Man of the year?
WikiLeaks, journalism, celebrity and authenticity

Jason Wilson
Journalism and communications
University of Canberra
Do You Want to Know a Secret?

Why WikiLeaks' Julian Assange has so many of them

By Massimo Calabresi

And why it hasn't hurt America

By Fareed Zakaria
Celebrity anxieties
“Kureishi, Pilger, Jemima Khan arrggghhh -- no-one in the WikiLeaks core has reached out a hand to the many people who would actually like to politically support this project and the result is a decadent establishment clusterf-ck -- which continues to be hugely effective as an intervention. The most genuinely popular WikiLeaks support movement is in Oz because it's furthest away from Assange's effect…

Maybe WikiLeaks can be saved from (these) temptations... I hope so. But it will need some of the original collective and mass spirit to temper the predilections of its singular and unquestionably brilliant founder.”

Guy Rundle “In Court with Assange I” in *Crikey* 15th December 2010.
Thesis 8.

Lack of commonality with congenial ‘another world is possible’ movements forces Wikileaks to seek public attention by way of increasingly spectacular – and risky – disclosures, while gathering a constituency of often wildly enthusiastic, but totally passive supporters. Following the nature and quantity of Wikileaks exposures from its inception up to the present day is eerily reminiscent of watching a firework display, and that includes a ‘grand finale’ in the form of the doomsday-machine pitched, waiting-to-be-unleashed, ‘Insurance’ document. This raises serious doubts about the long-term sustainability of Wikileaks itself, but possibly also, that of the Wikileaks model.

(Lovink and Reimens, 2010)

http://networkcultures.org/wpmu/geert/2010/08/30/ten-theses-on-wikileaks/
But...

• Was WikiLeaks ever a collective project?
• Was WikiLeaks ever a left-wing project?
On the other hand…

• Charismatic authority in online cultures
• (vs Bureaucratic authority in media orgs)
• Celebrity is bound to politics
• nature and meaning of JA’s celebrity a site of political struggle
• political engagement exhibits characteristics of fan engagement
Fake Andrew Bolt

@andrewbolt Southbank

The views expressed on this account are not mine and belong to Gina Rinehart.


# Tweets | # Favorites | # Following | # Followers | # Lists

 Fake Andrew Bolt

BRB, hailing Crean.
4 Jul

 Fake Andrew Bolt

When Rudd was PM I supported Gillard. Now Gillard is leader I am throwing my support behind Crean. All hail Crean.
4 Jul

 Fake Andrew Bolt

I'm not one of those Hollow Phobos alarmists.
30 Jun

 Fake Andrew Bolt

@RundySandy Yes

About @andrewbolt

5,525 Tweets | 5,757 Following | 9,737 Followers | 434 Listed

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News, sport, opinion, business, travel, entertainment...
Julian Assange is gorgeous

Daily photos of everyone’s favourite transparency-crusading, morally frustrating Australian, complete with captions服务员 his enigmatic
good looks.

192cm of silver haired Aussie
delicousness, delivered.