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Discourse on Sustainability and Environmentalism in the Arab news media: Challenges for uncontested agendas

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Abstract

Discourse on Sustainability and Environmentalism in the Arab news media: Challenges for uncontested agendas

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Purpose: The selection of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference conferences in 2022 and 2023 was considered by some as a key moment in the movement towards renewables. This given, the apparent tension between the ambitions of the region becoming carbon neutral against its on position as a main producer of fossil fuel in the world. Central to these efforts is the ability to convince and later mobilize both key political actors and the public at large of the need to embark on this transition. In this sense, it is well established by grounded research that the media can facilitate communication about climate change in order to educate and mobilize audiences to act to confront the climate crisis by sharing information and possible solutions while advocating for change. The purpose of this study is to explore the main trends in the media discourse on sustainability in the context of the COP27 in Egypt. In doing so, it investigates the discourse on sustainable consumption in major national newspapers in three Arab countries (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) using energy consumption and climate change as the specific topic.

Design/methodology/approach: The theoretical background discusses the climate change issue and its relationship with renewable energy and the role of media in affecting audience attitudes and behaviors to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the media discourse on energy consumption and climate change. The authors have selected three countries that represent Arab countries; Egypt, which hosted COP 27, it is the most populated Arab country, Emirates which will host COP 28, and Saudi Arabia which has a strong economy among the Arab countries, both UAE and KSA are considered two of biggest producers of Fossil Fuels in the world. To analyze the media discourse on energy consumption and climate change, the authors choose the three most influential mainstream national newspapers from each country and were identified based on the official number of readers and availability of an online platform.

Findings: Results will offer important insights into the main issues related to energy consumption and climate change and will provide a better understanding of how this concept is presented to the public.

Originality/value: Overall, the study provides a comprehensive analysis of the issues reported in the newspapers related to the concept of energy consumption and climate change to identify the dimensions of sustainability reported in the examined newspapers that are associated with the issue in the three countries. It will shed light on the use of authoritative scientific information to cover the issues of climate change, how the newspapers convey the problem, and the solutions. It also discovers how the newspapers mobilize audience actions and behaviors.

Research questions:

RQ1: What are the main issues represented in energy consumption and climate change in the mainstream national newspapers in the three analyzed Arabic countries?

RQ2: How are the key issues in energy consumption and climate change aligned with the COP 27 and Cop 28 goals?

RQ3: Who are the main actors participating in the energy consumption and climate change?

RQ4: Are there any differences between the analyzed countries in the media discourse related to energy consumption and climate change?

Keywords: sustainability, environmentalism, media discourse, cross-country analysis; Arab News Media

Key Words

Sustainability, Environmentalism, and Arab news media

The culture of implementing Freedom of Information laws in three Australian jurisdictions

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Abstract

Independent access to government held information is crucial for public interest journalism. Big data analysis and visualisation tools are powerful and have significantly enhanced journalism in the last decade. But these tools are still dependent on access to quality information. The long-held notion: poor information in – poor story out is still relevant. This is why well-functioning Freedom of Information (FOI)/Right to Information laws are crucial.

In 1990 there were 13 FOI laws globally (Banisar 2006), in 2023 that number is 135 and counting (GRTIR, 2023). The development has been phenomenal and expectations of extensive access to government held information is great. Unfortunately, many laws do not deliver what they promise. This hamper citizens' participation in political processes and the ability of journalists to hold governments to account. Prominent examples of this are Australian FOI laws. This project aimed to find out why three Australian FOI regimes display such poor functionality in practice.

In 2022 Australia's first FOI laws turned 40. This paper reports on a study comparing the implementation of FOI laws in the Australian states Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The research team gained unprecedented access to FOI officers, government agency executives and government ministers by partnering with the Information Commissioners in the three jurisdictions. The project was funded by the Australian Research Council.

The study tested the hypothesis that the culture of implementing FOI sat at the core of the functionality problem, rather than the design of the laws. The research questions were addressed by a mix of online surveys, followed up by focus groups and individual interviews. The sample of government agencies (30 in each jurisdiction, 90 in total) was large enough to be able to generalise the findings across the entire public service sectors in each jurisdiction.

Accountability theory was the conceptual base for the project and was used to interrogate and analyse the findings (Przeworski et al 1999; Olsen 2017). This framework is closely connected to holding societal powers to account, making this paper highly relevant to the conference topics of *democracy* and *media, information and communication* based on the keywords for the two topics.

The principal finding of the project was the pivotal importance of the executive level in government agencies for building and maintaining an information access culture that priorities information access facilitation, rather than information access gate keeping. Another crucial

finding was the close to complete disinterest in access to information issues among government ministers in all three jurisdictions. The project contributes crucial new knowledge for future national and international comparative studies of the functionality of access to information systems.

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Key Words

Freedom of Information, journalism, accountability, FOI, democracy.

Sports Journalism and the Emotional Labour Concerning Online Policies, Practices and Behaviours.

Authors

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Abstract

This paper explores sports journalists' experiences of online harms in the UK and Ireland. Academic and wider media attention regarding online harms has tended to focus on spheres including sport, politics and music. However, the experience of journalists, and particularly sports journalists, has been overlooked within academia. Wolfe (2019) suggests that because the journalism industry is changing, journalists are now increasingly expected to have a visible online presence. Yet, as journalists move into the online public eye, they have become targets of harm. As Isbister et al (2018) states, public figures, including journalists, receive a disproportionately large volume of online abuse. The extent of this abuse is now starting to be understood as the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) reported that 51% of those surveyed had experienced online abuse within the previous year while 78% noted that abuse and harassment had become part of the job. Furthermore, around 80% of UK regional journalists believe that the problem has got 'significantly worse' since beginning their careers (Behind Local News 2020). Binns' (2017) adds that 15 percent of UK journalists had 'dropped stories' that might have resulted in online abuse. Previous studies have attempted to quantify abuse, however, this paper uses qualitative approaches to critically explore and understand sports journalists lived experiences surrounding online harms. Specifically, we will examine the impact that online harms have on sports journalists both personally and professionally. In order to critically understand such experiences, we will draw on theory concerning emotional labour within the context of journalism studies. Drawing on 20 semi-structured interviews with sports journalists, we will consider: triggers and types of online harms; how online harms affects mental health, working culture and practice; possible coping strategies to minimise its impact; institutional support, or lack of; and a series of recommendations aimed at supporting and protecting sports journalists. Our research attempts to create real and meaningful impact. We will therefore outline an array of non-academic outputs aimed at stakeholders and media outlets. These include educational resources designed to protect and support sports journalists from online harms, research informed policy recommendations, and a series of coping strategies that are informed by the datasets.

Key Words

Journalism, sport, online, internet, social media, harms, hate, emotional labour.

Do Nepali Journalists Uphold Professional Standards of Journalism on Digital Platforms?

Authors

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Abstract

Media scholars (see, for example, Deuze & Yeshua, 2001; Fengler, 2012; Friend & Singer, 2007; Heikkila et al., 2012; Joseph, 2011; Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2001; Krogh, 2012; Lasorsa, Lewis & Holton, 2012; Plaisance, 2000; Singer, 2005) have been generally optimistic with respect to upholding professional practice of journalism on digital platforms due to the substantial strengths of the Internet in terms of maintaining journalistic professionalism (i.e, journalists and media organizations ought to prepare and publish news content responsibly to the best interest of society).

There has been an ongoing debate among scholars across the world about the relevance of traditional standards of professional journalism — whether or not journalism on digital platforms needs a different set of ethical codes due to the platform's unconventional characteristics, including, but not limited to, interactivity, hypertextuality, immediacy, multimedia use, and global readership. Journalists and news media in developing countries like Nepal have been accused of employing arbitrary approaches, meaning they follow the traditional standards if that serve their purposes; otherwise, they break the tradition by unpublishing, altering or modifying the published content, and making post-publication corrections with or without public acknowledgement.

A number of media scholars and professional organizations (see, for example, CAJ, 2011; Díaz-Campo & Segado-Boj, 2015; English, Currie & Link, 2010; Ward, 2014) agree that even though the fundamental values of journalism do not change over technological platforms, journalists need specific guidelines to prevent arbitrary editorial decisions on digital platforms, and to foster the application of professional standards of journalism. Such requirements of specific guidelines to standardize digital platforms are because of unconventional issues, including, but not limited to, post-publication content moderation, post-delete, ineffective gatekeeping and information verification mechanism, missing contexts due to global readership of local content, and desire to break news with potentially viral content.

