

## HANDOUT

### Title of the presentation

Laura Ahva, Postdoctoral Researcher, Research Centre COMET, School of Communication, Media and Theatre, University of Tampere, Finland: **“Active audiences in participatory news organizations”**.

### Outline of the presentation

**Background:** Journalists today in mainstream news organizations are increasingly working together with active members of the audience. Citizens may also be active on their own, without professional journalism, when they write independent blogs or use social media platforms. However, between professional journalism and citizen media, there is a zone of *participatory news organizations* where journalists work together with an active network of non-journalist collaborators.

**Key concepts:** People formerly known as the audience. Participation in journalism. Participatory news organizations. Communities of practice.

**Cases discussed:** *Cafébabel* (Paris + other European cities), *Södra Sidan* (Stockholm) and *Voima* (Helsinki).

**Recommendations:** The collaborative and networked work environment might be the context where future journalist will work. Journalism training should therefore know what is happening in the margins of the journalistic field and teach knowledge related to: community management, mobile work practices, project-based work and funding, editing, and communication skills related to selecting and pitching stories.

### References:

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Rosen, Jay. 2006. The People Formerly Known as the Audience. Press Think Blog.

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Wenger, Etienne. 1998. *Communities of Practice: Learning, Meaning and Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### About the Speaker

**Laura Ahva** (Dr. of Social Sciences) is a researcher interested in journalism, audience studies, participation, and the public sphere. She has published in various journals, including *Journalism*, and has been involved in editing a double special issue of *Digital Journalism* and *Journalism Practice* on the theories of digital journalism.

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