EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2020

PAPER:	**JOURNALISM 2B**	
SUBJECT CODE:	**JNS2BB2**	
EXAMINERS:	**MR. STEFAN KRIEK**	**TIME: TAKE HOME EXAM**
MODERATOR:	**DR. ALLEN MUNORIYARWA**	**MARKS: 100**

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF 15 PAGES. YOU MUST ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS IN ONE WORD DOCUMENT/HAND-WRITTEN DOCUMENT AND SUBMIT IT ON BLACKBOARD IN THE "EXAM" TURNITIN LINK. *YOU SHOULD INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT NUMBER AND SURNAME IN THE DOCUMENT NAME WHEN YOU SUBMIT*. *YOU SHOULD ALSO NAME THE FILE YOUR SURNAME AND STUDENT NUMBER*

SUBMIT WORD DOCUMENTS ONLY! NO PDF

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION:

- **The exam paper will be distributed via an "EXAM" link on Blackboard ONE WEEK before the exam date on the timetable.**
- **This is a take-home exam, and therefore it is and open book exam. However, all the information you need to answer these questions are included on this exam paper. Thus, should you have trouble accessing your readings; you need not worry as this is an all-inclusive exam.**
- **You can spend ONE WEEK to prepare and write your answers to this exam. The exam should be submitted on Blackboard BEFORE MIDNIGHT on the exam date.**
- **A note on essay questions/ discussions: Please note that because you have access to all the necessary readings, we require insight and depth in your answers, especially essay questions. You cannot rely on just putting down information – you should engage with the provided readings and show insight.**

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- **If typed: Arial 12, 1.5 spacing.**
- **Minimum of two (2) pages for Question 1**
- **Minimum of one and a half (1.5) pages for Question 2**
- **Minimum of one (1) page for Question 3**
- **For Question 1: Since this is more in line with an academic essay, your answer must have *a minimum of six (6) in-text references*, and these *must come from the articles provided in addendum A***

- **For Question 2 and 3: You do not need to reference the photos, you can just say "photo 1" or "photo 2"**
- **You do not need to include a bibliography**

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION:

- **The primary portal for submission is the JNS2BB2 Blackboard site. An "EXAM" TURNITIN link, will be created where you will submit your exam.**
- **IF IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SUBMIT ON BLACKBOARD FOR TECHNICAL REASONS YOU MAY SUBMIT ON THE FOLLOWING PLATFORM (AS DETERMINED BY THE LECTURER): email to skriekuj@gmail.com**
- **PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT ON ANY OTHER PLATFORM IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO BLACKBOARD!**

ANSWER *ALL* THREE (3) QUESTIONS:

QUESTION ONE (1)

The internet has opened doorways for more citizen journalism which allowed for increased societal participation in the traditionally top-down news structure. However, while citizen journalism has allowed for more voices to be heard, it also comes with its own set of problems.

*Read the three (3) articles in **addendum A** and critically discuss both the advantages and disadvantages of citizen journalism. Use relevant local and international examples to illustrate your argument.*

(50)

QUESTION TWO (2)

*Closely examine the three (3) photos in **addendum B,** then:*

- State whether *you* think the photo is one that ascribes to **realism**, **formalism**, or **expressionism** (or maybe a combination).
- Critically motivate why *you* think the picture represents one of the above mentioned styles.
- You don't need to include the photos, just say: PHOTO 1 = realism/formalism/expressionism, followed by your motivation.

(30)

QUESTION THREE (3)

While a photograph can say much about the subject being photographed, it can often say much more about of the photographer, and the social and historical context in which it was taken.

*Closely examining the photograph in **addendum C** and critically discuss what you think it says about:*

- *The subject being photographed.*
- *The photographer and the social/historical context in which the photo was taken.*

(20)

TOTAL FOR EXAM: [100]

See next pages 4-15 for addendums A, B, and C

Addendum A (Question 1)

1. 'Citizen Journalism' Is a Catastrophe Right Now, and It'll Only Get Worse

By Jesse Singal (2016)

In theory, crowdsourced "citizen journalism" is a good idea. After all, all it really takes to be a journalist is certain critical-thinking skills and/or access to information that other people don't have. Gather a big enough crowd online and that is a lot of brainpower, a lot of access to information.

