

Thoughts on the investigative reporting course

I attended the investigative reporting course at Columbia University in July 2017. The course gave a good overview of investigative techniques and offered valuable ideas and contacts for future work.

What is the minimum story? Who are affected the most? So what? Even though many of us were surely aware of the basic principles of investigative reporting, going through practical cases, from many countries, was helpful. It was important for us to work in a confidential setting where people could easily share ideas and even mistakes. “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.”

The best sessions were about structuring the investigation and investigative interviews. Although we covered computational journalism and new forms of online journalism, the course was more about non-technical methods.

There was a good atmosphere during the course, making way for international co-operative work.

Ville Juutilainen