



Journalism Research and Education Section

Abstracts of papers accepted for presentation in the Online Conference Papers of the
International Association for Media and Communication Research¹

IAMCR

tampere2020.iamcr.org
July 2020

Report any problems with this document to support2020@iamcr.org

Version: 29/04/20

¹ These are the abstracts of the papers accepted by the IAMCR section or working group named above for presentation in the Online Conference Papers component of the 2020 annual conference. This publication will be updated prior to the conference to include the papers that are actually included in the final programme. To be included in the programme, authors must submit their paper by 19 June 2020 and register for the conference.

Table of Contents

The “Market-driven HR Requirements” and the Omni-media Professionals Training in Media Transition: The Qualitative Comparison Analysis on the Impact Factor regarding to the relationship between the “Media-related Field” and Journalism Education.....	6
Dynamics of Fake News and Hate Speech and the Exigency for a Theoretical Fact-Checking Tool based on a Nigerian Democratic Context: Proposing the Journalism Model of Disinformation and Hate Speech Propagation.....	7
Panel Description - Combating Threats to Media Freedom and Journalists’ Safety.....	8
Panel Presentation - What Compels Journalists to Take a Step Back? – Contextualizing Media Laws and Policies of Bangladesh.....	9
Panel Presentation - Shooting the Messenger: Review of Constitutional Safeguards and Imminent Threats to Journalism in India.....	10
Panel Presentation - Journalists’ Safety and Multifaceted Censorship in Colombia.....	11
Panel presentation - Digital Threats and Attacks on the Philippine Alternative Press: Range, Responses, and Remedies.....	11
Panel Presentation - Practices of Self-Censorship Among Nepali Journalists.....	12
Panel Presentation - A Review on the Safety of Journalists in Turkey: A Victims’ Rights Perspective.....	13
Sensationalism in Yoruba newspapers: Not necessarily post-truth.....	13
‘Britney Spears stumbles, nearly drops baby’: practice-informed reflections on political economy’s intangible meso-level of analysis.....	14
Countering Threats to Media Freedom and Journalists’ Safety through Media Coverage.....	15
Journalism in the Age of Media Convergence (Case Study: The Scale & Manner of Applying Social Networks by IRIB Journalists).....	16
Making Un-news: A Study of Digital Beats in the Chinese Press.....	16
News Portrays of Child Sexual Abuse in China: A Ten-year Content Analysis.....	17
The Interplay of News Production and Journalistic Self-Branding: Coverage of the Mixed Marriage of Lucy Aharish and Zachi Halevi.....	18
"Attention is power", can it change news placement? A study of news production on a digital-only media in China.....	20
Exploring aesthetic journalism through the campus press in China.....	20
Panel description - Journalism and Media in Central Asia.....	21
Panel presentation - New features of media content distribution in Uzbekistan: a study of the Telegram Messenger App.....	22
Panel presentation - Russia’s soft influence in the Central Asian Media Landscape.....	23
Panel presentation - The interaction between media, young policy experts, civil society organizations and government in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.....	24
Panel presentation - Media Representation of Muslims in Kyrgyzstan.....	24

Reinventing Live in the News? LiveU’s Digital Live Broadcast Technology and its Implementation in Professional TV News.....	25
ANALYSIS OF FRAMES USED BY NAMIBIAN NEWSPAPERS IN THEIR REPORTAGE OF THE SAN COMMUNITY.....	27
TEASING OUT THE INFLUENCE OF BIG ADVERTISERS ON EDITORIAL CONTENT IN TANZANIAN PRINT MEDIA.....	28
Ethics of Immersive Journalism.....	28
The effect of news source language in bilingual individuals’ trust judgments.....	30
Examining Online Diaspora Journalist's Productions and Networks: A Case Study of Syrian Post-Conflict Activist Journalism in Exile.....	31
Models of Operation: Developing a Culture of Arab Investigative Journalism in a Digital Age.	32
How journalist in Ireland perceive the challenge of misinformation.....	33
Framing Terrorism and its Effects on Attitudes toward Islam: An Experiment.....	34
Panel presentation - The shortcomings of the Spanish media system: high political polarization, weak professionalism and safety of journalists.....	35
Panel presentation - Theory Construction, Credibility and Discourse Interaction of CCP’s Press Theory.....	37
Framing Sino-US Trade War: A Content Analysis of News from Chinese and American Media Organizations.....	37
Distinguishing Fake and Real News: Do Social Ties Influence Partisan Motivated Reasoning?.	38
In the blockchain we trust? Civil Media’s failed token sale and the use of blockchain technology in journalism.....	39
Adaptability of social media in Nepal’s journalism schools.....	41
A Comparative Study of Automated Journalism Research between China and U.S.....	42
Real-time Public Comments, Communication Reciprocity, and the Remaking of the News: The Rise of the Mobilized, Live-Streaming Participatory Journalism in China.....	43
Self-censorship among Canadian journalists: Insights from former practitioners.....	44
The de-professionalization of journalism in the new media ecosystem.....	46
Immigration, Online-Based Resistance and the Media Dependence Model: The Family Separation Crisis of 2018 and Elián González.....	47
La precarización de los periodistas en la CDMX.....	48
Facebook News in Hong Kong: The Effects of Emotional Frames on Users’ Likes and Comments.....	49
Science Statistics and Professional Autonomy of Journalists in Arab Countries: The case of technology and health reporting in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Kuwait.....	51
Peace journalism revisited: local and foreign conflict coverage in Kenya.....	51
Shaping the future journalists – a study on the content of journalism education programs and their response to the challenges of digital transformation.....	52

Google News and machine gatekeepers: algorithmic personalisation, filter bubbles and homogeneity in online news search.....	54
Back to Fukushima: Perceptions and effects of an immersive story.....	55
“Glocal Journalism” as a Journalistic Genre: The Case of Climate Change Journalism.....	56
Business and Financial Journalism in the Arab world: Same Issues, Different Contexts.....	57
News Overload and coping strategies: effect of false news during public health crisis.....	59
Performative Publics: Using the concept of media practice to understand journalism beyond journalism.....	60
The relation between thematic beats and role performance across countries.....	61
How Chilean Journalists Use Social Media: Digital Transformation and New Forms of Visibility and Identity Creation.....	63
#AidToo: What role did ‘closed’ Facebook groups such as Fifty Shades of Aid and Humanitarian Women’s Network play in opening up coverage of the 2018 scandal?.....	64
Building bridges in a digital and globalized world? Results of a Q-sort survey on journalistic role perceptions.....	65
Revisiting journalistic values: Pragmatic approach to journalism’s claims to truth and objectivity	66
Universal journalist in the developing countries of Central Asia.....	67
Incorporating: A Theoretical Trip of Constructive Journalism in China.....	68
Quality Measurement as a Major Challenge in a Convergent Media World.....	69
The Taming of News Flows. A Deep Learning Approach to Mapping the Discourse of Foreign News in Romania and Hungary.....	71
Sources and digital formats: a Content Analysis of Brazil-centered cultural journalism in a Portuguese newspaper (2012-2018).....	72
The Problem of Polarisation and Journalism’s Responses to It.....	73
“Blockchain may automate jobs done by the boss and AI can predict a heart attack” – Discourses of (imaginary) applications of new technologies in journalism.....	74
Constructive News for Conflict and Reconstruction.....	75
Discursive power of the refugee voices in the media coverage of the refugee crisis in Serbia.....	77
Reimagining Local Journalism in the Age of Precarity.....	78
Los editores en el espacio del trabajo periodístico de la Ciudad de México.....	79
When Amateur Journalism Ceases to be Civic: the case of Notícias Viriato.....	80
Noticias publicadas por los medios de comunicación españoles en Telegram e interacción por parte de los usuarios.....	81
Panel presentation: Theorising the relationship between media literacy and the (un)safety of journalists.....	83
Praxeology of The New Journalism in Latin America.....	84

Panel presentation: Articulating safety of journalists and media and information literacy strategies in a multi-stakeholder media ecosystem.....85

Ethnification of the news: A study of recent changes in the Ethiopian media.....86

Predicament of Chinese Investigative Journalists in Digital Ages.....87

Reporting on complexity - Findings from a multi-method study on the example of coverage of the climate summit in New York in selected German media.....88

The “Market-driven HR Requirements” and the Omni-media Professionals Training in Media Transition: The Qualitative Comparison Analysis on the Impact Factor regarding to the relationship between the “Media-related Field” and Journalism Education

Authors

Shouxin Zhang - Communication University of China

Weihua Wu - Communication University of China

Abstract

•Background and Research Questions

The new technologies are transforming the process and practice of media convergence, which also challenging the demands for the omni-media professional regarding to the professional journalism and media market. Through literature review, it is found four key influencing factors (new technology literacy, humanities and scientific literacy, intellectual literacy, professional ability) of journalism and communication education. Based on the "market-driven HR requirements", this paper will explore: 1) Are there any other important factors besides the four key influencing factors mentioned earlier? And how do these factors rank? 2)What combination of factors can make the talent training of journalism education meet the "market-driven HR requirements"?

•Method

Based on the data mining from 101 cases collected under the key concepts of the “market-driven HR requirements”, this article aims to search for a practical solution and theoretical exploration about the relationship and the constructive pattern between the shift of the higher education and the changing media market, by borrowing the qualitative comparison analysis (QCA) method, in order to provide a useful reference for the current reform of journalism education.

•Findings

Through the cases measures, necessary condition detection, constructing the truth table, and then entering the conditional combination analysis software, we get the data analysis results:

First, “new technology literacy”, “humanities and scientific literacy”, “intellectual literacy” and “professional ability” are verified by reality; but the ability of “HS3(Science, engineering, agronomy and medicine)” "NT2(Computer and data processing and other literacy)" and "NT(new technology literacy)" have not been validated in "traditional media (traditional positions)". In

addition, one variable from the recruitment information text PA(personal ability and ideological quality) has also been verified by reality and has become a new variable in this study.

Second, according to the qualitative comparative analysis data, the order of importance of the factors influencing journalism and mass communication education is: PA (personal ability and ideological quality)>I (intellectual literacy)>MA (professional ability)>NT (new technology literacy)>HS (humanities and science literacy).In the past, there was a controversy in the academic field: to strengthen the new technical literacy of talents, or to strengthen the humanities and scientific literacy of talents. In the test of this study, the two influencing factors were ranked in the last two in all conditional variables.

Third, we can temporarily put aside the debate on the technical orientation and humanistic orientation existing in the academic circle, and actively slow down the mood(panic due to lack of technical skills) caused by the blind pursuit of technology. The effective combination of the following elements can enhance the adaptability of talent cultivation to the media-related field requirements: MA(Personal Ability)*I(Intellectual Literacy)*PA(Professional Ability).In the era when everyone is media and everything is connected, the education of journalism and the core curriculum of the subject should be strengthened, and the basic training of journalism for students should be strengthened.

Submission ID

80

Dynamics of Fake News and Hate Speech and the Exigency for a Theoretical Fact-Checking Tool based on a Nigerian Democratic Context: Proposing the Journalism Model of Disinformation and Hate Speech Propagation

Authors

Adamkolo Ibrahim - University of Maiduguri

Abstract

Since 1960, when Nigeria got its political independence Nigerians have always been ‘dis’ united along socio-cultural and political identity divides. This creates a fertile ground for the propagation of hate speech and disinformation. In recent years, the political atmosphere in the country has transformed swiftly, ushering in new happenings and constraints to the country’s growing democracy. These new developments and challenges revolve around the electorate’s constant accessing inaccurate and misleading content online. As the constitutional watchdogs of the society, journalists are invested with the duty of cleansing the democratic atmosphere of the filths of disinformation and hate messages to preserve the peace and rule of law in the land. Fact-checking is one of the most effective techniques recommended for verifying fake information and even hate

messages in the post-truth era. However, as people's use of technology to pollute the democratic process with fake information and hurtful comments is increasingly becoming sophisticated with corresponding sophistication of technology, fact-checking techniques and tools should be more theoretically driven. To help the news media industry and journalists achieve the goals of ensuring ethical journalism practice capable of contributing toward the stability and sustenance of democratic processes in the country, this paper proposes the Journalism Model of Disinformation and Hate Speech Propagation. Critical reviews of extant literature were performed after series of searches on Google and Google Scholar for published works focusing on fake news and hate speech in a Nigerian political context using the following keywords: fake news, hate speech, post-truth, fake news in Nigeria, hate speech in Nigeria, fake news and Nigerian democracy, fake news and hate speech in Nigeria, Nigerian democratic process and fake news and hate speech, social identity in Nigeria, cultural identity in Nigeria, political identity in Nigeria, Nigerian journalists and fact-checking, as well as impact of fake news and hate speech in Nigerian democracy. A total of 119 published works was selected for the review with as many as 71 others discarded for irrelevance. A combination of conference papers, reviews and research studies mainly on a Nigerian context constituted 46%, e-books and institutional survey reports constituted 38% while a combination of online newspapers and other online sources constituted 16%. Using content coding, categorisation and comparison methods, themes were identified, abstracted and defined into constructs. The findings yielded eight parameters: (i) disinformation and hate actors, (ii) disinformation and hate message, (iii) mediation of disinformation and hate message (moderated by political influence), (iv) victims of disinformation and hate, (v) degeneration of disinformation and hate messages into an alternative fact circumstance (moderated by time period) (vi) degeneration of alternative fact into a post-truth and post affection era (moderated by time period), ultimately (vii) degeneration of a post-truth and post affection era into a post-democracy or neo-authoritarian era (moderated by time period) and (viii) feedback or reaction (consequences of disinformation and hate messages on the polity). Recommendations for theoretical and policy development were offered at the end.

Submission ID

97

Panel Description - Combating Threats to Media Freedom and Journalists' Safety

Authors

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

The panel discusses the overall media freedom environments in different contexts/ countries and how diverse threats impact on journalists' safety, outlining the inadequacies in national security policies. The presentations offer dearth of national and international empirical qualitative research that integrate the analysis of media freedom and safety of journalists and offer insights into how

threats to journalists' safety affect the state of media freedom in various contexts. The intent of this panel discussion is to raise awareness about the peculiar nature of existing threats in various countries; and expose journalists and journalism students to the diverse types of risks they may have to grapple with in their environments.

Moderator: Gifty Appiah-Adjei, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana

Paper 1: The Dangers of Being a Journalist: The Case of Turkey, Barış Çoban, Doğuş University & Bora Ataman, Doğuş University, Turkey

Paper 2: What Compels Journalists to Take a Step Back? – Contextualizing Media Laws and Policies of Bangladesh, Janina Islam Abir, Independent University, & Tanbir Farhad Shamim, Ministry of Public Administration, Bangladesh

Paper 3: Shooting the Messenger: Review of Constitutional Safeguards and Imminent Threats to Journalism in India, Prabhjot Sohal, School of Communication Studies, Panjab University, India

Paper 4: Digital Threats and Attacks on the Philippine Alternative Press: Range, Responses, and Remedies, Ramon R. Tuazon, & Therese Patricia San Diego Torres, Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, Philippines

Paper 5: Practices of Self-Censorship Among Nepali Journalists, Samiksha Koirala, College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Nepal

Paper 6: Journalists' Safety and Multifaceted Censorship in Colombia, Yennue Zarate Valderrama, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, Mexico

Submission ID

300

Panel Presentation - What Compels Journalists to Take a Step Back? – Contextualizing Media Laws and Policies of Bangladesh

Authors

Janina Islam Abir - Independent University

Tanbir Shamim - Ministry of Public Administration

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

Reports by international organizations suggest that physical violence and threats against journalists and bloggers continue with impunity in Bangladesh, resulting in the country being ranked as 146 in the world press freedom index 2018 (Reporters without Borders, 2019). Considering the increasing incidents of violence against journalists and attacks on media freedom, this study aims explicitly to shed light on Bangladeshi laws and policies, which are related to media freedom and to protect

media from crime against journalists. To achieve this aim, the study uses the qualitative methods of in-depth interviews and the quantitative method of document analysis. Relying on Beata Rozumilowicz's (2002) concept of media reform and stages of media reform, the study urges that Bangladesh is in under the rule of democratic rule for years that symbolizes the primary transition stage. However, the enactment of statutes on digital media, access to information, defamation, and so on epitomize the pre-transition stage of the media reform concept. Hence, the study questions the legal and media structure of Bangladesh with the historical and document analysis of laws and policies.

Submission ID

301

Panel Presentation - Shooting the Messenger: Review of Constitutional Safeguards and Imminent Threats to Journalism in India

Authors

Prabhjot Sohal - School of Communication Studies, Panjab University

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

India ranks 140th among 180 countries worldwide in the World Press Freedom Index (WPFI), according to the 2019 report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In 2018, India was 138th in the same index and 136th in 2016. For the media of the world's largest democracy, this is disconcerting. The slide in the country's press freedom ranking is indicative of a complex and hostile social, political, and economic environment pushing at the boundaries of media that is struggling to perform independently as the fourth estate. Through review of extant literature and news media reports, the study performs a critical analysis of imminent threats to freedom of speech and expression faced by the Indian media. It identifies threats to the Indian media, specifically journalism, from an intensely polarized society and political system, and corporate corruption. It traces both immediate as well as distal factors that breed hostility towards the media, with a focus on press laws and constitutional provisions in India.

Submission ID

303

Panel Presentation - Journalists' Safety and Multifaceted Censorship in Colombia

Authors

Yennue Valderrama - Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

Safety of journalists has been studied as part of freedom of expression. This chapter seeks to address issues surrounding journalists' safety and censorship in Colombia by shedding light on a triple menace: the decrease in journalistic quality, citizens' right to information, and the influence on journalists' professional behavior by analysing the multifaceted press censorship from 2008 to 2012, which occurred before the Peace Accord between FARC guerrilla and former president Juan Manuel Santos. Media ethnography and in-depth interviews were used. Employing the Bourdieu's theory of professional field, the praxis, rationale, and censorship of journalists during the conflict were mapped. The findings shed light on how the censorship went on during a more stable period in the conflict and how journalists were silenced and threatened.

Submission ID

304

Panel presentation - Digital Threats and Attacks on the Philippine Alternative Press: Range, Responses, and Remedies

Authors

Therese Torres - Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication

Ramon Tuazon - Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication; Asian Media Information and Communication Centre

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

In the Philippines, the assault on the press has gone digital. While Filipino journalists continue to face physical, verbal, and legal threats and attacks, cyber-attacks and online harassment/trolling were identified in 2018 as the second worst threat against them, after low wages and poor working conditions, according to the International Federation of Journalists and the Southeast Asia Journalist Unions. Websites of news outlets have also been hacked and taken down. These challenges make the press vulnerable to self-censorship and may even lead to fatal outcomes. This paper seeks to fill the gap in the literature on the digital types of assault on the Philippine alternative press, focusing

on the experience of alternative news media outlets Bulatlat and Kodao Productions. It explores the range of such threats and attacks and the responses, legal frameworks, and remedies in place that are used to combat dangers of this nature.

Alternative media outlets that publish news online are among the most vulnerable to online harassment/trolling, hacking, and Distributed Denial of Services (DDoS) attacks. The Committee to Protect Journalists found that phone or electronic threats often precede physical attacks, as over 70 percent of murder victims had reported receiving threats before their death.

Small and independent, alternative media outlets in the country typically do not generate income through advertising; they are not controlled by economic and political interests, and they strive to remain steadfast in upholding their rights and responsibilities as the truth-telling watchdog in a democracy. Their limited budget, usually from donations, results in limited reach. Thus, they take to social media to promote their media outlets and the stories they publish, maximizing their online networks.

Submission ID

306

Panel Presentation - Practices of Self-Censorship Among Nepali Journalists

Authors

Samiksha Koirala - College of Journalism and Mass Communication

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

Although Nepal has entered a new era of democracy and press freedom since 2006, self-censorship still exists in the reporting/editing of many Nepali journalists. Nepal has more than 100 years of press history, most of it has faced pressure from the government if not censorship. Drawing upon interviews with journalists, the study demonstrates how self-censorship is being practised in Nepali media houses as a result of state power, the culture of impunity, commercial interests, and political inclination of journalists. While highlighting these agents, the study also aims to explain the difference in practices of self-censorship by gender and type of news media.

Submission ID

309

Panel Presentation - A Review on the Safety of Journalists in Turkey: A Victims' Rights Perspective

Authors

Baris Coban - Dogus University

Bora Ataman - Dogus University

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

In the neoliberal media autocracy of Turkey, mass media are propaganda tools rather than the public watchdogs. The coup attempt in 2016 gave the government additional power to institutionalise this regime. Critical journalists have become the enemies of the state and suffered from threats from various sources. This attack on critical journalism is increasing alongside the deepening of the democracy crises, positioning journalists as victims. This study argues that bridging the fields of journalism safety and victimology would benefit journalists. Therefore, a critical analysis of reports on journalism safety, opponent journalists' social media posts, and related news was performed in order to discuss the possibility and advantages of bridging this gap to help journalists deal with victimisation. The findings demonstrate the acceptance of journalists as a new subject for victims' rights might activate new mechanisms of protection for them. This means searching for new rights can contribute to their physical, mental, and moral recovery.

Submission ID

335

Sensationalism in Yoruba newspapers: Not necessarily post-truth

Authors

Abiodun Salawu - North-West

Abstract

A definition of sensationalism is that it is a type of editorial bias in mass media in which events and topics in news stories and pieces are overhyped to present biased impressions on events, which may cause a *manipulation to the truth of a story* (emphasis mine). For Yoruba newspapers and indeed newspapers published in other indigenous languages of Africa, sensationalism may not necessarily be to cause "manipulation to the truth of a story". For Yoruba newspapers, the essence of sensationalism would be to be loud and obtain attention. The newspapers do this with the dramatisation of headlines to get readers' attention and sell. In the paper I argue that sensational headlines in Yoruba newspapers are merely performative and this is in line with the culture of

public communication among the Yoruba. This does not necessarily make such communication untrue or unserious. With copious examples of news stories and headlines from *Alaroye*, a Yoruba newspaper, I argue for the validity of the news contents of the newspaper despite the sensational style of presentation of its headlines. The paper also makes a distinction between tabloidisation and sensationalism and argues further that while certain contents of Yoruba, nay African newspapers may be tabloid, their sensational headlines are not necessarily post-truth.

