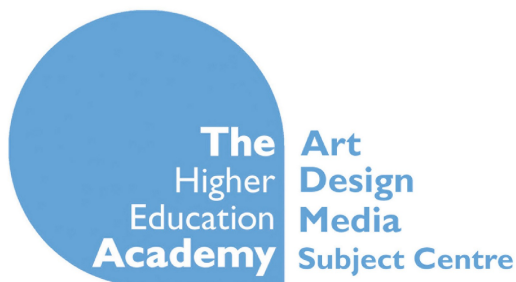
*Postgraduate & Early Career Researchers Training Day  
Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007*

**Convenors: Paddy Coulter (Reuters Institute) & Cathy Baldwin (ISCA)**

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**Double Vocations: Media Practice and Theory**

Chairs: Dafydd Sills-Jones & Cathy Baldwin, University of Oxford

**Introductory Comments** by Dafydd Sills-Jones, [dfs@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dfs@aber.ac.uk)

The speakers at this workshop were experienced media practitioners, who faced the challenges of having a foot in both camps: in that of the media practitioner, and that of the academic researcher of media.

That predicament is represented here by the work of George Nyabuga, an experienced journalist who has worked with Kenya's most established newspaper, *The Standard*, as well as newspapers in South Africa and the United States. He was a Freedom Fellow at Howard University, Washington DC in 1997, and has recently completed a PhD on the impact of the internet on Kenyan politics.

George's paper is explicitly concerned with journalistic discourses and practices. As with the other papers from this panel, he demonstrates an interest in journalistic ethics, and issues regarding the propriety of journalistic practice within civic society. He reflects a widespread concern with the representational powers of a group of communicators who have the potential to radically affect the way in which the world is constructed in the mind of a mass audience. His paper is also concerned with how such power can be channelled by forces within and outside the journalistic meaning-making machine. Nyabuga asks how much autonomy communicators such as journalists have within the confines of the mass media, and indeed how much autonomy they should have.