This study, therefore, empirically assesses the performances of online news portals in Nepal, how, and to what extent, Nepali journalists working on various online news portals employ journalistic standards on digital platforms. The following questions will guide this research: (a) Is the existing code of ethics for Nepali journalists enough to address news media challenges on digital platforms? (b) Do journalists in Nepal have a clearly articulated code of ethics for journalists on digital platforms? (c) How do they address the challenges faced by journalists on digital platforms?

This study may be beneficial to journalists across different countries to understand, compare and, if applicable, avoid the arbitrary practices of Nepali online media and journalists with regard to upholding professional standards of journalism on digital platforms.

Key Words

digital platforms, Nepal, professional standards, news media, journalism, arbitrary approach

Detecting precarious work in journalism

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Abstract

Journalism often gets described as a profession of precarity (e.g., Gollmitzer, 2014; Örnebring, 2018), however, the question remains open, how many journalists actually work under precarious conditions. This study offers a systematic empirical approach to the phenomenon by detecting precarious work in journalism. Looking at three key parameters of precarity research (Brinkmann et al. 2006; Rodgers 1989) on the substantial level (income), contractual level (employment status) and legal-institutional level (social benefits), the study can be seen as the first attempt to measure precarity in journalism. Derived from the analysis of previous research and a literature review of the sociology of work, an operationalization of precarity in journalistic employment was developed and applied to a sample of an online survey of professional journalists in Germany (n=861). Based on the three precarity indicators, journalists were classified into three groups of precarity status: The acute precarious, the latent precarious and the non-precarious.

Results show that about a quarter of journalists (27.4%) can be classified as acutely precarious, meaning they have a net monthly income under the defined threshold of 1388 euros and/or cannot rely on a pension- and unemployment insurance. The majority of the journalists (54.5%) are part of the non-precarious, having an income over the threshold and a full-time position with a permanent contract or working atypically voluntarily. 18.1 percent of the sample was classified as latent precarious, working atypically in journalism on an involuntary basis. Age has a small but significant effect on the precarious status of the journalists' employment situation, as the group of non-precarious largely consists of journalists aged 50+ (56.3%). While in the group of the non-precarious, we find mainly journalists working full-time, 43.3 percent of all freelancing journalists are working under acutely precarious conditions. The acute precarious have an average income of 1328 euros and state that they have difficulties making a living from their journalistic income. The survey results should be evaluated as a threat to democracy (Márquez-Ramírez et al. 2022) since we cannot exclude that (acute) precarity and the risk of potential poverty associated with it may impact the working routines of journalists.

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Key Words

Precarity, atypical work, journalistic labour, working conditions

Mission vs. Money: Professional Values and Attitudes of Public and Commercial Media Journalists in the United States

Authors

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Abstract

At a time of commercial media consolidation, consternation about convergence, and the shrinkage of news staffs across the country, public broadcasting newsrooms in the United States have pushed back against many prevalent trends. They are not corporately owned, have grown markedly in the past decade, and are at the forefront of both the podcasting space and a move to converge TV and radio news staffs into single entities.

Despite these seemingly innovative (and somewhat contrarian) stances, there have been very few analyses of the opinions and practices of U.S. public journalists. Most studies have instead focused on the stations (e.g., Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 2016; Public Media Company, 2021; *Station Resource Group*, n.d.) or news directors (e.g., Papper, 2022) of public broadcast newsrooms, leaving aside the views of rank-and-file editors, reporters, newscasters, and producers. Some studies (Pew Research Center, 2021) also have left out many small newsrooms, which comprise a significant part of the public media ecosystem. This has resulted in studies slanted toward large-market stations and national networks (NPR and PBS).

Thus, more analysis of public broadcasting employees and their actions is warranted, particularly in comparison to their commercial colleagues. What structures are in place that allow U.S. public broadcasters to work in the way they do? Do they have more autonomy than commercial news outlets? Do their demographics indicate that a different brand of journalist is employed in public media newsrooms than at for-profit ones?

Our study seeks to answer these questions through a comparison of survey responses from 399 public journalists and 1,491 commercial media members. This is facilitated by the generation of the largest and most representative pool of U.S. public media journalists ever in an academic study. Through comparison of these two samples, we examine the following research questions:

RQ1: Are there significant differences in the demographic backgrounds of commercial and public journalists?

RQ2: Are there significant differences in how much autonomy public journalists have in their jobs compared to commercial journalists?

RQ3: Are there significant differences in the professional roles held by commercial and public journalists?

Our findings add to existing role perceptions literature, in the tradition of Weaver (e.g., 1991), Hanitzsch (e.g. 2019), Mellado and Hellmueller (2016), and others. We find U.S. public media journalists primarily let their mission drive their work—rather than a station’s push for ratings or advertising dollars. For example, public broadcasting journalists value interpreting complex concepts and issuing calls to action in their work more than commercial journalists, while commercial reporters put more emphasis on getting information out as fast as possible.

This may be driven, in part, by demographic differences. Public newsrooms tend to be younger, more female, and employ a higher percentage of journalists of color. The greater diversity of U.S. public media newsrooms also correlates with an increased sense of autonomy, which allows those journalists more freedom to pursue the stories and angles they choose.

Key Words

Public Media, Journalism, News

The view of journalism teachers from USA, Europe and China on journalistic roles

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Abstract

Due to technological, economic and social-cultural changes, a transition from a mass media model to a network model occurred since the nineties. In the context of the mass media model, professional journalism has been successful under conditions of a mass audience, monopoly and scarcity. Professional news media focused on immediacy and fast dissemination (Drok, 2019).

In the context of the network model, the future of professional journalism became unsure, because public's interest stagnated. Research shows that people make a distinction between what they consider news (all day; free; different platforms) and what they consider journalism (context; perspectives)(Drok & Duiven, 2021). This indicates that professional journalists should questioning their dominant role as detached disseminator to roles that embrace slower forms of journalism.

Except European research (Drok, 2019), little is known about the views of teachers on roles, values and qualifications. Earlier research focused on practitioners (www.worldsofjournalism.org) or students (Journalism Students Across the Globe). As journalism teachers can play a pivotal role in renewing journalism, it is essential to know how they think about the role of journalism in society.

In this research project, we asked journalism teachers from the USA, Europe and China about their views on what role journalism should play in society. It is interesting to focus on these regions, because they have different social and political structures in which the media operate (Christians et al., 2009). In the USA, the market dominates the media landscape. In Europe, there is state intervention with protection for press freedom, whereas in China there is strong state intervention (Hallin & Mancini, 2004).

Our **research question** was: Which role should journalism play in society, according to teachers from the USA, Europe and China?

An online questionnaire was distributed among teachers in the USA, Europe and China. We used the same questions as Drok (2019) in his European research project. Based on earlier research (e.g. Weaver & Wilhoit, 1996) we distinguish four different journalistic roles constructed from journalistic tasks and attitudes: Disseminator, Investigator, Mobilizer and Observer.

621 teachers filled in the questionnaire: 291 from China, 217 from the USA and 113 from Europe. Results show that the preference of Chinese journalism teachers goes to the Observer role of journalism. Teachers from the USA and Europe think the Investigator role should be the most important. In all regions, the Disseminator got the lowest ranking.

When we look in more detail, we see agreement between the regions on the five least important future tasks, which are all related to the Disseminator role. Although more differences between the regions can be found in the top five of tasks, there is a lot of agreement in general, especially considering the tasks that belong to the Investigator role. With regard to their view on the attitudes of journalists, Chinese teachers differ from European and American teachers.

In our presentation and paper for IAMCR we will elaborate on these results in more detail and discuss the significance of these results for the challenges media face in the digital era.

Key Words

Global journalism, Journalistic Roles, Media systems

Introducing Sham Journalism: A Case-Study of Newsmax.com

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Abstract

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, new media forms of journalism and opinion were widely greeted with positive and even utopian appraisals (e.g., Gillmor, *We the Media*, 2004). The ensemble of internet journalists appeared poised for a correction of course away from many of the defects of older forms of news media such as their dependence on official sources, stereotypical narrative formats, and emphasis on facts over truth (Bennett, *News: The Politics of Illusion*, 2016). As news has migrated from newsprint to online platforms, the degree to which news discourses can be hijacked by unscrupulous, ideologically militant yet widely circulated players has become more evident and indeed a pressing problem for public discourse and governance.

