

Journalism, Biology and Diversity

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Excuse me if my initial comments seem like a biological sciences essay, but there is a point to be made. The Earth is teeming with a tremendous volume of diverse biological life. There are over a million species of fauna or animals (Vertebrates-such as amphibians, birds, mammals, fish, and reptiles; Invertebrates-such as, insects, molluscs, crustaceans, corals, etc.,) that we know of. There are over 400,000 species of flora or plants (with sub categories such as-Anthocerotophyta, Bryophyta, Cycadophyta, Ginkgophyta, Gnetophyta, Lycopodiophyta, Magnoliophyta, Marchantiophyta, pinophyta, and pteridophyta) that we know of. In addition, scientists project that total species on Earth (including fauna and flora) could range from 2 million to 50 million.

It is therefore quite ironic that the so called “most intelligent” animal species on Earth, namely humans (*Homo sapiens*) seem to have the most difficulty with understanding, acceptance and tolerance of diversity within their own species. Human diversity is complex and goes far beyond physical difference into the realm(s) of race, ethnicity,

gender, religion, nationality, political ideology, economic status - just to name a few.

Those humans who have chosen journalism as a profession must recognize and understand the importance of diversity in the world and to the practice of journalism. It is the responsibility of journalists to be knowledgeable of the many and varied types of people (the demographics of humanity) on planet earth. Indeed, journalists should embrace and incorporate this complexity of human diversity as part of the coverage and reporting news.

A keen knowledge of human diversity helps the journalist to do a better job of coverage and reporting. Such knowledge helps to eliminate bias, prejudice, and the mental baggage of the journalists as factors in coverage and reporting. An awareness and understanding of human diversity helps us all to better understand one another and live together in a complex world that belongs to each and all of us.

Vive La Difference!

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Received November 23, 2015; **Accepted** November 26, 2015; **Published** December 03, 2015

Citation: Thomas CW (2015) Journalism, Biology and Diversity. J Mass Communicat Journalism 5: e161. doi:[10.4172/2165-7912.1000e161](https://doi.org/10.4172/2165-7912.1000e161)

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