Of course, that isn't how things seem to work these days at all. Rather, whatever potential the concept of crowdsourced citizen journalism has is getting squandered rather spectacularly.

Take the final weeks of this brutal presidential campaign, where there's by now a well-established pattern: Every time WikiLeaks drops a new trove of Hillary Clinton or Democratic National Committee emails, a torrent of bullshit is uncorked. That's because countless citizen journalists rush to pore over the documents, posting *j'accuse* screen-grabs ripped from context that are quickly retweeted through huge, hyperactive networks of anti-Clinton Twitter denizens.

Many of these accounts are small, but there are plenty of big accounts helping to tweet and retweet the hysteria. Here was one of the most noteworthy examples from last week (*see article link for picture*)

To any working — that is to say, professional — journalist, there's nothing here. Not because we're trying to cover up collusion, but because this is a perfectly conventional interaction between a writer and subject. If I find out something about a subject and plan on writing about it, then it's my professional obligation to reach out and let them know that that story is in the pipeline, to give them a chance to comment (it's also not unusual to just give them a courtesy heads-up, especially if it's a source or subject you have a preexisting relationship with and plan on working with more in the future).

The headline description of this email is "Journalist Does Job." And yet it, and countless other nothing snippets of nothing emails, has been crackling energetically across gonzo social media. Here's InfoWars misinterpreting some of the leaked material to claim John Podesta may have assassinated Antonin Scalia (17,000-plus shares), to take one example. And these paranoid networks also circulate plenty of false political rumors that have nothing to do with the WikiLeaks leaks, of course: Here's a troll making a joke about ripping up conservative election ballots, which subsequently got picked up by both Matt Drudge and Rush Limbaugh, infecting millions with a spectacular false rumor.

There are, of course, insights to be gleaned from the leaked emails, plenty of them damning for Clinton and/or the campaign and/or the DNC, and in a better world, they might be uncovered by citizen journalists. Instead, they're being reported on by the mainstream media. In *The New Republic*, David Dayen explained that some of the leaks reveal important details about the question of whether future Democratic econ and

finance policy will be driven by old-school, corporate-friendly wonks in the "Bob Rubin school," or a more progressive wing of experts led by Elizabeth Warren. In the New York *Times*, Amy Chozick and Nicholas Confessore, two of that paper's top political reporters, explained how the leaked Goldman Sachs transcripts likely would have hurt Clinton during her fight against Bernie Sanders's populist insurgency. *Politico* published a helpful, regularly updated blog in which its reporters highlight and explain key bits from the leaks.

These are stories written by people with knowledge of what they are covering, who can explain the meaning of a given email and its broader context from a place that isn't slick with spittle. And there's no reason, necessarily, that citizen journalists couldn't have done some of this work. Surely, there are other, far less famous people on Twitter who have important contributions to make to this discussion as well: retired bureaucrats and political-science professors and laid-off print journalists and anyone else with the relevant knowledge and something interesting or important to say.

And yet this sort of coverage and commentary — sane commentary, originating from a place of basic competence and knowledge and good faith — probably accounts for something like 5 percent of the total online content generated by the leaks. The rest is misunderstanding and innuendo and malicious misrepresentation, and it's doing serious damage to democracy's ability to function. There's just no way to have any sort of actual conversation about anything when a very loud, very engaged minority of the population is reacting to bullshit.

I could see someone responding to these complaints with a shrug, with a *This isn't new!* After all, media in the United States has been ideologically segmented for a long time. Fox News is no longer the new kid on the block. It was more than six years ago that the libertarian writer Julian Sanchez first coined the term "epistemic closure" to refer to online communities that seem to exist according to their own closed, parallel conception of reality, immune to debunking. For a long time, the fact that a big chunk of America lives in a paranoid, fearful parallel news-universe has been a problem.

