While previous research has considered patterns of homogeneity and heterogeneity in the journalistic field as described by Pierre Bourdieu, existing literature has largely ignored the factors that contribute to the expansion and contraction of the field. Using an unique dataset of a near-population of U.S.-based, English language, citizen journalism web sites, this talk will explore how citizen journalism has added to the heterogeneity of the field, but also will use citizen journalism as a case study for theorizing about forces of expansion and contraction within fields. It will conclude by considering the extent to which citizen journalism has enriched democratic discourse.

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