



# Journalism Research and Education Section

Abstracts of papers accepted for presentation in the Online Conference Papers of the  
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1 These are the abstracts of the papers submitted to the IAMCR section or working group named above for presentation in the Online Conference Papers component of the 2021 annual conference.

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# **Different views for different readers? China's English-language and domestic newspapers on the 2016 US presidential candidates**

## **Authors**

Ms. Fangyuan Liu - Cambridge University

Ms. Hejunchao Li - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Dr. Tabe Bergman - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Dr. Xianwen Kuang - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

## **Abstract**

Much of the existing literature on Chinese media focuses on political pressures and the changes in the media reform period since the early 1980s, especially commercialization (e.g. Repnikova, 2017; Stockmann, 2013). Other research looks at the Chinese media's increasing efforts to influence global opinion (e.g. Thussu, 2018) or the relationship between Chinese media and foreign policy (e.g. Hinck et al., 2016). Despite the burgeoning of research on China's media, its representation of US presidential candidates and elections remains relatively unexplored. Moreover, potential differences in content produced by Chinese media aimed at foreign versus domestic audiences have received very little attention from scholars. Therefore, this paper compares the commentary on the 2016 US presidential candidates Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, and Bernie Sanders in China's two main English-language newspapers, with the commentary in the main domestic one. The English-language newspapers – *China Daily* and *The Global Times* – have been at the forefront of the mission to enhance China's soft power (Thussu, 2018), whereas *People's Daily* has long served as the “throat and tongue” of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) for Chinese readers. We conducted a thematic analysis of all the relevant opinion articles between January 1 and November 7, 2016, election day, in the three newspapers. We found that both the English-language newspapers and the Chinese-language newspaper commented negatively on Trump and Clinton, but that the stated reasons were different. In China's English-language press, Trump was criticized the harshest and was virtually never discussed positively. His popularity was interpreted as resulting from the deep-seated problems with American democracy. Clinton, too, was primarily seen as representing the deficiencies of US democracy, but she was discussed in milder terms. Sanders was discussed relatively little and received both negative and sympathetic comments. The Chinese-language newspaper *People's Daily* treated Trump and Clinton critically as well, like the English-language papers, yet in an indirect way, and primarily because of their unfavorable policies toward China. The *People's Daily* discussed Sanders much less than the other two candidates, and rather neutrally. We conclude that, despite the many similarities, in certain ways the newspapers differed in their stated views on the three US presidential candidates. We speculate that these differences result at least in part from the different positions the newspapers occupy in China's media landscape, including their different target readerships.

## Submission ID

61

# Mr. Gates and his Boy's Club? Understanding Women's Representation in Political News Coverage

## Authors

Mr. Andreas Riedl - Austrian Academy of Sciences

Mr. Tobias Rohrbach - University of Fribourg

Mrs. Christina Krakovsky - Austrian Academy of Sciences

## Abstract

Women's under- and misrepresentation in political news coverage has been problematized as a substantial breach of normative media diversity requirements and as a democratic deficit. While research has routinely linked these biases to the political reality of female underrepresentation in positions of power, it has also shown that various aspects of journalism can mitigate or reinforce gendered patterns in media coverage (Author, yyyy). However, we lack a systematic and holistic understanding, which factors within newsrooms and the process of news production support or impede the representation of women. Approaching women's representation as a question of *gatekeeping*, we derive a multidimensional conceptual framework inspired by Shoemaker & Reese's (2014) *hierarchy of influences* to investigate the gatekeeping influences of journalism on three distinct, though interrelated, layers.

On the outermost layer of *journalistic culture*, we hypothesize that journalists' identification with specific *professional roles* influences how they represent women in their reporting. We argue that the underlying rationale behind these roles – and not necessarily gender differences in their adoption – reflects the gendered logic of journalistic culture (Vandenberghe et al., 2020). A second layer considers *newsrooms as gendered organizations* that strongly shape news routines and practices. We touch upon the understudied influence of *gender guidelines* for reporting (De Swert & Hooghe, 2010), which imply newsrooms' collective awareness. The third level construes *journalists as individuals*; here, we test whether the finding of past studies that journalists' *own gender* drives women's representation, with men journalists covering women actors to a lesser extent (Leiva & Kimber, 2020), is still valid when controlled for the other factors. Finally, we explore how these levels are interconnected (Rodgers & Thorson, 2003) and inductively examine how journalists negotiate such influences and pressures in their daily work.

Empirically, our study relies on a mixed methods nested research design. Combining a quantitative manual content analysis (n=4.353 news items) with a quantitative survey of the authoring journalists (n=208) allows to investigate the relative impact of journalists' work-related factors on women's representation in their actual output. To deepen the understanding of how journalists negotiate these factors in their daily routines and practices, we conducted qualitative "Newsmaking Reconstructions"

(Reich & Barnoy, 2020) – a technique in which the "story behind the story" is discursively reconstructed – with selected authoring journalists (n=24) out of the sample.

Quantitative findings suggest that journalists' own gender is the strongest predictor for women's representation, with female journalists covering women to a larger extent – though still strongly below the representation of men. Specific journalistic roles significantly but weakly predict the presence and number of women in political news. Whether and how journalists perceive the existence of gender guidelines does not translate into their actual output, casting doubt on their effectiveness. The qualitative analysis emphasizes the relevance of each layer as well as several concrete intersections between them. While this study focuses on the specific boundaries of a journalistic culture and system within the national context of Austria, we discuss how our findings open paths to comparative research in other settings.

## **Submission ID**

146

# **Visibility, Inclusion, and Exclusion in Work Experiences of Immigrant Women Journalists: Three generations of Russian-Israeli Women Journalists**

## **Authors**

Prof. Einat Lachover - Sapir Academic College

## **Abstract**

The current study focuses on Russian-Israeli women journalists who resettled in Israel during the mass immigration wave from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) of the 1990s and who contend with intersecting exclusion relating to their gender, ethnicity and immigration. It is based on gender and migration scholarship, conceptualizing gender as a system of relations that is influenced by migration and as a fluid, multi-level set of practices embedded in social relations shaped by other social categories, such as ethnicity, class and nationality.

I aim to analyse how the intersecting and marginalized identities of post-Soviet Israeli women journalists shape their work experience, how their different axes of identity, and especially gender, ethnicity and immigration, emerge in their journalistic work experience. More specifically, I aim to understand how their professional identity and their intersectional positioned identity shape their work experience: What mechanisms exclude these women from and within the profession; what mechanisms promote inclusion of them within the profession of journalism; and what strategies do they implement to cope with the barriers they confront?

I follow an interpretative perspective that focuses on the 'everyday experience' of the women journalists themselves, referring to their complex array of experiences as marginalized women in

gendered social sites as well as within the ethnic and immigration context of the subordinated group in relation to the dominant group.

Based on narrative interviews with 18 Russian-Israeli women journalists, I provide a nuanced analysis of how the intersection of gender, ethnicity, and immigration marginalizes them. A thematic analysis of the interviews revealed three major patterns of work experiences of the Russian-speaking women journalists related strongly to their immigration generation: the different age and phase of the life cycle they migrated—distinguishing between first generation, second generation and 1.5 generation. Additionally, I found the concept of ‘visibility in immigration’ as a useful analytical tool, particularly in the context of the gendered and ethno-national ‘homecoming’ of post-Soviet women journalists. I conclude that each generation experiences, adopts, and develops distinct mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion deriving from its social visibility. This finding may refine social understanding of the challenges and contributions of diversity in journalism and newsrooms.

## **Submission ID**

192

# **Up Against the Wall: The Case for Opening the Mexican-American Border**

## **Authors**

Prof. Peter Laufer - University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication

## **Abstract**

*Up Against the Wall* offers a blueprint of radical proposals for the U.S.-Mexican border that go far beyond traditional initiatives to ease restrictions on northbound immigration. It provides the historical, political, social and cultural background needed to understand how the border has become a fraud, resulting in nothing more than the criminalization of Mexican and other migrants, the bloating of the mismanaged U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the deterioration of living standards along the frontier, and the enrichment of American employers.

Scores of interviews with authoritative figures, along with those men and women personally affected by border crises, fuel the project.

To find fact, opinion and experience to bolster my argument, over several years I’ve visited and studied borders worldwide. I’ve traveled the U.S.-Mexican border, meeting with the victims and the perpetrators of U.S. government immigration policy. As both a borders scholar and a journalist, I’ve looked at the border wars through the prism of news and news reporting. Stories I relate of my Mexican journalist colleagues fighting bribery – a plague long institutionalized as a tool to manipulate Mexican journalism – offer an exposé into the rot in the Mexican economy, rot that emboldens frustrated workers to look to the U.S. for a better life. I’ve wandered deep into Mexico to observe, experience and record the poverty and hopelessness that drive migrants to leave their homes and risk their lives on the tortuous journey north. I’ve talked with undocumented immigrants living the American Dream and

walked the beat with cops frustrated by unenforceable immigration laws. Added to the mix are stories from immigration lawyers and from those ultimately responsible for enticing Mexicans north: their employers in *El Norte*. And I relate the targeting of journalists for threats by assassins who enjoy impunity following the muzzling murders they commit. On my journey, I've avoided the obvious border trip along the line that marks the artificial national frontier separating Mexico and the U.S. Instead, I've traveled the extended border, crisscrossing the melded cultures from Niagara Falls to Chiapas, from Mexico City to Washington, DC, studying the borders that exist in our heads and hearts, searching for sane and humane solutions to the problems and conflicts plaguing our two countries.

As its conclusion, my *Up Against the Wall* study argues that the U.S. border with Mexico should be open for Mexicans wishing to travel north with the same minimal restrictions Canadians face crossing their border with the U.S. to travel south. The result of this experiential, participatory and advocacy research is the just-published book, *Up Against the Wall* (Anthem Press, 2020), featuring a foreword by former Mexican president Vicente Fox.

## **Submission ID**

201

## **Inter-national trends in online violence against women journalists in a comparative context**

### **Authors**

Dr. Alice Baroni - University of Padova

### **Abstract**

This paper presents the partial results of the Advocate project, "Addressing visual imagery in online harassment and/or offline abuse of women (photo-) journalists," and reflects upon the complex interplay between global and local by looking at the nexus between inter-national trends in online violence against women journalists in a comparative context with selected countries, i.e., Italy and Brazil. These countries are representatives of different socio-cultural contexts; they in addition have shown different levels of awareness to discuss and address the fast-increasing problem of online harassment and intimidation of women journalists.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, this situation deserves even more scrutiny, as authorities worldwide are using the contagion as a reason to limit democratic freedoms, restrict information, stifle criticism and crack down on the news media (Funk et al., 2020; Committee to Protect Journalists, 2020). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet made a clear statement on the situation of journalists, where several states imposed restrictive measures, which culminated in over 130 alleged media violations and arrests (UN Human Rights, 2020; International Press Institute, 2020).

This is in line with findings from previous reports, conducted by UNESCO and the International Center for Journalists (2020) and the International Women's Media Foundation (2014; 2018), which indicate that online violence against women journalists has become a frontline in journalism safety, particularly

in the coronavirus pandemic. However, there is still reluctance from the side of women journalists to denounce the attacks they experience, in addition to a lack of awareness or even acknowledgment of gender in/equalities inside newsrooms and in the digital media environment.

There is a fast-growing body of research on the intimidation and (sexual) harassment of journalists (Lemke, 2020; Löfgren Nilsson et al., 2016; North, 2007; 2015; 2016; Adams, 2018; Flatow, 1994; McAdams et al., 1994; Hardin et al., 2005; Matloff, 2007); journalists' experiences of online harassment and attacks (Binns, 2017; Chen et al., 2018; Edström, 2016; Martin, 2018, Waisbord, 2020)), and the impact on press/ self-censorship. This paper seeks to make a contribution to the discussion by reflecting on some findings of the Advocate project, in comparison with the dynamics of (online) violence against women journalists indicated by international studies and reports, to shed light on the particularities of the situation in Italy and Brazil, without losing sight of global trends in the safety of journalists.

Methodologically, this study combines findings of the Advocate's online survey and semi-structured interviews with 32 (photo-) journalists, editors-in-chief, and representatives of professional journalism associations in Italy and Brazil, conducted in the context of the Advocate and also the Media for Democracy Monitor (MDM) international project. This aims for a better understanding of journalists' experiences of abuse, and to critically analyse existing normative frameworks on media and gender equality at the level of news media and professional associations, as well as current practices to support journalist women exposed to online/ offline violence.