Submission ID

416

‘Britney Spears stumbles, nearly drops baby’: practice-informed reflections on political economy’s intangible meso-level of analysis

Authors

Tabbe Bergman - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Abstract

A weakness of a political-economic perspective on the news media is its relative neglect of the meso-level of analysis. For instance, in Herman and Chomsky’s propaganda model (Manufacturing Consent, 1988) the meso-level is little more than a black box. Herman and Chomsky have their reasons: “...deliberate intent (‘conspiracy’) and unconscious hegemony (‘professional ideology’) are for the most part unknowable and unmeasurable” (cited in J. O. Hearn-Branaman, *The Propaganda Model Today*, 2018: 26). Indeed, for the purposes of a first-order critical analysis of a hierarchical, commercial media system and its output, the intent of the individual journalist is mostly irrelevant, as are the specific mechanisms by which hegemony is maintained.

Yet, though analytically justifiable for certain purposes, the neglect of the meso-level of analysis constitutes an omission to be addressed. Media scholars should aim to advance understanding of all aspects of the media, as much as possible, including at the level of the newsroom. Therefore this paper tries to clarify and expand on three perennial issues related to journalistic practices, with revealing references to the author’s own time working as a global news editor, including with one of the two biggest news agencies in the world. These issues are: journalists’ responsibility for the product they produce; their intent; and their conformity to organizational imperatives.

The value of this paper consists of its frank insider account of what happens in the newsroom. Aside from critical self-reflection, it includes an examination of how ‘objectivity’ is employed in practice as an ideological tool to enforce content that conforms to mainstream values, and a critical discussion of the detrimental effects of the focus on entertainment news, to the extent that a stumble by a pop star (Britney Spears) in Los Angeles could result in sending out a global news alert to editors worldwide.

Political economists tend to downplay the agency of individual journalists, but this paper argues that, in fact, journalists on the ground have quite some leeway to make decisions, including producing content that challenges widely held beliefs. The paper points out the contradiction that leading political economists of the media often call out other intellectuals for conforming to authority, but tend to not blame individual journalists for their conformity to authority.

Another of this paper's contributions consists of introducing and explicating an ignored reason for the fact, well-established by research done by sociologists of news (e.g. H. J. Gans, *Deciding What's News*, 1979), that journalists usually stringently comply with the rules set by the organization they work for. This ignored factor is identified as the 'day-to-day-ness' of the social and material context in which work takes place, in concrete terms, the office environment. The paper argues that journalists conform in part because of the utter normalcy of their immediate work environment. In other words, journalists conform in part because their immediate environment constantly gives off clues that all is normal.

Submission ID

500

Countering Threats to Media Freedom and Journalists' Safety through Media Coverage

Authors

Gifty Appiah-Adjei - University of Education, Winneba.

Abstract

- Numerous attempts have been made by UNESCO and other actors to address the problem of journalists' insecurity. Unfortunately, the issue of attacks on journalists and impunity against journalists persist because the political will by states to punish perpetrators of crimes against journalists is weak. Inasmuch as it is the duty of governments to protect the media from crime and guard media freedom, the media also have a crucial role to play in ensuring journalists' safety. This is because media effects literature indicates that the media can influence public and policy agenda through coverage. Despite the power of the media to cause social change through coverage, evidence submits that journalist insecurity persists in Ghana. Therefore, this paper aims to examine how the Ghanaian media are tackling journalist insecurity through coverage. Using agenda-setting and framing theories, multiple research methods (qualitative content analysis and interviews) are used to gather data for the study. Thus, data from 66 news stories from two leading newspapers, and five interviews from journalists, editors and senior officials from media monitoring organisations are used to study the coverage and framing of the problem of journalist insecurity in the media; and how the coverage tackle threats to media freedom. Thematic analysis of data gathered showed that the newspapers did not give prominence to journalists' insecurity in Ghana because only 30.60% of total editions gave attention to the problem. Also, the media failed to present journalist insecurity as an issue that

needs national attention because only 10.6% of the news stories used thematic frames. This undermines media freedom as it allows journalist insecurity to thrive, hence, failure to advocate journalist safety.

Submission ID

544

Journalism in the Age of Media Convergence (Case Study: The Scale & Manner of Applying Social Networks by IRIB Journalists)

Authors

Ali Ahmadi - Allameh Tabataba'i University

Abstract

Despite the rapid growth of social media, television is still the most important and official mass media. But today, social media is an integral part of journalism and has been able to somehow question the authority of traditional media reporters, including television. Television reporters also appear to be using social media as one of the most important media tools. The purpose of this study is to identify the extent and manner of use of social media in the profession of journalism in the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in order to determine its function for journalists and their purpose of using the new media. To find the answer, based on the theories of media convergence and satisfaction and use, the survey method was used to survey the opinions of reporters of IRIB, the News Network and the Young Journalists Club. The findings show that IRIB journalists use social networking sites or messengers as the means to pursue news, observing other media, finding news subjects, and interacting with their audience. Another finding of this study is the high rate of use of external messengers, especially Telegram and WhatsApp compared to internal messengers among reporters, and the least use of Instagram by news outlets and journalists.

Submission ID

546

Making Un-news: A Study of Digital Beats in the Chinese Press

Authors

Dan Wang - Hong Kong Baptist University

Yi Ronald Ding - Hong Kong Baptist University

Zhongshi Guo - Hong Kong Baptist University

Abstract

This article analyzes the rise of digital news beat and how it has re-structured traditional journalism practice in a municipal Chinese newspaper. Heeding the call for media convergence by president Xi, the newspaper under study launched a digital news beat manned almost exclusively by young people of the millennial cohort who are privy to everything digital, but know practically nothing about news production. The presence and increasing influence of technies in the newsroom separated staffers into traditional and new media work routines. Tensions between the two groups are reflected mainly in the perceptions of senior legacy journalists who see the millennials as mere copycats deprived of the sense of media professionalism, making mistakes and breaching rules of the most basic kinds. We coined the term “un-news” to refer to the end product of the digital beat. This study aims to unpack the nature of un-news, its antecedents and consequences. Through a five-month participatory observation in the digital newsroom in the municipal newspaper, the researcher gathered 94 mistakes made by the millennials and corrections of them by their legacy seniors. Initial findings show: 1) the un-news runs the whole gamut of anomalies from stylistic and grammatical errors to political deviations; 2) creators of un-news typically lack what Grant termed relevant tacit knowledge, anticipatory socialization, and mental commitment to journalism; and 3) new beat norms emerging from newsroom structural change toward digitalization are rendering traditional news values obsolete and increasingly irrelevant.

Submission ID

661

News Portrays of Child Sexual Abuse in China: A Ten-year Content Analysis

Authors

WENTING YU - City University of Hong Kong

YIFEI CHEN - City University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Child sexual abuse (CSA) has long been a global problem. Although the rate of CSA in China had previously been suggested as high in previous scholarly investigation (Chen, Dunne, & Han, 2006), CSA has only become a heated topic of public concern since 2013, when a scandal involving a principal and a public servant raping six girls from a primary school in the province of Hainan was exposed by the news media. After that, CSA as a serious social problem had finally attracted the attention of the public.

How people understand social issues like CSA is significantly influenced by news media according to frame theory (Bateson, 1955). How the news media frames the responsibility for an issue affects public perceptions regarding the solution, such as whether it should be provided at a societal or individual level (Kim, Scheufele, & Shanahan, 2002). Accordingly, child welfare advocates suggest

that journalists should frame CSA as a problem for which communities and society in general are responsible, rather than shape CSA cases as isolated events. In this way, the audience will be more likely to support public policies that help to address the issue and less likely to blame the involved individuals (Mejia, Cheyne & Dorfman, 2012; Weatherred, 2017).

Previous studies have researched the news frames of CSA in Western countries and tracked a shift from individual blame to societal blame (Weatherred, 2017). News media portrayals of CSA can be different in China where sexual topics are still resisted in publications. In China, sexual topics are associated with morality shame due to a Confucian influence. For example, discussions about the victimized children's loss of virginity is presented in CSA news reports in China. What is worse is that schools in China do not have sex education, which contributes to a lack of the appropriate understanding of sex abuse among the public, even for journalists. Based on previous studies on the effect of news frames, a problematic framing of a social issue can have negative influences on readers. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate how the news media in China portrays CSA cases.

This study collected 501 news articles on CSA cases from the WiseNews database, the largest database of news written in Chinese. Two coders were recruited to code the news articles on CSA published in the past 10 years, from 2010 to 2019. The patterns of news frame use were analyzed to see whether CSA was framed as a societal or individual problem.

Results show that newspapers in China tended to portray CSA as a personal problem in the past decade. The problem of moral blame needs to be solved. Fortunately, journalists started to report CSA more at a societal level as more child-support policies being implemented since 2015. Interestingly, the Chinese CSA news stories were more likely to present individual cause frames and societal solution frames (an inconsistency not seen in previous research with U.S. media) that may be attributable to a cultural preference for collective solutions.

Submission ID

717

The Interplay of News Production and Journalistic Self-

Branding: Coverage of the Mixed Marriage of Lucy Aharish and

Zachi Halevi

Authors

Einat Lachover - Sapir Academic College

Sylvie Bijaoui - The Israeli Academic College in Ramat Gan

Abstract

On October 10, 2018, Lucy Aharish, an Arab-Muslim Israeli woman journalist, and Zachi Halevi, a Jewish Israeli actor, were married. For years, the Israeli journalistic community had kept their mixed relationship a secret. Once made public, however, their marriage was enthusiastically covered by Israeli and international media. In the Israeli context, the mixed marriage of Jews and non-Jews, especially Muslims, challenges a variety of social borders. Despite the fact that mixed marriages are becoming more popular around the world and in Israel, little research has been done on the related cultural and media discourse. The media attention focused on the marriage of Britain's Prince Harry and Megan Merkel demonstrates the role of celebrities in creating public discourse around complex categories of identity, including national, racial, class, and gender.

The news coverage of Aharish and Halevi's mixed marriage was based in part on materials provided by the couple itself: the wedding video (released the night of the wedding), honeymoon pictures, and media interviews. Therefore, this case study enables us to study the interplay between news media production and the self-branding of journalists. Self-branding, especially in network media environments, increases visibility and is now integral to journalists' work. The current study analyzes the coverage of the mixed marriage of Aharish and Halevi and offers explanations based on the current trend of journalists' self-branding as micro-celebrities and the phenomenon of mixed marriage in both the global and the Israeli ethno-national contexts.

The study is based on 149 news items published on digital news sites of a variety of types (e.g., short informative pieces, opinion columns, magazine articles) published in the four months following the wedding. Media framing analysis is fitting for the purpose of the study, which strives not only to characterize the strategies of news coverage, but also to explain them in the context of the power relations that designed them. To identify the different frames, I conducted a systematic content analysis, which yielded three main media frames.

The most dominant frame is "love conquers all." It celebrates romantic love, positions the couple in the center, gives a prominent voice to their arguments, and supports mixed marriage. This frame promotes Aharish's public identity as a civil-rights and justice warrior. The second frame is "fighting against racism." It completes the first frame, positioning liberal politicians and media people in the center and arguing for the right of free people to marry who they want. The third frame is "fighting against assimilation." It positions right-wing politicians and religious figures in the center and argues that mixed marriages threaten Israeli-Jewish identity. The overall supporting coverage of mixed marriage reflects sociological processes in Israel, such as the individualization of the family institution in sectors of Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab societies and the creation of the infrastructure of Palestinian-Jewish co-existence.

Submission ID

730

"Attention is power", can it change news placement? A study of news production on a digital-only media in China

Authors

Minwei AI - The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Abstract

The rapid development of online media as a major location for news consumption has stimulated a variety of debates about how journalism is changing in the Internet era. This study employed content analysis to examine one of the hot topics, the interactions between editors and online consumers in news production on a digital-only news platform. News stories were collected from *PearVideo*, a commercial digital news media in China, from October 26, 2019 to November 13, 2019, constructing a final sample of 1452 unique news stories. One-way ANOVA and binary logistic regression were tested to answer two questions: (a) how do editors and online consumers rank various news topics? (b) does online news consumers' rank have an effective prediction on news placement of a digital-only news media in a longer term?

The data shows that there is an interest disparity between editors and online consumers. Editors selected more and ranked higher news stories on public affairs while online consumers preferred news stories on non-public affairs. More importantly, this study finds that news placement can be effectively influenced by editors' news rank and page enduring but not by online consumers' news rank. Thus, this study argues that not all the online consumers of digital news platforms at present have a powerful role in the process of digital news production.

Submission ID

735

Exploring aesthetic journalism through the campus press in China

Authors

Diana Garrisi - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Abstract

Participation in a campus publication led by students constitutes a valid complement to universities' curricular activities: students can put their knowledge into practice in a creative and experimental context. College media, by operating as laboratories of "innovation and courage", can shift students' position from consumers of knowledge to creators of knowledge and this, in turn, can shape students' professional and social identities (Shemberger, 2017; Norton, 2009). Despite the crucial role played by campus media in the formation of citizens, research into student-run journalistic

outlets and the extent to which these contribute to widening both the empirical foundations of journalism studies and its theoretical tenets, has received scant attention. This paper documents the process of setting up a student magazine in a transnational university in China, taking as a case study the newly established bi-annual Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool university's student magazine, *X Mirror*. First, it will address the pedagogical challenges and opportunities of involving students of journalism in an extra-curricular activity such as a campus publication. It will discuss the incentives and disincentives that students have in participating in non-credit bearing university activities in a competitive academic environment. Data obtained from semi-structured interviews will show how the students verbalized their experience of writing for the magazine, their reasons for joining the magazine, their expectations, the challenges they faced, the ways in which they felt rewarded by this experience and their vision of the magazine for the future. I argue that a highly target oriented approach to studying and a focus on grades might deter students from contributing to a student magazine. A utilitarian attitude is likely to inhibit their capacity to innovate in the field of news reporting beyond works assessed according to academic standards. The second part of the paper, drawing on the notion of aesthetic journalism, will examine through means of visual and textual analysis, the articles produced by students for the magazine. As we will see, the articles are intimistic forms of expression informed by an aesthetic 'regime', which has, using the terminology of Alfredo Cramerotti, the effect of challenging both Anglo-American and Chinese representational journalistic principles by favouring expression over representation. According to Cramerotti (2009), "Aesthetics is that process in which we open our sensibility to the diversity of the forms of nature [...] and convert them into tangible experience". The interviews with the students will show how they converted their observations of facts and interviews into artifacts that strive, by using aesthetics as an investigative tool, to convey knowledge projecting sentiments and impressions via written text and photos and the mis-en-page of the magazine. Ultimately, the magazine offers an ideal platform to observe how students in a transnational university in China make sense of the world through the medium of a campus magazine.

Submission ID

746

Panel description - Journalism and Media in Central Asia

Authors

Beate Josephi - University of Sydney

Abstract

This panel gives prominence to journalism research in the Central Asian republics. Too little has been known so far about journalism, media developments and digital transformation in the Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. For this reason, this panel incorporates a wide range of presentations, a number of which engage with the theme the audiences' media preferences and the impact of digitally available news. The variety of information offered on mobiles or computers via media apps, messenger apps or blogs has an effect on traditional media

outlets in posing new opportunities of engagement with the audience. The first presentation focusses on the Telegram Messenger App, which is popular throughout Central Asia, its multimedia tools and media offerings, and its audience reach in Uzbekistan. A wider view of Central Asian media audiences is given in a presentation about their, possibly surprising, appreciation of Russian mass media. The third paper presents the results of online surveys with journalists about interactions between media, young policy experts, civil society organizations and governments in particular in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. This is followed by a look at media representations of Muslims in Kyrgyzstan.

Submission ID

812

Panel presentation - New features of media content distribution in Uzbekistan: a study of the Telegram Messenger App

Authors

Nozima Muratova - Journalism and Mass Communication University of Uzbekistan

Beate Josephi - University of Sydney

Abstract

Digitalization poses new challenges for the journalistic profession. The issue of fragmentation of information and careful work with sources is becoming increasingly important in the digital world. Also, in this world overloaded with media, modern journalism should become a kind of protective system, focusing on the quality and reliability of information. Journalism in Uzbekistan is changing in three aspects: digital transformation, content distribution and changing conditions of civil society.

Digital technologies require working in a convergent structure, which demands versatility and analytical competence. Media content is produced for one media platform and then often distributed on all channels, such as TV, radio, print, Internet, social networks, messengers, etc. Therefore, journalists are constantly improving and using a variety of media skills on the basis of convergence in the organizations that use mixed media platforms.

In this context our study looks at the Telegram Messenger App, which has been embraced nationwide in Uzbekistan. As yet the phenomenon of the Telegram Messenger App has not been fully studied, nor have questions been asked about its impact on the audience, its methods of using media, or empirical studies regarding the advertising and marketing potential. For researchers of new media, it is an important focus on the capabilities of the service in the distribution of mass media content. In fact, instant messaging services are interesting for the media in their ability to quickly and directly communicate information to readers, and their ability to attract an audience to their instant messaging services. We have begun a study of the Telegram Messenger App media channels in Uzbekistan and will present the findings of a one year's observation on audience reach, variety of media offerings and forms of multimedia tools used.

Submission ID

815

Panel presentation - Russia's soft influence in the Central Asian**Media Landscape****Authors**

Berdak Bayimbetov - Suleyman Demirel University

Beate Josephi - University of Sydney

Abstract

Although many western countries criticize the Russian mass media for their bias in news delivery and other types of contents, they are quite well received in Central Asian countries. Many people in Central Asia mostly prefer Russian TV channels to their local ones. Moreover, lots of people in that region use Russian internet sources and online news platforms for international news. Since the majority of former Soviet countries are economically and politically connected to Moscow, Russia can use media as an instrument for their soft influence and ideological expansion in Central Asia. It is believed that for this purpose, the Russian government mostly ignores the issues of illegal workers coming from Central Asian countries. Considering these, this paper studies the Russian mass media's capacity to have an impact on the local social-political environment in the region of Central Asia.

Moreover, in comparison to Central Asian media, Russian journalistic products are far more professional. What is more, the freedom of speech is very limited in almost all Central Asian countries, especially in official media. These factors may also affect the people from Central Asia in their choices of news sources and entertainment. Based on the conversations and discussions found on various social media, the Central Asian audience mostly supports Russia's position in current international crises, for example regarding the Crimea. This paper wishes to give the reasons why people in the Central Asian republics, such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, prefer Russian mass media, although Russian media are not similarly appreciated in many other countries.

Submission ID

818

Panel presentation - The interaction between media, young policy experts, civil society organizations and government in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Authors

Elira Turdubayeva - American University of Central Asia

Beate Josephi - University of Sydney

Abstract

The aim of this study is to analyze the capacity to explain, inform, engage and inspire local communities, specifically on human rights issues, conflict prevention, migration, and accountability, through traditional and new media. To this end, we look at the level of interaction between media, young policy experts, civil society organizations and government in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The data for this study was collected through online survey questionnaires on Survey Monkey and face-to-face in-depth interviews with journalists in the two countries. Collected quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS24 and qualitative data was analyzed through discourse analysis. The inquiry was conducted in February-March 2018. All in all, 251 journalists were surveyed who work in major mainstream media outlets including TV, radio, print and online, and 35 face-to-face in-depth interviews with journalists and six interviews with media experts were conducted in four Central Asian states. However, this presentation concentrates on the results in two of these countries, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The results of these surveys throw a light on the strength and weaknesses of the media and policy experts in their interaction with civil society and their impact on government.

Submission ID

819

Panel presentation - Media Representation of Muslims in Kyrgyzstan

Authors

Elira Turdubayeva - American University of Central Asia

Mukaram Toktogulova - American University of Central Asia

Beate Josephi - University of Sydney

Abstract

The aim of our research is to analyze the media representation of Muslims in Kyrgyzstan. We argue that representation of Muslims in the media illustrates how state concepts of security shape public

understanding on secure /insecure Muslim groups and practices. In this research we will address what role the media play in the creation and spreading of “myths” about radicalization of Islam in the region.

Based on the analysis of news reports in local media, we will discuss what are the most popular themes, cases in those reports? What symbols, visual materials, images are used to illustrate Muslims? How insecure Muslims, their practices, values, symbols are defined there?

Applying recently developed approaches and theories on security, we will address the following questions: What does security/ insecurity mean in relation to Islam in Kyrgyzstan? How secure/insecure are religious practices, images, values networks, individuals, and knowledge represented in media? How does the understanding of security work on communal and individual levels? How is that understanding reproduced and supported in public debates, and how does it contribute to the spread of Islamophobia in the society?

In part this study looks at how newspapers and journals published by Muslim practitioners and Islamic scholars respond to often intolerant and aggressive security debates. Analyzing reports on online media outlets such as Azattyk, Kaktus Media, Sputnik, Kloop, Akipress, Kabar, 24.kg and Knews we discuss how ordinary Muslims rethink the “Security” concept and create alternative ideas on secure religious practices, values, symbols and images.

Submission ID

820

Reinventing Live in the News? LiveU’s Digital Live Broadcast

Technology and its Implementation in Professional TV News

Authors

Jonathan Ilan - Bar-Ilan University, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Communication

Abstract

Liveness is one of the most salient ingredients in contemporary media, and one which has been attracting scholarly attention in a range of discourses (see e.g., Es, 2017; Lunt, 2004).

