



AUT RESEARCH CENTRE FOR
JOURNALISM, MEDIA & DEMOCRACY

Invites papers for a two-day conference

AI, Big Tech and Journalism

Date: Thurs 3, Fri 4 September, 2026

Auckland University of Technology

Keynotes: 1. Timothy Ström (Arena Magazine, AUS.).

2. Silvia Montaña-Niño (University of Melbourne).

3. Niles Christopher (Nieman Lab, Harvard University)

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Artificial Intelligence (AI), arising out of information-communication infrastructures constitutive of the internet, refers to the interconnectivities of robotics, machine learning, inter-computer programming, data science and algorithmic processing. Major tech corporations—Alphabet/Google, Meta/Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, ByteDance, Alibaba, Tencent—have accumulated relevant technological expertise from acquired AI start-ups to super-charge their business models, economic power, social reach and political influence. Nvidia provides chips, platforms and graphics-processing units for Artificial Intelligence tasks and infrastructures. Journalists of all kinds confront and investigate these developments as AI reshapes their workplaces and livelihoods. With these thoughts in mind, prospective conference participants are invited to present on the following themes. These should be seen as pertinent rather than delimiting:

AI and disinformation

- Fake-news applications
- Disinformation campaigns
- Deep-fake videos
- Twitter/X, Musk, Trump

AI and worker exploitation

- Human labour displacement
- Automated factory/office surveillance
- Content moderator immiseration
- Recharged logistics operations

AI and journalism practices

- News gathering
- News production
- News distribution
- Journalism as a profession erodes

AI, big-tech and ideology

- Technological solutionism
- Technological determinism
- Techno-libertarianism (recharged)
- Techno-fascism
- Post-human discourses

AI controversies and investigative journalism

- Election-campaign manipulation
- State propaganda, disinformation
- Data centres, electricity, ecological damage
- AI, war and civil conflict
- AI singularities vs human autonomy

AI big-tech and regulation

- Copyright issues—print, music, video
- Licensing arrangements
- Monopolization of markets
- Extreme online content, automated moderation

Date: Abstracts due **April 30, 2026**

Registration and fees – details to come