But there are good reasons to think that things are much worse today than they were in even the recent past, and that we could be approaching some sort of precipice. One is the total collapse of any sort of institutional authority whatsoever. Eight years after the election of Obama jarred something permanently loose in conservatives' collective consciousness and gave rise to the tea party, a movement that helped demonstrate the thriving American market for conspiracy-driven, racially tinged populist resentment, there is no dam to stop the flood of screaming online conservative paranoiacs. The mainstream GOP that might once have held its right wing in check is now the party of traitorous sellout cucks. Fox News — which only yesterday, it seems, was viewed by liberals as a worst-case scenario of conservative propaganda and misinformation, but which does exhibit *some* whiff of journalistic standards when it comes to the ethics of disseminating the gonzo-est of conspiracy theories — has been abandoned by the unhinged wing of the right for the crime of not being sufficiently enthusiastic about Making America Great Again.

The reason for this shift, in part, is that Establishment outlets and political parties can no longer control the frame of discussion: The internet and social media have given Alex

Jones and Paul Joseph Watson and Breitbart and a whole host of others direct access to a huge market of the most credulous consumers imaginable, allowing them to peddle globalist progressive Syrian ACORN whatever conspiracy — a sales pitch that explicitly undermines the authority of their larger, institutional competitors ("Why won't the mainstream media report on this?!?!"). Online, the riled-up conservative masses meet (granted, in much smaller numbers) the Monsanto paranoiacs and Jill Stein voters of the left, who are similarly unwilling to accede to Establishment notions like, you know, truth and facticity. And all of these people and outlets are happy to retweet and publish articles about every new "revelation" churned up by the dogged citizen journalists convinced we are one leaked email away from ironclad proof that the Democratic nominee is a deranged serial killer.

Which brings us to the other reason to feel hopeless: Things are so much faster than they have ever been. Misinformation spreads within seconds of being posted and can't be stuffed back whence it came. I've now seen several people post screen-grabs of some sensational false claim made on Twitter about the WikiLeaks dumps, and then a follow-up tweet correction saying, "Whoops, I misunderstood." Inevitably, the correction gains a tiny fraction of the attention as the false claim, which ricochets around for days. Plus, when new revelations are unearthed, everyone wants to be the first to draw attention to them. There's zero incentive to fact-check, because slip-ups are forgotten so quickly, and because the members of the community spreading these falsehoods so forcefully reject — or are unfamiliar with — the values of skepticism and fact-checking, since they already *know* that Hillary Clinton poses an existential threat to the American life, since they already *know* that she has committed treason and should maybe be executed. This is a credulous, angry, hair-trigger crowd.

There might really be no way out from this. Social scientists have had a very tough time figuring out any reliable way to effectively debunk conspiracy theories, and one brutal feature of the current tire fire is that the people who are in the best position to sift myth from fact — that is, journalists and wonks with expertise — are exactly the people who are not to be trusted, because they are part of a giant conspiracy theory to undermine the people. It could all be leading us to a very dark place: What happens when the size of the population who believes in this stuff hits a critical mass? What happens when these people break off *completely* even from Fox News and the broader world of mainstream conservative thought?

We're all engaging in a big, messy experiment in how human beings produce, consume, and disseminate knowledge, and in how they form ideological and identity-based alliances with one another. There's never before been anything like it, and it's not going well so far.

(Source: https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2016/10/citizen-journalism-is-a-catastrophe-itll-only-get-worse.html)

2. The Challenge of Citizen Journalism

By Colette Davidson (2017)

A decade ago, the term "citizen journalism" was nearly as mainstream as the mainstream news itself. Anyone with access to a computer could contribute to the news, raising the question of the role of professional journalism. Today, with the rise of social media and the constant flow of digital information, what does citizen journalism mean?

In July 2016, elementary school worker Philando Castile's shooting death by a Minnesota police officer captivated the United States. His girlfriend Diamond Reynolds had pulled out her cell phone at the time of Castile's death, filming the scene and live blogging it on Facebook. While there were aspects of his death that remained contentious, much of what happened was available for the world to see.