In the news media, live coverage had already been suggested in the late 1930s, as being an extraordinarily appealing trait in television technology, back when television was introduced, and has been proliferating ever since (Tuggle and Huffman, 2001). A few decades later, it was satellite news gathering (SNG) technology that was placed in a line of technologies that have completely changed television news (Cleland and Ostroff, 1988). From such a vantage point, the growing availability of live satellite-fed television communication was said, for example, to contribute greatly to the visual coverage of the Gulf War, but also to the professional discourse of journalistic reportage (Zelizer, 1992). Nowadays, there are new technologies that have been presenting new opportunities for the live transmission of news, perhaps even ‘threatening’ to change the televised

journalism environment altogether (Duffy et al., 2020; Guribye and Nyre, 2017; Ashuri and Frenkel, 2017).

This paper sets out to explore the intersection of liveness with new digital technologies and news media. This is done by way of focusing on the particular case of the widely used digital live-news technology that has been designed by LiveU, a leading private company in the field of live broadcast technology, and its implementation in professional television news broadcasting in Israel. Based on a thematic analysis of in-depth interviews conducted with nine Israeli TV news and LiveU professionals, findings suggest that LiveU has had an instrumental effect on the financial context and the production routine of professional TV live-news broadcasting, thereby influencing the overall manufacturing processes of professionally produced television news. Essentially, the case of LiveU and its implementation in professional TV news broadcasting illustrate the intersection of news mobility and the production of news from a socio-technological standpoint.

References

- Ashuri, T. and Frenkel, A. (2017). Online/offscreen: On changing technology and practices in television journalism. *Convergence* 23(2): 148-165.
- Cleland, G. L. and Ostroff, D. H. (1988). Satellite news gathering and news department operations. *Journalism Quarterly* 65(4): 946-951.
- Duffy, A., Ling, R., Kim, N., Tandoc Jr. E. & Westlund, O. (2020). News: Mobiles, Mobilities and Their Meeting Points. *Digital Journalism* 8: 1-14.
- Es, K. V. (2017). *The future of live*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.
- Guribye, F. and Nyre, L. (2017). The Changing Ecology of Tools for Live News Reporting. *Journalism Practice* 11(10): 1216-1230.
- Lunt, P. (2004). Liveness in reality television and factual broadcasting. *The Communication Review* 7(4): 329-335.
- Tuggle, C. A. and Huffman, S. (2001). Live reporting in television news: Breaking news or black holes?. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media* 45(2): 335-344.
- Zelizer, B. (1992). CNN, the Gulf War, and journalistic practice. *Journal of Communication* 42(1): 66-81.

Submission ID

822

ANALYSIS OF FRAMES USED BY NAMIBIAN NEWSPAPERS IN THEIR REPORTAGE OF THE SAN COMMUNITY

Authors

Eno Akpabio - University of Namibia

Moses Magadza - University of Namibia

Abstract

It is an officially acknowledged and generally widely-accepted fact that the San people of Namibia are marginalised and require interventions (Haufiku 2013). According to van Dijk (2000), all over the world the media do more than just conveying information. Indeed, through representation, the media can form public opinion on a variety of issues. In the case of Namibia, by not highlighting the voices and the plight of marginalized communities, the media can render such communities invisible and irrelevant. This is because the media are an important means to convey information and to mould opinion in any country (Cottle, 2000). Accordingly, how the media report about the San people in Namibia can have either a positive or a negative impact on the lives of this underprivileged group. Stories about the San people have seldom appeared in the Namibian print media, and it appears that the print media do not go out of their way to look for stories on the plight of the San people (Jeursen, 1995; Biesele & Hitchcock, 2008). This research, therefore, sought to generate information on how the Namibian print media reports on the San when they do give them and their issues coverage. This study involves an analysis of the representation of San people of Namibia in news stories published in *The Namibian*, *New Era*, *Informanté*, *The Southern Times*, *The Villager*, *The Windhoek Observer* and *Namibian Sun* newspapers over a two-year period - January 2012 to December 2013. The aim was to evaluate the economic, socio-cultural and political situation of the San people as reported by the seven newspapers. A purposive sampling technique was used in order to cater for specific “characteristics and qualities”, which in this case is the San people thus eliminating (other Namibian ethnic groups) who fail to meet the study criteria (Wimmer & Dominick, 2006, p. 92). Content analysis and critical discourse analysis (CDA) were used to analyse data and point out binaries and dichotomies inherent in selected articles. The study found that balanced reportage of issues that affect San people is conspicuously absent. Much of the reportage is event-driven as well as lacking analysis and balance. The study recommends a revision of the intermediary role of the media, journalistic ethics and a shift from symptoms to causes and viable solutions. It further recommends new media discourses that shift from stereotyping to a discourse that restores and upholds the identity of San people.

Submission ID

872

TEASING OUT THE INFLUENCE OF BIG ADVERTISERS ON EDITORIAL CONTENT IN TANZANIAN PRINT MEDIA

Authors

Eno Akpabio - University of Namibia

Hassan Mohamed - University of Dar es Salaam

Abstract

As in any commercial and even non-commercial undertaking, financial stability is of importance in maintaining freedom in decision making (Anthony, 2009; Kilimwiko, 2001; Maugo, 2001, 2012; McChesney, 2004; Matumaini, 2009; Nangai, 2011; Rweyemamu, 2011; White, 2012). This applies with equal force to the Tanzanian media. Clearly, the growth of the advertising industry in Tanzania has aided the survival of the local media outlets (Rioba, 2008). This has resulted in the media enlarging and building the capacity of their marketing and advertising departments (Rizutto, 2008). The downside is that big advertisers can and do jeopardize the media's editorial independence. Advertisers' pressure results in shifts in the media's first loyalty from society to advertisers (LHRC & ZLSC, 2013; Maugo, 2001, 2012; Nyamnjoh, 2004; MCT, 2011b, 2012; Shivji, 2011; White, 2012a, 2012b). In attempting to tease out the influence of big advertisers on editorial content of the Tanzanian print media, the present study focused on five widely-read but philosophically diverse newspapers. In-depth interviews were conducted with media managers/editors from the five newspapers - *Mwananchi*, *Majira*, *Tanzania Daima*, *The African* and *The Guardian* - to surface the attitude of these media managers towards reporting on big advertisers that were identified as *Vodacom*, *Airtel*, and *Tigo*. Apart from being national newspapers in terms of coverage, the sampled newspapers have wide circulation and are privately-owned media organizations. The study also involved content analyses of the July 2010 to June 2013 editions of these newspapers to determine how news stories on these big advertisers were framed. The study's findings indicate that news story frames favour big advertisers and negates "editorial independence" due to the media's dependence on big advertisers in spite of managers' claims that their primary loyalty is to the public. Based on these findings, it is recommended that media professionals abide by their codes of conducts in order to increase credibility of their media organisations, attract audiences and as a corollary advertising revenue. Further research on the framing of stories on big advertisers and the issue of ownership is also recommended.

Submission ID

874

Ethics of Immersive Journalism

Authors

Lukas Kick - University of Passau

Abstract

Since the introduction of immersive journalistic pieces for broader audiences by de la Peña et al. in 2010, the variety of VR content increased. But with this innovation for journalistic storytelling, also new challenges emerged. Despite the different facets of challenges, just as technological difficulties, there is one major aspect that is repeatedly mentioned, but rarely fully elaborated – ethics. This paper aims at delineating the current research agenda surrounding immersive journalism and bringing the hitherto underrepresented perspective of ethics back in.

In order to get an overview of the ongoing debates on the technological aspects and complexities of immersive journalism, we applied a quantitative literature analysis including close reading of abstracts of articles published with *Taylor & Francis Online* and *SAGE journals*. We composed a sample of 21 articles based on the search terms “VR journalism”, “immersive journalism” and “360° video”. As regards content, the main criterion for the articles to be included was the focus on immersive journalism. We analysed the sample by categorising the articles as to their main topics and their reference to ethics.

This quantitative literature analysis covers a limited sample of publications regarding immersive journalism and can therefore only depict a rough outline of the ongoing debate. But nevertheless, we can determine a lack of ethical examinations of immersive journalism. The results show that the majority of abstracts ($n = 17$) does not include ethical challenges as one of their main themes. Instead research mostly focused in immersive journalism as a new means for interactive storytelling and disruptive narratives. The scientific discussion mainly refers to technological issues and the reception of immersive contents. Undeniably, detailed explorations of technological specificities and functionalities are essential for an understanding of immersive journalism. But to avoid the overemphasising technological-fetishist perspectives, efforts must be made to shift the focus towards social and ethical implications of virtual reality journalism.

Against this backdrop, this article argues for incorporating ethical dimensions such as responsibility, emotional involvement, youth protection, visual ethics and journalistic due diligence in order to take into account effects of recipients’ exposure to VR content and the conditional ethical guidelines for the production of immersive contents.

References

De la Peña, N., Weil, P., Llobera, J., Giannopoulos, E., Pomés, A., Spanlang, B., Friedman, D., Sanchez-Vives, M. V., & Slater, M. (2010). Immersive Journalism: Immersive Virtual Reality for the First-Person Experience of News. *Presence: Teleoperators and Virtual Environments*, 19(4), 291-301. doi:10.1162/PRES_a_00005

Submission ID

875

The effect of news source language in bilingual individuals' trust judgments

Authors

Laura Canuelas-Torres - Syracuse University

Abstract

The United States is a multilingual country, in total, 380 languages are spoken, with 13% of the population speaking Spanish at home (United States Census Bureau, 2015). Among the Hispanics, near 50% use Spanish-language media to learn about current events (Watson, 2019). Therefore, there is a growing segment of the population that is consuming news media in both English and Spanish. When people can choose not only between types of media but between languages, what influences that decision? Previous research has found cultural and educational motivations (Soruco & Juliet, 2010). But there is still little information about the role that language plays in the building of trust among news consumers fluent in more than one language.

The question of trust is a crucial one in our historical context, as currently, a large percentage of Americans have lost trust in the news media (Brenan, 2019). Trust is a concept that has escaped conceptual definition in media research, frequently used in place of media believability of news organizations, the credibility of news media, or trust in news media as an institution. However, trust can also be understood as a multidimensional concept, dealing with issues of risk and risk reduction in the face of uncertainty (Pjesivac, Spasovska, & Imre, 2016). Using twenty semi-structured, in-depth interviews of American adults who are comfortable and fluent in both Spanish and English, this project seeks to explore the role of news source language on perceived accuracy, objectiveness, and general trustworthiness of news. Specifically, this research seeks to find out:

RQ1: How do bilingual Americans define “trust” in the context of journalism and news media?

RQ2: What are the criteria used by participants to measure the trustworthiness of a news source?

RQ3: What role does language play in participants' trust judgments of news sources?

RQ3a: What role does language play in participants' credibility judgments of news sources?

The results of this study will be used to inform the creation of a questionnaire seeking to explore the way different Americans think about the news, journalism, and journalists.

References

- Brenan, M. (2019 , September 26). *Americans' Trust in Mass Media Edges Down to 41%* . Retrieved from Gallup: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/267047/americans-trust-mass-media-edges-down.aspx>
- Pjesivac, I., Spasovska, K., & Imre, I. (2016). The Truth Between the Lines: Conceptualization of Trust in News Media in Serbia, Macedonia, and Croatia. *Mass Communication and Society*, 19, 323–351. doi:10.1080/15205436.2015.1128548

Soruco , G., & Juliet, P. (2010). Mass Media Use Among South Florida Hispanics: An Intercultural Typology . *The Florida Communication Journal* , 38(2), 77–85.

United States Census Bureau. (2015). *Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2009-2013*. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html>

Watson, A. (2019). *News sources among Hispanics in the United States in 2017*. Retrieved from Statista: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/263484/news-sources-among-hispanics-in-the-us/>

Submission ID

1006

Examining Online Diaspora Journalist's Productions and Networks: A Case Study of Syrian Post-Conflict Activist Journalism in Exile

Authors

Rana Arafat - Università della Svizzera italiana

Abstract

Understanding the media practices of diasporic communities have gained much attention by scholars over the past decades. Many studies focused on the media consumption of diasporic groups (e.g., Alencar, 2017; Bonfadelli et al, 2007; Caidi et al. 2012) while others investigated the various functions diasporic media serve (e.g., Al-Rawi & Fahmy, 2018; Bernal, 2006; Georgiou, 2003). However, investigating diaspora journalism as a concept and understanding the changing roles of journalists in transnational contexts has only received scant attention.

Aiming to bridge a knowledge gap, this study looks into activist diaspora journalism at the levels of content and practice. It first explores how Syrian diaspora journalists build online networks that blur boundaries between journalism, activism and civil society by collaborating with human rights associations and advocating for various causes including democratic political reformation, freedom of expression, revolution against Al Assad's regime and gender equality in Syria.

In addition to examining diaspora journalists' networks, the study takes a further step towards exploring the online textual and visual productions of two online Syrian diasporic websites that started as small amateur/citizen journalism projects since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, then moved outside the country to report independently on the local affairs. The paper further involves interviews with the founders of the online Syrian journalists' networks and editors of diasporic websites to investigate their media advocacy strategies and the main topics their activism agendas against Al-Assad's regime involve. The study aims to answer the following main questions:

RQ1: How did online Syrian journalism' networks, created by diaspora journalists, evolve over time? What roles do they play with regard to reporters and the social and political causes inside and outside the homeland?

RQ2: How do textual and visual productions of online Syrian media outlets portray the conflict and dominant actors of the homelands' politics? And how does the content imply stances towards activism?

RQ3: How do Syrian diaspora journalists perceive the changing nature of their profession and journalism ideology in diaspora? And how do they maintain relationships with journalists and audiences backhome?

In order to answer the above-mentioned questions, the proposed study adopts a three-step qualitative methodological approach:

a) First, it employs a digital ethnography method to analyze the dynamics of two online Syrian journalists' networks: the Syrian Journalism Association and the Syrian Female Journalists Network for four months from 1st of November 2019 to 29th of February 2020.

b) Second, drawing on the agenda setting theoretical concept, the study employs a qualitative content analysis to investigate the journalistic productions of two Syrian online diaspora outlets Enab Baladi and Rozana Radio to identify the recurrent themes, types of actors and their agenda for representing three ongoing conflicts:

- Demonstrations against regime in Idlib and Daraa.
- The Russian Turkey Military Solution to ceasefire in Idlib and its political consequences.
- Claims on new chemical attack in Eastern Ghouta.

c) Third, in-depth interviews with the founders and editors of the four selected platforms are conducted to investigate the journalistic paradigm they follow and their perceptions about their changing roles.

Submission ID

1019

Models of Operation: Developing a Culture of Arab Investigative Journalism in a Digital Age

Authors

Saba Bebawi - University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

Abstract

Historically, Arab journalism practice and training has taken on a Western model of operation as it is regarded as an ideal model of journalism practice in the region. There is a long history of this evident from the early days of Arab journalism: In the 1930s and 1940s in Egypt, for example,

when the Amin Brothers attempted to liberalise the press by revolutionising reporting methods and develop a practice of investigative journalism, they did so through a Western lens where they advocated Western-style democracy, Western liberalism, and free enterprise. Yet within a tightly monitored Arab media environment, and given the vastly different political, social and cultural contexts in which Arab journalism operated in, such concepts were not easy to apply. In turn, Arab journalism was forced to diverge from the Western model but it did so, and continues to do so, in an ad hoc fashion.

Today, in a digital journalism environment, there is still no efficient culturally-appropriate, model for Arab journalists to work within. Through an observation analysis of training sessions and interviews with Arab investigative reporters in 2013 and 2019, this paper will address this deficiency in light of developments in digital journalism through both the training and practice of investigative journalism. Arab media studies have yet to adequately interrogate trends in journalistic training, newsroom practices, and the emerging culture of Arab investigative reporting, and in turn this paper will discuss different existing models of operation to address this.

Submission ID

1033

How journalist in Ireland perceive the challenge of misinformation

Authors

Sonia Blanco - Universidad de Málaga

Bella Palomo - Universidad de Málaga

Abstract

The arrival of the Internet has entailed a radical transformation in the world of journalism, not only in its form of production, but also in its distribution and reception. Nowadays the audience receives information from traditional media, but equally from many other actors such as technology companies that publish all types of content on social networks (Facebook, Google, Twitter....). Even though these sites are not governed by journalistic standards or criteria some authors are considering them as news mediums (Levinson, 2019). In addition, 57% of young people aged 18-24 have their first contact with the news every day through social media (Newman et al., 2019), making them more vulnerable to fake news considering that "...false news spreads faster, deeper and more broadly than the truth" (Vosoughi et al., 2018)

In this new hybrid scenario (Chadwick, 2017) where the journalism must compete with many other actors, it is worth wondering what kind of strategies or new productions routines are the media approaching to fight against fake news and disinformation in western countries. But also taking in consideration that different journalistic systems and political culture determine the manifestations of information disorders (Humprecht, 2019).

Ireland trust level in news is 48% (Newman et al., 2019, p. 96), high enough to carry out an ethnographic study in two of its main media: a traditional one with its web version: The Independent, and a digital native one: TheJournal.ie

This exploratory research analyses Irish journalists' perception of misinformation disorder, through six in-depth interviews with editors, reporters and social media managers. In addition, observation periods have been carried out in both newsrooms during november and december 2019, to determine their daily routines.

Results indicate that misinformation in Ireland is not as pressing a problem as in countries with a larger and therefore more competitive media ecosystem. One of the reasons given by the interviewees is strict monitoring of journalistic criteria, including the double and triple contrast of information, and absolute confidence in sources and collaborators.

References:

Chadwick, A. (2017). *The hybrid media system: Politics and power* (Second edition). Oxford University Press.

Humphrecht, E. (2019). Where 'fake news' flourishes: A comparison across four Western democracies. *Information, Communication & Society*, 22(13), 1973–1988.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2018.1474241>

Levinson, P. (2019). Trump, Google, and Hitler. In C. Toural, G. Coronel, & Pollyana (Eds.), *Big Data e Fake News*. Ria Editorial.

Newman, N., Fletcher, R., Kalogeropoulos, A., & Nielsen, R. K. (2019). *Digital News Report 2019* (p. 156). Reuters Institute. https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/DNR_2019_FINAL.pdf

Vosoughi, S., Roy, D., & Aral, S. (2018). The spread of true and false news online. *Science*, 359(6380), 1146–1151. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aap9559>

Keywords:

Disinformation, fake news, Ireland, journalism, misinformation, social media.

Submission ID

1159

Framing Terrorism and its Effects on Attitudes toward Islam: An

Experiment

Authors

Michelle Michael - Ohio University

Abstract

Most Americans do not personally know a Muslim and rely heavily on media portrayals to understand this otherwise little-known people group. Literature shows that Islam and Muslims are often associated with terrorism in media portrayals. Such repeated misrepresentation on media leads to Islamophobic attitudes. Especially news media, due to its perceived objectivity, makes the dissemination of such sentiments more effective compared to entertainment media. Although many studies have separately explored the media frames used in covering terrorism and public perceptions of terrorism and Muslims, little to no studies have attempted to bridge the gap between these frames and attitude change. Understanding these, this experiment was designed to measure how radical Islamic frames in terrorism news coverage affect attitude toward Islam. However, any correlation between the frames and attitude will only reveal the problem. To take it a step further, this experiment also attempted to explore any possible solution to the problem—ways to negate any negative attitudes through news frames. Framing and Social Identity theories were used as the theoretical foundations to design the experiment. Based on the two primary independent variables—news framing and in and out-group sources—a two-by-two experiment was designed with four treatment groups. A news story about a failed terrorism plot reflecting the four variables was used as the stimulus for each group. The experiment was conducted among American university students. With an overall sample of 256, each treatment group had at least 60 participants. This study supports the audience-centered approach to stereotype reduction. Although there were no statistically significant results indicating a correlation between terrorism news framing and attitude toward Islam, the ANOVA means and the ranking of the groups based on mean attitude score show that in general, participants who were exposed to the in-group source had a relatively high positive attitude toward Islam. Political preference proved to be the strongest variable that had varying degrees of correlations with attitude toward Islam, media consumption, and age. Unlike what previous literature has shown, this study also suggests that increased knowledge of Islam can contribute to more favorable attitude toward Islam, negating Islamophobic sentiments.

Submission ID

1183

Panel presentation - The shortcomings of the Spanish media system: high political polarization, weak professionalism and safety of journalists

Authors

Jaume Suau - Ramon LLull UNiversity

Carlos Ruiz - Ramon LLull UNiversity

Pere Masip - Ramon LLull UNiversity

Abstract

Freedom of expression and free flow of information are cornerstones of democracy. Journalists are therefore crucial to the very functioning of democratic societies providing quality information to people, facilitating public debate and acting as watchdogs (Curran, 2011). International standards impose on states the positive obligation of guaranteeing an enabling environment for journalists to allow them to do their job without fear (Council of Europe, 2016). Still, the Media Pluralism Monitor repeatedly shows that journalists and other media actors are facing a series of threats and attacks (physical and digital) in several European countries (CMPF, 2017). From 2015 to 2019 the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism has reported 655 alerts of serious violations, and its annual report states that the press freedom is more fragile now than at any time since the end of the Cold War (Council of Europe, 2019).

In order to prevent increasing threats, harassment and physical attacks, international institutions such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, have promoted measures to foster safety of journalists. The aim of this paper is to assess how Spain is implementing the Recommendation (2016) of the Council of Europe on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors, and if it enables an environment favourable for conducting journalism.

Spain is an interesting case of analysis because of the convulsive political situation, with rampant corruption and citizens' growing distrust towards political institutions. Furthermore, political instability and polarization has been growing in recent years, with four national elections in the last four years, the rise of a new far-right party, as well as the Catalan push for independence. In this context, the number of cases of attacks and threats to the safety of journalists has increased drastically (PDLI, 2019).

