

MIR Lab in Youth Work

European Youth Press
2020-2021

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

Sources and ideas for your investigation:
Social Discovery & Working with People



Presentation Outline

Social Discovery

- Video Example
- Tools You Should Use
- Working with Whistleblowers
- Preparing for an Interview



Social Discovery:

Finding story ideas, sources, and information through social media

- You can both get inspired by the content you find on social media platforms

and/or

- verify/find/connect with individuals/organizations who can prove/lead/contradict your hypothesis



Do you know of any investigations that started thanks to a social media post?

Think of big and small stories in your country and your community

Social media as your source

- Breaking news
- Exclusive personal info
- Different interests
- Not a story without further proof



Social discovery tools

1

Facebook

- [Graph search](#)
- [Who posted what?](#)

2

Video

- [Reverse video search](#)
- [Another tool for reverse video search & verification](#)

3

Twitter

- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Tweetdeck](#)
- [Visualization](#) of tweets

4

Location search

- [Track conflicts](#) real-life

Get help from others!

Brief Introduction

- [Bellingcat resources](#) for investigations
- [ResearchClinic](#) with resources to track people/posts/content
- [OCCRP Dashboard](#) to search people/companies/previous investigations
- [An arena](#) for investigative journalists in Europe

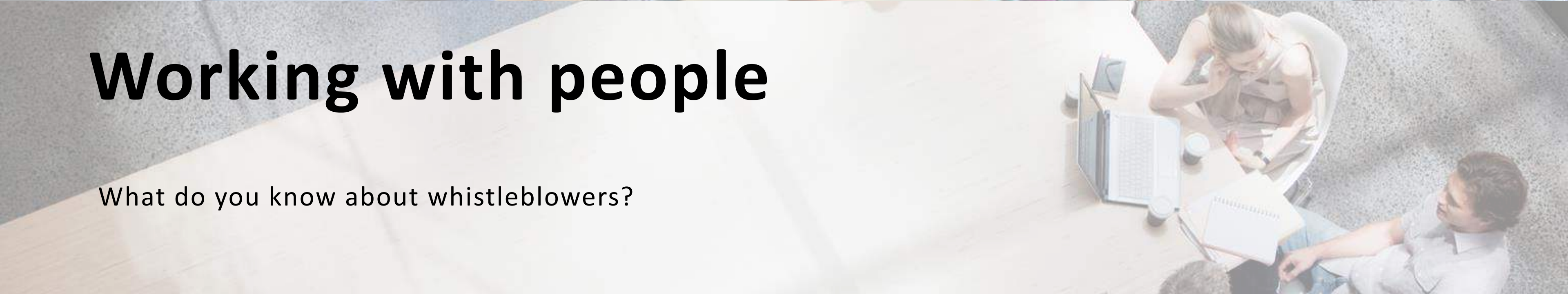


Digital Investigations in an era of data-driven journalism



Working with people

What do you know about whistleblowers?



**Whistleblowers
share sensitive
and confidential
info about an
organization/
person in power**



Information on power misuse & corrupt practices

- Documents & other leaks:
 - Tax evasion
 - Un-declared property
 - Hidden assets
 - Connections



Interests & identity

Protecting the safety/privacy

But also, Doublechecking!

Protect your sources

- Understand the risks of whistleblowers
- Secure your communication
- Search for more documents to back up their/your story
- Train your whistleblowers on security issues



Interview skills

- Be polite and respect their time
- Prepare/research your interviewee
- Use the logic/order of the questions to answer the most pressing issues
- Ask if you can record; transcribe everything

Interview preparedness checklist

1

Relationship

Connect with the person in advance & familiarize yourself with him/her

2

Place

Pick a place where it's best to talk & record. Even when it's online!

3

Goal

What is it that you want to get out of the interview? Set a clear objective!

4

Conversation

Make your questions open & don't be afraid to repeat them when needed

Remember:

**Your source
influences your
reporting**

Ask & Check!