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| Department of Media Studies |  |
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American Media Professor to visit Sweden:
**“Trump’s media hostile populism threatens freedom of the press”**

**Both** [**before**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/as-trump-era-nears-is-the-media-ready-for-the-challenge/2016/12/18/5db9977c-c45f-11e6-9a51-cd56ea1c2bb7_story.html?utm_term=.607d994151e5) **and** [**after**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/journalists-shouldnt-try-to-win-a-popularity-contest-with-trump/2016/11/22/2bec0ec8-b0f0-11e6-8616-52b15787add0_story.html?utm_term=.6ec4d60a0f3c) **the presidential elections the new US president Donald Trump has attacked the media. Professor of Media and Public Affairs Silvio Waisbord at George Washington University is to visit Stockholm University this week where he will give a public lecture about the new media landscape. He is concerned about the potential impact of Trump’s populism on the press.**

 “His hostility towards the press, reflected in his combative language and reluctance to hold [open and civil press conferences](http://www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/trump-attackerade-cnn-i-direktsandning/), is worrisome”, said Silvio Waisbord.

Waisbord believes that news organizations can produce investigative reporting that scrutinizes the new administration amid increased tension and uncertainty.

“Populism might mobilize people against the critical press in a negative manner, cultivating [hatred](http://www.ims.su.se/english/about-us/news/in-the-media/discrimination-more-appealing-than-experts-thought-possible-1.306761) of those who think differently, offering arguments to justify restrictions, censorship and tougher laws, discouraging critical reporting”.

Whether Europe will face the same fate as the US remains to be seen, according to Waisbord, even though some populist governments such as in Hungary and Poland have tried to weaken freedom of the press.

“We are really in uncharted waters in contemporary politics, media and democracy. It depends on whether democratic institutions/mechanisms are strong enough to resist populism's attacks and the press becomes emboldened to denounce abuses and scrutinize populism”.

[Reporters Without Borders](https://rsf.org/en/news/rsf-urges-donald-trump-respect-press-freedom-presidency) has highlighted the importance of press freedom during Trump’s presidency.

**Read more**Silvio Waisbord is Professor in the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University (USA) and [LRE Guest Professor](http://research.ims.su.se/se/environments/1-global-media-studies-and-the-politics-of-mediated-communication) at the Department of Media Studies, Stockholm University. Please visit [ims.su.se](http://www.ims.su.se/english/about-us/events/populism-and-the-dangers-of-anti-liberal-communication-1.303051) for more information.

**For further information**Silvio Waisbord, Professor, George Washington University, phone +46 (0)8-16 45 02 office (while in Stockholm Jan. 30 – Feb. 3), e-mail waisbord@gwu.edu
Svante Emanuelli, Communications Officer, Department of Media Studies, phone +46 (0)8-16 44 18, e-mail svante.emanuelli@ims.su.se