In order to achieve the objective above mentioned a qualitative analysis of laws and policy documents has been applied. It has been analyzed if Spain is putting in place all the safeguards included in the Recommendation adopted by CoE. Particularly, it has been studied if relevant domestic laws have been revised, when necessary, to ensure their conformity with State obligations and the goals of this recommendation.

Results show that Spain is adopting some of the recommendations, however some legal reforms limit freedom of expression and right of information. Additionally, the struggle between the Spain and the Catalan pro-independence movement resulted in political, judicial and police actions that have limited even further these basic rights. The number of attacks on journalists has increased. In October 2019 at least 66 journalists were victims of aggressions while doing their job, both from participants in demonstrations, but also from the police. According to journalists associations, arbitrariness of many police actions suggests that these attacks are aimed at intimidating journalists, intending to force them to be away from the places where the events occur and therefore avoid witnesses of the abuses they may commit.

Submission ID

1321

Panel presentation - Theory Construction, Credibility and Discourse Interaction of CCP's Press Theory

Authors

Peixin Cao - Communication University of China

Jaume Suau - Ramon LLull UNiversity

Abstract

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has constructed and enriched a unique press theory which is widely named “the Party Theory of the Press” today. The CCP’s press theory is deeply rooted into China’s modern history entangled by the historical mission of de-colonization, the Socialism implementation, and the survival of ever-growing globalization. Yet, in the context of “Four Theories of the Press”, and later on supplemented press theories such as Participation Theory of the Press, Press Theories of Developing Countries, the Party Theory of the Press has been undergoing constant challenges on its legitimacy, self-consistence, and credibility, by professionalism of journalism, by the media administrators, by the press practitioners, and especially by Chinese and overseas audiences. Based on the rich tradition of academic interpretation of the Party Theory of the Press, this research evaluates the interaction among academic discourse, political discourse and popular discourse of the still puzzling term “The Party Theory of the Press”.

Submission ID

1323

Framing Sino-US Trade War: A Content Analysis of News from Chinese and American Media Organizations

Authors

Xianwen Kuang - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Abstract

This research project investigates how news organizations in China and the US frame the Sino-US Trade War which broke out in March 2018. While many existing studies have identified significant differences of news reporting across countries which vary in terms of media systems, few specifically explain how the media system dimensions of political parallelism, journalistic professionalism and state intervention introduced in Hallin and Mancini (2004) associate with the use of particular sources and the emergence of some particular news frames.

To answer these under-explored questions, the researcher conducted a quantitative content analysis of 642 sampled articles published between March 2018 and July 2019 by eight news organizations from China and the US (four Chinese and four American). The findings suggest that the Chinese

news organizations, which show higher level of political parallelism, indeed use many more government sources than their American counterparts do. However, the American news organizations use the country's president as major news source more often than the Chinese ones, indicating the strong presence of the vocal American president Donald Trump in the American media.

In terms of frame use, the Chinese news organizations adopt more responsibility and morality frames than the American outlets. They mainly use these frames to attribute the responsibilities of the bilateral trade conflicts to the US government, which reflects the stronger state intervention in news reporting of the Chinese media. The American news organizations, on the other hand, use more human interest and conflict frames and address a more variety of sources. These indicate the less state intervention and the more journalistic professionalism of them when comparing with the Chinese media. Contrary to the findings of existing literature, the American media use more leadership frame than their Chinese counterparts, which also reflect the strong presence of the vocal American president in the news media on the issue of the Sino-US Trade War.

Submission ID

1479

Distinguishing Fake and Real News: Do Social Ties Influence Partisan Motivated Reasoning?

Authors

Yanfang Wu - University of Miami

Bruce Garrison - University of Miami

Abstract

Social media have become the most important enabler and conduit for fake news and may facilitate greater selective exposure (Bakshy, Messing, & Adamic, 2015). It was found that 40% of fake news is consumed through social media while only 10% of real news is consumed through the same platforms (Allcott & Gentzkow, 2017). With social media as a powerful source for fake news creation and proliferation, the term "fake news" is evolving into a broader concept that includes elements such as misinformation, unverified rumors, and manufactured content (Gelfert, 2018; Hardalov, Koychev, & Nakov, 2016; Shu, Sliva, Wang, Tang, & Liu, 2017).

Partisanship is believed to be one of the cognitive factors that drives belief in fake news (Kahan, Peters, Dawson, & Slovic, 2017; Van Bavel & Pereira, 2018). Studies show that people tend to accept and recall congenial factual information more frequently than non-congenial facts (Jerit & Barabas, 2012; Kahan et al., 2017), and interpret facts in a belief-consistent manner (Bolsen, Druckman, & Cook, 2014; Faragó, Kende, & Krekó, 2019; Gaines, Kuklinski, Quirk, Peyton, & Verkuilen, 2007). However, in a social media context – where cross-ideological political interactions are more frequent than in daily life (Barberá, Jost, Nagler, Tucker, & Bonneau, 2015) –

how partisan motivated reasoning may affect readers' processing of fake and real news, and in consequence, spread out fake news on social media are not fully understood. The purpose of this study is to uncover the hidden mechanism of political motivated reasoning on fake news evaluation and social media share utilizing an online experiment.

A mixed-factorial experiment with source as a within-subjects factor and political ideology as a between-subjects factor was administered. Two hundred and forty participants from the U.S. were recruited by using Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk).

This study found that, although political ideology influences trustworthiness of news source and satiricalness of fake news, Democrats tend to view news outlets as more trustworthy than Republicans. Republicans tend to view fake news as more satirical than Democrats. Political ideology does not affect participants' ratings of veracity of fake news. This may occur because trustworthiness and satiricalness are types of information that are tied more closely to political ideology than veracity. However, political ideology still plays a more important role than social ties in social media share. Moreover, Republicans tend to view fake news to be less truthful, to be less influenced by social ties, and they share fake news in a bigger circle than Democrats on social media. Implications about the effects of directional and accuracy motivated reasoning and social ties are discussed.

This study not only contributes to the mechanism development of fake news diffusion, but also to maintaining the authenticity balance of news ecosystems in the long term.

References

Allcott, H., & Gentzkow, M. (2017). Social media and fake news in the 2016 election. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(2), 211-236.

Bakshy, E., Messing, S., & Adamic, L. A. (2015). Exposure to ideologically diverse news and opinion on Facebook. *Science*, 348(6239), 1130-1132.

Submission ID

1539

In the blockchain we trust? Civil Media's failed token sale and the use of blockchain technology in journalism

Authors

Sophia Han - Simon Fraser University

Abstract

As scholars in critical journalism studies have researched, the business of news is not so much to produce quality journalism as it is to maximize shareholder profits, abetted by a structurally-flawed system of “oligopolistic concentration” in corporate media ownership and an ad-driven revenue model that has seen little success in the media ecology of the Internet (Cohen, 2015; Cohen, Hunter & O’Donnell, 2019; McChesney, 2013; Örnebring, 2010; Pickard, 2013, 2014, 2017). The result is what media policy researcher, Victor Pickard, has described as a market failure that can and should, for the sake of democracy, be addressed through regulatory intervention (Pickard, 2013, 2014, 2017).

While Pickard’s views are echoed by critics of corporate libertarianism, addressing the market failure of public interest journalism with subsidies is, in Pickard’s own words, “not actually a ‘new direction’ for American media policy” (2013). Even if the current business model is indeed, a broken one that can only be fixed by policy changes and a corporate tax, there is still enough concern over the “algorithmic amplification” of bias on the Internet to consider the role technology might play in developing an alternative business model (Lomas, 2018).

This was the question explored by the Civil Foundation when it proposed a new media ecosystem for digital journalism based on blockchain technology. The idea drew considerable attention in 2018 in advance of its CVL token sale. The subsequent failure of the sale drew substantial criticism from business and media analysts, and highlights a major challenge to the creation of a blockchain-based economy for civic journalism: that of incentivizing participatory journalism labour.

This work begins with an overview of some problems associated with digital journalism’s ad-driven, “scale-at-all-costs” revenue model as discussed by Pickard and McChesney, before delving into the impact of technological change on labour processes via the work of Cohen and Örnebring. Their discussions help explain how and why the CVL blockchain was conceived as a way to divest the industry from its profit motive. The second section examines how work is decentralized and redistributed throughout the Civil network by detailing the governance of its community of readers and journalists. This section particularly focuses on the consensus mechanism of its blockchain in order to show how the problems discussed in section one are seemingly solved by the design of the system. Section three returns to Cohen’s and Örnebring’s discussion of labour processes to comment on issues that the Civil network does not adequately address, with reference to a systems design critique by Byeowool Kim and Yongik Yoon who propose an alternate consensus mechanism for their journalism platform. While this paper mainly examines the issues through a political economy of communications lens, it also investigates how rhetoric around the CVL blockchain may have sold and undersold the value of its token economy. Examining industry discourses alongside of a systems design critique offers the opportunity to reflect on technology’s relationship to capitalism, as well as the notion that an algorithmic savior may provide the solution to its problems.

Submission ID

1598

Adaptability of social media in Nepal's journalism schools

Authors

Chun Gurung - Central Department of Journalism, Tribhuvan University

Abstract

Digital Nepal initiatives entail the use of technologies, including social media to support teaching and learning process, and improve education outcomes, (Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Nepal: 2018). Nepal has launched several technology initiatives at schools and universities as a part of the School Sector Development Plan 2016-2023, (SSDP: 2016-2023). It recognizes the rising popularity of social media as a key enabler for education. Haur (2017) urges that the social media has changed the nature and the way our society and the individual acts – the way we use the library, gain academic degrees and educate ourselves.

Kumari (2016) maintains that rapidly growing social media platforms have the capacity to enhance education to a great extent especially media education. Sandeep, L. et. all: 2019) emphasizes that the proportion who confirmed using social media for academic purpose was 88.58 percent. (Seth C.: 2019) highlights that social media was seen by many managers at media outlets as obvious and necessary step in journalism's digital first transformation.

Facebook penetration percentage in Nepal for instance, was 54.10 percent in June, 2019, (Internet World Stats, 2019). The emergence of social media platform has forced traditional news media outlets to adopt digital platforms as Hargreaves (2010) underscores that traditional media would have to adapt digital media or die. According to (Seth C. Lewis & Logan Molyneux: 2018), a number of new research mentioning social media and journalism nearly doubled annually and it peaked at 16,600 in 2016.

In view of the technological advancement social media such as Google-classroom, face-book, twitter, it offers an unprecedented opportunity to facilitate journalism education in Nepal. The paper therefore examines adaptability of social media into journalism education as it is undeniably critical globally. The data depicts 58 percent of world population, according to (World Population Statistics: 2019) use internet.

This research focuses on the status of use of social media in journalism education with special attention to undergraduate level students of Nepal and attempts to examine the way educators and students use it. It has been framed with the theory of technological determinism coined by Thorstein Veblen – that subscribes to the fact that technology is the guiding force and factor in shaping the world. Social media are not only an addition to existing media, they are also technologies and have a deterministic factor to influence peoples' mind.

The research adopts the explanatory mixed method approach, Creswell (2013). It also includes a survey interview with 100 undergraduate students and 15 KIIs with media educators, experts, and journalists. The results based on the research approach will reveal the degree of social media

adaptability into practices in journalism schools. The outcome of the study is expected to have a policy implication in relation to social media adaptability in journalism education and that help the country with the similar context.

Key words: journalism education, social media, technological determinism, adaptability,

Submission ID

1619

A Comparative Study of Automated Journalism Research between China and U.S.

Authors

Xiaohong Wang - Communication University of China

Nisi Yu - Communication University of China

Haiwei Guo - Communication University of China

Abstract

In recent years, the use of algorithms to automatically generate and distribute news from structured data has shaken up the journalism industry and led to a new type of journalism—automated journalism. In U.S. and China—the two largest artificial intelligent media markets around the world, AI technologies have rapidly intruded the journalism practice in almost every aspect of media production, including news generation, selection, distribution, as well as feedback. To a large extent, the development of the field of automated journalism in these two countries is also reflected by the academic growth of *automated journalism*, a way to introduce and discuss the implications of computational tools used in journalistic practice. This article seeks to review the past 5 years of publications in the field of automated journalism between U.S. and China, and compare the portrait of this new type of research in terms of its visibility, scope, breadth and depth. To achieve this goal, the study will answer the following research questions:

RQ1: What is the typical portrait of automated journalism research in U.S. and China?

RQ2: What are the similarities and differences between U.S. and China in the field of automated journalism research in terms of interdisciplinarity, research types, research topics, research foci, methodological sophistication, theory use, research paradigms, and funding?

RQ3: What are absent from the current researches, and what are future trends in the field of automated journalism research according to the prediction based on current studies between U.S. and China?

We retrieved 148 articles from the U.S. authors and 248 research articles from the Chinese authors through SSCI and CSSCI (Chinese version of SSCI) and presented an organizing structure for content analysis. The coding book was developed by the authors through identifying variables of

interest based on subset of articles in the field of automated journalism research, as well as previous content analysis of scholarly journals and academic field (e.g., Kim, Park, Yoo, & Shen, 2010; Nathan, Walter, N., 2018). Totally, we adopted a mutually exclusive coding scheme, coding only the most salient value per unit of analysis, and determined final coding schemes: *Author characteristics, Interdisciplinary, Types of research, Main topics, Analytical focus, Research method, Theory use, Research paradigms, Funding type*.

Findings showed that this comparative study of five-year published research articles between China and U.S revealed differences, similarities, and trends in automated journalism. Among the recorded gaps are overwhelmingly small representation of interdisciplinary and theoretical research in China. In terms of research paradigm, primary journal contributors in the United States preferred the post-positivist research paradigm, while the interpretive paradigm was commonly used by Chinese scholars. The results also showed a dominance of quantitative methods, and diversity research foci and topics both in these two countries. Finally, governmental agencies and universities were the most frequent sources of funding both in China and the U.S..

Submission ID

1682

Real-time Public Comments, Communication Reciprocity, and the Remaking of the News: The Rise of the Mobilized, Live-Streaming Participatory Journalism in China

Authors

Xiangmin Zeng - Communication University of China

Riliang Liu - Communication University of China

Abstract

The digital and Internet technologies, largely associated with nowadays on platforms of wireless communication and the emergence of media convergence, provides ubiquitous capacity of multimodal, interactive communication and the rise of mobile news and participatory journalism in China. With the real-time engagement of Internet users and news consumers, the dynamics of the news-making has been regenerated with multi-media storytelling, open-source-like deuterogenic extensions. The combination of participatory journalism and the mobilized live steaming, in particular, empowers the innovation of news-making no longer limited to a sense of presence, reality, and process, but also to the reconstruction of the epistemologies of communication reciprocity. The coming age of news remaking and mobilization sheds lights on

China's journalism studies and pedagogics, following the emergence of the real-time public comments and interactions.

This paper aims to explore how participative real-time comments generated by both the internet user and new consumers deeply re-define the news media as well as reidentify the content-sharing epistemology in the technology-driven discourse of media convergence in China, and intend to make conceptual remapping of the phenomenon of participatory journalism in the framework of journalism research in China.

On the basis of the methodological perspectives of cyber ethnography, this paper applied the methods of participative observations, online questionnaires and offline semi-structured interviews. Two authors designed online questionnaire together, and conducted offline semi-structured interviews with journalists from 10 mainstream media in China. The first author conducted textual analysis based on the sampled cases across multiple mobile Apps by using smart phones, and the second author went through current studies and data analysis to list a literature review. The news Apps participated in the observation include China's mainstream news media App, the aggregation information App, and the social media, etc., such as People's Video, CCTV, Yangtze Cloud, Jin Cloud, Yongpai, Redstar News, Wireless Suzhou, Weibo, WeChat, Tencent News, Today's Headline, Douyin, Kuaishou, Youku and so on. Meanwhile, the authors also conducted offline semi-structured interviews with 18 reporters who works for the top ten mainstream media in China.

The finding shows that 1) Chinese news consumer have been engaging with the process of participatory journalist practice by changing the role of passive receivers as the active pro-consumers of news, though the news media conservatively welcomes the possibility of communication Reciprocity, by limiting the activities of consumers and producers. 2) the interactive social-media-like interface derived from the comments section of live news broadcast and the service of information boosted the enthusiasm of participation and thus redefine the meaning of remaking of the news. 3)The participatory journalism, framed within in the political-socio-cultural context of the of public communication in China, nowadays shows the techno-driven mobility and diversification by more and more reformed news media taking advantage of the mobile and lightweight live broadcasting technologies which also them to apply use-friendly multimedia and interactive news-marketing strategies to enhance the spectatorship of the live steaming.

Submission ID

1790

Self-censorship among Canadian journalists: Insights from former practitioners

Authors

Simon Thibault - Université de Montréal

Colette Brin - Université Laval

Virginie Hébert - Université Laval

Frédéric Bastien - Université de Montréal

Tania Gosselin - Université du Québec à Montréal

Abstract

Autonomy is described as a core feature of journalists' occupational ideology (Van Dalen, 2019: 1; Deuze, 2005; Kovach and Rosentiel, 2001) and researchers have paid increasing attention to this phenomenon (e.g. Hanitzsch et al., 2010; Reich and Hanitzsch, 2013). In Canada, surveys of journalists conducted over the last two decades reveal their positive perceptions regarding their professional autonomy (Pritchard and Sauvageau, 1999; Pritchard and Bernier, 2010; Rollwagen et al. 2019). These results may appear surprising though, given the multiple studies that document the pressures that impact Canadian journalistic autonomy at different levels, inside and outside the newsroom (e.g. Gingras, 2009; Goyette-Côté, Carbasse and George, 2012; Hackett and Uzelman, 2003; Kent, 1981; Skinner, Compton and Gasher, 2005).

Very few studies, however, directly address journalistic self-censorship in a Canadian context, a central issue affecting journalists' professional autonomy. Marlin (1999) and Burman (2017) offer interesting analytical essays on the different factors that may explain why Canadian journalists self-censor. But it is Bernier's (2008) research, based on a quantitative survey among journalists from the francophone province of Quebec, which offers some empirical insights on the matter. His survey reveals, for instance, that 30% of respondents "expressed some agreement" with the statement that some of their colleagues had self-censored in recent months.

Bernier's study, however, focuses mostly on the effects of media concentration and convergence, and it devotes only a few questions on the issue of self-censorship. Its reach is also restricted to a few large media groups in Quebec and thus provides no information about contextual aspects that may condition journalistic self-censorship elsewhere in Canada.

Our qualitative study aims to address these limitations in the literature. It builds on Hanitzsch et al.'s (2010) model of perceived influences on journalism at different levels (i.e. political, economic, organizational, professional, procedural, and reference groups). This provides a useful analytical framework, which we used to classify and interpret the different themes that emerge from the analysis of the interviews with 31 former journalists across nine Canadian provinces.

The study reveals, for example, the perceived importance of organizational influences (ownership, management, etc.) on journalistic self-censorship in Canada. The fear of upsetting media proprietors is the most common reason cited by respondents to self-censor. It also reveals how self-censorship can be perceived as pervasive in corporate media environments with high levels of media ownership concentration. This phenomenon appears particularly acute in the Atlantic province of New Brunswick, where nearly all newspapers are owned by one company. Conversely, journalists who worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (i.e., the public broadcaster) are less concerned about this issue.

By shedding light on the influences perceived as causing journalistic censorship in Canada, this research furthers our understanding of an important question that affects the journalistic experience in a democratic context, while contributing to communication research on the matter.

Submission ID

2471

The de-professionalization of journalism in the new media ecosystem

Authors

anabela gradim - Universidade da Beira Interior

Ricardo Morais - Universidade da Beira Interior

Abstract

Our work evaluates the results from a survey of students and local press professionals in Portugal's Central region, to consider the ongoing process of de-professionalization in the field of journalism, the loss of its vital boundaries and the blurring of its core values.

More than a decade ago, there were already signs that the convergence of platforms would have an impact on journalism, and the industry's reaction oscillated between alarm and euphoria, since where some saw risk, others saw opportunity.

Today, part of a broader movement for the general dissolution of bonds that affects entire work fields, there are already many operators in the media who do not recognize special or added legitimacy to the profession of journalist, and sometimes aren't even able to identify the difference between their products and other types of content.

Based on a survey of more than 100 journalists and 102 communication students, we reflect on this phenomenon, looking for its connection to a broader movement of precariousness, disenfranchisement and social atomization that runs through all economic, social, cultural and spiritual sectors of the contemporary world.

The results reveal that half or more professionals do not recognize the usefulness of having a professional certificate to operate in the production of news and would easily characterize as “journalistic” products created by their audiences or by non-professional agents.

The professionalization of journalists was a process that emerged slowly through the 19th century, following the industrial model of journalism. David Mindich shows how this process was accompanied by the creation of the language and structures of journalistic expression, namely the lead, the inverted pyramid and the ideology of objectivity; Tuchman and Gitlin explain it as a “strategic ritual” designed to confirm the limits of the field; Schudson relates it to the history of the press; and Bourdieu explains the mechanisms of formation, maintenance and dissolution of the fields, including professional fields.

A century after the conquests that gave rise to the Western model of journalism (Hanitzsch), are we witnessing the final de-professionalization of the class? If it is occurring, is it part of a broader movement, accompanying the apparent dissolution of the industrial model of journalism, the transition to a post-industrial society characterized by outsourcing, the gig economy, the disenfranchising of individuals from public space and public causes?

The results of our survey on students and media professionals, whose subject was the practice of journalism, business models and working conditions, confirm the dissolution of borders between journalism and other fields, already accepted in certain sectors. As Bourdieu has shown, a field is structurally characterized by its borders, by what distinguishes it from others. When the latter disappear, the former is destroyed.