The study introduces the concept of “sham journalism” to describe activity that appropriates the trappings of journalism but, in substance, practices a form of weaponized political discourse. Sham journalism tactics include polarizing blue lies (Smith, *Scientific American*, 24 March 2017) and the reputational vandalism of flak (Goss, *The Rise of Weaponized Flak in the New Media Era*, 2020). The importance of the topic is underscored by the proliferation of divisive sham journalism platforms and their refusal of the profession’s stated mission of public enlightenment (Society of Professional Journalist, “Code of Ethics”, 2014). A further stake in this study is that some journalism scholars are willing to retreat from what they imply to be overly idealistic demands for journalism; these scholars recast the rise of divisive, avowedly right-wing news as an opportunity to rethink definitions of journalism and are less concerned with what they acknowledge to be its often substandard practices (Bauer, et al., *Electronic News*, v16:n1)

Founded by right-wing journalist Christopher Ruddy in 1996, the *Newsmax.com* website furnishes the case-study at the heart of the current investigation. Embedded in a firm that attracts a monthly audience of 30 million in the U.S. (Chotiner, *New Yorker*, 24 November 2020), *Newsmax* attempts to hail an audience to the right of that of Fox News. The analysis draws upon theories of ideology (van Dijk, *Ideology*, 1998) in focusing on *Newsmax*’ 2022 coverage of William Barr/Donald Trump-appointed special counsel John Durham’s revisionist investigations of the 2016 election, particularly Durham’s failed prosecution of Michael Sussmann. The study excavates *Newsmax*’ resolutely one-sided discourse, reinforcement of us/them dichotomization, politicized flak, ethical lapses, and dependence on Trump-ultras that include felons as sources. For example, while *Newsmax* regularly accuses members of the Democratic Party of patently criminal behavior, its flak discourses do not give the accused any chance for rebuttal. Moreover, blatant factual errors are never corrected in *Newsmax*’ discourse, as good faith professionalism demands. Following Durham’s feeble case against Sussmann predictably resulted in acquittal, *Newsmax* refused to educate readers as to how to understand events and instead assayed to delegitimize the result while sowing intensified unreality and division. Rather than indulging right-wing news, as Bauer, et

al. counsel, journalism practice must double-down on pursuing truth to educate (and not merely inform) the public.

Key Words

Newsmax; sham journalism; blue lies; flak; John Durham; 2016 election

Poverty, environment and the news media: Why sustainability narratives do not address inequality

Authors

Prof. Jairo Lugo-Ocando - University of Sharjah

Prof. Leon barkho - University of Sharjah

Abstract

Poverty and inequality are perhaps the most pressing issues in society after the environment, yet in many news stories few seem to relate them. When it does happen, it is more likely that poverty tends to be underlined as the cause of environment degradation despite the fact that most of the pollution and energy consumption happens in the riches households and countries. Why, one can ask, is this the case? To start with, research in the field shows that news reporting tends to be overall flawed and scarce. Particularly problematic is the way it has been represented in the media (Golding and Middleton 1982; Devereux 1998; Devereux and Power 2019). News on poverty tends to ignore the fact that rather than a cause of environmental degradation, poverty in many cases is rather an effect of it. As discursive approaches move towards the notion of sustainability (Sun and Yao 2022), there is a need to examine how much of these new discursive regimes is able to create a shift in the narratives about poverty. Based on a comparative examination of *The Guardian* (UK) and *The Nation* (U.A.E.) we provide an answer that is twofold. Not only sustainability has done very little to change the discursive regime in ways that people living in poverty are not made responsible for environmental issue –e.g. as the media still underscore overpopulation as a culprit– but also we found that the notion itself is used to deflect from the idea of achieving greater inequality. The paper is based on a sample of newspapers articles that date from January 1st to December 31st of 2022. This data was later crossed-reference with 12 interviews with journalists both in the UK and the U.A.E.

Key Words

Poverty, Inequality, Environment, Sustainability, News Media, Journalism, Overpopulation, Demography, Exclusion

Engagement of media institutions with their Audience across Social Media in the UAE

Authors

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Abstract

Engagement has become one of the most important concepts that explains interaction and connection between organizations and their publics (Wright & Hinson, 2014). Recent research has demonstrated that engagement can have a positive influence on businesses. By creating meaningful relationships with diverse publics, organizations can communicate effectively and ensure their messages resonate with their target audiences. Organizations must strive to be transparent and authentic in order to build trust with publics, and stay current and up-to-date on their messaging, information, and content.

While this notion has been extensively studied in the context of public relations, scholars have only started paying attention to engagement in the field of media institutions and journalism only recently. Over the last two decades, news media and industry have been through what many described as “journalism crisis” because of the decline in revenues, stiff competitions from social media platforms and influencers, and shift towards more converged forms of productions and consumption modes.

In the online digital environment, one of the major challenges facing professional media institutions enhance engagement is not only to attract audiences to their websites or social media accounts but how to gain their loyalty and long-term commitment. The most common interpretation of engagement includes interaction among content, platform, and audiences; users’ motivation from cognition and affective behavior; connections between brands and audiences, and the quality of audience attention on websites” (Johnston, 2018).

This study aims at investigating how media institutions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) engage with their audiences through social media accounts and to what extent they build long-term relationship with their public/audiences. Engagement as a multidimensional and relational concept with cognitive, affective, and behavioral attributes may lead to connection, participation, and involvement of publics/audience (Ahva & Hellman, 2015). In this study, four categories are used to shed light on engagement on the studied social media platforms; information dissemination, public and audience outreach, interactivity and multimedia storytelling. In this respect, the study answers the following questions:

- How do media institutions in the UAE use their social media accounts to engage with their audiences (information dissemination, public and audience outreach)?
- What digital tools do media institutions use to enhance interactivity with their audiences through their social media accounts?

- What level of audience's engagement across digital platforms of the media institutions?

The study analyses three (3) social media accounts (Facebook Instagram Twitter) of six (6) media institutions in the UAE; three (3) newspapers (Al-Etihad, Al-Bayan and Al-Khaleej) and three (3) media corporations (Abu Dhabi Media, Dubai Media and Sharjah Media Authority). The social media accounts were observed and coded for a period of one week in November 2022).

Key Words

Engagement – Newspapers – Audience – Social media - UAE

Checking the German Fact-Check

Authors

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Abstract

The (journalistic) Fact-Check has reached international diffusion and recognition (Duke Reporters' Lab, 2023). Checking information for accuracy, publishing rectifications and gaining acceptance is an elementary asset for the preservation of democracy (Zerilli, 2020). Fact-checkers counter ideologically driven reasonings with accurate facts and opportunities for recipients to improve their informedness and engagement (Singer, 2019).

Research shows contradictory results on fact-checking's effectiveness. Although corrective effects can be determined (Hameleers & van der Meer, 2019), fact-checking has been deemed a "necessary, but insufficient response to [...] misinformation" (Chou et al., 2020, p. 9). The discipline is rarely successful in correcting misperceptions (ibd.) since many rectifications are designed inefficiently (Walter et al., 2019). Furthermore, it remains unclear which goals fact-checkers pursue and how they ensure effectiveness.

Studies on fact-checking focus on the effectiveness of fact-checks (e.g., Barrera et al., 2020) and explanations for recipients' refusal of corrections (e.g. Lewandowsky et al., 2012), content analyses (e.g. Cotter et al., 2022) or qualitative insights into routines and obstacles (e.g. Arnold, 2020). Further, research repeatedly produces instructions on content-related and stylistic composition of fact-checks (e.g., ibd.). Very few studies have developed a quantitative approach to analyze fact-checking (e.g., Singer 2021). Most still focus on the United States (cf. Arechar et al., 2022) and no attempt to capture the situation of the discipline in Germany has been undertaken yet.

