

# U.S. Journalistic Culture

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# An Occupational Ideology

- Deuze argues that there is an occupational ideology of journalism comprised of five values:
  - Public service orientation
  - Impartiality, fairness, and objectivity
  - Autonomy and independence
  - Immediacy and expedience
  - Strong set of ethics
- Existence of a value system does **not** mean the actual journalism reflects those values

# Breaking Down Journalistic Cultures



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# Dimensions of Journalistic Cultures

- Worlds of Journalism project has examined dozens of countries across five dimensions:
  - Sense of editorial autonomy
  - Perceived influences
  - Role orientations
  - Ethical considerations
  - Trust in institutions

# Perceived Autonomy and Independence

# Pressure to Publish Quickly



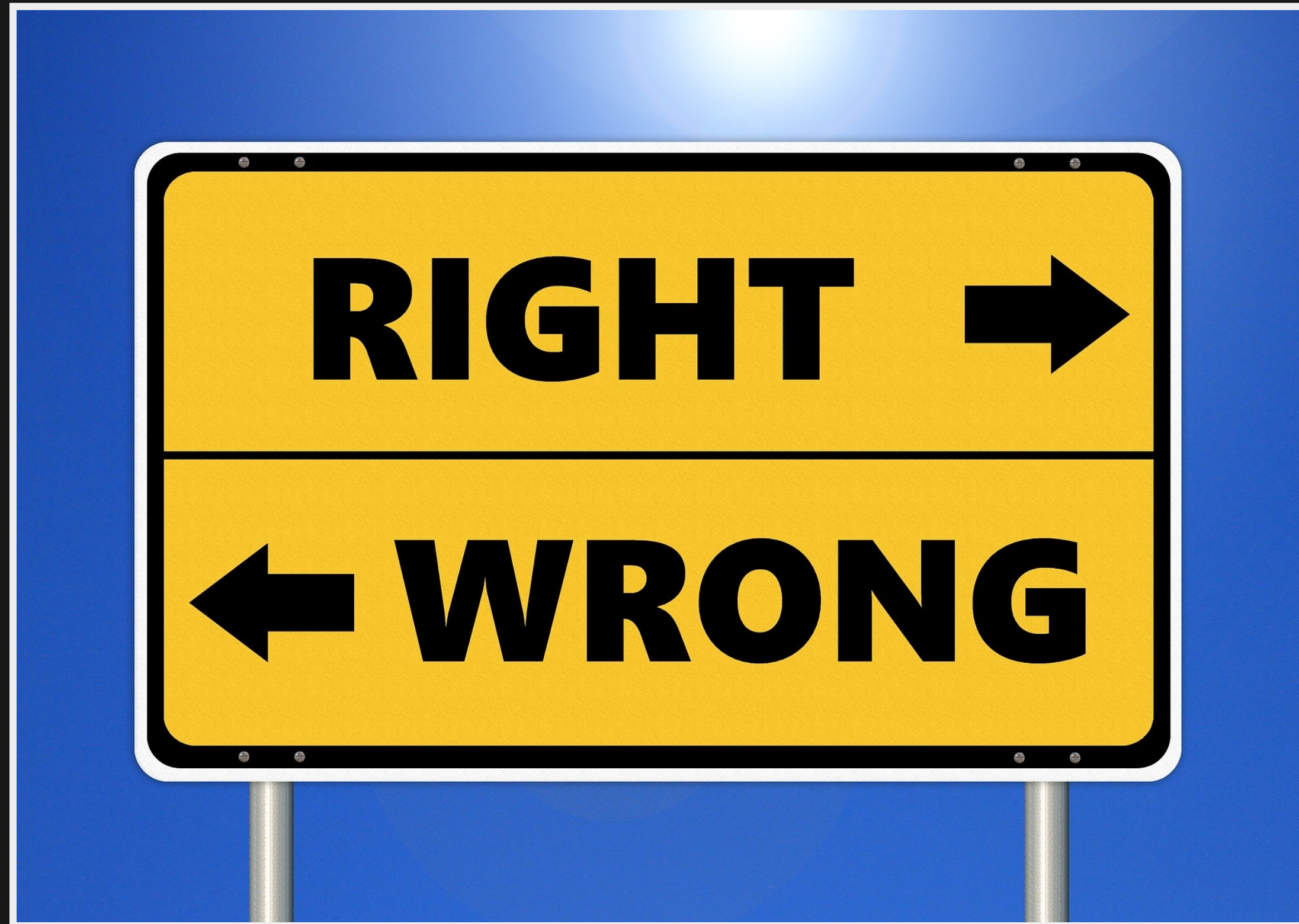
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# Detachment, Neutrality, and Balance



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# Professional Ethics



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# Low Trust in Public Institutions



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# Why Journalistic Cultures Matter

- They shape (and are shaped by) **how journalists think** and, consequently, impact **how they act**
- Impact what is seen as **legitimate** work among fellow journalistic actors
- Impact how journalistic actors **legitimize** their work to society
- Journalistic cultures are not static, though; they can and do evolve over time

# Key Takeaways

- There is no single, universal way of doing journalism, though some values are more prevalent
- Journalists in the U.S. express having a great deal of editorial autonomy; believe their primary role is to educate the public about civic affairs; emphasize professional ethics; and are very skeptical of the political and social institutions they cover
- Journalistic cultures shape (and are shaped by) how journalists think, act, and legitimize themselves to their peers and to society