

Last class, Isabel Inclán gave a presentation on journalism and academic writing. She explored the social responsibility of journalism, gave tips on selecting topics and advice on writing articles. Her talk also allowed us to learn from her experiences as a journalist in Canada for over 20 years. Her presentation provided a great insight into our own projects in the course and work as editors. Ms. Inclán highlighted the importance of catering writing to intended audience and adjusting it depending on the media format. She also provided insight on approaching interviews with a clear objective in mind, to effectively time manage, and remain respectful of interviewees. Her advice helped us better plan for our upcoming interviews.

One of the most striking aspects of Inclán's presentation was her emphasis of communication as a social responsibility, regardless of whether an individual is an editor, reporter or even a columnist. She stressed the significance of proper research and support for the work we put up. Such an understanding is essential given our eventual work in this course in magazine creation and editing. The importance of this social responsibility was further highlighted when Inclán explored how journalism has the power to offer different perspectives, challenge mainstream views and combat stereotypes.

Her talk helped me realize that journalism, when used critically, can be used to combat the *single story* from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk and the discussion we had in class. Ms. Inclán argued that individuals, such as migrant workers, are often invisible to the public because of their lack of inclusion through popular media. However, through journalism, there is the power to give a voice to the unheard and shine a light on the unseen. In doing so, we can do just as Adichie spoke of in her TED Talk, and "avoid the dangers of a single story" by offering diverse perspectives (Adichie, 2009).

This understanding of social responsibility is one that may be expanded outside of this course. It may be taken with every step of my own academic journey. Regardless of what course I am in, I should always ensure the information I am sharing has been researched, is not perpetuating any harmful stereotypes, or falling into the dangers of a single story. Proper communication is not only limited to journalists but is also an integral part of a scientist's career. As a biology major, I have been trained in many courses about being able to successfully communicate to the public, especially as scientists have a responsibility to society to convey their findings. For example, being able to successfully explain the dangers of climate change helps drive urgent action. If such vital information is not shared properly, then similar to a lack of social responsibility amongst journalists; we risk inaction and perpetuating harm. From Isabel Inclán, I have realized my social responsibility, not only within this course, but also as an academic and future professional.

References

- Adichie, C. N. (2009, October 7). The dangers of a single story [Video]. TED.
https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en
- Inclán, I. (2023, Feb. 9). Guest Speaker Presentation [In-Class Presentation]. AP/SP4990 N - Foreign Language and Digital Media: Developing Skills for Online, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada
- (2023, January 22). *Migrants call on Trudeau to fulfill his promise to regularize the undocumented*. New Canadian Media. https://newcanadianmedia.ca/migrants-call-on-trudeauto-fulfill-his-promise-to-regularize-the-undocumented/?doing_wp_cron=1676172346.2191820144653320312500
- (2022, May 10). 'My Two Voices' is a poetic reflection on immigrant identity. *Toronto Star*. <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2022/05/10/my-two-voices-is-a-poetic-reflection-on-immigrant-identity.html>