Therefore, the present study is conducting a quantitative survey among German fact-checking institutions to answer the following research questions:

- What types of fact-checking units operate in Germany?
- What role perceptions prevail; what significance is given to fact-checking within the journalistic duty?
- Which motivations and values do fact-checkers hold?
- Which methods do fact-checkers apply to compose and promote their rectifications?
- What success and difficulties do fact-checkers experience?

The questionnaire and analysis strategy are derived from combined several theoretical approaches. Among others, the "Critical Juncture Theory" is used, a phenomenological approach that explains the success of fact-checking in a nation (cf. Amazeen, 2020). The "Institutional Logics Approach" looks at the actions and logics within the discipline (Lowrey, 2015). These theories are just a few approaches with which this study aims to explain the institutionalization and simultaneous hesitant success of fact-checking in Germany and to make the findings useful for research and

practice. A quantitative status quo of fact-checkers in Germany has great potential to provide insights into possible weaknesses and starting points for improvement.

This study aims to conduct a complete survey of German journalistic fact-checking units. This includes 40 journalistic editorial offices with associated departments as well as organizations and public figures inside and outside of journalism. The ongoing survey will be completed by April and will produce a finished paper by May 2023, perfectly fitting the deadline of the conference.

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Key Words

Fact-Checking, Misinformation, Disinformation, Verification, Rectification, Journalism, Fake News, Germany, Truth

Media Richness Theory and the influence of technological affordances in science journalism in the global South: A case study of Twitter use in South Africa

Authors

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Abstract

It has been recognised in literature that the advent of online media has presented new and exciting opportunities for science journalism in a global news ecosystem where this form of journalism was previously on the decline. This study aims to add to this body of literature that examines how technological affordances can influence science journalism. By analysing content from the Twitter feeds of three South African-based science journalism outfits, the study uses 'media richness theory' to assess how this social media platform engages in science journalism in the Global South. This study provides insight into the methods and techniques that science journalists in developing societies use to engage local audiences with global science issues in contextually relevant ways. The study argues that the use of multilingualism in science journalism tweets, made possible by the affordances of Twitter as a multimodal platform, allows science journalists to post content in Zulu, the most widely spoken language in South Africa. It further demonstrates that through the use of simplified graphics, science journalism tweets can convey with clarity what would otherwise be complex scientific developments. Finally, it identifies discrepancies in how these accounts respond to their audiences and harness Twitter's affordance of real-time engagement between senders and receivers of messages.

Key Words

Twitter

science journalism

@SciBraai

@Bhekisisa_MC

@TC_Africa

media richness theory

Role Performances in Cuban Diasporic Journalism. A Reflexive Practice Approach from the Backstage

Authors

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Abstract

This paper examines how reporting from the diaspora changes journalistic practices in Cuban journalism. The paper argues that journalists' migration from the state-owned media towards diasporic digital-born outlets carries along significant epistemic changes and a hybridization of role performances. How are digital diasporic ways of knowing changing Cuban journalists' role performances? This question is examined through reflective practice focus groups, which unveil journalists' "backstage" epistemic practices and their impact on role performances: dealing with knowledge claims, authority, sourcing, data gathering or verification (Mellado, 2019).

The paper takes a relational approach, exploring digital diasporas as sites of connectivity (Candidatu et al., 2019; Glissant, 1997; Robertson and Mocanu, 2019) co-habited by multiple imaginaries on the move (Appadurai, 1996). These imaginaries are the result of a hybridization of epistemic practices (Enghel and Becerra, 2018; Hallin and Mellado, 2017; Mutsvairo et al., 2021) and role performance in journalism across nations and cultures (Mancini, 2015; Mellado et al., 2017).

A comprehensive survey of Cuban Journalism students by Somohano et al. (2019) revealed their commitment to civic and watchdog roles. While the civic role can be materialized, the watchdog role seems unattainable for Cuban journalists working for the state-owned media (Mellado et al., 2020; Olivera Pérez and Fernández Hernández, 2022), as is often the case in non-democratic countries (Márquez-Ramírez, Roses, Silke and Olivera, 2021). What happens when journalism is freed from state control? Are journalists finally able to perform Western normative roles, or can these operate as restrictive boundaries (Hanitzsch, 2019; Lugo-Ocando, 2020; Waisbord, 2013)?

The authors have conducted 50 in-depth interviews with Cuban independent journalists between 2018 and 2022, exploring their self-reported role perceptions. We know that journalists across nations and cultures share similar perceptions, but end up performing roles that differ from them (Hanitzsch et al., 2011). In order to account for this "gap", the interviews are complemented with three participative focus groups in meaningful diasporic locations: the USA, Mexico and Spain. The focus groups adopt a reflexive practice approach (Finlay, 2008), enabling a circularity between learning and reflection that can inform future collective action (Bruno and Dell'Aversana, 2018).

A preliminary analysis reveals four major epistemic challenges that are shifting journalists' role performances. The first has to do with the notion of place as a relevant epistemic category in

journalism (Usher, 2020). If digital diasporic journalists are not bound to an ethno-national “locus of enunciation” (Diniz de Figueiredo and Martinez, 2021), what roles do these “travelling” epistemologies (Leurs, 2022) unveil? The second challenge addresses journalists’ inability to escape the surveillance and intimidation campaigns led by the Cuban state (García Santamaría, 2021). How do relocation and independence shift their loyal-facilitator role as nation builders and government supporters?

The third challenge addresses journalists’ understanding of their perceived authority (Carlson, 2017). While they question those working for the state, they struggle to assert their own authority and autonomy (Carter, 2022), given the blurring boundaries between their role as journalists and activists (García Santamaría, 2021; Sözeri, 2016). How do independent diasporic journalists assess interventionist role performances? Can commitment to advocacy and social change be compatible with neutral observation (Porlezza and Arafat, 2021)? This brings us to the fourth challenge: journalists’ redistribution of their sources’ epistemic status (Ekström and Westlund, 2019). Diasporic independent journalists lack access to official sources and depend more heavily on knowledge at secondhand (Godler et al., 2020). The disconnection from bureaucratic reliability brings about a new prominence of citizen sources (Ekström and Tolson, 2017; Kleemans et al., 2017), reinforcing the civic and service roles of Cuban diasporic journalism.

Key Words

Journalism, role performance, diaspora, Cuba, reflexive practice

Fact-checks: a weapon against the pandemic. The case of Polígrafo and the vaccination campaign in Portugal

Authors

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Prof. Ana Peixinho - Universidade de Coimbra

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Abstract

Fact-checkers joins a plethora of genres - some new, others recycled (Santos & Peixinho, 2016) - that characterise contemporary journalistic production. Since the late 19th century and early 20th century, fact-checking was a practice associated with the professionalization of journalism, linked to the ideals of accuracy and impartiality. Graves (2016) traces the origin of political fact-checking back to the 1980s but claims that its codification and standardisation happened on the 21st century.

This study aims to look into the transition of fact-checking from journalistic practice and tool to journalistic genre and analyse how it has been appropriated by strategic communication. This phenomenon is enhanced in the context of digital communication within the network society. The democratisation of communication, facilitated by the internet, leads to the dissemination of information disorders that call into question the very foundations of democracy in the digital age. The advent of post-truth, the proliferation and awareness of information disorder phenomena and the need to combat them put fact-checking in the spotlight.

The Covid-19 pandemic has sharpened the need to distinguish between false and reliable information, and journalists and official entities, namely health authorities, have sought formulas to combat the 'infodemic' (Santos et al. 2021).

The Directorate General of Health - a privileged source on Covid-19 on TV and in the press (Lopes et al., 2021) and which registered a 359% increase in followers on its Facebook page in the first two years of the pandemic - established a partnership with the fact-checking agency Polígrafo in order to "identify, evaluate and classify the information that is being publicly shared on a topic that is already a worldwide case study in terms of misinformation" (Público, 2020).

Thus, we do a quantitative content analysis of the fact-checkers done by Polígrafo based on a corpus of 205 posts on vaccines published between 27 December 2020 and 28 December 2021, collected from the Facebook page of this fact-checking agency. From the analysis, some of the main conclusions are: i) 79.5% of the analysed publications start from information disseminated on online social networks; ii) 82% of the verified information is false or contains some type of inaccuracy; iii) The cases verified as true are mostly information intended to clarify doubts about

vaccination; iv) Most of the verifications are made from official sources (31.1%), followed by expert or science-based sources (21.6%); v) Fact-checkers can be understood as a journalistic cyber-genre and were appropriated by strategic communication.