Reynolds probably didn't consider herself a citizen journalist at the time, but she – and so many others around the globe – are using their cell phones to record daily events and broadcast them across social media. They're going where mainstream journalists can't go, where authorities aren't, and they're providing information that isn't available anywhere else. Citizen journalists are changing the news media landscape of today – only many wouldn't call themselves as such.

Dr Saqib Riaz, an associate professor of mass communication at Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad, Pakistan, says the title has changed but the phenomenon is still the same.

"Now, social media has taken the job of citizen journalism," he says. "Basically, social media is an advanced form of citizen journalism that has made it possible for each and every person to be a citizen journalist, upload still and moving images, photographs, videos, audios, comments and many other things."

Less than a decade ago, social media was just starting to find its footing. When smart phone technology exploded around the world in 2013, recording daily events and uploading content via social media became commonplace. And that threatened – and continues to threaten – how professional journalists do their jobs. As it is physically impossible for journalists to be present at every event, social movement or crime scene in the world, people rely heavily on this new form of citizen journalism.

"When things happen or there's breaking news, we expect citizens to be there and to be the first ones on the scene," says Stuart Allan, Professor and Head of the School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies at Cardiff University.

But Allan says that while experts may call the phenomenon citizen journalism, not all citizens may be aware that they're taking part in creating the news.

"There are plenty of people who go to the scene, document it with a cell phone and upload it to social media but don't consider themselves journalists," says Allan. "And then there are some people who have a desk job during the day and at night will go to cover a local meeting at night now that their local paper doesn't exist."

In the same way citizen journalism functioned years ago as a way for little-known news to get reported, the current social media documentation of events offers a way for people to get news about anything and everything. And the mainstream media – while it has mixed feelings about the role of social media in capturing the news – relies heavily on this information.

“Many untold and unreported news stories appear every day on social media and traditional media picks them up and publishes or broadcasts them,” says Dr. Riaz. “If you see something happening before you, you can simply record it on your phone and share it on social media. This is the simple philosophy and strength of today's citizen journalism.”

Social media can also go where mainstream media won’t go, due to safety concerns. Citizen journalists have been vital to getting news from Syria since its seven-year-long civil war began. Most mainstream media outlets in the West have been unwilling to send journalists to Yemen to report on the on-going crisis, due to fears for their safety. And in the tribal areas of Pakistan, where the country’s 2,000-kilometer border with Afghanistan has become a war zone in the last two decades, social media has played an essential role in the war against terrorism.

“It was only citizen journalism that captured many terrorism-related activities and later on, this news was picked up by the international media,” says Dr. Riaz.

But while the international media often welcomes content from citizen journalists, there are times when it seems to hinder professional reporting. The ease with which citizens can upload content online makes it infinitely impossible to verify sources and information, and has given rise to an onslaught of fake news.

US President Donald Trump’s use of Twitter to broadcast information has been impulsive at best, with numerous instances of nefarious or dubious information gracing his social media account – only to later become fodder for mainstream news articles.

Sifting through what is true or not has made traditional media – and their ability to independently verify information indelibly more important. Even amidst the social media storm – and often thanks to it – news outlets are using tried and true techniques to check information uploaded online before republishing it. Dr. Allan says that media houses can verify images by taking them apart or use methods to check whether a person was where they claimed to be.

“The NY Times will say Trump is the best thing to have happened for its subscription rate,” says Allan. “People are starting to see that they have to pay for good quality reporting.”

While the future of the news and how it is defined is constantly in flux, citizen journalism – and social media – appears to be here to stay. But, according to Allan, there’s nothing necessarily wrong with that. He says that while the media needs to have a serious conversation about what good reporting is and how to maintain professional integrity, citizen journalism is “real” news that can certainly enter into the fore.

“In journalism, there’s plenty of room for a healthy, vibrant debate that includes as many people as possible,” says Allan. “It just makes it more of a challenge.