## **Submission ID**

230

# **COVID-19 and learner-centred teaching: How the adoption of emergency blended learning pedagogies accelerated a change in teaching practice in journalism education**

## **Authors**

Ms. Sisanda Nkoala - Cape Peninsula University of Technology

Dr. Trust Matsilele - Cape Peninsula University of Technology

## **Abstract**

Since the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic earlier this year, universities around the world have undergone totally unanticipated changes in the way they operate and in the way they deliver the academic programme. Chief among these changes has been a wide-scale adoption of blended learning pedagogies. The aim of this study is to explore how this pandemic has fast tracked these pedagogies, which, in turn has resulted in teaching practice that is more learner-centred. This study takes a reflexive and narrative approach, employing auto-ethnographic methods, to exploring the perspectives of academics and students at a historically disadvantage university in South

Africa. In the past universities in this context have been slow in adopting online pedagogies due to issues around access to the necessary technologies. However, with social distancing being enforced as a measure until a vaccine for the virus is available, these interventions have become mandatory if universities are to salvage the academic programme. Drawing on the thinking of Weimer, and a constructivism theoretical framework, this study explores the ways in which these emergency interventions have fostered learner-centred teaching as an exercise in changing teaching practice in journalism education at a university of technology in South Africa. Reflecting on the changes that were necessitated by the pandemic, the lecturers and students describe the ways in which emergency online pedagogies enabled a more learner-centred approach in how they transferred power from lecturers to students, changed the role of the lecturer from the source of knowledge to a facilitator of knowledge, and shifted the responsibility of learning from the lecturer to the student. The study concludes that even though these approaches were designed due to an emergency, the paradigm shift that has occurred should not be done away with once the crisis have abated.

## **Submission ID**

296

## **Ethnic cues and journalistic norms: A dilemma in contemporary news reporting**

### **Authors**

Ms. Sandra Simonsen - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### **Abstract**

In the scholarly literature, it is empirically well established that national news media frame migration as a threat to native populations by reference to economy, security and culture. However, underlying linguistic strategies within the news framing process has not yet been systematically conceptualized. To investigate such strategies, I compare frames from two national news environments—Sweden and Denmark—that represent somewhat opposite political and social responses to migration. In Denmark, ethnic information is a key part of public discourse on migration, whereas in Sweden, treating ethnicity as a factor for explaining behavior isn't only stigmatized, but in practice rather difficult, since the collection of population data does not include ethnicity as a category, and so such information is far less available.

Yet, in spite ethnicity is a category that is downplayed, citizens still experience ethnic diversity in their everyday lives. Continuous migration flows is a lived experience and citizens are interested in the possible consequences of their political choices. Similarly, journalists whose professional identities require that they provide predictions on current events, still speculate on the issue of migration and the future consequences. How does journalists circumvent the norms that forbids categorizing individuals on the basis on ethnicity and what linguistic devices do they use instead of ethnic cues to provide audiences with information on migration?

I find that threat frames persists in both environments, however, their manifestations are expressed more or less overtly. News may provide explicit cues that denote ethnicity, but there is a wide range of implicit uses that effectively convey the same information. I identify a range of linguistic devices utilized to represent social actors, their actions and geographical locations, that are seemingly neutral with regards to ethnicity but nevertheless express semantic meaning that signify ethnicity. This practice that can be captured by the concept *semantic ethnification*, which I define as a process whereby ethnic identities of social actors have gained salience and are expressed through strategies that rely on implicit and covert lexical connotations rather than explicit cues that denote ethnicity.

The findings imply that even in the most liberal and cosmopolitan media environments the relevance of ethnicity still creep in. In spite of journalistic and social norms that restrict ethnic labels, ethnic meaning persists, as it is transferred onto other linguistic devices in order to comply with social norms. As such, the study emphasize how - in a multi ethnic environment - two journalistic norms conflict. On the one hand, journalists are expected to provide audiences with meaningful information on societal events. On the other hand, journalists are interested in contributing to social cohesion and complying with social norms of political correctness. If journalists fail to balance these two contrasting norms, some audiences might perceive omissions as censorship and lose trust in the media – a tendency we already see the contours of hence the rise of alternative media outlets.

## **Submission ID**

376

# **The Good, the Bad and the Balanced: A critical analysis of the representation of black African migrants in South African Daily News and Daily Sun, 2016-2017**

## **Authors**

Mr. Clifford Jani - University of KwaZulu Natal

Prof. Lauren Dyll - University of KwaZulu Natal

## **Abstract**

Migration is a human practice that has connected different civilizations across the world. However, some of its modern manifestations can threaten peace and security. For those outside migration's immediate reach, the news media is an important source for public understanding of its flows and consequences. Hence this paper examines the close and dynamic relationship between the contemporary media and migration. In South Africa the representation of black African migrants in the press remains contested, with some studies acknowledging the dominance of a negative and biased portrayal of black African migrants in the newspapers (Kariithi *et al.* 2017, Pineteh 2017, Mawadza and Carciotto 2017, Danso and McDonald 2001). This paper examines how black African migrants are represented in two of the dominant newspapers in South Africa; *Daily News* and *Daily Sun*. Content and critical discourse analyses are used to examine the key words, tone and metaphors in newspaper

articles to identify how black African migrants are represented. Stories about refugees, immigrants, foreigners and asylum seekers were selected for analysis across 40 news articles, analysing the linguistic character of newspaper content pertaining to black African migrants during the period 2016–2017. It identifies significant patterns that are consistent with extant literature on negative media constructions of migrants and it also reveals the few positive narratives found in the *Daily News* and *Daily Sun* which previous research tends to overlook. A critical finding is the negative associations of black African migrants with ‘illegality’, ‘stealing jobs’, ‘prostitution’ and ‘crime’. There are few newspaper reports on successful migrants and these two newspapers tend to cover more of the gory activities of the black African migrants such as murders and violence. This paper concludes that the *Daily News* and *Daily Sun* construct Afrophobia through its negative portrayal of migrants and often emphasise that these people are not welcome in South Africa. This is also escalated by populist politicians who are quoted in the media fighting for removal of migrants in South Africa.

## **Submission ID**

387

## **Narratives of peace and conflict in Kenya: a genre approach**

### **Authors**

Mrs. Cecilia Arregui Olivera - Aarhus University

### **Abstract**

This paper argues that the concept of peace journalism (PJ) should be thought of less as a model and more as a set of intertwining issues and parameters that can advance both the study and the practice of conflict reporting. In doing so, it challenges the methodological homogeneity of PJ research, that has mostly relied on quantitative content analysis as a way to classify texts as either peace or war journalism based on a fixed set of indicators. Instead, here the aim is to explore the various and more nuanced ways in which conflicts are constructed and negotiated.

Empirically, the paper focuses on the coverage of the 2017 elections in Kenya and the 2019 Dusit terror attack in Nairobi. By qualitatively analysing a dataset of 170 online legacy newspaper stories on these events—96 published in Kenyan news outlets and 74 in foreign ones—the analysis seeks to identify the prevailing narratives and how these portray and construct conflicts. A salient question is how the characteristics of war and peace journalism play out in these constructions, and how several arrangements of such characteristics combine to tell coherent stories.

While much of PJ literature has relied on framing theory (e.g. Lee and Maslog 2005), it has been argued that narratives can be more “accommodating” for the study of conflict reporting than frames, for including “a wide range of voices, events and viewpoints” as well as to connect conflict-related events from different points in time (Tenenboim-Weinblatt et al. 2016, 152-153). Furthermore, prior research has recognised a correlation between the length of an article and peace journalism: the longer a text, the more likely to present characteristics of PJ (Lee and Maslog 2005, 322). Additionally, Arregui et al. (2020, 16) found more PJ indicators in features, opinion pieces or editorials than in hard news. These

findings point towards aspects of PJ being more present in certain genres of journalism over others, something this paper will further explore by focusing on the analysis of feature articles.

And so, in order to study journalistic texts as narratives, this paper follows a genre approach. Buozis and Creech (2018, 1430) claim that a methodology that pays attention to the “textual conventions of a genre” helps to focus on news narratives both as “the products of standardized journalistic routines” as well as evidence of “cultural forces at play” that “rely upon journalism’s implicit authority over the truth”. Such an approach is highly relevant for this study. By presenting a preliminary analysis of these articles related to elections and terrorism in Kenya and its prevailing narratives—such as that of preaching peace as a political tool or historic ethnic divide as the root of the conflict—it seeks to advance the understanding of peace journalism as gaining meaning from the broader landscape in which its practice and texts are rooted.

## **Submission ID**

394

# **Identifying Bangladeshi Mainstream Daily Newspapers’ News Treatment Pattern of Rohingya Community During COVID-19**

## **Authors**

Mr. Sanjoy Basak Partha - Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP); Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Ms. Sharmin Jahan Juha - CARE Bangladesh

## **Abstract**

Soon after the World Health Organization’s declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, Bangladesh confirmed its first case in March 2020. Newspapers, as one of the most popular media used for info-gathering, are playing a pivotal role in publicizing this humanitarian disaster. However, since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, the media attention has drastically shifted from the Rohingya crisis as mainstream national dailies in Bangladesh are continuously prioritizing news related to native Bangladeshi people’s sufferings during the pandemic. This one-sided, unequal representation of such a huge population living in Bangladesh results in native mainstream readers’ lack of knowledge of the socio-economic and health-related crisis faced by Rohingyas in times of COVID-19. This study aims to identify the overall pattern of Bangladeshi mainstream newspapers’ treatment given to COVID-19 related news of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This study is expected to contribute to the field of journalism research and education as it will represent the substantive scenario of mainstream Bangladeshi newspapers’ treatment towards the Rohingya community, who are facing a humanitarian crisis for a long period. For this purpose, news contents of 6 *Bangladeshi daily newspapers* (3 Bengali and 3 English) will be quantitatively analyzed using the Media Representation Theory of Stuart Hall and the Media Framing Theory developed by Erving Goffman. Newspapers published between the timeline of April 1st to September 30th, 2020 will be analyzed based on three criteria: 1) *Number of*

COVID-19 news stories published related to Rohingyas, 2) The placement of the Rohingya-COVID-19 news stories on the newspaper, 3) Kind of 'news values' the Rohingya-COVID-19 stories represent. The daily newspapers which will be analyzed for this study are *the Prothom Alo, the Ittefaq, the Kaler Kantha, The Daily Star, the Dhaka Tribune & the Business Standard*. To further understand the scenario, Key Informant Interviews of 2 persons holding editorial position in the selected national daily newspapers and 2 persons holding managerial position in Communication sector of non-government humanitarian organizations working in Cox's Bazar Rohingya camp will be conducted.

**Keywords:** Rohingya, Media representation, Media framing, Bangladeshi newspapers, COVID-19.

## **Submission ID**

444

## **Assessing journalism education in Nepal through global standards**

### **Authors**

Dr. Bhanu Acharya - University of Ottawa, Department of Communication

### **Abstract**

The World Journalism Education Congress, held in Singapore in 2007, identified 11 principles to maintain an international standard of journalism education, including interdisciplinary nature of education, specialized training opportunities for students and teachers, the balance between theoretical and practical knowledge, regularly updated curricula with practical, experimental, and vocational subjects, a strong commitment to research ethics, access to advanced technology and resources, and work relationship with media industry among others (Declaration of Principles, 2007).

How close is Nepal's journalism education in terms of harnessing these standards? This is a crucial question since journalism education in the country more than four decades ago, and six universities and their 80 affiliate colleges in Nepal offer courses on journalism, communication, mass media, and media technology at undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels, benefitting thousands of students every year from these academic endeavours. However, the journalism education in the country is facing serious criticism of impeding quality teaching-learning activities engaging students from the classroom to the newsroom with regard to upholding national and international standards (i.e., Acharya, 2019; Declaration of Principles, 2007; UNESCO, 2013).

This article/presentation will argue that having very limited expert human resources, poor infrastructure, and a lack of practical teaching modules, the quality of journalism education is inadequate to meet international standards. Based on a review of the available literature, this article will critically analyze the following two questions: What is the state of journalism education in Nepal with respect to upholding world journalism education standards? What sorts of challenges to journalism

education its stakeholders have been experiencing, and what can be the possible strategy to maintain quality journalism education in Nepal that meet international standards?

This article will employ a critical analysis approach while reviewing existing literature, identify some of the key factors affecting the quality of journalism education, and suggest some approaches in enhancing journalism education in Nepal from individual and institutional perspectives.

**Keywords:** Journalism education, post-secondary, challenges, international standards, critical review approach

### **Submission ID**

450

## **MPS paper - Entrepreneur-journalists: From beat reporting to generalist reporting in Nigeria**

### **Authors**

Dr. Emeka Umejei - American University of Nigeria

### **Abstract**

The study examines journalistic practices of entrepreneur-journalists, who started out as publishers of single-subject websites and diverged to generalist news platforms. The study draws on journalistic role conception as a theoretical framework and applies a semi-structured interview with 11 entrepreneur-journalists and an online qualitative interview with 15 online journalists. The findings suggest that the transition from beat reporting offline to generalist reporting online has not altered the journalistic role conception of Nigerian journalists. However, the motivations for transforming from beat reporting offline to generalist reporting online is informed by editorial as well economic logics. Also, the diffusion of beat reporting online has not diminished the importance of certain beats that are considered central to journalism practice such as politics, business, entertainment and health. However, it is suggested that online journalists should provide access to diversified sources of information that are not limited by beat reporting.

