

# INTRODUCTION

*Anna Ivey*<sup>†</sup>

“I don’t think you’ll be able to publish this in an academic journal,” someone said. He thought it was more like something you’d read in a magazine. Was that a compliment, a dismissal, or both? It’s hard to say.

– Joshua Rothman, *Why Is Academic Writing So Academic?*, *The New Yorker*, February 21, 2014<sup>1</sup>

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The most stinging dismissal of a point is to say: “That’s academic.” In other words, to be a scholar is, often, to be irrelevant.

– Nicholas Kristof, *Professors, We Need You!*, *The New York Times*, February 15, 2014<sup>2</sup>

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No editor of any ISA journal or member of any editorial team of an ISA journal can create or actively manage a blog unless it is an official blog of the editor’s journal or the editorial team’s journal.

– Proposal by the International Studies Association, since tabled<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/books/2014/02/why-is-academic-writing-so-academic.html](http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/books/2014/02/why-is-academic-writing-so-academic.html).

<sup>2</sup> [www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/opinion/sunday/kristof-professors-we-need-you.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/opinion/sunday/kristof-professors-we-need-you.html).

<sup>3</sup> [www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/01/29/international-studies-association-proposes-bar-editors-blogging](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/01/29/international-studies-association-proposes-bar-editors-blogging).

Some faculty members wondered if the proposal [was] a response to a controversy last summer on the blog *The Duck of Minerva*,<sup>4</sup> when contributor Brian Rathbun wrote that professional networking made him feel like “an ugly slut who no one even wanted to sleep with.” The blog was created by Georgetown University professor Daniel H. Nexon, who last fall became editor of *International Studies Quarterly*.

– Carl Straumsheim, *Is Blogging Unscholarly?*,  
*Insider Higher Ed*, January 29, 2014<sup>5</sup>

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Q: Chief Justice John Roberts, among others, has criticized law reviews for publishing articles on obscure subjects that offer little assistance to the bar and bench. I understand you agree – but have [you] found a substitute[?]

A: Professors are back in the act with the blogs. Orin Kerr, one of my former clerks, with criminal procedure [and] the internet area, Mike Dorf, Jack Goldsmith. So the professors within 72 hours have a comment on the court opinion, which is helpful, and they are beginning to comment on when the certs are granted. And I like that.

Q: So you’re reading blog posts after cert grants?

A: I have my clerks do it, especially with the ones when we’ve granted cert, to see how they think about what the issues are.

– Jess Bravin, *Justice Kennedy on Law School, Blogging, and Popular Culture*, *The Wall Street Journal Law Blog*, October 10, 2013<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [www.whiteoliphant.com/duckofminerva/](http://www.whiteoliphant.com/duckofminerva/).

<sup>5</sup> [www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/01/29/international-studies-association-proposes-bar-editors-blogging](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/01/29/international-studies-association-proposes-bar-editors-blogging).

<sup>6</sup> [blogs.wsj.com/law/2013/10/10/justice-kennedy-on-law-school-blogging-and-popular-culture/](http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2013/10/10/justice-kennedy-on-law-school-blogging-and-popular-culture/).