Quality independent journalism is consubstantial to liberal democracies. Insufficient awareness and understanding on the importance of verifiable, independent and curated information might be in the root of the problem our survey identifies. The premise that journalists will continue to act as mediators between the people, power, and deliberation in democratic societies is far from granted.

Submission ID

2564

Immigration, Online-Based Resistance and the Media

Dependence Model: The Family Separation Crisis of 2018 and

Elián González

Authors

Andrew Kennis - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - FCPyS

Abstract

The digital age has brought upon changes to our society that could scarcely have been previously imagined. In particular, three developments have occurred that have significantly impacted social and political affairs: the rise in the importance and the frequency with which mass social movements and online-based political resistance have successfully inserted themselves into the political arena, which have often forced public officials to pay attention to opposition movements considerably more than in previous eras; the considerable impact that digital technologies have had on the mainstream news media (MSM); and the increasing importance of immigration as a political and social phenomenon around the world.

At the base of the MDM's expectations and components is a critical argument that the "worthiness" of social movements according to MSM coverage will be disproportionately based on U.S. policy positioning. What can cause exceptions to this general tendency, however, is the extent that mass and online-based resistance succeeds in forcing attention from public officials and pushing the MSM to coverage it wouldn't normally undertake. Viral social media activity can accentuate this

social media age form of “press exceptionalism” and in this thought-provoking case-study, the key question was asked: can viral social media activity *alone* provoke such exceptions?

The MDM has been empirically evaluated via a number of previously published scholarship including case studies on Puerto Rico, Ecuador and Iraq (Author, 2009; 2011; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2020). This particular study proposes to compare and contrast past findings of *New York Times* coverage of Elián González versus nine other analogous cases from Central America and Haiti along with coverage of the family separation crisis of 2018. The case was selected as an opportunity to test the MDM on domestic topics of news coverage. Unaccompanied minors crossing borders to arrive to the U.S. has long been an issue, however, dating back to the days when González was routinely making headlines. The study will answer whether there was *dichotomous* news coverage of “unworthy victims” during the principal year of coverage on Elián González and will be duly compared with the family separation crisis of 2018, with the latter two having attracted a fair amount of coverage. Has the age of social media resulted in *more* potential exceptions *now* as to what existed in the *past*?

Even though independent, online-based and social media have continued to exponentially rise in importance, their *original* news reporting remains sparse and the influence of nationally and globally distributed news sources persist as a force with which to be reckoned. This was demonstrated in recent empirical studies on search algorithms pointing to the elite news outlet *The New York Times* as *much* or *more* than any other outlet (Nechushtai and Lewis, p. 302, 2019; Trielli and Diakopoulos, p. 5, 2019).

This study seeks to make sense all of these factors via the MDM with important lessons to be learned about the capabilities *and* the limits of online-based political resistance during the age of social media and as compared to times past.

NOTE: complete bibliography:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pKU6mdUtPyTi9TTThvVmvBDLA_m1XpzL

Submission ID

2660

La precarización de los periodistas en la CDMX

Authors

Sandra Vera - Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de Mexico

Leticia Hernández - Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de Mexico

Abstract

En los últimos años se ha incrementado el interés por conocer las condiciones laborales que enfrentan los periodistas diariamente, haciendo énfasis en las características de la precarización; sin embargo, generalmente se parte de principios homogeneizadores, preceptos normativos sobre la vocación y la profesión, así como de elementos macroestructurales, por lo que no siempre se

consideran los factores individuales que convergen en la aceptación de trabajos pauperizados y en la posterior permanencia en ellos. Derivado de esto, nos interesamos en las percepciones subjetivas de los individuos para comprender la relación entre desigualdad social y precarización en un espacio profesional basado en mitos meritocráticos y democratizadores. A partir del andamiaje teórico-metodológico de Pierre Bourdieu y tras haber realizado 30 entrevistas semiestructuradas a editores de distintos medios de comunicación en la Ciudad de México, podemos sostener que la precarización no se distribuye de la misma manera en el campo periodístico, pues es el volumen y la estructura de capitales (económicos, culturales y sociales) lo que define la magnitud de este fenómeno. Además, al realizar un corte generacional en el corpus, hallamos que la precarización cuenta con nuevas peculiaridades actualmente, sobre todo relacionadas con una disminución, e incluso desaparición, en las percepciones que se pueden tener con los primeros empleos, asimismo se observa un aumento en la carga laboral derivado de la digitalización; se encuentra más naturalizada y es mayormente ejercida entre aquellos editores de mayor edad; se tolera por los más jóvenes, principalmente cuando buscan ocupar un lugar en el campo y no cuentan con los capitales suficientes para cambiar sus condiciones actuales, y el capital social se erige como la manera principal para conseguir un empleo, más allá de los méritos que poseen los individuos. Es decir, la tolerancia y normalización de la precarización cuenta con múltiples aristas que se pueden observar al tomar en cuenta los aspectos subjetivos de los periodistas en el campo.

Submission ID

2734

Facebook News in Hong Kong: The Effects of Emotional Frames on Users' Likes and Comments

Authors

Stephanie Jean Tsang - Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Abstract

Today online platforms are important broadcast tools for politicians. Multiple news outlets publish articles on a given issue or event at approximately the same time, and the different narratives and frames used by these sources can be observed. By examining whether and how media organizations with different political orientations portray the exact same piece of news, we can assess the differences – and, in turn, the social reality – perceived by their users.

Context

Given the gap among news narratives are particularly intense during polarized times, this research explores such a phenomenon during the heated extradition bill controversy in Hong Kong. After the government proposed a bill to enable authorities in mainland China to file extradition requests for suspects accused of criminal wrongdoing, large-scale demonstrations expressed concerns that Hong Kong's citizens might be subjected to arbitrary detention and unfair trial under China's judicial

system. Related events slowly faded out when the coronavirus outbreak started in China.

Literature Review

Through an inductive approach, this research examines whether and how different news outlets present facts using emotional frames to promote their ideology. The emotional frames can include fear, threat, joy, and empathy. In fact, journalists do appeal to our emotions in their reporting, and news coverage are found to influence how audiences perceive controversial issues such as immigration (Haynes, 2013; Tsang, 2018). The findings contribute to not only the usage of emotions across news agencies, but also to digital journalism on Facebook. Also, the effects of emotional frames are assessed through the examination of Facebook likes and comments.

RQ1: What kinds of emotional frames do news outlets with different political orientations publish?

RQ 2: How does the way emotions are presented drives the (a) clicking of the like button and (b) commenting on news posts?

Method

This study employs Facebook data scraping of news posts and corresponding likes and comments of a total of 17 Facebook news accounts in Hong Kong from June to December 2019. The posts are sampled and human coded with respect to the emotional frame(s) used. Topic modeling is utilized to assist in automatically classifying the news archives and user comments. The relationships among frames, the number of likes, and the valence of comments are examined using crosstabs and correlational analyses. The changes in the digital journalistic environment are also inspected and presented in a descriptive manner.

Conclusion

This examination of engagement with news on Facebook can inform us how people receive news messages online and how they form their opinions toward politics. By identifying the underlying mechanisms of Facebook interactions, politicians and media practitioners can better understand how to engage with the public to better achieve their aims. The challenges for democratic engagement will also be explored.

References

- Haynes, C. S. (2013). A study of the effect of empathy on public opinion on immigration (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (UMI No. 3600567).
- Tsang, S. J. (2018). Empathy and the hostile media phenomenon. *Journal of Communication*, 68(4), 809-829. <https://doi.org/10.1093/joc/jqy031>

Submission ID

2910

Science Statistics and Professional Autonomy of Journalists in Arab Countries: The case of technology and health reporting in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Kuwait

Authors

Abdullah Alhuntushi - School of Media and Communication, The University of Leeds

Jairo Lugo-Ocando - northwestern university

Abstract

Abstract: Professional Autonomy (or the lack of it) is a central issue in explaining the state of journalism in countries in the Arab countries. However, contrary to some literature in this field, which paint all these countries in a similar manner, practices and deontological approaches vary among each country and throughout the region. More important, they also present different tones within not only the countries themselves but even in regards to different news beats. No truer is this than in the case of science reporting where journalists in these countries enjoy perhaps a greater degree of professional autonomy. Consequently, this paper explores how reporters and editors engage with science reporting from the perspective of the use of statistics and data in the technology and health news beats and how this reflect wider issues in the region regarding journalism practice. This paper is based on fieldworks and unique access to sources such as journalists and content in Arabic. It employs a multi-methods approach, which allows for triangulation of the data. These research strategies include content analysis, close reading, expert panels

Submission ID

3000

Peace journalism revisited: local and foreign conflict coverage in Kenya

Authors

Cecilia Arregui Olivera - PhD Fellow - Department of Media and Journalism Studies, Aarhus University

Abstract

Peace journalism (PJ) is a framework intending to improve conflict coverage by challenging traditional news values. First presented in the 1970s by Johan Galtung, the notion is oriented towards peace, truth, people and solutions. In recent years, journalism has undergone radical changes in how it is practiced and conceived. While the original PJ conception raised many important issues, it soon fossilized into a core set of normative parameters that are not very

productive for understanding the increasingly diverse ways in which journalism is currently practiced.

Discussions on the need for PJ training have been more prominent in regions of Africa, since Western media coverage of that continent has been constantly criticized for being scarce and negative (Nothias 2014, 326). Thus, revisiting this concept with an African context is highly relevant.

This study focuses on whether and, if so, how aspects of PJ were manifested in the Kenyan and international coverage of two key violent events in Kenya's recent history: the 2017 electoral violence and 2019 Dusit attack. A mixed-methods approach combines a content analysis of 257 articles from 10 quality newspapers from Kenya, United States, United Kingdom and South Africa with 14 interviews with journalists involved in the production of those texts. The relevance of this paper thus lies not only in analysing journalistic productions but also in including the perceptions and understandings of the reporters involved.

The analysis shows that aspects linked to PJ are far from prevailing in the sample. And, while the interviews exposed a complete lack of knowledge of PJ in the case of foreign correspondents, they did reveal an understanding of the concept from Kenyan reporters; but this understanding fundamentally differed from the Galtung model.

The study of the Kenyan cases underscores the need for revising and updating the notion of PJ. Being a global profession, journalism varies in each country and context (Hanusch & Hanitzsch 2017). Instead of a one-size-fits-all model, PJ should be rethought as a more complex conceptualization that mirrors the diversity of present-day journalism, for instance, considering the role that social media play. Despite a strong focus on training and practice over the last 20 years, PJ still exists primarily as a theoretical concept. However, taking constraints and specific characteristics of diverse circumstances into account may help bridge the gap between academia and practicing journalists through a framework that is more flexible, nuanced and possible to relate to practice.

Submission ID

3002

Shaping the future journalists – a study on the content of journalism education programs and their response to the challenges of digital transformation

Authors

Susanne Kirchhoff - University of Salzburg

Abstract

Digitalization has had a profound impact on the technological, economic and social foundations of journalism and changed journalistic skills and work processes in many ways. This transformation coincides – and is partly related to – an intensification of the discourse about journalism’s role in society: On the one hand, journalism comes under pressure from governments and political interest groups and its democratic worth is being questioned by those who see it as little more than the mouthpiece of power elites. On the other hand, however, we can detect a new sensitivity regarding the democratic value of journalism and an interest in strengthening journalistic quality and adapting good journalism practice for the digital age.

Because journalism education makes an important contribution to ensure journalistic quality, programmes and curricula need to keep track of the digital transformation and the debates that surround it. This presentation asks how journalism education institutions draw on discourses about journalism and social responsibility, how they adapt their programs in order to respond to the practical demands of professional journalism in the digital age, and which skills, knowledge and values should ultimately form the core of journalism education.

Empirically, the presentation is based on a) a content analysis of all 67 academic and non-academic journalism education programs in Austria with a total of 1818 individual courses (in 2019), which were compared with regard to structure, content, skills and competencies, and teaching methods; b) guided interviews with 29 programme representatives about e.g. the aims of an adequate journalism education, its role with regard to journalism practice and the industry, the knowledge, skills and tools important for working in the media, and the relevance of contemporary debates and the democratic function of journalism in the classroom.

For a theoretical framework, the presentation draws on the distinction of different types of competencies in journalism practice (Gossel 2015; Nowak 2007) as well as on Foucault’s (1980: 194ff.) concept of dispositive [apparatus] and its subsequent development by the German Critical Discourse Analysis and Sociology of Knowledge Approach (Jäger/Jäger 2007; Bührmann/Schneider 2008; Keller 2011). Thus it proposes as an analytical model a “dispositive of journalism”, which is understood as the relations between the journalism *discourse*, journalistic *practices* and the concrete *manifestations* of discourses and practices – educational institutions and curricula being a part of the latter.

Results show e.g. that while digital competencies are regularly taught in the curricula, the Austrian educational discourse is highly aware of a rising interest in the media’s role in society, and – like others in Europe (cp. Drok 2019; Bettels-Schwabbauer 2018) – emphasizes professional “core values” over technological skills. In an education landscape characterized by transnationalization and standardization (cp. Ibold/Deuze 2012), the results address issues beyond a national case study, namely how journalism education relates to the larger framework of both journalism practices and the discursive definition of “being a journalist”, how it can enable critical reflection on journalism’s role in society, facilitate ethical standards and human understanding, and respond to the fast-changing requirements of a disruptive environment.

Submission ID

3213

Google News and machine gatekeepers: algorithmic personalisation, filter bubbles and homogeneity in online news search

Authors

Daniel Jackson - Bournemouth University

Ryan Evans - Bournemouth University

Jaron Murphy - Bournemouth University

Einar Thorsen - Bournemouth University

Abstract

Machines are increasingly aiding or replacing humans in journalistic work, particularly in news distribution. The algorithms underpinning search results and recommendations - the cornerstone of navigating the web – raise fundamental normative questions over the role of machines as news gatekeepers (Napoli, 2015; Nechushtai and Lewis 2019). Here, existent research into personalisation has found conflicting results, with some finding evidence of personalisation (Hannak et al. 2013), and others finding that search engines expose people to news that is opposite of their political opinion (Flaxman et al. 2016).

Through a mixed methods research design, in this paper we address normative aspects of news recommendation engines by examining whether search personalisation, diversity and filter bubbles are evident on Google News in the UK. Firstly, in a quasi-experimental design borrowing from Nechushtai and Lewis (2019), we asked a diverse set of participants (N =86), to search Google News (through their personal Google accounts) for four search terms based on the two main party leaders, and two contested political topics and report the first five stories they were recommended on each term in our survey.

We found that personalisation was evident based on geo-location, but did not find a correlation to any other variable, including participants' previous online news-searching behaviour and political leaning; therefore challenging the claim that news search algorithms result in echo chambers. Further, we found a high degree of homogeneity in news search results. The top nine news sources recommended by Google made up 75% of the 775 recommendations and are all either print-based or broadcast legacy media. New digital-only or alternative news sources barely figured, suggesting that Google News algorithms do little to disrupt existing industry power dynamics.

Secondly – and to further examine the diversity of search results – we conducted a manual content analysis on the stories recommended by Google News for our search terms (N=775), focusing on

their favourability towards the search term in question (i.e. the politician or political issue). Results showed that while there was little relationship between the slant of the article and the political leanings of participants, there was one exception, where self-identified right-wing participants were more likely to see unfavourable stories about immigration. This reopens the question of filter bubbles for certain news consumers. Findings are discussed in relation to ongoing debates around algorithmic news cultures, the (ir)relevance of journalism and public knowledge of political topics.

Submission ID

3217

Back to Fukushima: Perceptions and effects of an immersive story

Authors

Jorge Vazquez - Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

Esa Sirkkunen - Tampere University

Abstract

The experiments with immersive journalism made by various media companies have allowed users to get closer to faraway places and stories, feeling they are affectively involved “within the scene”. *Fukushima: Contaminated Lives* is a report El País made five years after the catastrophe that caused the evacuation of that Japanese area. Through a 360° video and an article based on text and pictures, users of El País could experience and make sense of the story on Fukushima narrated with these two different technologies.

In order to complement the research already carried out in the field of immersive journalism (De la Peña et al., 2010; Sirkkunen et al., 2016; Shin & Biocca, 2017; Jones, 2017, among others) and taking into account that the story of Fukushima was previously analyzed as one of the first works of immersive mobile journalism (Vázquez-Herrero & López-García, 2017), it is appropriate now to address the processes of narration, reception and the effects of immersive journalism with this case study.

Methodologically this paper combines textual analysis with empirical reception studies. First, a close analysis of the narrative textual strategies used to create the sense of reality in both formats was carried out. Second, in the reception studies part, 28 Finnish and Spanish students have seen the article online on a PC and also experienced it in immersive format with Oculus Go devices.

Both before and after the experiences, they were asked to fill in a questionnaire. This method is used in order to know how the format influences the users’ interests in related topics before and after usage. Three fundamental parameters of immersive narration – presence, involvement and realism – are evaluated in detail to explore the possible reception differences between the Finnish

and Spanish groups. Another important issue to clarify is also to what extent the 360° video version achieves a greater perception of immersion than the text-based online version.

In addition, the questionnaire data allow the researchers to identify the main positive and negative values of these two technologies from the user's experience. Furthermore, the main justifications of the dissemination of information through an immersive format and the difficulties experienced during the usage of 360° video are recognized and discussed in this presentation. Finally, findings from the questionnaire data are discussed and compared with the results of the narrative analysis to understand what the main competitive affordances of these two technologies are.

In short, the study presents the contributions of two different technologies and formats –the two-dimensional online journalism and immersive 360° video journalism – on journalistic storytelling. The paper discusses the effects on interest and the perception of immersion, as well as the factors that affect users' experiences. Overall, the findings seem to indicate that the 360° video contributes positively to users' general interest of the story, adding affective factors, like the sense of presence, realism and immersion, into users' experiences.

Submission ID

3251

“Glocal Journalism” as a Journalistic Genre: The Case of Climate Change Journalism

Authors

Hillel Nossek - kinneret college

Abstract

For many years there has been a continuing difficulty in linking unusual weather phenomena to the process of climate change and human contribution to the rise in global warming. Beyond the scientific debate between scientists, the industry and politicians, the question arises as to the contribution of media coverage to public knowledge and attitudes and government's policy and actions. Studies of media coverage over the years, and in particular of climate conferences, point to localization of coverage, at the national level and at the specific place where phenomena happen and the emergence of global public space on the other hand when discussing the question. While other global phenomena seem to be short-term and immediate emergency and their solutions, seem relatively in short term measures and usually should be solved by governments and organizations, dealing with climate change both on the side of mitigation and on the side adaptation, also challenges individuals, organizations and governments and especially public opinion. How the media deals with this issue become more crucial as the mediator of the problem and the solutions. The media coverage can help the public better understand the issue and maybe also contribute to its solution.

Two theoretical approaches can serve as frameworks for the study of the role of the media in communicating global risks in general and climate change in particular: Risk Communication (Cottle, 2011) and Global Journalism (Berglaz, 2007,2008; Reese, 2008).

Climate change journalism can teach us how a global risk is covered and the role of the media in promoting the actions of mitigation and adaptation to compete with climate change outcomes.

On the other hand, as long as nation-states are the only political regime (no matter what kind of regime) and national media in national languages are the most used media and news, research shows that in the end, the media reports foreign news in local/national frames.

Research shows that the coverage is a mixture of risk communication and global journalism that draws on international interpretative communities that include journalists and scientists (Brüggemann and Engesser, 2014, Kunelius. et al., 2017; Nossek and Kunelius, 2012). However, at the same time uses local narrative frames to communicate the story to nation-states in their cultural narrative (Wessler et al., 2016; Lück et al., 2018; Nossek, 2019).

Based on the analysis of the findings longitudinal quantitative and qualitative empirical research of the coverage of climate change summits from Bali (2007) to IPCC report AR5 of 2014 and Paris summit of 2015, I suggest conceptualizing climate change journalism as “Glocal Journalism” a combination of global risk journalism and local narrative frames.

The findings suggest that the journalist does not have to choose between global and local coverage but can use a hybrid journalistic professional norm of “Glocal Journalism” when covering climate change and other global risks and global phenomena.

Submission ID

3275

Business and Financial Journalism in the Arab world: Same Issues, Different Contexts

Authors

Fisal Alaqil - King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

Jairo Lugo-Ocando - northwestern university

Abstract

Abstract: After the financial crisis of 2008, both practitioners and scholars of journalism came with the broad consensus that business and financial reporting was not fit for purpose and had failed to comply with its normative role of being a Watchdog to power (Knowles, Phillips, & Lidberg, 2017; Schifferes & Roberts, 2014; Schiffrin, 2015; Starkman, 2014). Since then, there has been a significant focus in understanding why in this particular area or news beat has news reporting failed

to fulfil the ethical aspirations of bringing about transparency and accountability on these issues. However, little attention has been placed upon the state of business and financial news reporting in the Global South (Behrman, Canonge, Purcell, & Schiffrin, 2012; Schiffrin, 2009) and even less to the way Arab news media cover these topics. Consequently, our paper explores the nature and characteristics of business journalism in the Arabian Gulf. In so doing, the paper analyses how none-democratic political settings and Islamic religious-cultural context may determine professional autonomy and fulfilment of normative aspirations in the Middle East. The paper is based on research that triangulates content analysis from national newspapers and semi-structured interviews with journalists in Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The overall data suggest that inconsistencies between the normative professional aspirations of business journalists and their actual outputs have more to do with root-causes such as lack of training and expertise in finance as well as closeness to the news sources than with the influence of Islamic culture or even the undemocratic nature of the political systems in which reporters operate. In this sense, our conclusion is that Arab journalists share more with their Western counterparts in terms of the challenge they face with regards to reporting business and finances that what is often acknowledge in scholarly research.