### **Submission ID**

542

## **Contextualising trauma literacy: A study to create a charter for journalism education and practice in India**

### **Authors**

Ms. Sneha Mehendale - Symbiosis International university

Dr. Neha Jindal - Symbiosis International university

## **Abstract**

A journalist's exposure to trauma is usually linked with reporting about civil unrest and war-torn geographies. Delving into forms of crisis reporting, one understands that it goes beyond reporting catastrophes; it goes to reporting everyday individual sufferings. The journalist is often required to be adept at the skill of reporting about individual traumas and be sensitized towards the same. However, how journalists deal with the pain inflicted upon them in closely comprehending the situation of the victim(s) or scenarios needs more critical deliberation. The journalist may not be all rational and composed while reporting traumatic incidents or natural disasters, or interviewing survivors or criminals. Reporting in times of the CoVid-19 pandemic has given more impetus to trauma literacy.

This study hence aims at comprehending if the journalists get literate in handling trauma as a part of their curricula in the J-schools, in the Indian context. Additionally, the study explores how the working journalists deal with the on-field exposure to trauma. The paper looks at the curriculum of 24 journalism schools – both public and private – in India, as part of secondary data to inspect the element of trauma literacy in these curricula. Following this, in-depth interviews with journalists are conducted to understand if they have been skilled through their professional practice to deal with the trauma faced while reporting and the psychological impact of the same. The study will thus also look at strategies devised by media practitioners to deal with trauma while reporting. The study keeps at its helm Schumpeter's creative destruction with regard to understanding altering curricula and newsroom practices concerning the need and potency of trauma literacy in journalism education and practice. With this, the study aims to build a charter for journalism education to include trauma literacy in its curricula. It intends to create an overall framework that can be used by newsrooms to mitigate trauma, by educating journalists about risks of trauma exposure, the ways to deal with it, practice self-care and address stigma around mental health in reporting traumatic incidents.

## **Submission ID**

547

## **MPS paper - Changing the beat? A comparative study of shifts in local online newsmaking in Finland, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain and the U.K.**

### **Authors**

Prof. joy jenkins - University of Tennessee, (Knoxville)

Dr. Pedro Jerónimo - University of Beira Interior

### **Abstract**

Joy Jenkins, Pedro Jerónimo<sup>2</sup>

Local news organizations are adapting their newsroom routines to better respond to a digital readership. These models feature different levels of online integration, but all aim to restructure newsroom responsibilities to ensure editorial and economic sustainability. This study uses a cross-national approach to assess how roles and structures in local and regional newsrooms are changing in the digital environment. In-depth interviews with managers, editors, and journalists in six countries (Finland, France, Germany, the U.K., Portugal, and Spain) illuminate how their newsrooms are organized, particularly for the production of digital content; how they have adapted their roles and responsibilities, including beat assignments, to better reflect audience preferences; and how they describe the challenges and opportunities of adopting new work practices and editorial philosophies to respond to these shifts. The findings shed light on how online newsmaking varies according to different sizes, ownership structures, and national contexts of local news organizations.

## **Submission ID**

686

## **MPS paper - Thematic beats as micro-cultures? The relation between news topics and role performance across news organisations and cultures**

### **Authors**

Prof. Claudia Mellado - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso

Dr. Mireya Márquez-Ramírez - Universidad Iberoamericana, MEXICO

Dr. Cornelia Mothes - Macromedia University of Applied Sciences, GERMANY

Dr. María Luisa Humanes - Rey Juan Carlos University,

### **Abstract**

Claudia Mellado, Mireya Márquez-Ramirez, Cornelia Mothes, María Luisa Humanes

Based on a content analysis of 33,640 news stories from the Journalistic Role Performance Project, this paper analyzes how journalistic roles associated with the audience—civic, service, and infotainment—relate to specific news beats and vary across different media organizations and cultures. 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. Our study found significant evidence on that, controlling for the organizational and country levels, news beats are, in fact, key definers of the performance of all three analyzed roles. The results also

show significant cross-level interactions between organizational-level predictors and news topics, with media audience orientation and media ownership moderating the relationship between thematic beats and the performance of audience-oriented roles across countries. For the performance of the service and infotainment roles, the country-level lacks its explanatory power when including news topics and organizational-level predictors into the analysis. The implications of these findings are discussed in light of the validity crisis that news beat systems have faced during recent years.

### **Submission ID**

688

## **MPS paper - Being “specialists” for all beats: The rise of the “data beat” and “flexible expertise” in three UK national newspapers**

### **Authors**

Dr. Jingrong Tong - the University of Sheffield

### **Abstract**

Jingrong Tong

Drawing from an analysis of the words and work of eight data journalists of *The Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Times* and their Sunday counterparts, the study finds that data journalists worked as “specialists” with “flexible expertise” for all beats. Their expertise is “flexible” as its application can cut across diverse topics and suit interdisciplinary, high-tech reporting tasks. It is, however, also fluid and relative. Non-data journalists may pick up data journalism expertise. Data journalists may develop more expertise in specific (data) domains and focus on them. The emergence of the collaborative, flexible “data beat” helps mitigate the rigidity of the news beat but flatten its structure. It indicates the reorganisation of the division of labour within newsrooms in response to the challenges and opportunities journalism faces in the post-industrial society. This study contributes to understanding the implications for journalism of the inclusion and incorporation of data journalism into newsrooms.

### **Submission ID**

689

## **Reporting on Healthcare During COVID-19: A Cross-System, International Study of National News**

### **Authors**

Ms. Valentina Brkan - University of Vienna

Ms. Kira Prosi - University of Vienna

Ms. Christine Seimebua - University of Vienna

Ms. Delayne Weston - University of Vienna

## **Abstract**

COVID-19 prevailed worldwide news in 2020 and, relating to it, concerns and developments within the respective healthcare system. This study's overarching goal was to examine whether the pandemic functions as an equalizer of coverage or whether the systemic differences between countries, stemming from variations in healthcare and media systems, nonetheless affect the pandemic coverage. The aim was to provide insight into and compare the news coverage of four countries: the U.S., the U.K., Germany and Austria. The study takes into account the heterogeneity in the respective countries' media and healthcare systems. It analyzes the prevalence of generic frames, the overall tone of coverage as well as the representation of different actor groups. The method used is a quantitative content analysis, analyzing a total of  $N=400$  articles published from March 1st until June 30th, 2020. The articles were taken from four national-level outlets, resulting in a mix of broadsheet and tabloid outlets. The analysis shows a variety of insights: As expected, the Liberal media system and its intrinsic qualities do entail a tendency toward the prevalence of sensationalized generic frames as well as higher diversity of voices represented, negativity and conflict. However, the use of the rather serious frames of attribution of responsibility and economic consequences did not result in any significant variance when comparing media systems. Respective to the individual countries, the differences were more pronounced within the Liberal system, while less so in the Democratic-Corporatist. Accordingly, the human interest, morality, conflict and economic consequence frames yielded a stronger similarity between the U.S. the German-speaking countries, especially Germany — marking the U.K.'s exceptional national background. The U.K. had the most presence of healthcare actors the most with the main issue being the healthcare staff. Although the U.K. stood out from the other countries, the pandemic presumably created similarities in the usage of frames with the attribution of responsibility and the uncertainty frame positioned as the first and second most used frames across countries. Moreover, this study found that the sensationalist tradition of an outlet is an influential factor regarding the different frames as well as the tone used. Overall, this study affirms that the global pandemic does not act as an equalizer of the coverage, apart from broad issues, such as responsibility and uncertainty. Thereby, creating a starting point for future researchers to create health-specific framing on newspapers' COVID-19 communication as well as the opportunity to branch out and analyze specific countries' use of language and metaphors in response to the virus.

## **Submission ID**

859

## **The pandemic paradox: reporting on domestic violence during COVID-19 (case study: Melbourne, Australia)**

## **Authors**

Dr. Andrea Baker - Monash University in Australia

## **Abstract**

Recent criminology and sociology research illustrate there is an increase in domestic violence in the global north when communities go through a crisis (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) due to related stressors and forced proximity (Boxall et al. 2020; Pfitzner et al, 2020; Usher et al., 2020; Sharma & Borah, 2020; Ertan et al 2020). Journalism practice has also long brought social problems, such as the mediatised domestic violence narratives, visible to the public eye (Morgan & Simons, 2018; Hawkley et al, 2018). However, the growing body of journalism studies conducted during COVID-19 failed to focus on the "shadow pandemic" of domestic violence, which coincided with the coronavirus pandemic (Pfitzner et al, 2020, p.1). Journalism research about the reportage of COVID-19 mainly came from the United States, Italy and Spain and focused on the news misinformation during the pandemic (Lewis, 2020; Tejedor et al, 2020; Hart et al 2020; Casero-Ripolles, 2020; Krause, et al, 2020). To address this gap in global north research, in this paper we use the case study of Melbourne, which as the Australian hotspot for COVID- 19, recorded more than 800 deaths and an increase in domestic violence cases (Thomson Reuters, 2020). The paper examines the "news framing" by Melbourne-based mainstream media (The Age, the Herald Sun and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation) of domestic violence cases in the city during the pandemic (Entman, 1993, p.51). Entman's (1993) news framing was used an approach because it offers a textual relationship between the journalist, the audience and society. The paper focuses on the two lockdown periods in Melbourne from the 16 March to the 28 October 2020. A Factiva search of domestic violence, COVID 19 and Melbourne in three media outlets during this timeframe uncovered 130 published articles. This included sixty-seven stories from The Age, forty-one stories from the Herald Sun and twenty-two stories from the ABC. The news framing analysis of these articles were associated three key findings. Firstly, domestic violence was inadequately defined by the journalists, and often interchanged with terms, such as violence against women and/or family violence. Secondly, domestic violence was seen by them as a structural, Australian social problem which required urgent attention. This differed from journalism studies before COVID-19 (Morgan & Simons, 2018) which framed domestic violence as an episodic event and/or an individual problem. Finally, the media outlets adopted a campaign journalism narrative by informing the public about the need to address domestic violence nationally. The paper argues that although the media coverage of domestic violence is adapting to public narratives about it being a urgent social issue, during the heat of COVID-19 era it remained inadequate in terms of spurring social change.

## **Submission ID**

881

# **Media feminisms and empowerment discourses: the Brazilian news coverage between 1978 and 2018**

## **Authors**

Dr. Nara Lya Cabral Scabin - Anhembi Morumbi University - Graduate Program in Communications

## **Abstract**

This paper presents the results of a research that mapped the discourses about the women's condition and perspectives of feminisms in Brazil which were spread by Brazilian newspapers between 1978 and 2018. The relevance of such research object is justified considering the increased visibility given to feminist issues in the media culture over the past few years.

In this context, it is necessary to understand the semantic transformations and negotiations in journalistic texts resulting from what Nancy Fraser (2006) calls a "new political imaginary", i.e., a context marked by the centrality acquired by demands for recognition in the struggle for social justice. From a discursive point of view, this objective allows the description of formation rules and restrictions that characterize an important part of the discourses about the feminisms put into circulation in the Brazilian public debate.

The theoretical and methodological framework of the research is based on contributions from the French Discourse Analysis, with emphasis on the work of the French linguist Dominique Maingueneau (2008, 2010) about the global semantics of discourse and the interdiscursivity as a constitutive condition of discourse itself. Based on the author, we know that the emergence of new discourses does not occur without the establishment of impacts on the semantic economy of the entire discursive universe and, above all, of specific discursive fields.

The research corpus covers 314 news articles published between 1978 and 2018 by two of the major Brazilian reference newspapers: O Estado de S. Paulo and Folha de S. Paulo. We understand the concept of "reference journalism" according to the definition proposed by Brazilian researcher Angela Zamin (2014). The observation period was chosen in order to cover an extensive time frame, capable of holding discursive regularities. Besides that, it covers a significant period of Brazilian history, especially with regard to the recent history of social movements in the country, encompassing the redemocratization process conducted after more than twenty years of civil-military dictatorship.

The corpus was collected considering the journalistic coverage about two thematic axis: a) public gender policies implemented over the forty years considered in the research; and b) the repercussions of International Women's Day. Then, the articles were analyzed through reading grids that made it possible to identify constitutive aspects of different discursive plans. In this article, we present the findings regarding two discursive plans: thematic framings and marks of intertextuality.

As a conclusion, the present paper identifies three distinct moments in the predominant discursive articulations in the news coverage about the women's condition and feminisms in Brazil. We shall highlight the moment located in the 2010s, which shows the recent prominence acquired in the Brazilian press by discourses about "individual empowerment", to which the influence exercised by

semantic restrictions typical of neoliberal values is decisive. Thus, based on the works of Sarah Banet-Weiser (2015) and Rosalind Gill (2007), the article discusses the relationships established between Brazilian journalistic discourses and global trend of the so-called “media feminisms”.

