

MIR Lab in Youth Work

European Youth Press
2020-2021

*Course name: Digital
Investigations in an era of data-
driven journalism*



Presentation Outline

What's an Investigation?

- Public interest debate
- What makes a good investigation?
- What makes a good investigative reporter?





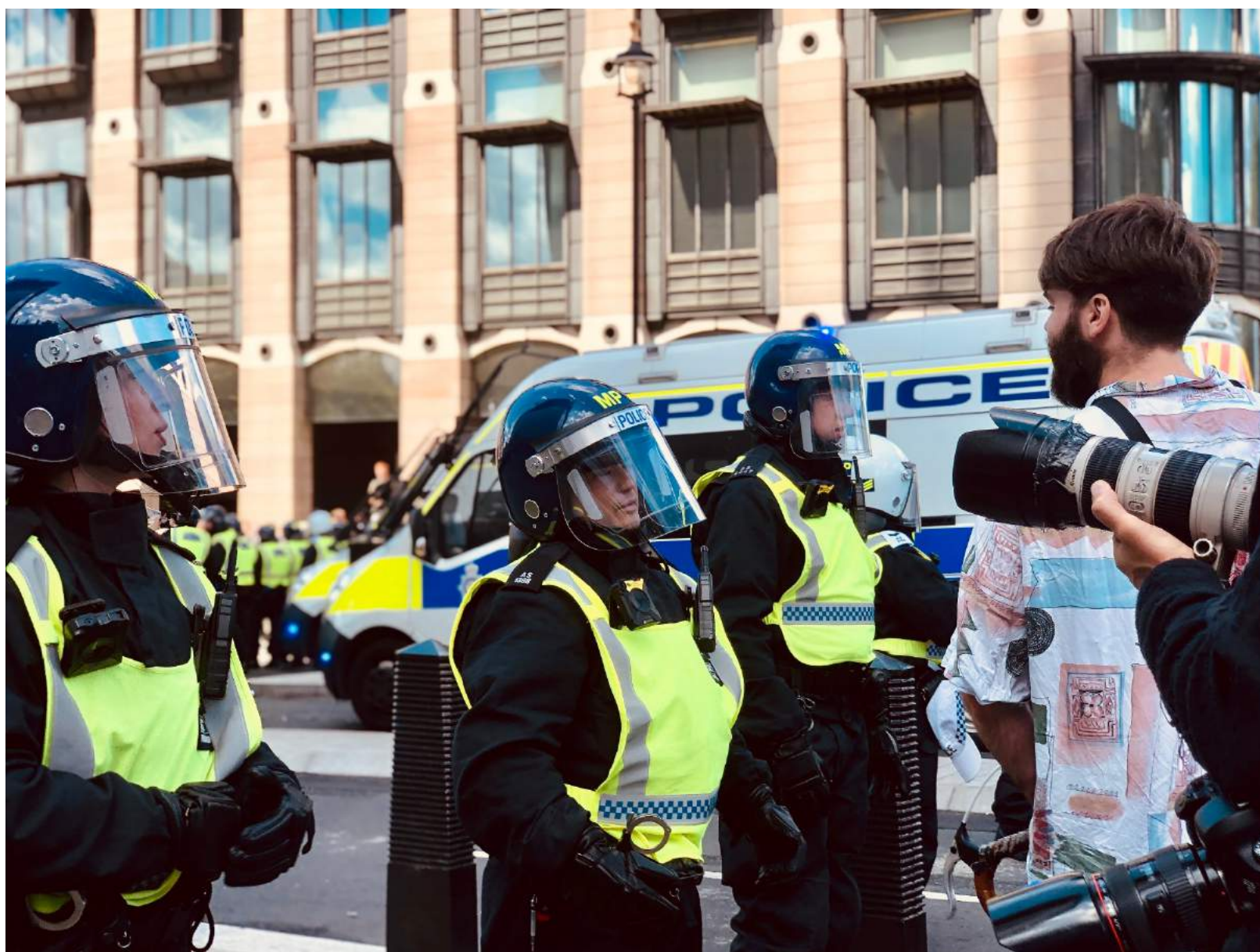
Investigation:

A process of exposing socially-important issues which otherwise would be hidden or concealed

The information needs to be discovered and verified

What is public interest?

How do we know if something is worth investigating?



What's socially important?

Your city mayor lied about having a Master's degree

A famous actor lied about going into rehab

Your friend lied about having a Master's degree

A doctor in a hospital nearby does not receive the protective equipment

A pharmacy company lobbies its new highly popular drug as a cure to a disease

National vs. public interest

Your discoveries may be harmful to different groups with various interests and influence



Digital investigation

1

Original

You discover something new

2

Verifiable

You need to have a solid proof

3

Revealing

A secret becomes a fact

4

Publicly Important

It makes a difference



What makes a good investigation?

How do you differentiate?



What do experts say?



David E. Kaplan

Executive Director, Global Investigative Journalism Network (Photo: Twitter)

“...In-depth systematic use of original research and reporting”



Drew Sullivan

Co-founder, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Program (Photo: Twitter)

“...Primary source of our information comes from public records.”



Miranda Patrucic

Award-winning investigative journalist (Photo: Twitter)

“...Asking for more of what is available”

Elements of a good investigation

1

Evidence

Get documents & other data from public registries and beyond

2

Human Side

A personal story that speaks to others

3

Credibility

Your findings are fact-checked and have a proof

4

Effective delivery

Communicate your story to your audience & look for the right channels

Why

- Shed light on corruption and mismanagement
- Make your community more transparent
- End the spread of false information



Investigate?

- End a negative practice
- Find out the truth
- Defend the rule of law & human rights
- Save your community money & resources

What makes a good investigative journalist?

Curious

You actually care & want to find out the truth

Self-organized

You manage your time, work, connections, & the process

Resourceful

Good research skills & a pool of contacts

Now,

**What is it that you
want to investigate?**

Take your time to brainstorm!