(Source: https://www.wan-ifra.org/articles/2017/11/27/the-challenge-of-citizen-journalism)

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3. Citizen Journalism Shows what the Media Doesn't

By Jamie Rollo (2020)

The protests occurring across the nation have taken over news cycles but rarely is the full story told. The imagery of burning businesses, riots and looting are taking up the airwaves in an attempt to remove the validity of the issues behind the protest. This violence, often taken out of context, gives those who oppose the Black Lives Matter movement a crutch to argue against it. What is rarely being shown and communicated are the numerous, first hand accounts of citizens attending these events. The videos show cops and other undercover agents destroying property and inciting the violence. At times like these when the media proves to be untrustworthy, society becomes reliant on citizen journalism to get the full scope of what exactly is happening in U.S cities today.

The current protests sparked after the recent unjust killing of George Floyd. Police brutality and unjust killings, however, have been a prominent issue in the Black community for years and Floyd's death is deemed to be the straw that broke the camel's back. Many of those in support of the Black Lives Matter movement have been seen peacefully protesting until the police begin to use unnecessary force to silence them. Once the violence breaks out, the news cameras start rolling to show the utter chaos ensuing in some cities. This led to President Trump calling for the National Guard to be deployed and for the nation to excuse a militant state.

Because of police escalation, many innocent citizens have suffered. In Austin, Texas, the police fired "less-lethal rounds" that struck a 20-year-old man's head and as people brought him away for medical attention, officers continued firing. There was also a teenage boy who suffered serious injury. But perhaps the most disheartening incident stemming from this city is that of a young, expecting mother who lost her child because she was struck in the stomach with non-lethal ammunition.

Despite this story getting local coverage, the main scope of what is happening is not making it to mainstream media leading to misinformation and unjust opinions. Right now, the best source for actual information is coming from citizen journalists who attend these events first hand. The term citizen journalism is defined just as it sounds: regular citizens using their phones and social media help report on instances. A lot of videos have surfaced across Twitter, TikTok and Instagram that tell a different story than the one mainstream news channels are showing.

In Indianapolis, one citizen account reports that police were firing tear gas at medical tents as they were treating protestors. And another citizen on TikTok reported a similar incident in Minneapolis. Numerous reports across social media also show the police unnecessarily using tear gas and pepper spray on protestors. A viral video that surfaced on TikTok shows New York State Assemblywoman Diana Richardson explaining to the police, “They just pepper sprayed me for no reason.” She continues to give the officer’s name and badge number before continuing to say, “If anyone knows the law, trust me I know it. We were only peacefully assembling… [They] literally put their fists up to fight us! We’re not here to fight.”

Another video shows a group of New York protestors in the street, peacefully chanting “hands up, don’t shoot” as a group of officers in riot gear began approaching from across the block. Despite not charging, despite not rioting, looting or inciting violence in any way, the police threw over a canister of tear gas.

None of these citizen journalism videos or the content within them have been making their way to mainstream media. Videos on Twitter and other sites suggest that the riots and destruction of communities have actually been started by the police themselves. One video shows a group of Boston police officers breaking windows while another shows New York City police officers vandalizing their own vehicle. TikTok user Christianglamlopez attended the protests in Los Angeles where he said everything was peaceful until something odd happened. “I have to say something right now,” he said emotionally. “It was peaceful. The cop cars that got set on fire were parked for hours. Out of nowhere, it combusted. I don’t think it was the protestors, I really don’t.”

Just today, a video surfaced on Twitter which shows two Boston policemen placing bricks outside the Twitter user’s apartment. If you listen closely, you can hear in the background, “yeah those are f*cking bricks. What the f*ck? There collecting all of those bricks so the protestors can use them, dude… That or they’re doing that for undercover police officers that are getting involved in the protest so that they have an excuse to beat the sh*t out of people.”

By taking away this side of the narrative, the entire country is left misinformed about injustices occurring at the actual protests. Making the public fearful allowed for cities to set unrealistic curfews while shutting down roads, public transit and other motives of transport to trap people in. These new rules also have led to even more unjust treatment. A video of a couple driving on Twitter sees the police using a terrifying amount of force to stop their car and get them out. They start hitting the car with their batons, breaking their windows, and even tase the driver despite the fact that he remained as calm as possible. All of this happened because they broke the curfew.