## **Submission ID**

904

# **Analysis on Chinese and American mainstream media news frames in the coverage of COVID-19 pandemic -- Taking People’s Daily and The Wall Street Journal as examples**

## **Authors**

Mr. Haopeng Han - Communication University of China

Mr. Haodong Geng - Communication University of China

## **Abstract**

News frames determine the saliency of news and people’s perceptions of the world. They are shaped by society and culture (Entman,1993; Gamson,1987). Because of the political and cultural differences, the mainstream media in China and the United States use different news frames to report COVID-19 pandemic. This article makes a comparison between the mainstream media of China and the United States on news frames of the coverage of COVID-19 pandemic and analyzes the reasons of these differences from the perspective of international communication. On this basis, this article tries to provide constructive suggestions for Chinese mainstream media to optimize the communication effect in major public crisis events and to enhance the China’s international image.

On January 23, 2020, Wuhan, where virus was firstly found in China, was locked down. And on April 8,2020, the authorities lifted the 77-day lockdown on the city, which marked the achievement of China in fighting against COVID-19 pandemic in the initial stage. *People’s Daily* and *The Wall Street Journal* are the most representative mainstream media in China and the United States. This study chooses these two media as research objects and collects their COVID-19 coverage from 23rd January 2020 to 8th April, 2020. In total, 331 pieces of news (224 news articles are from *People’s Daily* and 107 news articles are from *The Wall Street Journal*) related to COVID-19 pandemic are selected as the research sample. Then, in order to explore the differences between these media, this study leverages frame analysis on research sample’s issue frames, news sources, event characterizations and key words.

The study finds that *People’s Daily* and *The Wall Street Journal* are different in many aspects of news frames. Firstly, in terms of the issue frames, the issues of *People’s Daily* included the government’s response and action, the role models in fighting COVID-19 pandemic, the economic recovery and the daily necessities of people. However, issues of *The Wall Street Journal* included the crisis, the comparison between COVID-19 and SARS, the medical treatment and the government’s responsibility. Secondly, the news sources of *People’s Daily* were front-line journalists and the authorities, while the

coverage of *The Wall Street Journal* were mainly reported by correspondents and commentators. Thirdly, these two media gave different characterizations on the lockdown of Wuhan. *People's Daily* inclined to characterize it as an important measure of the people's united efforts to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, while *The Wall Street Journal* inclined to characterize it as a forced action caused by unpreparedness and weak control of the authorities. Besides, the key words used by these two media in COVID-19 coverage showed different emotional tendencies. Finally, this study analyzes the reasons of these differences from the perspective of international communication and puts forward some constructive suggestions for Chinese mainstream media.

## **Submission ID**

976

## **News consumption and social media news sharing patterns: A case of study of climate change news**

### **Authors**

Dr. Jesus Díaz-Campo - Universidad Internacional de La Rioja (UNIR)

### **Abstract**

Digital technologies have altered news consumption. Individuals do reach news through different stages. Some of such stages are direct or intentional behavior ('routine surveillance' or 'directed consumption') but others are indirect and unintentional ('incidental exposure').

Incidental exposure has been defined by previous research as the way “people encounter current affairs information when they had not been actively seeking it” (Tewksbury et al., 2001: 534). It implies that users serendipitously stumble upon informative content. Such phenomenon has become more common on social media platforms (Feezell, 2018; Fletcher & Nielsen, 2018; Kumpel, 2019).

This trend is partly a consequence of social media distribution, the shift from the unidirectional model of media-led distribution to the multidirectional user-led 'dissemination' paradigm (Noguera-Vivo, 2018) . Such social media news sharing is not only taking place on traditional open asymmetrical social media (OAS) platforms such as Facebook or Twitter, but is a growing phenomenon on closed symmetrical social media (CSS) like mobile instant messaging apps (Newman, Fletcher, Schulz, Andi, & Nielsen, 2020)

This proposal explores how the different ways users access news influence the way they share such news on social media. Based on previous findings that different news consumption behavior leads to different news sharing patterns (Choi, 2016), we expected to find different news sharing choices according to different stages of consumption at the news item level.

Our study employed an Experience Sampling Methods (ESM) approach, a quasi-naturalistic method where participants are asked to report at random moments about nature and quality of some experience (Kubey, Larson, & Csikszentmihalyi, 1996). This method has been previously used for social media

studies (f.e. Trieu, Bayer, Ellison, Schoenebeck, & Falk, 2019) and allows to identify the fact that individuals might show different attitudes and behaviors on different situations.

279 individuals participated in the study. They were asked thrice in a month period about the latest link or piece of news they shared with somebody through social media, instant messaging or another platform. They had to indicate the title of the news item, how they found such piece of news and in what platform they shared such item. A sum of 830 valid experiences were collected.

The analysis paid special attention to the characteristics of the content of links or pieces of news that have some kind of relationship with climate change or some other related issue, in order to see what are the most significant differences in the way individuals consume and share news which deals with that content, compared to what happens with another kind of news.

Results indicate that directed consumption and routine surveillance give rise to sharing on closed networks, whereas incidental exposure give rise to sharing on open ones. In addition, the usual level of news consumption does not influence the reading level of the shared news.

## **Submission ID**

985

# **Heal the World: A Qualitative Content Analysis of Mission Statements of Cross-Border Investigative Journalism Consortia**

## **Authors**

Mr. Thomas Eckerl - University of Passau

Prof. Oliver Hahn - University of Passau

## **Abstract**

Investigative journalism undergoes a radical change. The metaphor of ‘lone wolves’ that describes the rather isolated working conditions of investigative reporters seems to become more and more obsolete. Carson and Farhall (2018, p. 1901) see a “shift in investigative reporting practice from the ‘old model’ of highly competitive single newsroom investigations to a collaborative model of multiple newsrooms (and countries)”. Due to decreasing financial resources and manpower, investigative journalism has to find new ways of producing high-quality content. Single newsrooms and single investigative journalists around the globe team-up to form cross-border investigative journalism consortia, such as e.g. the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) which was behind the “Panama Papers” published in April 2016. Graves and Konieczna (2015) describe cross-border journalism as a new form of non-profit journalism and in further words as a kind of repairing the journalistic field to bring it back to old power. Alfter and Căndea (2019, p. 146) see the field of cross-border collaborative journalism as „a relatively young phenomenon that has proven to be a powerful journalistic practice“. Stobely (2017) detects six models of collaborative journalism. Since these models are thought from the end of

the product, they do not seem to be tailor-made to understand structures and procedures of international investigative networks.

Hence, the main research questions of this paper to pose are: (1) which types of collaborative journalism networks are operative and (2) how can we classify them?

Methodologically speaking, we applied a qualitative content analysis of 172 mission statements of cross-border investigative journalism consortia which are listed as members of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN, 2020) which describes itself as “an international association of journalism organizations that support the training and sharing of information among investigative and data journalists—even in repressive regimes and marginalized communities.”

Findings show—what we suggest to dub—a ‘three-stage pyramid typology’ which allows us to classify collaborative journalism consortia as ‘network hubs’ on the first level offering ‘overall-management’ and inviting others to join, as ‘single newsrooms initiatives’ on the second level providing manpower as well as ‘special services suppliers’ on the third level offering grants, awards, skill trainings or data.

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## **Submission ID**

986

# **How did journalists report on instances of post-truth politics during the first six months of the Coronavirus pandemic in the USA?**

## **Authors**

Ms. Catherine Nicholls - City University of London

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this dissertation is to investigate the manner in which journalists report on instances of post-truth politics. The phenomenon is widely agreed upon to be one of the biggest challenges to modern day journalism; if journalism relies on fact and objectivity, then post-truth is its antithesis. By investigating how post-truth is reported on, I will discover how journalists view their role as public informants, as well as how often incorrect or unfounded statements made by those in power go unchallenged.

In this qualitative research, I will investigate how journalists reported on five occasions wherein Donald Trump made untrue or deceitful statements in the first six months of the Coronavirus pandemic. I will analyse whether these claims were disputed or reported as fact, and, if inaccuracies were pointed out, the manner in which this was facilitated. I will also gauge the overall sentiment of the reportage, codifying any notable language used, in order to identify common themes in journalists' responses to these occurrences.

Focusing on the ten most popular online English-speaking news publications in the world, I will examine every article relating to a false claim in the three days after it is made. This enables me to analyse initial coverage of an instance of post-truth politics, as well as any further coverage wherein the circumstances surrounding a claim have become clearer.

It is important to understand how instances of post-truth politics are being reported on in order to wholly understand the phenomenon. Though many scholars have discussed ways in which to combat post-truth politics in theory, very few have analysed how these instances are being handled in a practical, journalistic sense. In performing a content analysis, I will be able to investigate how post-truth politics are being reported on, enabling me to unpack the symbiotic relationship between journalism and post-truth alongside more theoretical research.

## **Submission ID**

1105

# **Citizenship Activism, Digital Media, and Africa's democracies in global justice movement**

## **Authors**

Dr. Chudey Pride (Dr) - Department of Communication, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Windhoek, Namibia

Mr. Abdulganiyu Issa - Department of Mass Communication, University of Lagos, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.

## **Abstract**

Citizenship Activism has gained traction in many nations of the world with increasing growth of digital technology that has provided relative ease of access to digital media platforms and the latter's utility, popularity, international reach and penetration. Citizenship activism cuts across various facets of politics, economy, social welfare, human rights, health and safety at national and international levels. Citizenship activism is referred variously as digital activism because of the propelling technology; and social media activism because of the contents, platforms and implications of issues and audiences involved.

The availability of digital media platforms afforded by digital technology is one of the key drivers of digital journalism by established journalism organisations, independent content generators of information and groups that crusade for different causes by seeking public awareness of and attention to a variety of issues. Issues abound and arise from communities, nations, international concerns and growing citizens' and public interest in political and corporate governance seek to expose, draw international attention to need for redress and equity in many spheres of human life through global justice movement. The latter is a network of movements globally that opposes corporate globalization and promotes equal distribution of resources; using activism vis-à-vis mass protests.

Since the Arab Spring of early 2010 which is regarded as the first kind of activism massively influenced by the digital media, the world has seen several others that include "Occupy Wall Street", "15M Movement", "Yellow Movement", and recently the Capitol invasion in the United States. The Arab Spring refers to series of anti-government protests, and rebellion that started in Tunisia, spreading to Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain; and had notable effects in Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Algeria. Believed to be popular protest against unequal distribution of wealth, violation of human rights and an indirect fight against dictatorship and monarchy, it produced some policy and regime adjustments notwithstanding violent reprisals from political authorities, and contributed to instability in some of the affected countries.

In Nigeria, "Occupy Nigeria" protests in 2012 is regarded as the earliest form of digital activism in the country. Other forms of digital activism in Nigeria include the Independent Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) Online radio and prevalent social media activities, the activities of Sahara Reporters and its promoters, and recently the nationwide ENDSARS protests in October, 2020, for just and proper policing in the country.

Therefore, this paper discusses citizenship activism, digital media, and Africa's democracies in the light of global justice movement with reflective focus on Africa's rising profile in this area, and prospects of sustainable democracy in many nations of Africa. It will rely on Social Shaping of Technology, Agenda-setting, Technological Determinism and Uses and Gratification theories as theoretical framework

## **Submission ID**

1161

# **Hype versus reality in Immersive Journalism: the state of 360-degree news storytelling five years later**

## **Authors**

Mrs. Sara Pérez-Seijo - Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

## **Abstract**

Around 2015-2016 news outlets developed a renewed interest in virtual reality (VR) technologies and 360-degree video. This investment is explained as an effort to address the ongoing crisis of their business models, with companies trying to find sustainable alternatives to traditional revenue strategies. The innovation imperative of news media outlets has led to a fast pace in the adoption of high-technologies (drones, artificial intelligence, augmented and mixed reality, and so on), aiming at a differentiation from other media competitors, resulting also in gradual changes in audience news consumption behaviors. In this context, 360-degree videos and computer generated (CG) immersive experiences were introduced as a sort of "competitive edge" for media outlets competing in the information era (Nielsen & Sheets, 2019), aimed to engage new audiences, such as digital native users, and to reconnect with the old and fragmented ones (Watson, 2017; Soler-Adillón & Sora, 2018; Van Damme et al., 2019). In fact, studies on media effects have shown that 360-degree video storytelling can enhance the sense of authenticity (Nielsen & Sheets, 2017), especially the emotional one (Maschio, 2017), and increase the levels of news enjoyment (Van Damme et al., 2019; Hendriks et al., 2019) and engagement (Suh et al., 2018).

However, five years later since the beginning of the media experimentation with 360-degree video storytelling and the massive hype with VR technologies, the current state of immersive journalism is very different from the proclaimed when VR was entering the mass market. Therefore, the aim of this proposal is to understand the current state of immersive journalism by addressing the following research questions: (RQ1) How experts define immersive journalism?; (RQ2) Are news outlets actually prepared for creating high quality immersive journalism with 360-degree video?; (RQ3) Five years later since the rise of VR technologies, is the audience already prepared to consume immersive news content?; (RQ4) What are the technological constraints holding back the development of immersive journalism?; (RQ5) Does the current 360-degree video-based immersive journalism have a future?.