Key Words

fact-checking, genres, vaccination, strategic communication

“We are part of the platform! We are part of the community!”

Investigating Gate-watching in Taiwan’s Citizen Journalism

Authors

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Abstract

Citizen journalism represents a shift in news production and dissemination from mainstream media. It adopts a gate-watching model, which involves interacting directly with the community and allowing the community access to the editorial development process (Bruns, 2003). Gate-watching differs from traditional gatekeeping, where news is filtered by a small group of editors before being published. However, with the absence of editor checks before publishing the news, gate-watching raises questions about the reliability of the overall news reading experience. Therefore, similar to social media platforms, false information may have spread more quickly (Bruns, 2008).

While there was a lack of scholarly attention to the gate-watching model, we need to explore further how might the absence of editor checks before publishing the news makes gate-watching workable. Can we rely exclusively on citizen power to "gate-watch" after the story has been published to maintain the reliability of the overall news reading experience? In this study, we intend to understand: RQ1) What is the role of the in-house journalists in the gate-watching process? To what extent do citizen journalists take part in this process? RQ2) What are the strategies/ techniques these in-house journalists and citizen journalists adopt in order to help them combat false information? RQ3) What criteria do the in-house journalists and citizen journalists consider when deciding whether to delete a news story?

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the editor of a prominent citizen journalism outlet in Taiwan, PeoPo, and their corresponding citizen journalists. The findings of the study suggest that three characteristics posit in PeoPo's gate-watching model: 1) Citizen journalists have a high level of media literacy, 2) the importance of citizenship and self-discipline, and 3) the involvement of the community in gate-watching to prevent self-censorship.

In the absence of an editor to monitor the quality of a story, citizen journalists should have the sense to act as "gatekeepers" themselves, so a high level of media literacy among citizen journalists is therefore necessary. Given that the model relies heavily on them to identify and flag false and misleading information, a sense of community and self-discipline are especially important for citizen journalists to gate-watch others in order to keep the credibility and sustainability of the platform. With the collaborative power of the journalists, it makes gate-watching a feasible model for censoring problematic information.

As interviewees noted, it works like a "platform" – that “does not operate from a position of authority inherent in brand and imprint, in ownership and control of the newsflow, but works by harnessing the collective intelligence and knowledge of dedicated communities to filter the newsflow and to highlight and debate salient topics of importance to the community.” (Bruns, 2008, p.175), traditional gatekeeping is thus ineffective. However, current research findings suggest that by adding the aforementioned attributes, the gate-watching approach might also be a viable model for maintaining the credibility of news story dissemination.

This study contributes to explaining the previously less-known gatekeeping method — the gate-watching model. It adds to the understanding of the gate-watching model in citizen journalism and the roles of in-house employees and citizen journalists in this process. It also has broader implications for the gatekeeping strategies used in user-generated content platforms like Wikipedia.

Key Words

Citizen journalism, gatekeeping, interview, editor, Taiwan, news

Journalistic roles at the local media: between demographic characteristics and the commitment with the community

Authors

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Abstract

Local journalism has traditionally played an important role in the shaping of nearby communities, being emphasized its relevance for participation and politics (Anderson, 2020). However, local media have been especially affected by the crisis of business model. These organizations are suffering a decline that puts the coverage of some areas at risk (Nygren, 2019). This lack of local news provision has very negative effects on the civic commitment of the population, to the point of reducing electoral participation (Abernathy, 2020; Magasic and Hess, 2021).

Prior scholarship describes how local journalism is a form of emotional labor fueled by passion (Wahl-Jorgensen, 2022), overlapping with service and civic journalistic roles (Mellado, 2015). Although the geo socio-political context and the relationship with the community are defining features of local media (Gulyas and Baines, 2020), there is little research on which journalistic roles appear at the local level and how they are determined by contextual factors.

Bearing these trends in mind, this study aims to examine the presence of journalistic roles at the local level and their relationship with sociodemographic characteristics. Specifically, we analyze the most populated and largest Spanish region (Andalusia) as a case study, based on the hypothesis that there is a digital gap that impacts on the consolidation and consumption of news media (Napoli et al., 2019). This connects with sociodemographic variables that are considered here throughout a territory of more than 8 million people, in which rural and urban areas coexist.

First, a database of the local news media outlets in Andalusia is developed (n=250), identifying the main journalistic roles according to their mission statements. Second, we draw upon 10 in-depth interviews with newspaper editors from different organizations across the region. Finally, a multiple linear regression is conducted to determine which sociodemographic variables are related to the existence of media in the Andalusian municipalities, using the official database of the regional population) The objective is to provide an overview of the factors that influence on some areas suffer more from local news deserts than others and how this problem impacts on the journalistic roles that come from the profession itself.

Results show the existence of differences in the conception of journalistic roles. The preference for an audience approach is noted (service and civic roles), but the watchdog function is also found as a way of commitment with the community. Nevertheless, the fulfillment of the roles depends upon factors such as young population, distance to the regional capital or the presence of

commercial activities and public institutions. These items work as statistically significant predictors of creating a community news provider.

The challenges of making a living in local journalism make participants to develop a kind of emotional journalistic role that ground their entrepreneurial careers, which are a response to the precarity in the journalistic profession. Our study contributes to current discussions on the mission and state of local journalism in a changing digital era, arguing that precariousness reinforces some professional roles at community service.

Key Words

Local journalism; local media; journalistic roles; news deserts; demographics.

Journalists' and audience's trust in each other: Unpacking their relationship from a phenomenological sociological perspective

Authors

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Abstract

Current research shows that news media distrust is related to polarization, active news avoidance, and an increasing shift toward hyper-partisan, attitude-consistent news outlets, among other negative trends. A growing strand of scholars is considering the congruence between journalists' and citizens' understanding of journalism as a remedy for distrust. However, those studies offer little comprehension of (dis)trust due to a lack of theoretical explanation and terminological confusion. While perceived trustworthiness concerns the attributes of the entity that is to be trusted, (dis)trust is a state of (un)favourable expectation in which vulnerability and uncertainty are (not) "suspended" (Möllering, 2006).

This article aims to advance a novel framework that draws from phenomenological sociology and discursive institutionalism. It understands the journalistic institution as a structure of meaning that is discursively created, perpetuated, and contested by actors inside and outside journalism (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2017). Journalistic roles constitute the discursive articulation and enactment that give the institution a material shape (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2017) and enable citizens to enter into meaningful interactions with institutional representatives despite not personally knowing them (Schütz, 1962).

From the public's perspective, journalistic roles carry expectations that are taken-for-granted as part of the "natural attitude" toward the world (Schütz, 1967). Congruence between journalistic roles and public's expectations means that journalists and citizens inhabit a "world known in common" (Schütz, 1967). As journalistic roles – and, therefore, the public's expectations – can be articulated on various levels (Hanitzsch & Vos, 2017), the same applies to the objects of the resulting common understanding or lack of it: i.e., what journalism should do at the societal level (normative role/expectation), at the practical level (cognitive role/expectation), and what journalists are actually doing (narrated role/expectation).

Besides existing, these congruences must also be perceived by citizens in order to foster their trust; such perceptions constitute a sign of trustworthiness (Möllering, 2006). As expectations can articulate on various levels, the same applies to the target of perceived trustworthiness: news media in general (from normative expectation), news outlets (from cognitive expectation), and journalists (from narrated expectation).

Furthermore, even when a perceived common understanding exists, questions about trust remain unanswered. Also taking a phenomenological standpoint, this article suggests investigating how such a perceived congruence is effectively related to trust and how people deal

with the uncertainty and vulnerability that cannot be reduced by the perceived common understanding.

By advancing a novel framework easily applicable to different contexts and types of journalism, this article aims to advance and compact the so far scattered knowledge on news media trust from a theoretical perspective.

