

## Abstract

This project focuses on Foucault's accounts of knowledge and truth-telling, as found in his publications *The Archaeology of Knowledge* and *Subjectivity and Truth*, and the role of the journalist as an honest and self-reflective agent in a world where verification is not always possible or wholly useful. Written over the course of a year which saw the decision for the UK to leave the EU, and a British prime minister who called an election to increase a majority which she subsequently lost (not to mention the election of a highly divisive president in the USA), there has been little difficulty in grasping the urgency of understanding the position of the media in society. In each of these cases, the media can be seen to have played a central role in informing, and often persuading, the public in preparation for national votes.

It is argued throughout this project that, since the media carries a great responsibility for informing the public, and so plays a significant part in defining many streams of discourse (and subsequently what is held as truth), it is fundamentally crucial that journalists are people who set out to give full and accurate information to the best of their abilities. They should also provide informed, justified, and transparent arguments for their opinions in order not to mislead the audience. As such, the proposed approach to promoting truth-telling is discussed as concerning an epistemic awareness on the part of the individual (how much can we know and reasonably verify), and a personal sense of responsibility and desire for integrity in journalists. This need is recognized as reminiscent of the sense of parrhesia (an Ancient Greek term for courageous truth-telling) as discussed by Foucault in that it prizes personal integrity ahead of presentation, supporting an attitude which aims towards *being* trustworthy, rather than merely *presenting oneself* as trustworthy.