Another woman Tweeted her experience writing, “I got locked up for being out after the curfew and I wasn’t even protesting. I was just going to buy tampons… I had no clue of the curfew.” They held her for 14 hours and confiscated her phone.

It is important at times like these to take mainstream media with a grain of salt. When you see protestors posting first hand accounts, it’s imperative to share them in any way you can to keep educating people about what is happening. These injustices go unnoticed in the dark, make sure to keep shedding the light.

(Source: https://bleumag.com/2020/06/02/citizen-journalism-shows-what-the-media-doesnt/)

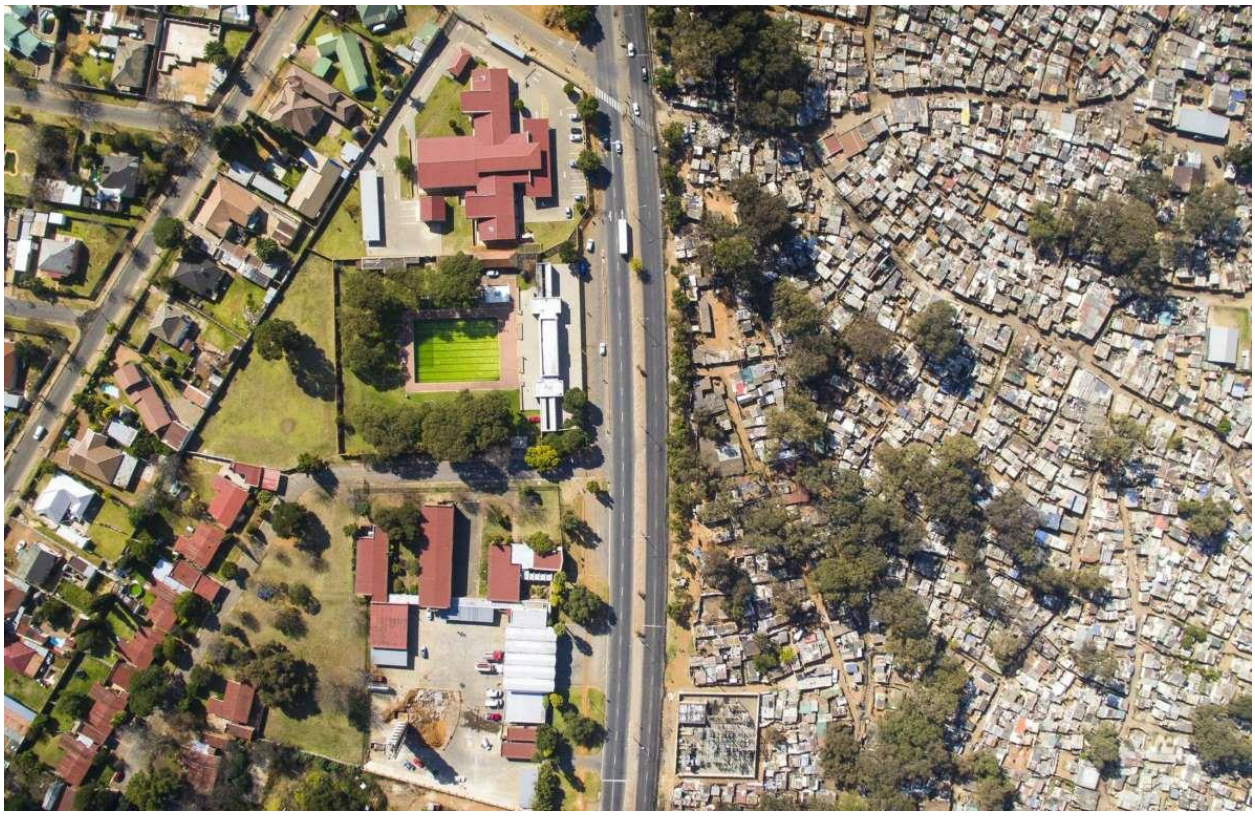
Addendum B (Question 2)

