

# STORIES UNTOLD: JOURNALISM IN THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR

## Virtual Ethics Café:

Welcome to the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties Ethics Café. Ethics Cafés provide an opportunity for critical dialogue on significant ethical issues faced by society. Some stories are heard more than others. While other stories fall silent. But why? What moral value, if any, is there in viewing photos or videos of people suffering and injustice? And what role does media play in influencing public perception and foreign policy towards conflicts? Join us with our guest facilitator Marcy Markusa as we discuss the role of journalism in covering the latest news from the Russo-Ukrainian War. Open to everybody with no prep work necessary; how you choose to participate in the discussion is up to you!

**Date:** April 14, 2022

**Time:** 7:00pm - 8:45pm CT

**Facilitator:** [Marcy Markusa](#)

### Event Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stories-untold-journalism-in-the-russo-ukrainian-war-tickets-310524415887>

### Preparation for the Evening

- Those new to zoom should download the app and come 5 minutes early to test your video and audio.
- Close any other windows on your browser so that notification noises don't disrupt discussion.
- Be sure to not have any bright lights behind you and be conscious of your surrounding environment.

### During the Meeting

- Please mute your speaker unless you are speaking. The space bar can be used to temporarily unmute your speaker when you are speaking.
- You will be placed in small groups of 4-6 for each discussion question. The groups will stay the same for the first two questions, and will be changed for the last discussion question.
- Please be patient if tech problems arise, we'll work hard to ensure everything goes smoothly.

## Agenda

1. Introductions, Land Acknowledgment, Outline of Meeting Procedure
2. **Question 1:** Introduced | Small group discussion | Large group discussion  
An American news correspondent came under controversy after stating that war in Iraq and Afghanistan could not be compared to that in Ukraine because Eastern European countries were civilized. The former deputy prosecutor general of Ukraine also said: “It’s very emotional for me because I see European people with blue eyes and blond hair ... being killed every day.” The BBC host in the interview replied, “I understand and respect the emotion.”  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/mar/02/civilised-european-look-like-us-racist-coverage-ukraine>
  - a) *What roles does the media play in influencing public perceptions of conflicts?*
  - b) *How is the media coverage different in the conflict in Syria’s Civil war or the Israeli–Palestinian conflict as compared to the war in Ukraine?*
  - c) *How do public perceptions impact foreign policy towards conflicts?*
3. **Question 2:** Introduced | Small group discussion | Large group discussion  
An op-ed by Moky Makura claimed, “unthinkable things that happen in places like Africa are typically reported in terms of issues, numbers and trends -- rather than the people, the emotions and the lives destroyed... our stories tend to offer simplistic analysis that lacks context and nuance, and prioritizes headline-grabbing proclamations.”  
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/03/opinions/racist-media-coverage-ukraine-africa-makura-lgs-intl/index.html>
  - a) *Which stories are front and centre in the coverage of the conflict?*
  - b) *You may specifically consider the portrayal of international students in attempting to flee. How does this contrast with ‘other people’ portrayed in the media also trying to flee and why might those differences exist?*
4. **Question 3:** Introduced | Small group discussion | Large group discussion  
According to most recent estimates by Rise Above Research, 3.3 million photos are taken every minute. Nearly everyone has a camera in their pocket and billions of people are using and consuming photos on a regular basis. Media coverage of the ongoing invasion of Ukraine has been described as ‘unprecedented’ with continuous developments being made available by the minute - including pictures and videos of suffering and destruction.  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2022/03/04/1084230259/not-every-war-gets-t-he-same-coverage-as-russias-invasion-and-that-has-consequenc>
  - a) *What moral value is there in viewing pictures of people suffering injustice?*
  - b) *How do pictures influence how people feel and respond to the conflict?*
  - c) *How do photos evoke action on the viewer’s part?*

## 5. Closing Remarks

### After the meeting

- Thank you for participating in our Virtual Ethics Café!
- A post-event survey will be distributed to participants, please take a few minutes to answer some questions.
- Those who complete the survey will automatically be entered into a draw to win a Tim Hortons gift card.

This event is held by the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties. MARL is dedicated to raising awareness, making a difference, and expanding community involvement. Learn more at <http://www.marl.mb.ca>.