Key Words

Discursive institutionalism; Media trust; Phenomenological sociology; Roles; Role expectations; Trustworthiness

How Leadership Empowerment Encourages Journalists' Innovative Work Behaviors in Media Transformation: Based on the Survey of 40 Municipal Media Organizations in China

Authors

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Ms. MENGQIAN LI - Zhejiang University

Prof. Chan Zhang - Zhejiang University

Abstract

Municipal media play a significant and special role in the transformative shift of media convergence in China, and how to achieve media innovation and performance breakthroughs is a crucial question that has to be addressed. Previous research has demonstrated that leadership empowerment is a key driver of organizational innovation, and practitioners and researchers alike have highlighted it as a topic deserving of further study. Converged media organizations are required to have solid leadership that encourages innovation due to the ongoing changes and rising competition in the digital age. However, a dearth of research is found in the media sector. To fill this research gap, we use social exchange theory to investigate the relationship between leadership empowerment and innovative work behaviors. Based on a long-term multi-case study, we conducted a questionnaire survey with 1623 media practitioners to test our hypotheses, which consisted of 40 municipal media organizations operating in China. Results indicated that leadership empowerment positively impacted media practitioners' innovative work behaviors. Additionally, we found the mediating effects of both job autonomy and felt obligation in accounting for the relationship between leadership empowerment and innovative work behaviors. Furthermore, job autonomy and felt obligation played a chain mediating effect that connected leadership empowerment and innovative work behaviors. This study makes several significant contributions to both theoretical and practical value in order to achieve the research objectives. First, the present study on leadership and innovation is carried out in the technology, manufacturing, and healthcare sectors, our study is among the first to examine whether leadership empowerment predicts innovative work behaviors in the media industry. Despite the fact that numerous studies have focused on examining the direct relationship between leadership empowerment and innovative work behaviors, the mediating mechanisms of job autonomy and felt obligation have remained unexplored. Second, this study considers the attractiveness of cross-cultural studies. Researchers supported that followers may interpret the same leadership style differently, and its effectiveness may also vary depending on the cultural cluster in which they are embedded. Instead of increased pressure, our study found the efficacy of leadership empowerment behaviors in Confucian cultural clusters. Additionally, the social exchange theory's effectiveness to explain leadership and practitioner relations is further enhanced by this study. Therefore, in a practical sense, this paper offers valuable insight into the application of empowerment theory in converged

media organizations in China. In the digital age, media managers can successfully encourage practitioners' innovative work behaviors by emphasizing effective leadership empowerment behaviors and raising practitioners' sense of autonomy and obligation.

Key Words

News media management; Journalists; Media convergence; Innovation; Leadership

The audience are the journalists: Conceptualising peripheral journalistic actors from the perspective of the radical audience turn

Authors

Mr. Andre Gouws - Stellenbosch University

Abstract

The proliferation of social media, with the accompanying entry of many new actors in the field of journalism, have had a profound effect on the legacy media around the world (Kruger, 2022). Scholars such as Mututwa and Mare (2022), Hermida (2019) and Carlson (2018) agree that journalism now often happens outside the confines of traditional journalistic institutions. There are now many peripheral actors in journalism, for example Facebook groups, specialist websites and influencers (Ginosar et al., 2022, Hendrickx, 2022, Hermida and Young, 2019, Mabweazara and Mare, 2021), who appear to create news and informative content about current affairs themselves (Swart et al., 2022; Peters et al. 2021). Since audiences are seemingly creating their own news, while continuing to lose trust in legacy media (Newman et al., 2022), the role of the audience has become more important in journalism studies than ever before.

Journalists have traditionally contributed to the political and everyday life by providing a normative framework for society (Hanitzsch, & Örnebring, 2019). In the digital era, as Reese and Shoemaker (2016:394) have argued: there is a need to move beyond “an overreliance on journalism as an inherently stable institution”. There seems to be a need for new conceptualisations of journalism that take into account the active role of the audience. Until recently, scholars have studied audiences mostly from a newsroom-centric viewpoint (Swart et al., 2022; Engelke 2019; Westlund & Ekström 2018; Bossio 2017; Bruns 2017). However, a radical audience turn in journalism studies (Swart et al., 2022) posits that the audience should be seen as active agents in journalism (Hendrickx, 2022) and that the field of journalism should be examined from the perspectives of audiences themselves, instead of from the perspective of industry concerns (Swart et al, 2022).

This conceptual paper argues that it is no longer enough to continue searching for solutions amid the challenges facing journalism (Reese, 2022a) within existing boundaries and within the existing institution of journalism (Reese, 2022a; Reed et al. 2020). There is a need to look further than existing understandings. The radical audience turn in journalism studies offers an approach to explore new types of journalism by the peripheral actors who have mostly been neglected by scholars (Hendrickx, 2022; Swart et al, 2022).

Examining the work of peripheral actors who are not traditionally seen as journalists is important because this will help scholars move beyond traditional understandings of what journalism is and what it does, which will, in turn, help theorise journalism in new ways (Swart et al, 2022). Such an examination will also help decentre journalism studies (Swart et al, 2022). This paper, therefore, “asks the big questions” (Reese, 2022b: 14) that should be asked while the field of journalism

studies is facing significant changes. This conceptual paper flows from a current PhD study by the author, which examines peripheral actors in journalism in the global South.

Key Words

journalism, peripheral actors, radical audience turn

Trump or not Trump? China Daily on the 2016 and 2020 US presidential candidates

Authors

Ms. Fangyuan Liu - Hong Kong Baptist University

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

Abstract

Abstract

As political propaganda, Chinese journalism projects the worldviews of political elites and influences Chinese citizens' understandings of reality (Edney, 2014; Jamieson & Waldman, 2003). Chinese media has been recognized as an important contra-flow against the dominant Western information flow (Thussu, 2007, 2009), with the Chinese government emphasizing the importance of pushing a Chinese perspective abroad. *China Daily*, one of the leading English-language newspapers in China, is at the forefront of this "going global" mission. While previous research has analyzed Chinese communist propaganda (Rawnsley, 2013; Yu, 1964), the commercialization of Chinese media (Repnikova, 2017; Stockmann, 2013), and the political economic context of China's media going global (Hartig, 2018; Shi, 2018; Sun, 2010; Thussu, 2018), the more sophisticated form of propaganda with the aim of appealing to international audiences has been understudied.

This paper helps fill this research gap by comparing the commentary on the 2016 and the 2020 US presidential candidates in *China Daily*. Using a thematic analysis, all the relevant opinion articles and editorials published from the first day to election day in both election years were selected and examined. The newspaper published many more articles in 2020 than in 2016, with particular attention given to Donald Trump. In both years, *China Daily* mainly reproduced the existing narratives on the presidential candidates, aligning itself with dominant western opinions. The newspaper often attributed the deficiencies of the presidential candidates to the problems of the US political system. A China vs the US dichotomy was emphasized, where China was the victim of US unilateralism. *China Daily* criticized Trump as incompetent in both elections, but with different focuses. In 2016, the newspaper mainly criticized Trump for his hollow slogans, stirring up public sentiments, and being unusual and inexperienced. In 2020, the focus shifted to his COVID policies, unilateral policies, and his blaming China to avert public attention from his mishandling of the pandemic. When commenting on the Democratic candidates, *China Daily* softened its tone by predicting their policies as a continuation of Barack Obama's policies. The newspaper regarded the two main Democratic candidates as better than Trump, yet also pointed out that they came with their own problems. This softened tone was especially noticeable when *China Daily* commented on Joe Biden's candidacy in the 2020 election, only expecting him to not continue Trump's race-to-the-bottom with China.

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Key Words

US elections, *China Daily*, Chinese journalism, propaganda.