Photo 1



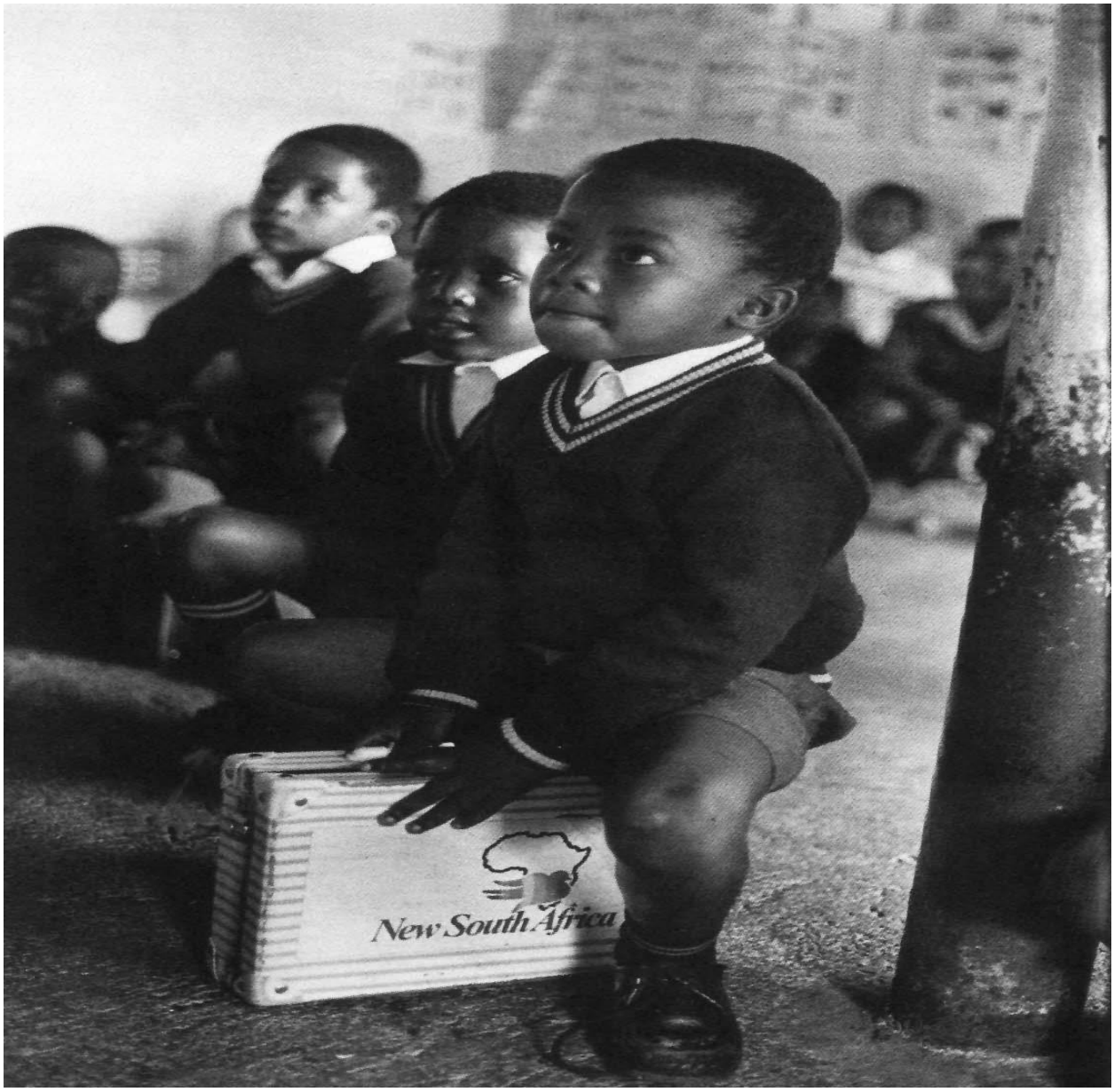
Shooting of Hector Pieterson (Sam Nzima, 1976)

