

CASE PAPER EXAM: METRICS AT WORK

Read pages 1-12 of the introduction and all of Chapter 5 of Angèle Christin's *Metrics at Work: Journalism and the Contested Meaning of Algorithms* (Princeton University Press, 2020). Then write a case paper in essay form to answer the questions below. In your paper, draw from relevant theory and concepts covered in the course. Pretend that you are writing for another student as CBS who is not taking the course; briefly explain each theory or concept and how you are applying it to the case.

Your case paper, written in prose (not bullets or lists), should consist of no more than 10 standard double-spaced pages in Times New Roman, 12-point font. You may use any of the major style guides (e.g., Chicago Manual of Style, Modern Language Association (MLA), or Associated Press (AP) Stylebook) to format the text as well as your in-text citations and bibliographic references. References are not counted in the 10-page limit.

Questions

1. Compare and contrast the organization of work at *The Notebook* and *LaPlace* newsrooms. In your analysis, explain the culture, division of labor, structure, and hierarchy of each workplace. Draw from the interview excerpts, office sketches, and homepage illustrations present in the text to provide examples.
2. Explain and analyze each newsroom's form of organizational power, e.g., bureaucratic or disciplinary. What is the role of metrics in control in each case? Explain and apply Weber's theory of bureaucratic authority and Foucault's theory of disciplinary power in your analysis.
3. Imagine that you are a researcher studying the two newsrooms. Select one of the perspectives that we have covered in the course (e.g., modern, symbolic-interpretive, or postmodern/conflict). Briefly describe the perspective and how you would apply the perspective to study and analyze the case. How is your approach similar or different to that of the author, Angèle Christin?

Note: You may use multiple perspectives, but only one is required. There is no right or wrong answer here; any of the perspectives can effectively study the cases.

4. Pretend a newsroom hired you as a consultant to improve the organization of its workplace. Based on your analysis of the organizational problems or situations that arose in questions 1-3, what "best practices" would you recommend and why? What practices would you not recommend and why? Give examples from *The Notebook* and *LaPlace* in your recommendations.