Newsroom conflicts in Hong Kong media in the post National Security Law era

Authors

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Abstract

Mass media have been a battleground between journalists committed to professional and ethical values and those who propitiate media owners, advertisers, corporations and political powers. Given political challenges and economic pressures in Hong Kong in recent years, contestations between the two forces have worsened. On the one hand, the Chinese government has tightened its grip over local media with the introduction of the National Security Law in Hong Kong in 2020 in response to unrest triggered by the extradition legislation in 2019. At the same time, the Hong Kong government and public bodies have emerged to the rank of major revenue contributions to news organizations whose advertising income has been on the steady decline. New media owners comprise mainly pro-Beijing businessmen from Hong Kong and mainland China, who have their own agenda including serving their political goals and enhancing their other businesses and investments instead of considering the fundamental role of a news outlet. Interference from media investors and advertisers is not uncommon in newsrooms. Although profit-making may not be the goal of some media moguls, some news organization's management, comprising veteran journalists, may choose to impress their new bosses by improving the profitability of the organization. In addition to advertisements, 'hybrid journalism', using journalists' expertise to produce news-like content or events, has become a new form of income generation for media. When journalists perform such duties, conflicts of interest could easily arise. As these kinds of practices are largely against professionalism, norms and values, they may cause disagreement among journalists and conflicts in the newsrooms. With the fast-changing political and economic environment in Hong Kong in the past two years, the challenges that media face are understudied. This is also due to the fact that more journalists have become more cautious when expressing opinion after the implementation of the National Security Law. Against such a background, this research aims to study conflicts of interest and conflicts in the Hong Kong media, which involve professional values and personal disputes respectively. Their causes, resolutions, and compromises reached will be found out through in-depth and anonymous interviews with experienced journalists of local media. The extent to which that journalists have given in to editorial integrity could shed light on the degree that Hong Kong media's watchdog role has diminished, or even if the fourth estate still exists, as well as the degree that news credibility and press freedom have deteriorated, in the post National Security Law era. While media around the world are living in a difficult political and economic environment, this research aims to contribute to the field by seeking practical ways for journalists to struggle through these challenges.

Key Words

conflicts, professionalism, ethical values, national security law, Hong Kong media

Aid & the news agenda: examining the forces shaping NGO-produced humanitarian news

Authors

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Abstract

This study examines the external influences that shape NGO-produced news content on humanitarian crises in East, West and Central Africa. Employing a thematic analysis of semi-structured in-depth interviews (N25) with humanitarian communicators, it seeks to establish which types of content NGO communication staff consider most effective for achieving mainstream media coverage, how they access such content, and any external forces influencing their eventual production of news. In line with notions of media logic (Althiede and Snow, 1979; Cottle and Nolan, 2007; Fenton 2010), it uncovers a reliance on hard-hitting statistics and powerful first-person testimonies, which are considered essential for achieving mainstream news coverage. Statistics are said to be most-often sourced from publicly available humanitarian datasets considered susceptible to politicisation by authorities implicated in the crisis in question. First-person testimonies are usually gathered in-person by NGO staff and are affected by issues of physical access to crisis zones including filming permits, monitoring by authorities, and media sign-off. Additionally, a humanitarian NGO's decision on whether to speak out publicly about a crisis was often found to be weighed up against its need to maintain access for aid delivery. Governments, local authorities, and militaries can all threaten to restrict humanitarian access if media coverage is poorly received, and NGOs are subsequently unable to gather news content or are restricted in where they go and to whom they speak. Two recent examples of this include the Tigray crisis in Ethiopia and the conflict in Darfur in Sudan which, despite their significant scales and urgent humanitarian needs, are both seen as too sensitive to engage with by most NGO media teams.

NGOs are now widely regarded as important players in the production of international news (Cottle & Nolan, 2007; Cooper, 2011; Powers, 2018) and, overall, these findings suggest that the politicisation of access – both physical and remote - to crises for NGO communications staff is in-part responsible for the continuing adherence of aid organisations to established patterns of news construction (Cottle & Nolan, 2007; Fenton, 2010; Waisbord, 2011; Powers 2015). Only crises with hard-hitting data or emotive personal stories are likely to achieve media coverage but exposure to such sources is often closely guarded by the most powerful actors in certain crises. As a result, some crises continue to go unreported and humanitarian NGOs risk being silenced or, arguably worse, used as proxy mouthpieces by authorities implicated in the events to which they are attempting to respond.

Key Words

Humanitarian journalism, NGOs, media logic, agenda building

Media Use and Social Interaction of Migrant Children in China: A Diachronic Perspective

Authors

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Mr. xu wang - Nanjing normal university

Abstract

With the acceleration of China's urbanization, rural labor force has been transferring to cities. In 2020, there were about 130 million migrant children. When migrant children enter cities with their parents, they encounter various challenges in the process of social integration which is also a process of early socialization. And the rapid development of information technology brings about the continuous improvement of media influence. From traditional media to new media and then to intelligent media, migrant children combine the physical space with the virtual space through different media forms, and complete the triple connection with family, school and peers in the early socialization.

In the research, a dynamic field tracking of Chinese migrant children was conducted along the two main lines of media change and social interaction in different periods. Over 4,000 questionnaires were distributed in the three rounds of surveys. In 2009, the first round of survey was carried out, focusing on the contact, use and cognitive characteristics of traditional media by migrant children, such as TV and newspapers. In order to further examine the role and functions of emerging media such as Weibo, Wechat and short video application, two rounds of questionnaire surveys were conducted in 2013 and 2019, emphasizing on the media use and group change of migrant children, as well as the network structure and support transmission interaction.

Based on the data of three rounds of investigation in the past ten years, this study finds that (1) In the early stage of the Internet, mass media is an important field for children's cognitive development. Traditional media like TV and newspapers are more prominent for their cultivation. TV use experience, to some extent, replaces practical experience as their behavioral basis, and migrant children are often in a "passive" receiving state; (2) With the popularity of smart phones in China, migrant children's media use shows the characteristics of high activity and involvement, and they are more likely to become addicted to the Internet. Urban migrant children use social media more for the purpose of ability improvement while migrant children use it for the purpose of improving their ability, relaxing their mood and establishing social relationships; (3) Migrant children have the opportunity to establish interesting relationship with online friends in virtual communities. This bond further promotes migrant children to strengthen contact with online friends and establish close relationships, providing them with online social support to make up for the lack of real social support; (4) In the era of mobile Internet, migrant children have changed their previous "passive" image, shown significant prosocial behavior in the participation in social media, and rewritten their identity and constructed identification in social interaction.

The research results can help migrant children to construct social relations through the use of social media, enhance the sense of collaboration, obtain social support from the Internet, and achieve a higher level of social integration. For future research, the impact and role of media development at different stages on marginal groups from a diachronic perspective should be focused on.

Key Words

Migrant Children, China, Media Use, Social Interaction, Social Integration

WhatsApp and Telegram applied to journalism practice: A constant challenge for media

Authors

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Abstract

Instant messaging applications like WhatsApp and Telegram have become indispensable tools for proximal communication with audiences in today's mobile society (Schwarz & Rupp, 2016). The attentive gaze directed by the media at audience habits has justified their incorporation (Westlund, 2013) and/or influence in journalistic routines, where they are employed as punctual or complementary solutions for both internal and external communication (Dodds, 2019). Our research employs a multiple approach in order to analyze the impact of both platforms in Spanish newsrooms (17) from 2017 to 2022. By means of a mixed methodology data was collected and analyzed on the use of these applications in political contexts (general elections), crisis situations (terrorist attack) and the fight against disinformation. At the same time, a longitudinal study based on interviews was made to determine the evolution of the penetration of these resources at the journalistic level and the perception of their utility. The research was complemented by an analysis of social media to discover how users perceived the interruption of the WhatsApp service in 2021. This audience perspective complements the professional view.

The results confirm an unstable situation, especially after the change of the terms of use, where the journalistic use of the Meta platform for communicating with the audience has fallen, in contrast with the growth experienced by Telegram. This practice differs from their internal application, which is more widespread in the case of WhatsApp, facilitating the heterogeneity of content by obtaining new ideas for news stories, accessing sources and helping in fact-checking tasks. With respect to news production in the format of breaking news alerts, it was observed that on both platforms the media replicate traditional styles and forms, undervaluing their multimedia potential. Finally, we propose a decalogue of good practices in the use of instant messaging apps in order to guide the mass media to implement their correct integration into daily routines.

Key Words

instant messaging apps, journalism practice, mobile journalism, platform, professional routines

Overcoming the Challenges of Teaching Data Journalism in India: Navigating Technical, Resource, and Ethical Barriers

Authors

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Abstract

Teaching data journalism has become increasingly important in the present era where both legacy media institutions and startups are looking at ways to counter the evolving challenges of audience engagement and monetization of content. Access to structured and unstructured information and the ability to analyze and present it effectively have become crucial skills for journalists. Hence, media schools have to update themselves to equip students with skills for accessing, analyzing, and presenting Data.