Photo 2



Architecture of Apartheid (Johnny Miller, 2016)

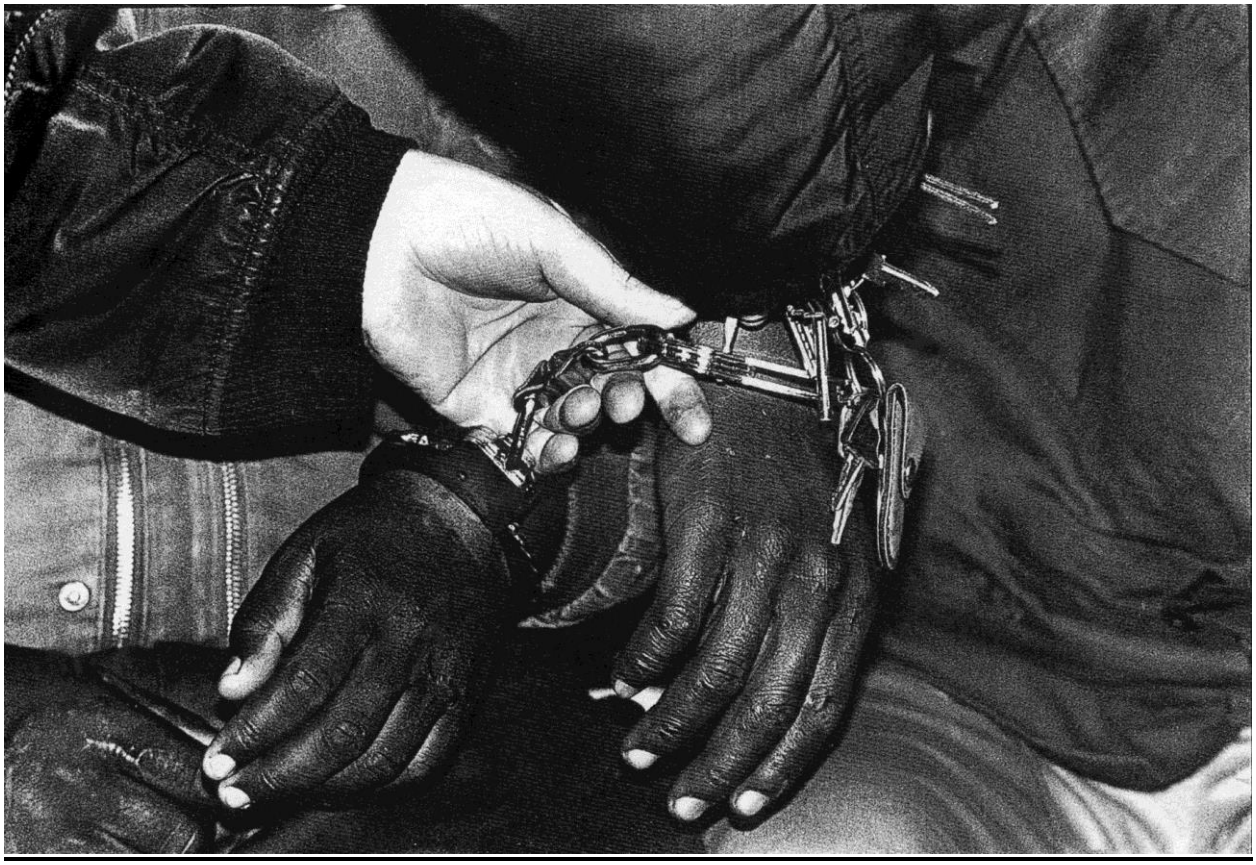
Photo 3



The New South Africa (Victor Matom, 1991)

Addendum C (Question 3)

Photo 1



Hillbrow: Photo essay on the Crime Prevention Unit Hillbrow, Johannesburg (Jodi Bieber, 1995)