Keywords: Islam, Authoritarianism, Arab Gulf, finance, business profession autonomy, journalism

References

- Behrman, M., Canonge, J., Purcell, M., & Schiffrin, A. (2012). Watchdog or lapdog? A look at press coverage of the extractive sector in Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda. *Ecquid Novi: African Journalism Studies*, 33(2), 87-99.
- Knowles, S., Phillips, G., & Lidberg, J. (2017). Reporting the global financial crisis: A longitudinal tri-nation study of mainstream financial journalism. *Journalism studies*, 18(3), 322-340.
- Schifferes, S., & Roberts, R. (2014). *The media and financial crises: comparative and historical perspectives*. Abingdon, Oxfordshire: Routledge.
- Schiffrin, A. (2009). Power and pressure: African media and the extractive sector. *Journal of International Affairs*, 62(2), 127-141.
- Schiffrin, A. (2015). The press and the financial crisis: A review of the literature. *Sociology Compass*, 9(8), 639-653.
- Starkman, D. (2014). *The watchdog that didn't bark: The financial crisis and the disappearance of investigative journalism*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Submission ID

3336

News Overload and coping strategies: effect of false news during public health crisis

Authors

Zhieh Lor - PhD candidate, Division of Communication and Media, Ewha Womans University

Quan Gao - Doctoral Student, Division of Communication and Media, Ewha Womans University

Abstract

The dramatic advancement in communication technology continues the growth of news alternatives, creating an enormous amount of news sources that have paradoxically created a situation where accurate ‘news’ becomes hardly navigate. This analogy – news overload – poses a serious challenge in crisis-related contexts, in which people have trouble in selecting and evaluating relevant news with the swells of information, creating the potential for dysfunctional information processing (Eppler & Mengis, 2004; Perez, 2000).

This study draws upon insights from the theoretical framework, limited capacity model of motivated mediated message processing (LC4MP, Lang, 2000), rationalizing the relationship among news consumption, false news experience and perceived news overload during a major public health crisis. According to this model, the human brain will be less optimized when the amount of information exceeds the human cognitive processing capacity. Specifically, during mass emergencies that it is infeasible for humans to effectively locate accurate news will seriously hamper information comprehension and integration. False information such as a fabricated story or *unconfirmed statement* that circulates online can problematize public perceptions on health risks. This study investigates people’s news consumption during the COVID-19 epidemic in China to examine how false news influence the relationship between news consumption and perceived news overload.

In addition, this study also aims to explain how people employed the most effective way to deal with the challenge of news overload during a crisis. The study is currently under the data collection procedure. Once completed, the findings will indicate the possible presence of coping strategies such as “news avoidance,” and “news filtering” when people are being deluged with excess information in a crisis-related context. The findings of this study will be novel approaches to news overload in a changing news environment especially during a crisis that has not been adopted by existing literature.

Submission ID

3384

Performative Publics: Using the concept of media practice to understand journalism beyond journalism

Authors

Margreth Lünenborg - Freie Universität Berlin

Abstract

There is no doubt that journalism has irretrievably lost its exclusive role of making relevant topics available to society. In addition to professional journalism, other modes of communication have emerged that provide competing or complementary efforts (Baym & boyd, 2012). The debate on the role and task of journalism in society points to a profound change in public communication, which calls into question assumptions that have been taken for granted in journalism studies.

Characteristic of this change is a genuinely new convergence and renegotiation of public with personal and private communication, in which central negotiations of society take place in increasingly dynamic constellations of media, social and political actors (Swart, Peters & Broersma, 2018).

The aim of our paper is to systematize the performativity of public communication with the concept of media practice (authors 2018; 2020). At its core is the processual character of the practice, in which through the linking of competencies, materialities and attributions of meaning patterns of becoming public emerge, which are used by journalists as well as other speakers (Shove, Pantzar & Watson, 2012). In the stabilization of forms of practice, public patterns of meaning are becoming relevant. The destabilization or re-organization of forms of practice creates new potentials for networking actors, which in particular allow marginalized positions in public discourse to create publics performatively.

Practice theory modelling thus presents an empirical approach that enables the intertwining of public and personal communication to be systematically examined. In doing so, online and offline communication has to be taken into account and the mutual interplay between speaker and audience, which characterizes both interpersonal and journalistic communication in the network society, has to be focused on. The concept proposed here is based on the analysis of performative publics, using two conflictive cases in Germany: #KoelnHbf 20 15/16 and #MeToo 2017. Central to this project is the combination of digital methods with ethnography and content analysis, which allows for a new approach in journalism studies to expand to non-journalistic actors as well as to communication processes beyond the national level of publics. Our approach is linked to an internationally growing strand of research in the field of social movement studies, journalistic innovation and analysis of the appropriation of participatory media in public negotiation processes (Ahva 2016; Stephanson/Treré 2019).

Literature:

Authors 2018; 2020

Ahva, Laura (2016). Practice Theory for Journalism Studies: Operationalizing the Concept of Practice for the Study of Participation. *Journalism Studies* 18(12): 1523-1541.

Baym, Nancy K.; boyd, danah m. (2012). Socially Mediated Publicness: An Introduction. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media* 56(3): 320-329.

Shove, E., Pantzar, M., & Watson, M. (2012). *The dynamics of social practice: Everyday life and how it changes*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications.

Stephansen, H.C., & Treré, E. (Eds.). 2019. *Citizen media and practice. Currents, connections, challenges*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Swart, Joëlle; Peters, Chris; Broersma, Marcel (2018). Sharing and Discussing News in Private Social Media Groups: The Social Function of News and Current Affairs in Location-Based, Work-Oriented and Leisure-Focused Communities. *Digital Journalism* : 1-19.

Submission ID

3422

The relation between thematic beats and role performance across countries

Authors

María Luisa Humanes - Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

Cornelia Mothes - Technische Universität Dresden

Henry Silke - University of Limerick

Dasniel Olivera - Universidad de La Havana

Sergey Davydov - National Research University Higher School of Economics

Agnieszka Stepinska - Adam Mickiewicz University

Gabriella Szabo - Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Adriana Amado - Universidad Argentina de la Empresa

Jacques Mick - Federal University of Santa Catarina

Nikos Panagiotou - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Abstract

Based on a content analysis study of 33,640 news stories from the Journalistic Role Performance Project, this paper analyzes the extent to which journalistic roles associated with the audience are related to specific news beats and vary across different countries. We focus on newspaper articles

from sixty-four media outlets in 18 countries in order to analyze differences across five broad thematic beats: politics, economy and business, policy and crime, social affairs, and court.

On the one hand, this article tests to what extent role performance is influenced by political, economic and macrostructural factors, if instead, news beats are “micro-cultures” that transcend national realities explaining journalistic practices. On the other hand, we aim to analyze which thematic beats render a bigger intersection and plurality of role performances across and within countries.

The way in which journalism approaches the audience has been a key interest of research into journalistic roles. Mellado and van Dalen (2017) point out that “the audience’s approaches shift the focus away from the narrow focus on the role of journalism in institutional politics”, and thus are able to better capture the differences and nuances of journalistic practice across different type of thematic beats (Reich, 2016; Hallin and Mellado, 2018). In this respect, the analysis of news beats (Marchetti, 2005) can shed light on the complexity of the performance of different journalistic professional roles in different news topics across countries.

Based on multilevel analyses, our study found significant evidence on that, controlling for macrostructural and societal level factors, news beats are key definers of the performance of all three analyzed roles. Specifically, our findings reveal that the infotainment role is more likely to be found in police and crime stories, while less likely to be found in the economy and business news section. The civic role tends to be more present in social affairs news; while news on social affairs but also on economy and business are positively linked to the service role.

Countries with a higher presence of the civic and the service role in their presses tend also be the same regardless of the topic analyzed. In contrast, countries that score the highest in their level of performance of the infotainment role differ depending on the beat. While the presence of the infotainment role leads in political and economic news in established democracies, the infotainment role tends to be more present in transitional democracies in news about social affairs, police, and court.

At the same time, the presence of both the civic and the infotainment role correlate significantly higher in US and German newspapers on political and economic issues, the co-occurrence of the service and the civic role is stronger in transitional democracies. In non-democratic countries, meanwhile, the performance of the three roles does not correlate in any beat.

Submission ID

3443

How Chilean Journalists Use Social Media: Digital Transformation and New Forms of Visibility and Identity Creation

Authors

Claudia Mellado - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso

Auska Ovando - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso

Abstract

Over the past several years, social media platforms have grown exponentially, and they are now used all over the world. Tools such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are increasingly integrated into communication structures and processes of communication among people, and particularly those used by journalists (Van Dijck, 2013).

Hundreds of studies have analyzed different aspects of the relationship between journalism and the digital world, such as the impact of social media on newsroom routines (Hermida, 2010; Noguera-Vivo, 2013) and the use of social media by journalists, particularly the professionals who have the most followers or who exert influence in a particular space or in regard to a given topic (Gulyas, 2013; Hermida, 2013; Holton & Lewis, 2011; Lasorsa et al., 2012; Olausson, 2017).

However, there have been markedly fewer efforts to map journalists' social media use and profiles, at least in Latin America. The studies that have been conducted tend to be based on surveys and interviews focused on news professionals' perceptions, but have not analyzed their actual practices (Weiss, 2015; Saldaña et al., 2016; Powers & Vera-Zambrano, 2017; Mourao & Harlow, 2017).

Moreover, studies that have focused on journalistic practices in social media, and not just the perceptions and discourses built around them, have usually analyzed just one platform, such as Twitter (Hermida, 2013).

This study focuses on two digital platforms --Twitter and Instagram-- that offer users different functionalities and present objective qualities in terms of their narratives, textual-visual logics and how they approach audiences, despite sharing certain mechanisms for facilitating user communication (Hermida & Mellado, 2019).

Based on a content analysis of 1,400 Twitter and Instagram accounts, this study provides an analysis of the profiles that 792 Chilean journalists who work for national media outlets develop in their social media accounts, describing their visibility and activity levels and how they construct their identities in these two social media spaces. Our results show that although Chilean journalists have a significant presence in the digital world, they use different social media platforms in different ways, deploying various identity creation strategies and new journalistic roles.

Our findings also reveal that the performance of professional and media branding is comparatively higher, particularly for TV and radio journalists, and for those with more followers. The instability

of the job market in the field and the fact that many works for more than one media organization may influence these results. Indeed, cultivating a large following may give journalists symbolic power that protects them and may even grant them a sort of immunity within their organizations, creating a pact (often implicit) between the news organization and the journalist. On the one hand, engaging in *media branding* allows journalists to showcase and promote their news organizations, increasing their profile level, the value of their social media use, and audience engagement. On the other, high profile social media accounts can become critical to the development and survival of media outlets' business, which gives the journalists who own those accounts more internal autonomy and job security.

Submission ID

3446

#AidToo: What role did 'closed' Facebook groups such as Fifty Shades of Aid and Humanitarian Women's Network play in opening up coverage of the 2018 scandal?

Authors

Glenda Cooper - City University of London

Abstract

In 2018, two UK aid agencies, Oxfam GB and Save the Children UK found themselves in the midst of serious sexual abuse scandals. The consequences of the scandals breaking culminated in the departure of senior staff, investigations by the Charity Commission and the International Development Select Committee and significant numbers of donors deserting both agencies. The role of *The Times* which put the revelations about abuse of beneficiary women by Oxfam GB staff after the Haiti earthquake and the *Mail on Sunday* which broke the stories of harassment of Save the Children UK staff by senior executives was clear (O'Neill, 2018; Walters, 2018). However these stories had been widely known in the aid industry and media for several years without receiving attention. This study looks at how social media may have played a role in opening up the story, allowing a more inclusive approach with more diverse voices, and whether such sites offered support for those involved.

Using Greer and McLaughlin's (2017) scandal model and field theory as conceptual frameworks, it examines two closed Facebook groups where discussion took place – Fifty Shades of Aid, a group, which is populated by all genders and Humanitarian Women's Network specifically aimed at women. Using surveys and in-depth interviews it will aim to analyse the potential democratising and opening-up effect of different mobile platforms and whether all-women sites proved particularly useful. In particular it will ask: How did those involved in the sites find out about the #AidToo scandal? What actions did they take as a result of seeing these stories on social media?

And what differences were perceived by those who used a specifically all-female site and one in which all genders were allowed to join?

Submission ID

3461

Building bridges in a digital and globalized world? Results of a Q-sort survey on journalistic role perceptions

Authors

Helena Stehle - University of Hohenheim

Abstract

Relevance and aim

Although journalistic roles are well-researched, they remain an important issue as they are renegotiated in the digital age (Weaver & Willnat, 2012). Researchers have long been analyzing “what journalism is and what it should do” (Hallin, 2017, p. xi). Besides theoretical modelling, they have often asked journalists about their roles and professional practices (Mellado et al., 2017). Roles or role perceptions are defined as “generalized expectations which journalists believe exist in society and among different stakeholders, which they see as normatively acceptable, and which influence their behavior on the job” (Donsbach, 2008, p. 1).

Journalist surveys typically suggest roles such as the watchdog, analyst or disseminator (Hanitzsch, 2011; Hanitzsch et al., 2019; Mellado & Lagos, 2014). Few role typologies also include roles that explicitly address the challenges of globalization and digitalization, especially those of fragmentation and division, e.g. between ethnic or cultural groups or between the privileged and the marginalized in a society—roles that could be labelled as “bridging” or “boundary-spanning” (Lewis, 2012; Steindl et al., 2017). How has such roles been addressed in journalism studies so far? In what way do (future) journalists include them in their set of roles? The proposed presentation addresses these questions in two steps.

Methodology

Firstly, a systematic literature analysis was carried out with regard to “bridging” roles in journalism studies. Secondly, a Q-sort survey was conducted based on the Q-methodological theory of subjectivity (Brown 1994; Stenner, Watts & Worrell, 2017). It offers an integration of qualitative and quantitative methods and enables journalists’ roles to be explored on the basis of a socio-psychological sorting technique (Stephenson, 1967; Watts & Stenner, 2012). In contrast to one-dimensional scoring, it assesses role perceptions in a comprehensive, interdependent, and subjective way, while identifying similarities between respondents in order to typify them (Serfass & Sherman, 2013; Stephenson, 1935, 1953). By focusing on a sample of German journalism students (n=38), one obtains clues about role perceptions of a generation that is often seen as both global and digital.

Results and benefit

When applying Q-methodology, four types of role perceptions can be found, showing divergent opinions about the above-mentioned roles: from hardly important to relevant and valued. While the first type (named “relaxing entertainer” because of her claim to entertain and relax her audience) rejects a “bridging” role regarding ethnic or cultural differences (Z-score: -1.05), type two—named “cultural bridge-builder”—considers it important and is defined by it (Z-score: 1.19). The two other types (“reality presenter” and “detached watchdog”) are neutral to slightly positive towards such a role perception (Z-scores: -0.3; 0.49).

The presentation is intended to offer two benefits for journalism studies. Firstly, it aims to contribute to a better understanding and analysis of journalistic roles perceptions, especially with regard to “bridging” roles in a globalized and digitalized age. Secondly, both a theory and a method will be presented that have rarely been applied in journalism studies so far, but which offer potential with regard to the analysis of journalists’ subjective and interdependent perceptions.

Submission ID

3474

Revisiting journalistic values: Pragmatic approach to journalism’s claims to truth and objectivity

Authors

Margarita Khartanovich - Tampere University

Abstract

The digital culture of the XXI century is flooding an increasingly fragmented media audience with an unprecedented amount of content of different types and quality. In this reality, journalism as a profession adjacent to other content production fields has become diffused and ill-defined, especially on a global scale when faced with international information flows. However, what distinguishes journalists from other content creators are their professional codes with claims to telling the truth and being objective. But what is “journalistic truth” now? In academia, we have spent the past few years hotly debating the nature and consequences of misinformation, propaganda, fake news, etc. although it might be the right time to recall what “true” is, how truth is actually reflected in journalistic texts and practices.

As Kaarle Nordenstreng underlines in his article “Truth: More valid than ever” (Journalism 1-4, 2018), journalistic truth has long become considered unattainable and hence disregarded in academia. He calls “for a better balance in the overall profile of the field, which is currently dominated by applied research, by basic research - especially research that strengthens the philosophical self-conception of the field”. The concept of journalistic truth seems to have fallen off the agenda of communication scholars (Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt, 2009; Graham Majin, 2019). The consequent reluctance of the academy to do discuss the concept of truth in journalism is referred to

as ‘truthphobia’ - truth as a theoretical concept has become obsolete, impertinent, banned, self-evident or too explosive to handle. Recently, there have been attempts to create new frameworks such as Journalistic Truth Theory (Graham Majin, 2019) that would restore the concept of journalistic truth as a legitimate object of scholarly research and prepare the ground for an epistemology of journalism.

My research on journalistic truth in reporting global crisis (the case of the Syrian conflict) follows the epistemological approach to journalistic truth and studies it in the new realities of doing journalism in the 21st century - the rising significance of transnational media in covering global crises and the inevitable impact of using digital technologies by journalists in their practices and by audience in their news consumption. My research questions are the following: What is journalistic truth as of now? How is it reflected in journalistic texts? And how do journalists construct journalistic truth through their practices?

This paper aims to study the current epistemological position of journalism and suggests pragmatism as a practical lens for looking at the profession and its fundamental, codified claims. The promise of truthfulness is the basis for the social code shared by journalists and their reading audience. From a pragmatic perspective, beliefs do not have to correspond precisely to some idealized picture of reality as long as they are useful to reporters and individuals in their dealings with everyday work and life. And thus, news values could be seen not from the point of view of telling the “absolute” truth but rather “practical” one, selected and reported by the journalists and then passed onto the audience for its own perception.

Submission ID

3479

Universal journalist in the developing countries of Central Asia

Authors

Alexandr Rozhkov - Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Abstract

The whole meaning behind universal journalist was originally spreading ever since 1995. Base foundation of such approach is laid by David K. Randall’s research called “Universal Journalist” (Randall, 2000). He proposed modernization in the training of journalists from former post-Soviet countries. The main postulate of universality intended competence in the process of learning twice the amount of different information, worthy enough for Kazakhstan’s media system. The new school for training journalists was made, based around only the best examples of European and American education programs. That is how a very important first indicator of journalists stating the information not after the event, but rather in a context of real time has been reached. Best universal journalists of Kazakhstan mastered the principles of media predicting, being able to understand and determine the trends of informational flow at the same time. The next step of improvement in the

journalistic education became a result of introduction of many new technologies and informational platforms to the media. Now it was serious for a journalist to work in different environments, being there as professional as he was in the traditional scope of work. Media consumption gets absorbed more and more, leading to a problem between journalists and their audience, where an ex recipient became a competitor, who started publishing in blogs, social networks, on Youtube such things as news, news reports and videos. Journalists of many large and small editorial offices were forced to universalize their communicational skills, to present the information about their progress in social networks, on gadgets, in blogs, as well as to intensify the feedback and to announce important informational pieces. With that in mind, on faculties of journalism of Kazakh universities the basic ethical principles are still being learned, many helpful qualities for not compromising neither themselves nor profession in general are still being instilled. In the World the fact that many students in journalism believe in their abilities to convey the nuances and to understand the ideas it still recognized (Toward, 2020). The result of poll held by the master degree candidates of International Journalism specialty in the discipline “Mass-media and global informational community” in the October of 2019 with the staff of media area of Astana, Almaty, Uralsk, Kostanay, Shymkent showed, that the 78 percent of the interviewed people are determined that journalism requires not only flexibility and originality in thinking, but also proven instrumental skills, expanding after or on par with the new technologies. Many students and master degree candidates, who grew on the internet, at the start of enrolment to the university are already technologically more literate than their professors. At the same time it is important to realize, that technologies will be changing regularly and journalism should always be trusted.

References:

Randall David (2000). The Universal Journalist. 22-164.

Toward (2020): New Directions in Journalism Education. Edyted by Gene Allen, Stephanie Craft, Christopher Waddell & Mary Lynn Yo/ Ryerson Journalism Research Centre: 74-75.

Submission ID

3507

Incorporating: A Theoretical Trip of Constructive Journalism in China

Authors

Yu LING - m17762536909@163.com

WEN CAI - 125054117@qq.com

Abstract

This study examines the theoretical trip of constructive journalism ideas and their implementation in China, a country with a different social, cultural, and historical background than that of Denmark

or other Western European countries where constructive journalism is practiced. Thirty-nine papers and discussion in Chinese "Constructive Journalism: Ideas and Practices" Conference has been analysed to examine how Chinese scholars and journalists define "constructive journalism" compared with the original "constructive journalism" in the West and how is the concept of "constructive journalism" applied in China and how to use it to describe the journalism practice.

Chinese scholars and journalists believe "constructive journalism" should be placed in the Chinese context, and the "constructiveness" of journalism is rooted in Chinese society and historical background rather than a Western concept, which is regarded as an essential part of Marxist journalism. Positive psychology, as its theoretical foundation, is obscured in the Chinese context. At the same time, Chinese scholars and reporters have linked Typical Reports, Supervision Reports, Public News, and Think Tank-Type Media with "constructive journalism" practices. They believe Western and Chinese "constructive journalism" may have something in stock at the practice level, but the ultimate goal pursued can not be consistent. In the practice of constructive journalism in China, it has to pay attention to maintaining China's national ideology, adhere to the party's leadership, and protect the best interests of society. It reflects the openness and ambiguity of the concept of "constructive journalism." Still, Chinese scholars believe that as long as the reports are positive, problem-oriented, multi-inclusive, future-oriented, and rooted in positive psychology, it will not influence the definition of the core values of constructive journalism.

