News Item

So what did the 2020 election really mean, anyway? Here's a first draft of media history, from 100-plus scholars | Nieman Journalism Lab

By Joshua Benton
November 18, 2020

Who says academics can't work on tight deadlines?

A few days after the 2016 U.S. presidential election — you may remember it, a real estate guy won — a group of political scientists, communications scholars, and other academics put together a collection of 80-plus pieces reacting to the result through the lens of social science. (Including contributions from familiar-to-Nieman-Lab-readers types like Whitney Phillips, Seth C. Lewis, David Karpf, Matt Carlson, Pippa Norris, Cherian George, Daniel Kreiss, Alf Hermida, Michael X. Delli Carpini, and Jay Rosen.) The goal was to capture "the immediate thoughts and early research insights on the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election from the cutting edge of media and politics research."

Now they've done it again: Fresh out of the academic oven is the 2020 edition, offering some quick learned reactions to Joe Biden's defeat (yes, defeat) of Donald Trump. You can find them all on the web here, or download this 128-page PDF; they're all short and aimed at a non-academic audience.

Look, I will not pretend I've read all of it closely — it's got 92 pieces from 119 scholars this time around. But here are 22 of them that stood out to me as being of interest to media types — some from familiar faces, some from new ones.

[...]

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