

Paul Rapacioli new director of Fojo

Paul Rapacioli becomes the new managing director of the Fojo Media Institute at Linnaeus University. With extensive experience in both British and Swedish media, including as the founder of the news site The Local, Paul Rapacioli now assumes the role of managing director tasked with strengthening journalism in Sweden and internationally.

”My focus as managing director at Fojo will be to work with our experts to develop and disseminate Fojo’s concept for economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable journalism,” says Paul Rapacioli.

Paul began writing for British newspapers and working with digital media in England in the 1990s. He moved to Sweden in 2003. The following year, he founded The Local, which offers Swedish news reporting in English. Paul Rapacioli served as managing director of The Local until 2018, during which time, along with co-founder James Savage, they established editions in eight other European countries. Paul Rapacioli is currently a member of The Local’s board.

In 2017, he wrote the book ”Good Sweden Bad Sweden,” about how news mechanisms, digital communication, and disinformation are used to distort the image of Sweden internationally. Since then, he has lectured on the subject and worked as a communications consultant.

”The role of managing director at Fojo feels like a perfect way to share what I have learned over the past two decades, both about running and developing a business and about the vital role journalism plays in society.”

”Journalism faces many significant and overlapping challenges. How to make a news operation profitable, how to manage the impact of AI, how to report constructively on climate change, how to help young people understand the importance of journalism and want to be part of it, how to reverse the negative trend for local news, and how to respond to increasing waves of misinformation - these are all urgent questions for the industry to address.”

Paul Rapacioli sees Fojo being part of a university as an advantage both in Swedish and international contexts.

”As part of Linnaeus University, Fojo has access to an enormous reservoir of knowledge and ideas across many different disciplines, which I believe will help us find solutions to these problems.”

For Bodil Petersson, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Linnaeus University, where Fojo is located, Paul Rapacioli’s background was exactly right for the task.

”Our ambition is to strengthen Fojo’s research, continuing education, and collaboration opportunities, both in Sweden and around the world.”

”With his extensive operational and entrepreneurial experience, coupled with his thinking and writing about the role of news in society, Paul provides Fojo with a new perspective and further enhances the organization’s broad expertise,” says Bodil Petersson.

For more information, contact:

Maya Verma Alm

Head of Communications

0480-44 61 75 / 070-252 96 91

maya.vermaalm@lnu.se