Submission ID

3544

Quality Measurement as a Major Challenge in a Convergent

Media World

Authors

Lea Sophia Lehner - University of Passau

Ralf Hohlfeld - University of Passau

Michael Sengl - University of Passau

Elfi Heinke - University of Passau

Abstract

1. Media Convergence and Journalistic Quality

One of the decisive developments in the digitalization of journalism is the convergence of previously separate ways of workflows in producing and distributing information (e.g. Deuze, 2008; Jenkins, 2006). Generally speaking, media convergence takes place on four different levels: organization, planning, production and publication. Although communication science has accompanied convergence processes in media companies for a long time, it has so far largely

omitted studying the effects of convergence on the quality of content (exceptions are e.g. Neuberger et al., 2009; Rinsdorf, 2011).

One of the main problems is that for the complex measurement of quality in convergent media environments many of the standard methods are no longer sufficient. We are currently devoting several research projects to this problem and would like to present their methodology and key challenges at the IAMCR 2020.

Our approach focuses on diversity as an essential factor of journalistic quality. We are dealing with two major research questions:

RQ1: How does convergence affect diversity in news journalism?

RQ2: What methodological challenges do we face if we want to make this diversity measurable?

2. Diversity Measurement

Diversity can and should be analyzed at different levels. The subdivision of diversity into functional diversity, structural diversity and content diversity is established in communication science (Schatz & Schulz, 1992). At the macro-level, functional diversity refers to the number of journalistic units on the print market (e.g. Schütz, 2012) and the number of transmitters/channels on the broadcasting market (e.g. Brosius & Zubayr, 1996). At the meso-level, structural diversity comprises genres and departments (e.g. Engesser, 2013; Rossmann, Brandl, & Brosius, 2003) as well as different journalistic or program formats (e.g. Kolb, 2015; Maurer, 2009; Rossmann et al., 2003; Schatz & Schulz, 1992). At the micro-level, this refers to the diversity of content. More precisely, the diversity of sources, actors, opinions, topics, places of action, news factors and cultural/ethnic groups contained in a journalistic article (e.g. Engesser, 2013; Köster & Wolling, 2006; Schatz & Schulz, 1992).

3. Challenges in the Convergent Media World

To adequately investigate the influence of media convergence on diversity, it is necessary to develop instruments that measure the degree of digitization or convergence of a medium as well as the diversity of its outputs on the levels of production, distribution and consumption.

In the project we would like to present, the degree of organizational convergence in news journalism will be examined through expert interviews with editorial and program managers of opinion-relevant newspapers/magazines on the print market and broadcasters on the broadcasting market in Germany combined with editorial observations. Additionally, we will measure diversity at the level of media actors (macro-level), within editorial offices at the departmental level (meso-level) and also at the level of the diversity of content of articles and contributions (micro-level). Therefore, we want to develop and test (partially) automated methods of diversity measurement in order to create diversity indices on as broad of a data basis as possible.

Submission ID

3602

The Taming of News Flows. A Deep Learning Approach to Mapping the Discourse of Foreign News in Romania and Hungary

Authors

Radu Mihai Meza - Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Hanna Orsolya Vincze - Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Andreea Mogoş - Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

Abstract

With journalism and news organizations looking to resist increasing economic pressure brought about by digital media giants' disruptive ecosystems, foreign news reporting relies ever more on global agencies. However, selection processes applied to news flows may point to particular national-level, culture-specific or organizational tendencies to filter and adapt news to local contexts. What are the dominant news values and topics preferred when foreign news are reported?

Romania and Hungary, although neighboring countries in Central and Eastern Europe with shared history, have some distinctive features with respect to their position and positioning in the European Union, political leadership, media system ownership structures, ties with neighboring countries and public perceptions of regional and global issues. Investigating foreign news reported by the Romanian and Hungarian online media provides insight into different maps of meaning that news outlets, journalists and their publics use to understand the world.

This research investigates international news coverage over a large dataset (N=110.075) of articles published by three leading online news outlets in Romania (N1=41.363) and Hungary (N2=68.712) over the course of three years – 2016, 2017 and 2018. Grounded in the news flows/news factors approach proposed by Galtung and Ruge (1965) and building on research carried out on foreign news by researchers such as Wu(2000), Hanusch and Obijiofor (2008) and Segev (2015), this approach advances state of the art research by leveraging type-based techniques of deep learning text classification to provide an overview of news values, topics and represented countries/world areas in the Romanian and Hungarian media. Bednarek & Caple (2014) define news values and their key linguistic devices for use in content analyses, but recent developments in machine learning allow for attempts to automate the annotation of news values and topics (according to the IPTC Media Topics top level categories) in research over large corpora. Furthermore, our supervised learning approach makes use of country names and news agency sources derived from lexicon-based automated coding, besides the publications, titles, full text, authors, dates and keywords to enhance the performance of the annotation. This research attempts to bridge between approaches recently developed in computer science with research into news flows, news values and the domestication of foreign news developed by Gurevitch et al. (1991). The analysis of topics, news values and references (countries, persons, entities, sources) allows identification of domestication strategies specific to either of the two countries' media.

Submission ID

3603

Sources and digital formats: a Content Analysis of Brazil-centered cultural journalism in a Portuguese newspaper (2012-2018)

Authors

Mariana Muller - Communication and Society Research Centre (CECS), University of Minho

Abstract

This paper presents preliminary findings of a Content Analysis (Neuendorf, 2002) conducted in 194 digital culture articles focused on Brazil published by Público in 2012 and 2018. This is part of a multimethod analysis within a larger project that analyzed 1118 articles to draw a panoramic view of this digital cultural coverage, specifically revealing the main differences in cross-country coverage about Brazil by Público and about Portugal by Folha de São Paulo. It is hypothesized that colonial heritage is a driver of social memory and stereotypes that may be identified in digital Journalism.

We define Journalism as a social construction (Alsina, 2009), based on the concept of social construction of reality (Berger & Luckmann, 2010). As Hall, Chritcher, Jefferson, Clarke, & Roberts (1999) indicate, news analysis allows the identification of maps of meaning or supposed consensuses about society in specific periods and territories. We also considered concepts such as social representations (Moscovici, 1988), stereotypes (Tajfel, 1982) and social memory (Assmann, 2008; Erll, 2011). We recognize that cultural coverage differs from general news coverage (Golin & Cardoso, 2009; Faro, 2014; Kersten & Janssen, 2016; Hovden & Kristensen, 2018) and that the digital environment adds some specificities and possibilities (Santos Silva, 2016).

This research covers only journalistic publications in the digital environment, due to its specific goal of identifying how newspapers are working with digital capabilities in their cultural coverage. We selected our sample using keywords (Brazil, Brazilian, for instance) from Factiva's database. All the articles were coded in 16 specific variables that take into account descriptives aspects, formats and digital features. Intercoder reliability tests were performed as proposed by Lacy and Riffe (1996).

Although this sample is composed only by articles with a clear focus on Brazil, Brazilians were not interviewed in a significant amount of pieces: 20% only had a Portuguese source and 20% did not have any identified source. Less than half, 48% of the total, had Brazilian sources and 12% had mixed sources, which means from Brazil and/or Portugal and/or other countries. Taking into account types of sources, artists were most prominent group (76 occurrences), followed by news agencies (32 occurrences), civil society (30 occurrences) and other media (28 occurrences). Social

media is not a frequent source (six occurrences). The audience that consumes cultural products is not usually interviewed, only appearing three times in the sample.

We could understand that digital capabilities are not central to Público digital cultural coverage, as only 34% of the articles have digital formats. However, a growth has been identified between the two researched years (7 pieces of the total were published in 2012 and 59 in 2018). On the other hand, the most prominent formats are not very new, such as photo galleries (45 occurrences) and videos (28 occurrences). Infographics, playlist and podcast were identified just once each. Some formats were not present in any of the analyzed years: panoramic photography, 360-degree video, GIF, personalized visualization and quiz.

Submission ID

3646

The Problem of Polarisation and Journalism's Responses to It

Authors

Laura Ahva - Tampere University

Mikko Hautakangas - University of Helsinki

Abstract

Social polarisation has become a topic of concern all over the world. It is discussed as a threat to democracy and the stability of societies: as citizens divide into groups that heavily oppose each other's world views and interests, their willingness to co-operate and their trust in the democratic system erodes. (E.g. Carothers & O'Donohue 2019.) A key factor in this erosion of social trust is that it has become increasingly difficult to maintain public discourses that large national publics would regard as shared and legitimate – a task that has traditionally been appointed to journalism (e.g. Müller 2013).

From this angle, polarisation is a circumstance that affects the public realm of media in general, and journalism in particular, making it hard for journalism to carry out its democratic functions.

However, journalism also participates in the process of polarisation, often unintentionally, by circulating the polarising discourses and repeating the idea of opposing camps or social bubbles. Journalistic routines, practices and ideals that value multi-voiced deliberative debate may end up portraying political conflicts as issues of identity, even when seeking to resist polarisation (e.g. Brandsma 2017).

Journalists – and researchers and teachers of journalism – across the world have recognised these challenges that social polarisation has produced to their profession. There are several research projects, consultative institutions, special programmes within media companies, online platforms and other forms of professional co-operation that address polarisation (and related issues of the so-called "post-truth age") by providing a variety of tools and guidelines for making better journalism in polarised circumstances (for example, constructive/solutions/dialogue journalism; BBC's

"Crossing Divides"; Ett Stockholm etc.). Also, the authors of this paper can be seen as part of this movement with their action-research project developing 'conciliatory journalism' (Hautakangas & Ahva 2018).

But how exactly is the problem of polarisation articulated by these different projects? What kind of understandings about the democratic public sphere, and the current problems with it, can be traced in their discourses? What kind of journalistic practices and ideals are recognised as problematic in the current crisis of public trust, and what is offered as a solution? How does the idea of journalism as a depolarising force relate to the tensions inherent in journalism's ideals of supporting participatory and deliberative processes in society? (E.g. Farkas & Schou 2019, Waisbord 2018, Mutz 2006.)

This paper analyses (self-)critically how the relationship between journalism and social polarisation is conceptualised and circulated in the journalism reform movements, both current and past. This analysis is based on the authors' previous research with the conciliatory journalism project and their subsequent book project on journalism and polarisation.

Submission ID

3665

“Blockchain may automate jobs done by the boss and AI can predict a heart attack” – Discourses of (imaginary) applications of new technologies in journalism

Authors

Merja Koskela - University of Vaasa

Liisa Kääntä - University of Vaasa

Tanja Sihvonen - University of Vaasa

Abstract

This paper explores how a shared understanding of the potential uses of new, abstract technologies is created in journalism. We analyse Finnish journalistic texts from 2010–2020, representing both general and specialized journalism, where two relatively new technological phenomena, blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI), are introduced to the readers, conceptualized, and discussed.

We are interested in the discourses through which these technologies have been defined, and how the potential or imaginary applications of these technologies have been explained and evaluated. This is important because technologies do not enter the lives of people as concrete devices or programs, but initially as conceptual, imaginary, and affective entities.

The expectations placed on new technologies are most visible in journalism. While positive framing may generate unrealistic expectations, such as technology hypes, negative framing may constrain or stop the adoption of a technology or delay the acceptance of its applications.

Drawing on the classic Technology Acceptance Model (TAM, see Venkatesh, Davis, & Morris, 2007; Venkatesh & Bala, 2008), we discuss how journalism frames and reframes (see e.g. Reese, 2003) the salient attributes of these technologies especially in terms of their perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Furthermore, we are interested in speculative meaning-making since we regard meanings as reflections of the *technological imaginary* (see Lister et al., 2009, 67). These imaginaries reveal something about what kinds of desires for a better society and anxieties for worse are associated with the blockchain and AI technologies.

References

Lister, M., J. Dovey, S. Giddings, I. Grant & K. Kelly (2009). *New Media: A Critical Introduction* (2e Edition). New York: Routledge.

Moore, G. C. & I. Benbasat (1991). Development of an Instrument to Measure the Perceptions of Adopting an Information Technology Innovation. *Information Systems Research* 2 (3): 192–222. doi:10.1287/isre.2.3.192. ISSN 1047-7047.

Reese, S. (2003). Prologue—framing Public Life: A Bridging Model for Media Research. In *Framing Public Life. Perspectives on Media and Our Understanding of the Social World*, 7–31. New York: Routledge.

Venkatesh, V. & H. Bala (2008). Technology Acceptance Model 3 and a Research Agenda on Interventions, *Decision Sciences*, 39 (2): 273–315, doi:10.1111/j.1540-5915.2008.00192.x

Venkatesh, V., F. D. Davis & M. G. Morris (2007). Dead or alive? The development, trajectory and future of technology adoption research. *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, 8 (4), 268–286.

Submission ID

3734

Constructive News for Conflict and Reconstruction

Authors

Loise Macharia - University College Dublin

Marguerite Barry - University College Dublin

Abstract

Media coverage of terrorism in the 21st Century has been dominated by ‘war on terror’ discourses in the US, UK and the Middle East media, presenting a limited view of the causes and context of violence with limited focus on the potential for solutions (Atanasova, 2019; Kassimeris & Jackson, 2011; Sahill, 2018). However, few have examined media coverage in sub-Saharan Africa despite

significant terrorism-related activities since at least 1998. Since Kenya's incursion into Somalia in 2011, the Somali-based Alshabaab militant group have frequently waged attacks in Kenya, killing hundreds and destroying property. Terrorism and counter-terrorism incidents have led to the demonizing and dehumanizing of certain communities based on religion, social strata and political affiliations. The media in Kenya have predominantly focused on the perpetrators and carnage, with graphic pictures and descriptions of the attacks dominating coverage of the incidents. Meanwhile, constructive journalism (CJ) research suggests that by focusing less on the violent aspects of terrorism and more on long-term analysis and solution-oriented reporting, the media can contribute to reconstruction and reconciliation. Applying elements of positive psychology such as positive emotion, engagement and meaning through focusing on good relationships and achievements, CJ calls upon journalists to work together towards improving society (McIntyre & Gyldensted, 2018). Thus, CJ describes a range of practices which include peace, contextual, restorative and solutions journalism (McIntyre & Sobel, 2018). Previous studies have applied this theory to reconciliation and reconstruction in Rwanda (ibid), Haiti after the earthquake in 2010 (Rodgers, 2017), development in the Caribbean and Croatia (Kovacevic & Perisin, 2018; Rotmeijer, 2018) and domestic terrorism in the US (Tenore, 2015). This study focuses on Kenya by examining coverage of two events – the Garissa University Attack (2015) and the Riverside Attack (2019) – and comparing the news reporting with alternative approaches provided for within CJ frameworks (Curry, 2014; Fink & Schudson, 2014; Shinar, 2009; Tenore, 2015). It consists of a content analysis of the news coverage of the two events in the most read national newspaper, Daily Nation for the 3 days following each attack and then a comparative analysis to examine evidence of alternative coverage according to CJ practice, focusing in particular on peace and solutions-oriented frames in the sample (Curry, et al 2016; Galtung, 2003; Riffe, 2019). The study finds that while the media in Kenya has the potential to strategically reconfigure reporting towards CJ practice around terrorism, the news language utilized in Kenyan media remains problematic for reconstruction due to the linguistic tools (such as metaphors and similes) used in reference to the atrocities (Marthoz, 2017; Media Council of Kenya, 2014). The discussion outlines the potential for alternative media practices in Constructive Journalism frameworks and its usefulness in managing representations of terrorism in Kenya. This study will benefit practitioners, researchers and teachers of journalism in illustrating some alternative methods that the media can use to manage conflict towards building more peaceful co-existence.

Submission ID

3746

Discursive power of the refugee voices in the media coverage of the refugee crisis in Serbia

Authors

Ana Milojevic - University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science

Kristina Milic - University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science

Abstract

The media reflect discursive power of different societal groups, and manifest potential of marginalised for voicing their concerns in the public. In that respect, issue of immigration can be considered as an important indicator of the democratic performance of media in society. Generally, research shows that media prioritise political over refugee or migrant voices, allowing immigration issue to be discursively constructed by political actors.

During the most recent inflow of migrants to Europe, starting from 2015, frame or discourse of “humanitarian securitisation” (Vaughan-Williams, 2015) has prevailed in the media coverage in the EU. In this contradictory discourse migrants are portrayed as threat to European societies and simultaneously as vulnerable victims one should empathise with. The main aim of this paper is to examine “humanitarian securitisation” discourse in the media coverage of the refugee crisis in Serbia. Following framework established by Chouliaraki and Zaborowski (2017) we have conducted content analysis that examined distribution and status of the refugee voices in 2089 texts, published in ten news media outlets, from 2015 to 2017. Building on these results, which demonstrate that refugee voices are more frequently heard and less collectivised than in the EU media, we further investigate contextualisation of the refugee voices in the media in Serbia.

Using discourse analysis on the sampled texts, we aim to deepen our understanding of how media and political debates are nationally contextualised and differ in terms of the transit/destination position of the country, past experiences with seeking or offering refuge, strength of right-wing political actors among other (Triandafyllidou, 2017). Our analysis shows that in the post-conflict country, still in transition to democracy and with recent experience in hosting refugees, refugee voices are mostly used to “accessorise” political voices in constructing the prevailing discourse about highly humanitarian response of the Serbian government to the refugee crisis.

References:

Chouliaraki, L., & Zaborowski, R. (2017). Voice and community in the 2015 refugee crisis: A content analysis of news coverage in eight European countries. *International Communication Gazette*, 79(6-7), 613-635.

Triandafyllidou, A. (2018). A “refugee crisis” unfolding: “Real” events and their interpretation in media and political debates. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 16(1-2), 198-216.

Vaughan-Williams N (2015) *Europe's Border Crisis: Biopolitical Security and Beyond*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Villa D R (1999) *Politics, Philosophy, Terror: Essays*

Submission ID

3773

Reimagining Local Journalism in the Age of Precarity

Authors

Carla Everstijn - Kent State University

Abstract

Over the last 15 years, approximately 2000 newspapers across the United States have closed, leaving potential news deserts in their wake (Abernathy, 2019). This has resulted in uncertainty for residents of these communities about whether local news will be covered, and it has also resulted in precarity for journalists as to their livelihoods and value within society. In the era of misinformation and fake news, it is more important than ever for people to have access to truthful and reliable news sources. Because newspapers have been traditionally positioned as the watchdogs in democratic society that hold government and other public institutions accountable, questions have even arisen as to how democracy can be sustained in the midst of such disruption in the media environment (Klas, 2019; Shaker, 2014).

The purpose of this study is to explore the efforts in one community to fill the information gap caused by the closure of their only daily newspaper after 150 years in print. In many ways, Youngstown is a microcosm of the disruption and uncertainty that is occurring in cities across the world. Drawing from media dependency and uncertainty management theories, this study investigates the psycho-social factors involved in precarity, experienced both internally as uncertainty and externally through the disruption of the legacy media environment, using the case study of Youngstown, Ohio. The study addresses the following research questions: How are local journalists coping with precarity and filling the gap left by the newspaper's closure? Have they developed a sustainable digital model for reliable reporting of local news? Using interviews with journalists, observations, and documents, this study provides a qualitative in-depth analysis of the effort to create solutions for the area. The analysis identifies important themes in the narrative, as well as sheds light on the meaning journalists make of their experience of uncertainty in the face of media disruption. These issues are relevant to journalists throughout the world as they reimagine local journalism in the age of precarity.

References

- Abernathy, P. M. (2019). The expanding news desert. The Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Retrieved from <https://www.usnewsdeserts.com/reports/expanding-news-desert/>
- Klas, M.E. (2019, September 20). Less local news means less democracy. *Nieman Reports*. Retrieved from <https://niemanreports.org/articles/less-local-news-means-less-democracy/>

Shaker, (2014). Dead newspapers and citizens' civic engagement. *Political Communication*, 31(1), 131-148. DOI: 10.1080/10584609.2012.762817

Submission ID

3792

Los editores en el espacio del trabajo periodístico de la Ciudad de México

Authors

Alejandra Meza - Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de Mexico

Sandra Vera - Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de Mexico

Abstract

El grueso de las investigaciones que tienen a los periodistas como sujeto de estudio tiende a pasar por alto la multifacética naturaleza de este oficio y la inestabilidad que, en términos laborales, se ha vuelto la “nueva normalidad” del periodismo (Örnebring, 2018), resultando en análisis que, al centrarse en la práctica del reportero neutral contratado por un medio convencional, excluyen otras expresiones y condiciones materiales de producción del periodismo.

Atendiendo lo anterior, este documento pretende examinar al editor, una figura poco trabajada en los estudios del periodismo, utilizando un modelo de análisis que, al combinar la perspectiva teórica de los campos sociales con elementos de la sociología del trabajo, permitirá un entendimiento más matizado de las características de estos agentes.

El modelo del “Espacio del trabajo periodístico” (Örnebring, Karlsson, Fast & Lindell, 2018) sugiere que éste se estratifica a partir de tres dimensiones: Capital periodístico, Acceso a recursos y Seguridad material, de cuyo cruce resultan ocho “regiones” que alojan diferentes tipos de trabajo periodístico. Por Capital periodístico, se entiende el grado en que los editores cuentan con recursos simbólicos colectivamente reconocidos dentro del campo del periodismo (premios, títulos académicos, contratos, etcétera). El Acceso a recursos se refiere al grado de recursos económicos, gerenciales y tecnológicos que los agentes tienen a su disposición para hacer periodismo (provengan o no de una organización o empresa). Por último, la Seguridad material se deriva de la seguridad contractual que a su vez redundará en beneficios médicos, fondos de retiro, pago de vacaciones y otras condiciones que influyen en la calidad de vida.