In particular, this proposal draws on in-depth interviews with experts on 360-degree video storytelling and journalists and filmmakers who have created 360-degree non-fiction videos for news outlets (e.g., BBC, RTVE, Diario Conquense, RTP). A total of 10 people were interviewed between 2019 and 2021. Interviewees were selected using purposive sampling.

The findings reveal that even though it still remains the essence of the De la Peña's first definition of immersive journalism (De la Peña et al., 2010), i.e., news production for a first-person perspective of the events, that journalism is still not viable for the media: neither news outlets have the budget, nor the audience the VR devices and the interest; while augmented and mixed reality seems to be a "simpler" in terms of audience consumption -through mobile devices and in live broadcasts- and more attractive technology at the moment. Furthermore, the rapid technological obsolescence -VR headsets and native apps- makes difficult the multiplatform distribution and targeting audiences in general.

## **Submission ID**

1223

# **Exporting Western media ideologies in media development in Nepal**

## **Authors**

Ms. USHA KIRAN REGMI - VID Specialized University

Mr. Bikalpa Adhikari - VID Specialized University

## **Abstract**

Abstract:

The well functioning of the media organization needs three basic tools: media freedom, media infrastructure and media content (IMS, 2012). Journalism in transitional society in new democracies like Nepal is unstable and wages for journalists are low and so is their social standing in countries with limited media freedom (Joseph, 2010).

Despite the political transformation introduced in 1990 in the form of democracy had penetrated the vibes of openness and independence, the media organizations in Nepal faced another struggling period during the imposition of Maoist's insurgency in 2001 (Parajulee, R. 2010, p. 107).

Many western media development projects have been assisting Nepal aiming to strengthen democracy and professional journalism in Nepal. Among them, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (EFS), International Media Support (IMS) and BBC Media Action are popular media development projects having remarkable history in Nepal. In order to study and understand the impact of western media projects in media development in Nepal, I have chosen Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (EFS), International Media Support (IMS) and BBC Media Action's project in Nepal.

## **Research questions:**

RQ1. How have Western media projects helped media development in Nepal?

RQ2. How have Western journalism ideology incorporated the local cultures, norms, and values of a Nepal while assisting media development?

### **Methodology:**

This paper is based on the case study method of a qualitative research type and has employed purposive sampling method in terms of picking up three Western media projects: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (EFS), International Media Support (IMS), and BBC Media Action's project working in Nepal. This study is carried out in Nepal from August 2019 to February 2020. The findings of the research are analyzed using Agenda Setting Theory.

### **Outcomes of the research:**

The BBC Media Action, International Media Support (IMS), and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), have played a praiseworthy role in the media development process in Nepal. Their aids and assistance to institutionalize press freedom and strengthen democracy and developments have been successful to more extent. IMS is working to support local media in countries affected by armed conflict, human insecurity and political transition with the aim of promoting press freedom, strengthening professional journalism, and ensuring that media can operate in challenging circumstances.

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) has been supporting its partner organizations in capacity building of mass media agencies, providing them with stationary materials and equipment such as books, fax box, and photocopier, etc.

Similarly, BBC Media Action, Nepal has been working to improve dialogue and debate between the public and those who are in power in Nepal. BBC Media Action's weekly program, "Sajha Sawal" in collaboration with Kantipur Television and Radio Nepal from for a decade 2007 to 2017 (BBC Media Action, 2018), which indeed contributed for the accountability of government. The debate and dialogue made through *Sajha Sawal* provided an access to the public to put their questions and frustration towards the government.

*Key words: media development, media projects, professionalism, Nepal,*

### **Submission ID**

1279

## **Grey Area Revisit: Bibliometric Analysis of Infotainment Research in Journalism Studies**

### **Authors**

Prof. Ruhan ZHAO - Communication University of China

Dr. Chen Luo - School of Journalism and Communication, Tsinghua University

## **Abstract**

As a grey area in journalism field, infotainment can be viewed as representations of media market logic and public demand, it also reflects intricate relationships between journalistic standards and market appeals, politics and entertainment, public sphere and private sphere, technologies and humanities (Altheide, 2004; Yin, 2017; Zhao & Luo, 2017). Although critical in practice, as well as prevalent, limited effort has gone into depicting the whole landscape of infotainment studies, ***this research aims at clarifying the concept of infotainment in journalism studies, portraying a landscape of this research field, as well as exploring their problematics and paradigms in different cultural and social context by adopting method of bibliometrics.***

By detailed reviewing of existing conceptual-level researches concerning infotainment, three cognitive patterns emerged, include infotainment as a component in the periodization of communication technologies, as representation of content characteristics, as a meso-level concept, the first pattern embeds infotainment into context of electronic media while neglecting its expansion to other technology development stages, the second pattern emphasizes content characteristics of infotainment while there lacks a widely accepted definition standard, the third pattern is more proper for it regards infotainment as a hybrid genre bridging micro-level (sensationalism, soft news) and macro-level (tabloidization, eroding of boundaries), this perspective escapes the dualism of “information-entertainment” and demonstrates the importance of infotainment as an academic concept (Otto, Glogger, & Boukes, 2017).

Beyond the qualitative assessment of infotainment concept, all qualified literature records from Web of Science core collection are collected for bibliometrics analysis. Statistical results demonstrate that infotainment relevant studies reach its peak till recent five years since it first emerged in 1989. United States, Germany and the United Kingdom occupy dominant positions. In research areas, infotainment is not exclusive domain of social sciences, it also obtains attentions from disciplines of applied science like engineering, telecommunications, computer science. For research themes related to infotainment, hierarchical clustering shows that six themes can be extracted and can be roughly divided into two broad categories, one is about the system construction, problem solving and underlying safety issues of VANET (Vehicular Ad-hoc Network), VANET acts as basic carrier for infotainment in driving scenarios, the other one is about infotainment in journalism studies, which includes context specific exploration associate with particular social system, newstainment phenomena in political communication driven by psychological perspectives, and reflections on infotainment from journalistic professionalism, media ethics and privacy protection. Furthermore, core paradigms are crystalized by document co-citation analysis, the first one combines infotainment content with journalists’ professional role performance, the second one concentrated on television programs watching and its relationship with political participation, impulsions behind infotainment mainly derive from transitions in political and economic environment, the last paradigm points to satirical method and its impacts in news talk show program, pros and cons of infotainment as alternative news pattern are exhibited in relevant studies.

## **Submission ID**

1325

# **Transparency and Fact-checkers' Claim to Objectivity in the World's Largest Democracy**

## **Authors**

Mr. Dion DENG - Hong Kong Baptist University

Mr. Rahoof Abdul - Hong Kong Baptist University

## **Abstract**

The undeniable pervasiveness of post-truth politics and a growing disinformation ecosystem have given rise to a fact-checking industry in the world. Positioned itself as a subfield within journalism, fact-checking industry calls for empirical analysis of its epistemological struggles. Drawing on a theoretical underpinning that journalists' claim to objectivity is achieved through methodological transparency, this study hypothesizes that fact-checkers' claim to objectivity too is obtained through transparency. Using content analysis of fact-checking articles published by two kinds of organizations-- legacy media fact-checkers and newly emerged independent fact-checkers--in India, this study measures varying degrees of transparency in the practice of fact-checking. It finds that independent fact-checkers exhibit higher levels of transparency compared to the legacy media fact-checkers. This study contributes to the growing literature that gives richer understanding of the developing subfield of fact-checking within journalism.

## **Submission ID**

1386

# **How Could Professionalism Be Taught Beyond the Global/local Dichotomy? A Course Design and Practice for Data Journalism among COVID-19 Pandemic**

## **Authors**

Prof. Liao Weimin - School of Humanities and Communication, Dongbei University of Finance and Economics

## **Abstract**

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has brought new difficulties and challenges to journalism teaching, and has brought more changes and opportunities as well. In 2020, the online teaching and competition guidance experience of “*Data Journalism*” inspire a deep thinking: How could professionalism be taught beyond the global/local dichotomy through a typical course? how can we make the students increase their professional skills and cultivate professionalism while maintaining social distance through COVID-19 pandemic?

The curriculum design is to start from the idea of Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) - result oriented education, to promote students’ innovation ability by project system and collaborative learning, so as to exercise and cultivate their professionalism. This design and process roughly needs to go through three stages. First, the learning and understanding stage, that is, through data mining and case presentation analysis beyond the global/local dichotomy based on data thinking, to inspire students to understand the professionalism of data journalism by analyzing those prominent data-driven journalism works. Second, the training and improvement stage, that is, through a series of small works of practice, to improve the basic skills about data collection, data mining, sorting, visualization and data presentation, storytelling skills, so as to cultivate their craftsmanship spirit of continuous improvement, make students break through the bottleneck in at least one single skill, so as to enhance their ability for teamwork. Third, the teamwork to complete the project stage, that is, to participate and go through a comprehensive competition about *data journalism or data content* in national or international level by accomplish comprehensively a complex data journalism work. Through the stages of application, preliminary examination, semi-finals and finals in the competition, the students can understand how experts evaluate a good work, and hence understand the factors how we should improve in the future from the perspective of global viewpoint. The three stages are designed to improve the students to get practice and enlightenment in a global perspective in data journalism, so as to cultivate the professionalism gradually. After two rounds of teaching, one team among five in the class won the second prize of the *Fourth China Data Journalism Competition* in 2019. In 2020, due to the extension of the *Fifth China Data Journalism Competition* during the epidemic period, only one team has formed to participate in the competition, and entered the semi-finals without being qualified for the finals. However, this team has improved its work and published it in the famous online news app ThePaper in China.

In general, *Data Journalism* is not only the content of liberal arts, but also a multi-disciplinary course, which combines journalism and communication with big data, visualization techniques and new media art. Through the teaching practice during the period of COVID-19 Pandemic, we have found that we cannot completely return to before ever, since online teaching in such a huge scale has a greater global vision and professional collaboration ability. Eventually, this course won provincial first class undergraduate course award at the end of 2020.

## **Submission ID**

1394

# **MARKERS OF EXCELLENCE OR MAKERS OF PAN- AFRICAN JOURNALISM? Revisiting ‘CNN African Journalist of the Year’ Awards (1995-2016)**

## **Authors**

Mr. Benjamin Muindi - Daystar University

Ms. Joy Kibarabara - Stockholm University

Dr. David Cheruiyot - Centre for Media and Journalism Studies, University of Groningen

## **Abstract**

Despite digital technology transitions with implications to news production globally, journalistic awards still remain as symbols that reinforce journalistic authority. Existing studies show journalistic awards as markers of ‘excellence’—rigour in news reporting, creativity, professionalism and social impact—in a discursive environment of good/quality journalism. However, digital transformations today have placed journalism in a constant struggle over its discursive authority. At the same time, while the awards are considered to “produce professional consensus and uniformity” through appraising journalistic work, they also present a discursive dilemma over what should constitute “excellence” in the practice of journalism (Volz, 2013, p. 392). This paper examines how award-winning journalists construct and understand journalistic *excellence* through the roles they perform in the discursive space of awards and prizes. Through a theoretical analysis of journalistic awards and role perception, we interrogate how winners of CNN Journalist of the Year Awards (Africa edition) perceive the notion of excellence in their contexts of practice. While a major sponsor of the global award scheme, CNN’s global influence—sometimes referred to as ‘CNN effect/factor’—presents a paradox. In Africa, in particular, CNN is considered a promoter of best practices in reporting through the awards, but at the same time, a transgressor through its international news coverage that reinforces myths and stereotypes about the continent. Although the journalism awards have ceased since 2016, they were considered the ‘most prestigious’ on the continent with 328 journalists from all parts of Africa receiving prizes. Our empirical data is based on semi-structured interviews with 18 winners based in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Mozambique and Morocco. Our preliminary results point to an understanding of excellence and roles performed by winning journalists that is fluid based on individual, institutional, professional notions of what constitutes outstanding journalistic practice in their countries. Journalists construct an idealised version of excellence based on the following: A negotiation—and a discursive consensus—over what should constitute an award-winning practice through reflections of the criteria and jury decisions and statements; socialisation into journalistic practices and norms that fit into the criteria of ‘excellent’ journalism as defined through criteria for awards. Further, there, is the sense in which the CNN awards manifest an isomorphic nature of Pan-African journalism, but at the same time appears to reinforce a strong Anglo-American view of excellence. In our view, these preliminary findings suggest awards and prizes institutionalise a ‘global imaginary’ (Inglis, 2017) of good/quality journalism, but in a way that stirs tensions over which ‘journalisms’ can be categorized as “excellent”. This research contributes to journalism studies by

assessing the role perception of award-winning journalists and specifically the discursive construction of quality/good journalism.

