INNOVATION JOURNALISM: PERFORMANCE AND CURATION



Conference at Stanford – Innovation Journalism 2011

A panel discussion with Marisa Gallagher of CNN. The topic was the future of journalism and the place of narrative. Mobile Media Design – Is the Medium Still the Message?.

The contemporary crisis in journalism is simple. With everyone able to witness and publish their experiences of newsworthy events, what role is there for the skilled, and expensive, journalist who is likely not present at the event?

Marisa showed us CNN's superb new project – *Open Stories* – where anyone can make their own (online digital) contribution to an ongoing news event. [Link]



The role of the (CNN) journalist is here to

curate content.

I reiterated my now well-worn distinction between narrative and storytelling, where narrative is the *structure* or *grammar* of character, plot and event, and

storytelling is the performance of narrative.

Storytelling – the articulation of performer/storyteller, place/event, audience/commentators, where narrative structure is (potentially) adapted to suit the particular performance. Storytelling can accommodate deep critique of the familiar formulaic frames that we all know so well and which shut down our appreciation of the unique human experience of place and event.

The (future) journalist – enabling, curating such performative events.