

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

Punta del Este, Uruguay 2022

CALL FOR PAPERS

Important Dates

- **Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 February 2022**
- **Deadline for submission of final papers: 18 April 2022**
- **Academic conference: during the World Press Freedom Day global conference 2-4 May 2022 in Punta del Este, Uruguay**

Description:

Within the framework of the [World Press Freedom Day](#) (WPF) celebrations on 2-4 May, the seventh edition of the Academic Conference on the Safety of Journalists is being convened in Uruguay and broadcast online, in partnership with a network of Uruguayan universities. The Global WPF Conference is jointly organized by UNESCO and the Government of Uruguay.

World Press Freedom Day has its origins in a UNESCO conference in Windhoek, Namibia in 1991. Since then, the conference has been hosted each year by a different country, discussing current trends and challenges to freedom of expression and bringing together world leaders, top journalists, academics, the media industry and many more.

The Academic Conference is an integral part of the World Press Freedom Global Conference and has been organized since 2016 to bring together researchers from different disciplines working on issues related to the safety of journalists. It also offers the possibility for researchers to connect with decision-makers and media practitioners. At the Academic Conference, researchers such as members of the [Journalism Safety Research Network \(JSRN\)](#) ([link is external](#)) come together to exchange knowledge on safety of journalists, to strengthen the field of research and ultimately, contribute to safer environments for journalist.

UNESCO's report "[Threats that Silence: Trends in the Safety of Journalists](#)" found that while killings of journalists are slightly decreasing, other threats against journalists are soaring. Online attacks against journalists have been exacerbated during the global pandemic and imprisonment of journalists is at the highest level ever recorded. At the same time, nearly nine out of ten killings of journalists remain unpunished and gaps to effectively address threats against journalists can lead to self-censorship.

The Academic Conference on Safety of Journalists aims at bridging the gap between academic research, the experience of journalists on the ground and policy makers. The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2022 is "[Journalism under surveillance](#)". The discussions will spotlight how recent developments in technological means of monitoring and surveillance negatively affect journalism and freedom of expression.

The Academic Conference committee welcomes submissions/ papers/ research on all aspects of safety of journalists and impunity for crimes against journalists.

Topics that are especially encouraged for the 2022 Academic Conference are:

- Digital protection for journalists & online surveillance
- Specific threats faced by women journalists online and offline
- The safety of journalists covering protests
- Impact of internet shutdowns on journalistic work
- Digital media technologies and safety of journalists
- The 10-year anniversary of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity: achievements, challenges and the way forward

Please also find a comprehensive list of potential research topics in [UNESCO's Research Agenda on Journalists' Safety](#).

Submission for the Academic Conference:

Please submit abstracts of a maximum 300 words 15 February 2022 to: wpfd@unesco.org

The deadline for full paper submissions is on 18 April 2022 at the latest.

UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Uruguay invite participants to attend the conference in person (subject to sanitary measures and travel regulations). The conference will also be streamed live to a dedicated online platform.