## **Submission ID**

1441

# **The irrelevance of Journalism's occupational ideology as a boundary discourse? A lesson from Journalism students' experiences of everyday professional ethics.**

## **Authors**

Dr. Maria Guglietti - University of Calgary

Dr. Amanda Williams - Mount Royal University

## **Abstract**

This presentation will problematize the current boundaries of journalism as a professional discourse by analysing student journalists' experience with professional ethics in day-to-day practice. Some scholars in journalism studies have called for a reimagination of journalism beyond the tenets of a modernist occupational ideology (Zelizer, 1993; 2017). For instance, in 2008, Deuze proposed the term "liquid journalism" to describe a state of uncertainty and fluidity in journalism. More recently, scholars have begun describing journalism in terms of hybridity in an attempt to capture the complex and fluid state of journalistic practices and ideology (Chadwick, 2013).

The conceptualization of journalism in terms of occupational ideology is problematic because it poorly addresses the everyday experiences of professionals and student journalists. In fact, journalists experience a conflictive relationship with their occupational ideology (Deuze, 2005; Robinson, 2007). The definition of journalism as an "occupation" also ignores the reality of many professionals who are now part of a "global gig economy" (Wood et al. 2018) and struggle to fully identify with the traditional occupational ethos. Similarly, Broersma and Singer (2020) found that student journalists experience both openness to new journalistic practices but struggle to incorporate new "habits of thought" that reflect the shift towards a liquid journalism. In both cases, the occupational lens does not fully capture the complex experience of present and future professionals.

Inspired by Latour' actor-network theory, Witschge et al. (2019) calls for an "experientialist approach" that focuses on how journalism is the result of a network of "emotional states, material contexts, activities, and definitions, that may not necessarily be a consistent whole, but do appear to be coherent." (656) This presentation will follow this lead by arguing that an experiential approach provides a more complete picture of the elements that constitute journalism, of which "occupational ideology" is just one of them.

In addition, this presentation addresses a blind spot in journalism studies, which is the description and analysis of student journalists' experiences. Therefore, the focus will be the findings from a qualitative

study of 13 students' stories of struggle with professional ethics. The data is just a portion of a larger set consisting in 90 student reflections and 13 semi-structured interviews with students enrolled across all years of a journalism program in western Canada. The stories reveal that students not only feel ambivalent about the liquid condition of journalism but have embraced a personal view of ethics and objectivity that is in tension with modernist occupational principles. Students' stories point to practices, discourses and feelings that are not entirely captured by an occupational lens. The findings presented are subsequently used to provide some pedagogical guidance for journalism educators seeking new ways to support learners in the practice of ethics.

## **Submission ID**

1467

# **MPS paper - Self-disclosure Behavior of Chinese Adolescents with Depression in the Form of Live Broadcast Online during COVID-19 Pandemic: The Perspective of Interpersonal Communication Covered by Self-presentation Theory**

## **Authors**

Dr. Yunfang Cui - Communication University of China

Dr. Renwen Jiang - Communication University of China

## **Abstract**

Erving Goffman's "Social Dramatic Theory" holds that people, like actors on the stage, show their status through careful background arrangement, dress etiquette and other props, and strive to present idealized and socialized selves. Social Dramatic Theory is also known as "Selfpresentation Theory". In the process of self-presentation, the subject's "choice" and "check" run through the whole process. With the wide application of Internet technology, the communication mode and structural characteristics of microblog and we-chat make Self-presentation Theory have a new expansion. How to reconstruct people's own ideal roles in the network society and avoid social marginalization has become the hot spot of the current theoretical research of Self-presentation theory.

However, a different impact of new media communication tools is often ignored by researchers. The audio, video and electronic texts transmitted through the network are not less humane than the information transmitted face to face. They can reduce the fear, guilt and friction in face-to-face communication, so that people's deep feelings can be vented, which is conducive to the generation of interpersonal intimacy. The concept of self-disclosure was advanced by American psychologist Sidney Jourard. In the interpersonal communication in the new media environment, self-disclosure shows that communicators actively choose not to escape the audience's sight, voluntarily show their own behavior in front of others and pour out their thoughts. There are obvious differences between Self-disclosure

Theory and Self-presentation Theory in the aspects of specific behavior performance and subject motivation.

This study selects Chinese adolescent patients with depression who had online self disclosure behavior through live broadcast platform during COVID-19 home isolation as the research objects.

The main issues of this study involving:

1. What are the levels of online self-disclosure?
2. What are the communication characteristics of online self-disclosure?
3. What are the motivations of self-disclosure?

The research methods will be content analysis and in-depth interview. Content analysis method is mainly used to classify and statistics the audio text content of online live broadcast, and in-depth interview method is mainly used to understand the psychological motivation of the research objects` self-disclosure.

Through reading the existing literature and preliminary observation of live broadcast, the expected conclusions are as follows:

The online self-disclosure of adolescent depression patients can be divided into four levels: the shallowest level of exposure is interest and hobby; the second level involves attitude; the third level involves self-interpersonal relationship and self-concept; the deepest level of exposure is personal privacy, such as ideas and behaviors that cannot be accepted by general social concepts. The network environment characteristics of self-disclosure include non-anonymity, language cues, synchronous communication and relatively isolated audience feedback. The above communication characteristics are quite different from Self-presentation Theory.

The self-disclosure of patients with depression is mainly based on the trust of the audience. The adolescents are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and their inner feelings have to be vented. In addition, self-disclosure behavior of teenagers has obvious altruistic motivation, that is, they hope to help other patients recover as soon as possible by sharing their own disease experience.

## **Submission ID**

1478

## **MPS paper - Infodemic and (dis)trust on news during covid-19 outbreak**

### **Authors**

Dr. Carlos Ruiz - Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations. Ramon Llull University

Dr. Jaume Suau - Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations. Ramon Llull University

## **Abstract**

In relation with covid-19 crisis the World Health Organization warned on February 2020 about the dangers of what was defined as “infodemic” (WHO, 2020): the excessive amount of information about a certain topic. Recent research shows how just on January 2020 the number of articles about covid-19 was 23 times higher than regarding Ebola in August 2018 (Ducharme, 2020). Only in Spain, more than 1,138,364 news about the pandemic have been published up to June 7<sup>th</sup> (Palomo and Masip, forthcoming). To some extent, this increase in information obeys to a citizens’ demand: former research in pandemic contexts found that citizens show, at the initial stages of the outbreak, a certain need to consume information about it (Davis and French, 2008; Seeger, Sellnow and Ulmer, 1998). However, at a certain point, citizens start to feel an overdose of information. This excessive information might be accurate or misleading, but is precisely the overall overdose of news what makes difficult for citizens to find sources to be trusted (Coleman, 2012; Laato et al. 2020).

This article aims to tackle citizens’ perceptions on infodemic and trust on news media, to better analyze how Spanish citizens perceive news’ reporting during covid-19 outbreak. Spain has been one of the countries in Europe most affected by coronavirus, both in number of infected citizens and victims, establishing one of the longest and hardest confinements of its population. This research is based on an online survey (n=1.220) conducted during one of the worst weeks of the outbreak (3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April 2020). We think that our approach is interesting for two main reasons: firstly, no past pandemic during the last century in Europe had the mortal effects of covid-19, neither any country has endured a lockdown as long and extreme as Spain. Covid-19 occurred in a context of widespread growing distrust on news media and professional journalists (Newman, 2019). Secondly, our research intends to innovate its approach by focusing on different news formats as well as establishing differences between citizens with different levels of news’ consumption. More specifically, we focus on: i) how citizens perceived news’ coverage and which levels of trust on news they showed in relation to covid-19 outbreak; ii) how the increase in news’ consumption affects these perceptions in different citizens’ groups and media formats; iii) To what extent citizens appreciate information overdose (infodemic), biased reporting, sensationalism or misleading content and how these perceptions are shaped by different news’ consumption.

Results confirm that the frequency of news consumption increased during the outbreak (78% use news more frequently than before the lockdown) and that Spanish citizens considered news’ coverage during the lockdown as sensationalists (74.4%) and ideologically biased (44.6%), being women less likely to share such perception. Surprisingly, increase in news’ consumption does not affect the perception on the quality of the coverage done by Spanish media, but type or format of news media does. Hence, TV news programs (particularly public service broadcasting) were generally well considered and also less ideologically biased than digital media and social media sites.

## **Submission ID**

1480

# **MPS paper - Supervision and emotional interaction in the cloud: Slow live broadcasting in the COVID-19 pandemic in China**

## **Authors**

Dr. Ruyue MA - Communication University of China

Dr. Tiantian WANG - Communication University of China

Dr. Jiayi LU - Communication University of China

## **Abstract**

Slow live broadcasting, which is filmed and broadcast without scripts, editing and post-production, has been largely applied during the COVID-19 pandemic in China. On January 27, 2020, the authoritative media China Central Television (CCTV) launched the program 24 Hours of the Pandemic on its new media app CCTV video, living broadcast the construction process of Fire God Mountain hospital and Thunder God Mountain hospital, two emergency hospitals to treat the infected people in Wuhan. According to the statistics released by its official WeChat account (February 4, 2020), the program attracted over 100 million viewers. This paper attempts to analyze the online actions of the viewers and further explore the reasons hidden in the popularity of slow live broadcasting during the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper draws on the theory of scenes proposed by Joshua Meyrowitz (1985), stating that new media create new scenes of social interaction and human behavior.

Applying the theory of scenes to the case of slow live broadcasting of two emergency hospitals, it finds that embedded in the virtual scene created, the viewers act as the "cloud supervisors," and meanwhile they emotionally interact with each other accompanying the changes of the live broadcasting scenes. In order to analyze the online actions of the viewers and their online interaction, this paper makes use of the methods of online participatory observation and content analysis.

This paper finds that firstly, the slow live broadcasting realized the integration of personal scenes and public scenes by providing the virtual construction scene to the viewers who are mainly at home due to the pandemic prevention and control.

Although the viewers cannot go to the offline construction site in person, they emotionally share the ideas, comments and affective feelings by means of participation in the cloud. According to the frequency analysis, the comment "Come on, Wuhan!" appeared 67, 573 times in the comment section, which highly resonates the national emotions during the initially emergent period of the pandemic. Moreover, the slow live broadcasting created a virtual scene of the construction site and the onsite working shifts, enabled the viewers all around the country to witness the construction of two emergency hospitals which will definitely play an important role in treating the affected people in such

an emergent time. The viewers in other means acted as the “cloud supervisors” to really participate in the emergency construction, which implies the public governance during the public Health emergencies. Viewers paid attention to every details of the construction site, naming various facilities on the construction site, and creating many new words accompanying the slow live broadcasting. For example, "Cha Jiang" refers to the small forklift trucks and "Ou Ni Jiang" refers to the concrete tank truck. Viewers discussed many topics in the same comment section which should have been placed backstage, such as their unfinished work, foods, and low-quality sleep. Thus, the slow live broadcasting during the COVID-19 pandemic in fact creates an emotional community for the viewers to encourage each other faced with the uncertainty, reducing panic.

## **Submission ID**

1488

## **Exploring digital-native news media on TikTok**

### **Authors**

Dr. Jorge Vázquez-Herrero - Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

Dr. María-Cruz Negreira-Rey - Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

### **Abstract**

Social networks maintain a leading role in the distribution of news and platform, and news media organizations are forced to adapt to each new channel in order to obtain maximum audience engagement and make their digital strategy profitable. All this at a time of declining trust in the media and a increasing number of people avoiding the news.

Current digital consumption trends – in a context marked by mobile access to information, virality and incidental consumption – determine new logics in the platforms. After a first wave of ephemeral content on Instagram Stories and Snapchat, the center of attention is now on micro-videos on TikTok, a global media ecosystem trend. Recently, the rise of this platform has also reached the news media, which are seeking to increase their presence among the younger generations.

In this proposal we analyze social media logic in the news media's TikTok strategy, to learn how the characteristics of the of-the-moment social network are used to build their own language and aesthetics. We identified more than 200 profiles from television, radio, press and digital-native media and developed a content analysis to the profiles and to a random sample of their content, studying the connections based on the key elements of navigation and consumption on TikTok: hashtags, challenges and audio tagging.

The results indicate that we are in a first phase of exploration and adaptation to a platform with renewed language and aesthetics. This challenge for the media translates, in most cases, into specific objectives of a diverse nature: dissemination of information, self-promotion, distribution of anecdotal videos and participation in challenges. Beyond the presence and positioning of the brand in the eyes of

young people, the media seek to inform while participating in the logic of TikTok. However, the strategies are not yet mature and require specific approaches to connect with the audience.

## **Submission ID**

1526

# **Understanding investigative journalism as a field**

## **Authors**

Dr. Willemien Sanders - Utrecht University

## **Abstract**

As more and more digital collections become available online, it is important to think how to connect them to potential users and their needs. The CLARIAH Media Suite, hosted by the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision (NISV), makes available a wealth of (historical) media data in the form of, amongst others, TV programmes, metadata, subtitles, automatic speech transcripts, and newspapers texts. Such a resource might be relevant for journalists, as it contains much of the public debate in the Netherlands of the past decades.