Con apoyo de dichos postulados, este texto avanza en la construcción de una cartografía del espacio del trabajo periodístico en la Ciudad de México, utilizando datos recabados con entrevistas a profundidad a editores de diferentes edades, trayectorias, medios y condiciones laborales. El estudio es relevante por varios motivos. Primeramente porque ofrece un marco explicativo a partir del cual

comprender las condiciones objetivas y las vivencias de los editores en el seno social. En segundo lugar, el enfoque permite llevar la discusión sobre lo que es periodismo y quién es periodista más allá de los límites de las organizaciones empresariales y de la ortodoxia del campo del periodismo. Se pretende asimismo que los resultados abonen a un mayor y mejor conocimiento de la evolución y la posición actual del rol editorial en el campo periodístico mexicano y en el espacio social en general.

Referencias

- Örnebring, H. (2018). Journalists thinking about precarity : Making sense of the ‘new normal’. # ISOJ Journal, 8(1), 109–127. Retrieved from <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:kau:diva-68836>
- Örnebring, H; Karlsson, M; Fast, K. & Lindell, J. (2018) The Space of Journalistic Work: A Theoretical Model. Communication Theory 00 (2018) 1–21 ©

Submission ID

3850

When Amateur Journalism Ceases to be Civic: the case of Notícias Viriato

Authors

Claudia Alvares - Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa; CIES_Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

Ana Pinto Martinho - Iscte

Abstract

On the 10th June 2019 a new “information” website was launched in Portugal. Its name is Notícias Viriato (Viriato News), and its structure mimics a traditional online news outlet. However, if one bears in mind the criteria regulating journalism in Portugal, this site does not correspond to a news outlet. Firstly, it is not registered in the Regulatory Communication Entity that regulates media in general and journalism outlets in particular; secondly, the information output is not delivered by journalists. Here, we should take into account that, in Portugal, journalists are only legally considered as such if they are registered in the Journalists’ Professional License Committee.

Being produced by citizens who are not journalists, and with a positioning clearly despising traditional media, it is important to understand where Notícias Viriato fits in, in light of the classification labels for this kind of information production, as described, for example, by Chris Atton (2009). Indeed, Atton specifies that the more frequently used labels - alternative journalism; citizen’s media; citizen journalism; democratic media; radical media, - share an ideological perspective and thus circumvent the traditional journalistic criteria of impartiality.

We would argue that the Portuguese media landscape tends to follow a ‘catch-all model’ (Arons de Carvalho 2011), where newspapers seek to embrace several ideological slants, due the attempt to optimise financial viability in the context of a small market. In this context, websites like Notícias Viriato occupy the empty space of biased information, leaning, in this case, towards right-wing conservatism.

Taking Notícias Viriato as case study, we propose to analyse the logics behind the constitution of this website, and the way it positions itself as more reliable than traditional media outlets. Trust and diversity of perspectives are characteristics that this website flags up so as to hold audiences’ attention in a digital age of ferocious media competition. The main objective of our

presentation is to shed light on the creation of such a website, revealing connections it may have to other international ‘journalistic’ initiatives of the kind (ex. Voice of Europe). We will explore the extent to which such a site represents a novel ‘normalcy’ for journalism and what this means for other official media outlets as well as the public. Issues that arise concern the assimilation of lay contributions by news organisations and implications both for the professionalization of journalism and editorial control over media content (Splichal and Dahlgren 2016).

Methodologically, we will perform content analysis of the Viriato Notícias website, and carry out interviews with its creators, as well as with the publishers of official media outlets or other entities with editorial responsibilities, and regulatory bodies.

Arons de Carvalho, Alberto (2011), ‘O alinhamento político da imprensa Portuguesa’, <http://www.e-clique.com/suplementos/opiniaio/com/o-alinhamentopolitico-da-imprensa-portuguesa/>. Accessed 14 January 2020.

Atton, Chris (2009) ‘Alternative and Citizen Journalism’, in *The Handbook of Journalism Studies* (eds. Karin Wahl-Jorgensen , Thomas Hanitzsch). London: Routledge, pp. 265-278.

Splichal, Slavko & Dahlgren, Peter (2016) ‘Journalism between de-professionalisation and democratisation’, *European Journal of Communication* 31(1): 5-18.

Submission ID

3875

Noticias publicadas por los medios de comunicación españoles en Telegram e interacción por parte de los usuarios

Authors

Hada Sánchez Gonzales - Universidad de Sevilla

Javier Martos - Universidad de Sevilla

Abstract

Las aplicaciones digitales se han convertido en pilar de la democracia (Martí, 2008). Esto se debe al cambio de rol de la audiencia, pasando de ser consumidores a *prosumidores* (Sánchez, 2016), y a su protagonismo en el debate político, económico, social y cultural (Gil de Zúñiga, 2015). Con ello, la presencia de los usuarios se hace notoria no sólo en entornos públicos (redes sociales), sino en entornos privados como las plataformas de mensajería (*WhatsApp, Telegram...*). Esta última destaca por cualidades como la comunicación directa o su carácter multimedia.

Los estudios sobre este fenómeno son escasos. Se han abordado análisis respecto a su uso por cinco medios españoles (Negreira, López y Lozano, 2017), su impacto en las redacciones (Palomo y Serrano, 2018) o las estrategias (Sánchez y Martos, 2018) empleadas por los medios. Esta investigación analiza los contenidos difundidos por los medios y determina si cubren las expectativas de la audiencia, aspectos que aún no han sido estudiados. Se emplean técnicas cualitativas y cuantitativas: elaboración de una ficha de análisis que tiene en cuenta como indicadores aquellas frases o palabras con fórmulas de cortesía (Grice, 1975), expresiones pragmáticas (Rebollo, 2015) y formato (imagen, vídeo, audio, etc). También se ha realizado una encuesta a 150 usuarios (profesionales de la comunicación y profesores de universidad).

Más de la mitad de los usuarios consume noticias difundidas a través de *Telegram*, según los resultados de la presente investigación. Aunque son pocos los medios que interactúan con la audiencia, destacan por buscar una mayor conexión a través de contenido personalizado.

Referencias:

- Gil de Zúñiga, H. (2015). Toward a European Public Sphere? The Promise and Perils of Modern Democracy in the Age of Digital and Social Media. *International Journal of Communication* 9(2015),3152–3160.
- Grice, H. (1975). Logic and conversation. En: Cole, P.& Morgan, J.L. (eds.) *Syntax and Semantics* 2, Speech Acts. New York: Harper and Row, pp.41–58.
- Martí, J.L. (2008). Alguna precisión sobre las nuevas tecnologías y la democracia deliberativa y participativa. *Revista d'Internet, Dret i Política*, 6, pp.3-12.
- Negreira, M.C.; López, X.& Lozano, L. (2017). Instant Messaging Networks as a New Channel to Spread the News: Use of WhatsApp and Telegram in the Spanish Online Media of Proximity. *Recent Advances in Information Systems and Technologies. WorldCIST 2017. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing* (571):64-72.
- Rebollo, L. (2005). Formas de tratamiento y cortesía en el mundo hispánico. *Cervantes*. Disponible en: https://cvc.cervantes.es/ensenanza/biblioteca_ele/publicaciones_centros/PDF/rio_2005/03_rebollo.pdf.
- Sánchez H.M. (2016). Regularización de la actividad periodística y perfiles profesionales: Medios sociales y conectividad 2.0 con la audiencia. En: Sánchez, H. M. (ed.) (2016). *Nuevos retos para el Periodista. Innovación, creación y emprendimiento*. Valencia: Tirant Humanidades, pp.63-97.

- Sánchez, H. & Martos-Moreno, J. (2018). *Telegram* como nueva estrategia de comunicación e información periodística en España. En: *XXIV Congreso Internacional de la Sociedad Española de Periodística. Post-periodismo: Entre lo real y lo virtual*. Málaga, 24-25 May. <https://eventos.uma.es/15425/files/xxiv-congreso-internacional-de-la-sep.-post-periodismo.-entre-lo-real-y-virtual.html>.
- Sedano, J. & Palomo, B. (2018). Aproximación metodológica al impacto de *WhatsApp* y *Telegram* en las redacciones. *Hipertext.net* (16):61-67.

Submission ID

3877

Panel presentation: Theorising the relationship between media literacy and the (un)safety of journalists

Authors

Jackie Harrison - Centre for Freedom of the Media, University of Sheffield

Sara Torsner - Centre for Freedom of the Media, University of Sheffield

Abstract

This paper argues that strategies to secure journalistic safety must recognise that the ability of journalism to serve society by providing trustworthy and accurate news depends upon an inextricable relationship with a media literate citizenry that is able to understand the consequences of attacks on journalists and journalism. An ability to distinguish professional journalistic sources from forms of mis- and disinformation is certainly key to such media literacy. However, we argue that media literacy rests upon an even more fundamental and largely un-recognised premise, namely that citizens understand both the societal relevance and the civil value of journalism. Understanding these is what endows citizens with the capacity to bestow trust in journalism, which in turn is the basis upon which the relationship between journalism and a well-informed public ultimately rests. We are however, witnessing how the relationship of trust between journalism and citizens has increasingly come under attack from forces that seek to discredit and reject the value of professional journalism. Indeed, accusations of ‘fake news’ directed at journalistic information deliberately target the very idea that journalism is something that societies should value, protect and trust. Attacks on journalism minimise the capacity of a civil society to be capable of reflection, adaptation and assimilation of others, limit the capacity of social criticism to be heard, frustrate democratic integration and pervert feelings of solidarity and hospitality (Harrison, 2019). These conditions leave journalism vulnerable to attack and produce conditions of un-safety for journalists and produce the conditions of civil diminishment (Harrison, 2019 and Torsner, 2019).

The paper develops a theoretical rationale to show how the societal relevance and civil value of journalism needs to be understood in relation to democratic associative and communicative collective life as ‘*a value-laden system with a strong ethos of political equality and tolerance*’

which requires ‘a large reservoir of social capital among people’ (Strömbäck, 2005: 335-336). According to Harrison (2019, p. 34) such ‘civil power’ is exercised by journalism when it is oriented towards a set of basic normative ideals described as the ‘civil values of social criticism, democratic integration, civility, justice, reciprocity, and mutual respect’. Using Civil Sphere Theory (Alexander, 2006) this paper theorises the relationship between media literacy and the (un)safety of journalists and argues that a media literate society that understands the societal relevance and civil value of journalism is more likely to endow citizens with the capacity to trust journalism and to defend journalism and protect it against attack.

Submission ID

3942

Praxeology of The New Journalism in Latin America

Authors

Lucia Mesquita - Dublin

Kamila Fernandes - Federal University of Ceará

Abstract

By bringing new actors into the media ecosystem, the Internet and, more specifically, social media has undermined the dominant discourse of journalism as the final bastion of truth (Ekström & Westlund, 2019). According to many authors, the means of production and distribution have been affected to such a degree and at no return, forcing the media market to innovate and establish new business models (Graves & Konieczna, 2015; Deuze & Witschge, 2018; Anderson et al., 2012; Anderson, Bell and Shirky, 2015). The present study aims to discuss the various ways in which journalism can combat this challenging environment, engaging in new models and formats that bring together communities and a whole range of new actors through new praxeology of journalism production, circulation, and distribution. Answering the question: what the face of the new journalism is, its norms and practices, and how and if they are different from the traditional *modus operandi* of the profession. In Latin America, we have seen a growing number of organizations participating in the news ecosystem. Moreover, recent research, such as Harlow and Salaverría (2016), which mapped native-digital outlets in the region, concluded that “the most influential online-native websites are attempting to renovate traditional, outdated forms of journalism, serving as alternatives to mainstream media even if the organizations do not necessarily self-identify as ‘alternative’” (p. 11). At the same time, other authors have been concerned about the changes in labour relations established in these new economic arrangements (Figaro & Nonato, 2017), as well as the sources of funding (Santos, Pontes, & Paes, 2018). There is also an interest in grasping external elements, which help to shape the professional culture of journalists in the region (Mellado, Moreira, Lagos, & Hernández, 2012), and their strategies to work under violent conditions to produce investigative content (Saldaña & Mourão, 2018). The specificities of our object of study, contemporary digital journalistic practices spread in Latin American countries outside the mainstream, lead us to the application of an exploratory methodology (Bonin, 2012), as we speak of

phenomena that are in full construction and mutation, without having yet reached an evident hegemonic model. Therefore, we decided to conduct a multiple case study, with two stages: the first with the application of an online questionnaire and the second with interviews. With the broader questionnaire, we seek to identify patterns and differences in the productive processes and working conditions of the respondent media groups, but also to perceive values and worldviews about what they consider to be the social role of journalism. Already with the semi-structured interviews (Boni & Quaresma, 2005), conducted with a smaller number of Latin American journalistic content producers, we seek to deepen these perceptions, detailing the routines, innovations, and difficulties that pervade the practices they spread.

Submission ID

3948

Panel presentation: Articulating safety of journalists and media and information literacy strategies in a multi-stakeholder media ecosystem

Authors

Guilherme Canela - UNESCO

Saorla McCabe - UNESCO

Theresa Chorbacher - UNESCO

Sara Torsner - Centre for Freedom of the Media, University of Sheffield

Abstract

This paper argues that in order to harness the beneficial effects of media information literacy (MIL) on safety of journalists, strategies must be multistakeholder-driven and sensitive to intersecting forms of discrimination (including but not limited to sexism and racism).

Media and information literacy can improve safety of journalists by fostering understanding of different actors on the important role played by the media in democratic societies. This will in turn influence decision-making that is based on the premise of protecting journalists and their contribution to society.

Firstly, the paper argues that in order to harness the beneficial effects of MIL for journalists' safety, it is necessary to involve stakeholders that go beyond constituencies that are traditionally addressed by MIL initiatives. Specifically, the paper looks at two areas: on the one hand, the role of judiciary actors in protecting safety of journalists; and on the other, journalists' safety in times of elections, specifically in the context of disinformation campaigns.

Examining these two case studies, the paper discusses how building the MIL competencies of these actors can contribute to creating a safer environment for journalists.

Judicial operators in some cases lack basic understanding not only of the role of journalists in a democratic society, but also of the practical implications of journalistic work. It is therefore necessary to engage in enhancing skills of judicial operators, including judges, on the journalistic process of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information, or topics such as source protection.

Furthermore, journalists are specifically threatened during times of elections and within the context of disinformation campaigns. This paper claims that electoral management bodies should be included in MIL efforts. If electoral regulators recognize the role of journalists and have a basic understanding of the journalistic process, they can perceive journalists as allies in fighting disinformation campaigns. However, this also implies an understanding of media independence.

Secondly, this paper argues that media information literacy must take into account intersecting forms of discrimination in order to contribute effectively to improving the safety of journalists. This includes gender-based discrimination, but also racism and other forms of identity-based violence. Threats and violence against journalists are informed by discriminatory ideas such as sexism and racism and therefore, deconstructing these ideas as well as addressing openly possible strategies in combating them must be part and parcel of MIL efforts.

In conclusion, this paper puts forth two key claims, namely the need to adopt a multistakeholder approach when employing MIL strategies for safety of journalists and the need to mainstream the issue of intersecting forms of discrimination into these. By looking at two different areas related to journalistic safety, actors involved as well as issues at stake, the paper suggests that MIL can be a key component in creating an ecosystem that promotes safety of journalists more effectively.

Submission ID

3951

Ethnification of the news: A study of recent changes in the

Ethiopian media

Authors

Terje Skjerdal - NLA University College

Abstract

Ethnic issues are among the most controversial areas to be covered by the news media, and media outlets themselves are often suspected of bias in such reporting. Audiences in multi-ethnic societies are known to identify with outlets which are believed to support their own ethnic bias. The journalistic media, and even more so the social media, are frequently accused of playing a polarizing role with regard to ethnicity and cultural identity.

This study is an analysis of the changing role of the media in ethnic politics in a diverse society on the Horn of Africa – Ethiopia. Since 2018, the country has undergone massive political changes with significant effects for society and citizens. The country’s new prime minister, Dr. Abiy Ahmed, sparked off a range of reforms once he came to power in April 2018. Among these were the liberalization of the media sector and the promise of freer conditions for journalists, which led to Ethiopia’s record leap of 40 steps forward on Reporters Without Borders’ press freedom index from 2018 to 2019. At the same time, a number of journalists who had lived in exile in the West started to return to their homeland and re-launch their media businesses on the ground in Ethiopia.

The recent developments in Ethiopia, despite PM Abiy’s recognition in the international community as peace-seeker and reformer, testify to heightened ethnic tensions and conflict throughout the country’s ten regions. The security situation ahead of the planned national elections in August 2020 is highly uncertain. Violent clashes continue to erupt at a pace unknown for many years. Evidently, the media scene reflects this tendency with rife attention on ethnicity and belonging. One may say that the Ethiopian media today are subject to an ethnic turn.

Using a combination of qualitative in-depth interviews with Ethiopian editors and case studies of media content, the study seeks to describe the ethnification currently taking place in the Ethiopian journalistic media. A key question to ask is whether the sudden liberalization of the media has led to a healthier climate for public deliberation, or if the newfound openness to the contrary serves to fuel ethnic aggression.

Submission ID

4012

Predicament of Chinese Investigative Journalists in Digital Ages

Authors

Lin Pan - City, University of London

Abstract

Investigative journalism was introduced to China in the late 20th century. Unlike the role of its counterpart acting as the Fourth Estate in democracies, Chinese investigative journalism acts as an extension of state power to control, monitor local powers and to improve “socialist democracy”. For Chinese investigative journalists, they see themselves the conscience of Chinese society, and take investigative journalism as the highest benchmark in journalism field. Thus either for the need of the state or for the individual’s career pursuit in the journalism field, investigative journalism plays a significant role in Chinese society. However, a statistic in 2017 shows a dramatic decline in investigative journalists in China, compared with that six years ago, which raises the questions towards the predicaments of investigative journalism and possibilities of realisation of its role in digital age. Two distinguished characteristics of investigative journalism, which also distinguished investigative journalism from other kinds of journalism, can account for parts of the predicament currently. First, it’s leak-oriented which requires more unofficial or anonymous sources. Second, it

takes more responsibilities to protect for sources, because they can only obtain valuable information if they keep sources safe. Despite new technology makes it possible for journalists to protect the whistle-blower's identity through encrypted communication platforms, investigative journalists are affected significantly in an era of surveillance and digital privacy erosion. Also, the chilling effect generated afterwards, and the absence of privacy are believed to be decisive obstacles to communication.

This research aims to explore these problems Chinese investigative journalism face from the perspective of communication rights, trying to examine how communication rights manifest itself in the group of investigative journalists in digital age, and to what extent the rights investigative journalists should have were harmed in China. All these discussions are focused only in the process of news production. According to the assessment framework of rights proposed by the CRIS campaign, which is generic and not designed based in any particular place, and coupled with the characteristics of investigative journalism, the study proposes, in digital age, the rights of investigative journalists is closely related to these aspects: information privacy and data protection; privacy of communication; communication surveillance in public and workplace. To examine how communication rights were implemented and eroded in the group of investigative journalists in Chinese context based on the three dimensions (case studies), the research finds out, the communication rights investigative journalists have are easily to be eroded due to the contradiction between civil rights and rights of investigative journalists, chilling effects generated from mass surveillance and the weakened effectiveness of legal protections, as well as the deficiency of legal system. Thus the research suggests to ensure investigative journalists functioning for the good of society, this special group should be empowered with more particular rights or policies, to secure their rights to investigation and rights to defend themselves.

Submission ID

4075

Reporting on complexity - Findings from a multi-method study on the example of coverage of the climate summit in New York in selected German media

Authors

Marlis Prinzing - Macromedia University of Applied Sciences

Abstract

Whether global warming and climate change or the corona virus: in an increasingly globalized society, journalism has the task of communicating more complex topics than ever before. Another thing these topics have in common is that they are often fact-based and involve uncertainties: In climate reporting, there is a wealth of data and evidence-based positions from climate research, but the forecasts made by experts on this basis always contain only probabilities: The actual

consequences could be much worse or even less bad. The situation is similar when it comes to reporting on a pandemic, as is currently the case around Covid-19.

This article takes a theoretical approach to the understanding of the roles and functions of journalism (Burkhard, Wagner, Weischenberg) and focuses on the social functions of journalism, in particular: Empowerment. This means i.e. the task of giving people arguments and options for action through reporting so that they themselves can participate in discussions and act more consciously.

We have tried to gain further insights by using a multi-method design (content analysis, panel group survey and guided interviews).

The starting point was a content analysis: How did selected (German) daily newspapers and journalistic online platforms of daily media with regional and national focus report on climate change and global warming around the climate summit in September 2019 in New York: What was discussed, who had their say, how were arguments put forward? The sample comprised around 500 analysis units. Findings are very much event-centred (climate protests) and person-centred reporting (Greta Thunberg etc.); many media still give little space to constructive elements in reporting (what can I do? Where has something improved?).

A panel group survey with 15 people (age: 20-25) using selected examples of climate reporting showed that this kind of reporting quickly loses audience. A "reporting overload" means that the topic is less and less taken note of; this also applies to common methods of making a topic communicable via e.g. focusing on prominent people (i.e. Thunberg). The interviewees stated that in topics with far-reaching consequences, research-based reporting would be more important to them and, above all, concrete indications of what they can do.

Guideline interviews with four journalists whose newsrooms have special responsibility for climate reporting led to a number of approaches where they see improvements. They see no need for special guidelines for reporting on climate change, the basic journalistic quality standards are followed as usual. They see the biggest challenge in reporting on climate change as "being truly constructive. In the wake of these daily bad news stories, a feeling of powerlessness quickly spreads among the people". (Bastian Schlange, Correctiv). The interviewees describe concepts for a dialogue with the public, also in public events, about climate change; they refuse to give much space to the positions of deniers, but to fact-checks on their allegations. The various positions in climate research, on the other hand, are given a place and are taken up "with the maximum transparency" about the background of the scientists and the institutes.

Submission ID

4108