The research presented here is part of a larger project aimed at understanding the potential of the Media Suite for journalism and specifically for investigative journalism, as its size and technical character demands research skills. To understand how to approach investigative journalists, a better understanding of investigative journalism is needed. To this end, I approach it as a field, as field theory (Bourdieu 1993) is not an uncommon approach in journalism (see, for instance Benson and Neveu 2005; Willig, Waltoorp, and Møller Hartley 2015), useful for studying transformations (Wu, Tandoc, and Salmon 2019), and helpful to understand how investigative journalism positions itself among other fields. I focus here specifically on autonomy (self-governing) and heteronomy (governing by other fields).

For this research, I analysed professional discourse in The Netherlands and Flanders in the Spring of 2020. Through a process of coding 52 texts, in which professionals talk about their field and work in a variety of ways, and subsequently developing themes, I gained insight into investigative journalists' own understanding of the field and how it relates to other fields.

The analysis shows that investigative journalism partly overlaps with regular journalism but also distances itself from it by disqualifying regular journalism as superficial. In addition, it mainly relates to five other fields: economy, science, technology, politics, and education. The fields of economy, science and technology increase the heteronomy of investigative journalism through its dependence on a market economy, the use of near scientific research methods, and its increasing dependence on soft- and hardware and related skills. The fields of technology, politics and education increase its autonomy by providing new storytelling and distribution models, real world consequences of investigative journalism's discoveries, and its large stake in educating prospective investigative journalists. Entry of the Media Suite should therefore focus on supporting the field's autonomy with respect to technology, politics, and education.

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## Submission ID

1610

# **How do you like me? Research on the Influence of AI News Anchor's Image on Watching Intention**

## Authors

Mr. YiFei Li - School of Media and Communication, Shanghai Jiaotong University

Ms. Hanqing Jin - School of Media and Communication, Shanghai Jiaotong University

Prof. Ke Xue - School of Media and Communication, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

## Abstract

John McCarthy first introduced the concept of artificial intelligence(AI) in 1956. Since then, AI has gradually entered various fields from multidisciplinary directions, including the news industry. In 2018, Xinhua News Agency and Sogou jointly released world's first synthetic news anchor which has achieved technological innovation and breakthroughs in AI synthesis field, creating a precedent for real-time audio and real-life image synthesis in the news field. Research on AI news anchor has since been brought up gradually but it's still at the initial stage. Most studies have speculatively studied the impact of "AI synthetic anchor" on news industry(Qiang, 2018) and few scholars studied AI news anchors from a quantitative perspective.

Therefore, this paper attempts to explore the influence of different AI news anchors on the audience's perceived attractiveness, and the public's willingness to watch news hosted by AI. According to the uncanny valley effect, when robots resemble humans to a certain degree, people will have subtle psychological discomfort. Since AI news anchor is an extension of the virtual image, this paper takes the appearance of AI news anchor as one of the influencing factors. The host's gender(X. Nan, 2017) and voice characteristics(Luo, 2010) also have an important influence on the research of live news anchors, which may also affect people's judgments on the perceived attractiveness. Furthermore,

existing research shows that people's inherent impression on news anchors may affect their attitude toward AI journalists(Clerwall, 2014). Hence, we raise the following research questions.

RQ1: Does appearance, gender, voice have an impact on audience's perceived attractiveness of the AI news anchor?

RQ2: Does the inherent impression of news anchors play a moderating role in the influence of the attractiveness of AI news anchors on watching intention?

To explore the research questions, we introduced “Cognitive-Attitude-Behavior” model to construct the research theoretical framework. Then we employed a 2x2x2 between-subject design to investigate users' willingness to watch news hosted by AI. Possible differences between people with different inherent impression of news anchors were also tested when evaluating the watching intention. 8 self-made research materials were used in research and 400 participants were enrolled for this comparative study.

After finishing the experiment, an ANOVA analysis was conducted for further study, while Hayes' moderating analysis model was used to verify the moderating effect. To further explain the relationship between various factors, this paper then conducted semi-structured interviews with 30 participants of the experiment.

For the trend of the prevalence of AI news anchors, this paper intends to delve into the influencing factors that affect people's perceived attractiveness of AI news anchors, focusing on the exploration of the psychological dimension of the audience. The interdisciplinary research findings shed light on the positive impact of AI news anchors on the future development of the news industry and hope to enrich the theoretical research on AI news anchors through empirical research and provide practical guidance for the further implications and promotion of AI news anchors.

## **Submission ID**

1766

## **Sustainable Journalism in Sub Saharan Africa: a north-south, global-local dialogue**

### **Authors**

Prof. Anthea Garman - Rhodes University

Dr. Theodora Adjin-Tettey - Rhodes University

### **Abstract**

Swedish researchers Peter Berglez, Ulrika Olausson and Mart Ots have put on the agenda for journalism researchers and practitioners the idea of “sustainable journalism” in their recent edited book, *What is Sustainable Journalism?* (2020). Responding to the planetary environmental crisis, the financial crisis in sustaining news journalism and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations, they ask in their book whether an integrated approach to journalism and

sustainable development which takes equal account of economic growth, social equality and environmental protection, would contribute to the long-term survival of professional journalism across the world.

We, the authors of this paper, have recently been drawn into a project, guided by Fojo Media Institute at Linneaus University and including Berglez and Olausson, and colleagues at Wits University in South Africa, to involve editors, media owners and journalists in Sub Saharan Africa in this conversation and exploration about sustainable journalism. Initial interviews with news media workers in West Africa to explore the concept, show just how sharp the concerns are about financial sustainability of their operations and how deep the anxiety is about independence from political and business interference. Nevertheless, there is also strong acknowledgement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of journalistic attention paid to them, as well as a desire to embark on the conversation with northern partners about how Sustainable Journalism as a concept could be made operational in Africa.

We set the concept of sustainable journalism against other reform attempts to give journalism purpose and meaning in today's world (attempts such as "solutions" journalism and "global" journalism). We also , by listening to the interviewees from Sub Saharan Africa, ask where their experiences of their local situations can speak back to the concept developed in a Northern country and enrich and nuance it. This project is an opportunity to move beyond the idea of theory making in the North and application or fieldwork in the Global South and to embark on a joint theory-making exercise which leads to a rich and useful way to address the poly-crisis nature of the 21<sup>st</sup> century world, and indeed of journalism itself.

## **Submission ID**

1836

## **MPS paper - Gender-based violence against women journalists: Societal patterns of exclusion and civil diminishment**

### **Authors**

Dr. Sara Torsner - the University of Sheffield

Prof. Jackie Harrison - the University of Sheffield

### **Abstract**

This paper approaches the issue of violence against women journalists through a new conceptual framework, showing how gendered violence frustrates the possibility of an inclusive communication environment, something which is considered a pre-requisite for democratic civil life (Alexander, 2006). The paper develops an understanding of how gender-based violence against women journalists engenders the diminishment of civil life (Harrison, 2019; Torsner, 2021), premised on the normative

ideal of inclusion which is understood to be a basic egalitarian and democratic legitimising requirement that ensures that members of society are able to influence matters that affect them (Warren, 2011).

When women journalists are exposed to forms of gendered violence this ideal of inclusion is undermined in two ways.

First, women journalists, as members of a certain group, are subjected to the systematic use of disesteem and inequalities which place them outside the bounds of inclusion in ways that threaten to marginalise or eliminate the voices of women journalists from the public conversation. Such patterns of exclusion, where freedom of expression becomes a reality for some but not others (Blandini, 2017), effectively endanger the inclusive foundation of civil life and create the conditions of civil diminishment.

The second and interrelated way in which gendered violence targeting women journalists gives rise to patterns of exclusion and ultimately the diminishment of civil life relates to their role as conduits of representation when it comes to reporting issues of public interest broadly speaking and more specifically in relation to when this reporting has bearing on issues pertaining to societal patterns of gender-based exclusion. In this way, gender-based violence should be understood to directly target the capacity of women journalists to scrutinize and reveal such inequitable and unjust practices, and diminish the very capacity of women journalists to challenge boundaries of exclusion when mediating claims of incorporation of women as a societal group.

This research is timely in the context of the intensifying problem of attacks on the safety of journalists, where women journalists are understood to “face an additional layer of risk” because of their gender (OSCE, 2020: 28). Aggressions against women journalists are understood to “mirror larger patterns of sexism and gender-based violence that seek not only to punish women for voicing critical or dissenting opinions, but also for speaking out as women. They may also implicitly seek to limit coverage of women’s issues and issues of interest to women” (OHCHR, 2020:8).

Despite the empowering potential of the Internet as a space for free expression and publication it simultaneously “amplif[ies] and globaliz[es]” discriminatory behaviours and exclusionary norms “that prevail in a particular social context” (UNESCO, 2019:20). As such the online environment exposes women journalists to intersectional forms of misogynistic, sexualised and racist discrimination that “are a direct attack on women’s visibility and full participation in public life” as women journalists are forced to self-censor, retreat from the online sphere or leave the journalistic profession (ibid., 9).

## **Submission ID**

2049

## **MPS paper - Monitoring violence against women journalists: a gender responsive approach to documenting violations**

### **Authors**

Dr. Diana Maynard - the University of Sheffield

## **Abstract**

The problem of gender-based violence increasingly impacts women journalists, causing physical, psychological and professional harm that often leads to self-censorship. This pattern of escalating gender-based violence is fuelled by widespread impunity for perpetrators of these violations, adversely “affect[ing] the quality of our democracies and the right of society to access a plurality of information” (OSCE, 2020:13) as the participation of women journalists in public conversations is jeopardised.

The expansion of the Internet and digital technologies have enabled “new forms of online violence against women” (OHCHR, 2020: 9) ranging from “direct or indirect threats of physical or sexual violence, offensive messages, and targeted harassment (often in the form of “pile-on”, i.e., with multiple perpetrators co-ordinated against an individual), to privacy violations (such as stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images and “doxing”, i.e., publishing private information, such as the target’s home address)” (OSCE, 2020: 28). In this way “[t]echnology has (...) transformed different forms of gender-based violence into something that can be perpetrated across distance, without physical contact and beyond borders, with anonymous profiles to amplify the harm to the victim“ (OHCHR, 2018: 8-9).

This paper develops a proposal for a gender-responsive approach to systematically monitor violations against women journalists, responding to an identified need for protection mechanisms that can be used to proactively prevent gendered violence against women journalists by “monitor[ing] risks and threats against journalists online and offline, combined with [a] gender analysis (...) to identify (...) trends and (...) address threats more effectively” (OSCE, 2020:64).

The paper thus makes two key contributions to improved understanding of the causes, manifestations and consequences of gendered violence against women journalists.

First, it develops a hierarchical categorisation scheme for the systematic recording of the distinct features of a wide range of gendered aggressions, which are often expressed through forms of intersectional discrimination (e.g. race, sexuality, religion, ethnicity and/or minority affiliation). The paper then proposes a human rights-based monitoring rationale which enables monitoring to be aligned with definitions of relevant provisions in international human rights law. The hierarchical properties of the categorisation system also enable in-depth recording of information about each violation category.

The second contribution is the development of a relational data model that enables the recording of relationships between violation events, victims and perpetrators. Importantly, the proposed monitoring methodology responds to the urgent need to capture how gendered violence might escalate, by recording when a journalist has been repeatedly and systematically targeted and exposed to multiple violations over time. As this escalation is often an early warning for grave consequences (as has been documented in connection to physical attacks and murders preceded by online violations), this is an important monitoring category.

In this way, the paper seeks to contribute towards establishing a gender responsive approach to systematically recording violations against women journalists that can inform policy and awareness-raising.

## **Submission ID**

2057

## **MPS paper - Maria Ressa: A multidisciplinary participatory action research case study in gendered online violence**

### **Authors**

Dr. Julie Posetti - International Center for Journalists

Prof. Kalina Bontcheva - the University of Sheffield

### **Abstract**

In October 2016, internationally celebrated editor and digital media company founder Maria Ressa published a seminal investigative journalism series untangling a State-linked orchestrated disinformation campaign which involved what she termed the ‘weaponisation of the internet’ designed to erode trust in independent journalism and other democratic institutions and help sweep populist President Rodrigo Duterte to power in The Philippines. When her outlet began reporting on the scale of extrajudicial killings carried out as part of Duterte’s ‘drug war’, Ressa became the target of brutal online violence - at one point recording 90 ‘hate messages’ an hour, including threats to rape, murder and unlawfully imprison her. The sexist, racist and homophobic messages targeting her on Facebook and Twitter were designed to silence her and chill her critical reporting. But she refused to ‘shut-up’, instead launching an international campaign to draw attention to the intersecting threats of ‘platform power’, viral disinformation and networked misogyny which she warned would not only threaten press freedom, but could also kill democracy.

Fast-forward to 2020 and Ressa was convicted on a “trumped-up” criminal cyber libel charge - for doing journalism. She is currently facing nine other charges brought by the State. If she is convicted on all counts, she could spend the rest of her life in jail. Ressa argues that the climate of gendered online violence against journalists - particularly as it intersects with viral disinformation - has enabled her persecution, and she judges social media platforms as complicit in her case (Posetti 2020).

Ressa represents an emblematic case study from the new frontline of journalism safety: orchestrated online violence campaigns targeting women journalists. This paper presents an interdisciplinary case study - combining the methods of news ethnography and computational linguistics - as an act of Participatory Action Research in collaboration with the persecuted journalist and her Philippines-based news organisation *Rappler*. To map the scale and impacts of the prolific online attacks Ressa routinely endures, we synthesised qualitative interviews with the Nobel Peace Prize nominated journalist, her legal team, and her *Rappler* colleagues with the results of a ‘big data’ analysis of hundreds of thousands of tweets and Facebook posts using Natural Language Processing techniques.

Our collaborative analysis of hundreds of thousands of messages targeting Ressa on Facebook and Twitter between December 2019 and January 2021 demonstrates a major spike in online attacks against her at the time of her conviction in June 2020. The overwhelmingly dominant abusive term used

against her on Twitter was ‘liar’, appearing more than 160 times, as well as numerous additional mentions of terms connected with lying and misinformation (“spreading lies”, “lying bitch”, “queen of fake news”, “fake news peddler”). Also dominant were terms designed to undermine her intellectual credibility, with “idiot” appearing over 70 times, and variations such as “dumb”, “imbecile” and “moron”. These all demonstrate her attackers’ clear objective: to undermine trust in her journalism and the truth more broadly. Sexist, racist and homophobic attacks also featured (“whore”, “gringo”, “lesbo”,...), highlighting the intersectionality of the threats she faces online.

## **Submission ID**

2060

## **Objectivity Immersed**

### **Authors**

Mr. Lukas Kick - University of Passau

### **Abstract**

For a long period of time objectivity was the immovable centre of media ethics and the guiding principle of journalistic self-perception. Therefore other, non-rational aspects were often underrepresented within the ethical considerations, especially when it comes to emotions or the concept of empathy in journalistic contexts (Ward, 2019, pp.27-28). But due to digitisation, increased amount of visual media and the resulting involvement of the audience empathy and emotion became an aspect that is not to be neglected. This is especially important when we discuss about immersive journalism and the topics covered by it.

Because of the dominance of objectivity in news reporting and the resulting journalistic ethics, emotional aspects were seen as a strict contrast for this ideal. But not only are journalists affected by emotional situations or stories themselves, no matter how much they try to keep their neutral perspective, also some narratives require the inclusion of empathic aspects to get the whole picture (Blank-Libra, 2017, pp. 53-55). Again, this dichotomy between objectivity and empathy becomes even more relevant when considering immersive content, like VR-productions. Due to the potential of increasing emotional reactions within the audience by consuming immersive content, a combination of objective and empathic aspects is necessary to be able to picture the whole spectrum of immersive narratives.

In order to get an overview on the main ethical aspects covered by codes of conduct and ethical guidelines within the journalistic community a sample of 26 ethical codes of conduct were analysed regarding their guiding principles. The sample consisted mainly of codes of conduct from North America and Europe, but also included international news agencies. The focus of the analysis laid on the ethical dimensions and guidelines that the codes of conduct included. Therefore, a qualitative content analysis with a mixed approach of inductive and deductive category system was used. The results show that most codes and their referring encoding items concentrate on objective or neutral ethical aspects. In detail the three most coded categories were “accuracy and contextualisation”

(n=262), “separation of activities and advertisement” (n=211) and “gathering information and verification” (n=205).

In conclusion the qualitative analysis shows that, despite the beginning of rethinking the strict dichotomy between objectivity and empathy in journalistic contexts, there is still a lack of ethical categories referring to emotional and empathic aspects. Nevertheless, there is a need to incorporate this upheaval into the existing media ethics frameworks in order to enable them to cover the upcoming ethical challenges of immersive content production, especially regarding the responsibility towards the audience.

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Ward, Stephen J. (2019). Disrupting Journalism Ethics. Radical Change on the Frontier of Digital Media. New York: Routledge.

## **Submission ID**

2095

# **Augmenting journalism concepts; Conflict coverage, Constructive Journalism & Ethics of Care**

## **Authors**

Ms. Loise Macharia - University College Dublin

Dr. Marguerite Barry - University College Dublin

## **Abstract**

International media coverage of terrorism in developing countries influences how audiences of global news networks come to understand political violence (Zhang & Luther, 2020). The application of traditional news values on distant suffering - showcasing mass death, displacement framing of ‘harrowing accounts’ (see Galtung & Ruge, 1965) - demonstrates lack of empathy and ethical considerations by foreign networks. Negativity in the news can affect how audiences participate in democratic processes within their spaces (Meier, 2018), journalism researchers are developing alternative models for more positive impact. For example, constructive journalism (CJ) is an emerging genre of practice seeking to empower communities to design solutions to solve societal problems by challenging these traditional news values (Atanasova, 2018). As the media landscape changes with the advancement of technological innovations, researchers must consider the usefulness of education, practice and identity in journalism and engage with journalism ethics (Fidalgo, 2013). CJ proposes ethical practices that follow social responsibility theory. However, there is little research on what this ‘ethics’ might look like in instances of violent conflict. Researchers continue debating the value of normative theories, universal codes of ethics, in journalism (Christians et al. 2009; Hossain et. al, 2018).

Previously, journalists were trained to be invisible reporters who adhere to normative processes, however, ‘layered’ journalism practices and actors within the public space have minimized their power to verify, interpret, disseminate or control what their audiences are exposed to today (Fidalgo, 2007; Singer, 2010). The norms that guide media practices in specific contexts are negotiated between stakeholders and can be highly contested (Wasserman, 2013). In journalism, emphasis on social responsibility is based on respect for stakeholders throughout the complex process of sourcing and publishing information (Camponez, 2014).

The study aims to strengthen CJ frameworks by exploring the potential for incorporating ethics of care. Care ethics is rooted in psychology but permeates various disciplines in social sciences and humanities. Ethics of care emphasises the value and necessity of caring labour, promotes empathy, sensitivity, trust and responding to needs. Thus, care ethics cultivate practices like building trust and responding to actual needs (Held, 2010) which have a role in constructive journalism. This paper uses a case study to illustrate how an ethic of care might be incorporated into media coverage of violent conflict. It presents findings from semi-structured interviews with journalists covering the Nairobi, 2019 Riverside Drive Attack, to explore ethical issues in local coverage. This is compared to analysis of news reports of the event by the New York Times, Irish Times and Nation Africa. Preliminary findings indicate some evidence of constructive journalism but point also to advocacy of the violent context as illustrated through war journalism precepts (see Shinar, 2009). The study proposes the incorporation of care ethics in CJ following Ellis & Muller (2020) and their focus on the effect of proximity. An ethic of care could encourage the prioritization of proximate relationships in conflict while being attentive to the effects of distance on magnifying negative news values which depersonalize the impact of violence.

## **Submission ID**

2110

## **‘If COVID was in the headline, I didn’t click on it’: Situational, partial, and collaborative news avoidance during a COVID-19 lockdown**

### **Authors**

Ms. Kate Mannell - RMIT University

### **Abstract**

As Australia imposed some of the world’s strictest COVID-19 lockdowns, governments and mental health organisations released advice for preserving mental wellbeing throughout the pandemic. One common suggestion was to avoid excessive news consumption, or even limit news consumption to the minimum needed to stay informed. This paper reports findings from a study that explored whether

people actually engaged in these practices. To investigate this, we conducted a small survey of news consumers (n=104) in the Australian state of Victoria which experienced the country's most sustained lockdown measures. We then conducted follow-up interviews with 20 survey respondents in order to develop detailed qualitative insights into their experiences of news avoidance during COVID19.

This data shows that people limited their news consumption for a range of wellbeing related reasons, including reducing distractions and minimising feelings such as stress, anxiety, and frustration. Importantly, these responses were often caused not only by the content of the news but also the style of reporting and, in some cases, the distribution format. Specific news avoidance practices varied widely across participants but were broadly focused on reducing the amount of news consumed, selecting for specific types of content, and altering the nature of the news encounter by increasing emotional distance or reducing mindless 'doomscrolling'. While participants experienced some challenges in reducing their news consumption, they overwhelmingly reported that their reduced consumption had improved their wellbeing during lockdown.

These findings highlight a form of news avoidance that is not yet accounted for in literature on news consumption. Existing studies of news avoidance have focused on practices that are long-term and involve complete, or near complete, avoidance (Palmer & Toff, 2020; Skovsgaard & Andersen, 2020; Toff & Nielsen, 2018). In contrast, our participants' news avoidance was partial, as they wanted to remain informed about elements of the pandemic, and situational, as it was explicitly motivated by the context of the lockdowns. Further, while existing studies have tended to individualise news avoidance (e.g. Song, 2017), our participants' experiences were heavily shaped by other people, particularly other members of their households with whom news avoidance had to be negotiated.

Overall, we argue that these findings demonstrate a unique model of news avoidance that has important implications for journalistic and public communications practice, especially during moments of crisis. It indicates that partial news avoidance is a valuable practice and suggests that providing diverse information channels is important as it enables people to limit their news consumption to the channels that best fit their needs.

## **Submission ID**

2130

## **Accomplishing Journalism at a news startup? Examining an “Exceptional” Digital In-Depth Reporting Team in China**

### **Authors**

Ms. Yue Yang - University of Southern California

### **Abstract**

This study joins an on-going discussion about how and to what extent quality journalism is being accomplished in today's China. Previous literature laments the shrinking space and prospect for Chinese quality journalism, which is strained by the aggressive market economy, pervasive self-

publishing, tightened politics, and declining journalistic community (Sparks et al., 2016; Svensson, 2017; Tong, 2019; Tong & Lo, 2017; D. Wang & C. Sparks, 2019; H. Wang & C. Sparks, 2019). These studies exclusively examine legacy media and their digital offshoots. The current study instead offers a preliminary exploration of a new and important site: digital-native, niche news startup, which usually operates on the institutional periphery and legal edge of Chinese journalism and has been little documented (Sparks et al., 2016).

Specifically, this study examines *Health & Illness* (pseudonym), one small-scale, in-depth reporting team that has garnered significant trade and public recognitions in recent years. With nineteen interviews (ranging from 60 -120 minutes) with its managers and media practitioners across the period of two years (2018 - 2020), the author interrogates the team's journalistic practices, organizational dynamics, and interactions with broader, structural forces (e.g., market conditions and state media governance), during both the ordinary time and some "high moments" after the team made national news. The findings offer an extraordinary and novel case of accomplishing journalism in today's China: *Health & Illness* is at once exceptional, conflicted, and precarious, and its story is likely to lay bare some common challenges facing commercial, digital news media in China. At the same time, the success of *Health & Illness* contradicts the pessimism in recent studies about Chinese journalism, as it manifests some continuing, implicit opportunities for critical journalism despite all the odds.

## **Submission ID**

2275

## **Attachment or detachment in Conflict Reporting? Examining the Relation of Peace Journalism and Objectivity**

### **Authors**

Dr. Sehrish Mushtaq - Lecturer, Lahore College for Women University

Dr. Fawad Baig - Associate Professor, University of Central Punjab

Dr. Taimoor Ul Hassan - Dean, University of Central Punjab

### **Abstract**

Media had been accused of fueling feuds and escalating conflicts, as its conflict coverage had remained event and violence oriented particularly during the phase of escalation (Galtung & Ruge, 1965; Baden & Tenenboim-Weinblatt, 2018). It was in the context of the problematic media role in conflict that many researchers have suggested and proposed new models and frameworks for conflict coverage. Johan Galtung (2002) also proposed Peace Journalism Model as a remedy to the conflict and designed it to implement for conflict reporting.

Peace journalism is often criticized for being the journalism of attachment and leaving behind the universal values of objectivity, neutrality and detachment. Critics of peace journalism model discredit it for violating the universal norms of objectivity (Hanitzsch, 2007; Loyn, 2007). However, some indicators of peace journalism were found closely related to objectivity in its pioneer study (Lee &

Maslog, 2005). On the other hand, proponents of peace journalism charged the objective style of reporting for being war oriented (Lynch & Mcgoldrick, 2005).

This study addresses this long-standing debate about the objectivity and its relation with war or peace orientation. For this purpose, it examines the coverage of India-Pakistan relations in Pakistani newspapers The News International and Dawn, and Indian newspapers Times of India and The Hindu using peace journalism model. Operationalization of objectivity as suggested by Tuchman (1972) was used in order to assess the level of objectivity in the coverage of these newspapers.

Results obtained from the content analysis of news items ( $n= 1532$ ) negated what both critics and advocates of peace journalism model claimed. Neither peace journalism is against the norm of objectivity nor does adherence to objectivity give more war orientation. This also confirmed that peace journalism was closer to objective style of reporting than war reporting and journalists conforming to the norms of objectivity can bring peace orientation to their news.

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### **Submission ID**

2312