Data journalism is an interdisciplinary field that combines journalism, computer science, and statistics. It involves using data and technology to find, verify, and present information. In order to effectively teach data journalism, it is important to focus on both technical and non-technical aspects of the field. Technical skills such as data analysis and visualization are combined with critical thinking and ethical considerations.

This paper, based on qualitative interviews of media educators in different universities and institutions in India attempts to map the various challenges of teaching data journalism in undergraduate and postgraduate classes here.

Many educators do not have a strong background in data journalism. The availability of data journalism tools and resources are limited in many institutions, making it challenging for teachers to provide students with hands-on training. In some places, Data literacy among students enrolled in undergraduate classes is often low, making it problematic for teachers to effectively convey complex concepts and techniques. The field of data journalism is rapidly evolving, and educators report challenges of staying updated with the latest tools and techniques to effectively deliver the requirements of the curriculum. Integrating data journalism into the existing curriculum is another major challenge at many levels. Many students do not have a background in mathematics, which makes them extremely reluctant to take up data journalism. As a result, the data journalism curriculum for general education has to strike the proper balance between depth and breadth of the field.

Educators have to constantly look for user-friendly approaches to get students to effectively analyze and interpret data. Data journalism raises important ethical considerations, such as data privacy and accuracy. Educators have to constantly update themselves on these considerations to ensure that students are aware of these issues and understand how to navigate them.

Inaccuracies in available online data is another important challenge. Data sources can often be unreliable, and one must be able to critically evaluate and verify the accuracy of the data they are

using. Once data has been analyzed, students must be able to effectively present it in a way that is easy to understand for a non-technical audience. Most educators report that by combining technical skills with critical thinking and ethical considerations, students are able to produce accurate and responsible journalism. Students are equipped to both handle Data as a Source and as a Tool.

Key Words

Data Journalism, Journalism Education, Qualitative Interviews, Data Literacy, India

Foreign Source V.S. Domestic Quotation: How News Coverage of Foreign Affairs Influence Hostile Media Phenomenon in Social Media

Authors

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Abstract

Individuals are inclined to perceive neutral news as biased against their side and in favor of their antagonists' point of view, especially those who have a strong existing attitude on foreign affairs. It is a typical manifestation of the "Hostile Media Effect" (HME). Involvement has been long proven to be a moderating variable through meta-analysis (Hansen & Kim, 2011). After the model of HME was summarized as exposure, moderators, mediators and effect (Perloff, 2015), the newly considered factor was news source, indicating that foreign sources may be less trusted than domestic sources (Golan, 2021).

However, the following problems remain with past research. (1) Few factors have been clearly identified as HME moderating variables, all of which can hardly be changed by media to reduce hostility. (2) A single media sample for carrying out experiments, which limits the scope of the study's generalizability. (3) The combination of HME and social media, most of these thoughts are still in the tentative stage. Therefore, based on the experimental method, our study discusses the factors of HME through Twitter news, in order to reduce media hostility in the various news coverage of foreign affairs.

We focus primarily on the impact of foreign sources and differentiated quotation for content on HME. Nationalism are set to examine how perceptions of hostile media bias vary across weak and strong nationalists. The effect is measured along two dimensions:(1) perceived hostility toward the United States and (2) perceived hostility toward subjects' worldviews.

According to the self-classification theory, we hypothesize that foreign news sources will be perceived as more biased than domestic news sources, and this effect will be stronger among subjects with strong nationalism :

H1a: Subjects will perceive foreign news as more hostile towards the United States than domestic news.

H1b: Nationalism will moderate the effect of source on perceived hostility towards the United States.

H1c: Subjects will perceive foreign news as more hostile to their worldview than domestic news.

H1d: Nationalism will moderate the effect of source on perceived hostility towards subjects' worldview.

We also hypothesize that for the content, the perceived hostility is in descending order: quoting foreign authorities, not quoting authorities, and quoting domestic authorities, and this influence will be stronger among subjects with strong nationalism. The top diplomats of China and the United States, professors from Tsinghua University and Harvard University will be quoted as authoritative.

H2a: Subjects will perceive quoting foreign authority as more hostile to the United States than quoting domestic authority and not quoting.

H2b: Nationalism will moderate the effect of news texts on perceived hostility towards the United States.

H2c: Subjects will perceive quoting foreign authorities as more hostile to their worldview than quoting domestic authorities and not quoting.

H2d: Nationalism will moderate the effect of news texts on perceived hostility towards subjects' worldview.

We chose eight news sources: (1) Associated Press, (2) New York Times (3) Fox News, (4) Xinhua News Agency, (5) People's Daily, (6) CGTN, (7) Liu Xin of CGTN, (8) Hu Xijin of Global Times. The first three are U.S. well-known media with neutral, left and right ideology, as the domestic news source, while the others are Chinese media units or persons, as the foreign counterpart.

Based on the rich selection mentioned above, we also take the impact of different media types and various media tendencies on HME into consideration.

Taking "Pelosi's visit to Taiwan threatens the stability of the Taiwan Strait" as the material, we compiled the news and finally presented it in the form of a long picture simulating a screen shot of Twitter.

Subjects will be asked to conduct questionnaire before and after the exposure of the text to determine their nationalism, participation of political parties and perceived hostility under the stimulus of the experiment. After the experimental design, a pre-test was made on the small sample group in Central South University. The results show various experimental texts lead to intuitive differences.

We will continue to study according to the above experimental ideas. If the hypothesis holds, it will enrich the theoretical framework of HME. In practice, the news media can "moderate the deviation" from the perspective of quoting authority. If not established, it shows HME is greatly influenced by the personal position and has a weak relationship with the news itself. This requires the media to uphold a more rigorous attitude to deal with the mass with stubborn prejudice.

Key Words

hostile media effect, media bias, foreign affairs, experimental method

Framing of environmental news through constructive journalism in Indian context

Authors

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Abstract

This paper looks into the framing of environmental news through constructive journalism in the Indian context. Since its recognition as a domain in the 1960s, environmental journalism has remained a topic of debate and dispute, with respect to the nature and extent of coverage of issues. The domain does not find as much seriousness or space in print or broadcast coverage, despite grave environmental issues persisting on the fore. Another observation made with respect to the area is that the domain seldom has an established environmental beat in major news organisations and establishments, and that assigned journalists and reporters are often unversed and lack scientific temper that is required while dealing with serious environmental issues.

Environmental news is often deemed by media organisations as non-newsworthy owing to the lack of audience interest. This could be attributed to the incompetent way with which environmental issues are dealt by media organisations, which either presents issues in esoteric manner beyond audiences' comprehension or covers environmental news in a non-engaging manner to keep up with bandwagon.

Various researches have been employed through the decades to understand the representation of environmental issues in mainstream as well as alternative media platforms. Researchers have explored various frames to comprehend if environmental issues could be approached in ways that could reach and impact the audience better in comparison to the general apathetic and unscientific manner of coverage at present.

The boom of the internet has helped environmental groups and non-government organisations to present and advocate for various environmental issues including climate change, in ways that have been largely ignored by various media platforms. It would hold significant importance for environmental communication research to study how these issues are being explored and also, the real-time impact and mobilisation on the audience.

Keeping abreast with recent journalism movements, constructive journalism is a rising domain that covers various social issues including ones related to the environment, through positive psychology and solution-based approaches. The proliferation of the domain across new media platforms makes the scope of studying environmental issues under the lens of constructive journalism more extensive.

This paper studies the coverage of environmental issues in India through the constructive journalism framework. The study compares different frames used by mainstream as well as

constructive news platforms in India covering recent environmental news using frame analysis. It was found that while the frames may have been similar in both mainstream and alternative media platforms, it was the restorative narrative and solution-based approaches that made the latter stand out distinctly.

Key Words

Environmental journalism, constructive journalism, solutions, positive psychology, new media.

Revisiting News Editors' Evaluation of Journalism Courses and Graduate Employability

Authors

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Dr. Laura Glitsos - Edith Cowan University

Mrs. Andrea Burns - Edith Cowan University

Abstract

The purpose of this research project was two-fold. First, the study interrogated the views of news editors in Perth, Western Australia, in 2022, about the job readiness and capability of tertiary-educated journalism graduates across five Perth-based universities that teach journalism (Edith Cowan, Murdoch, Curtin, UWA and Notre Dame universities). Second, the study compares the views of news editors in Perth from a similar research project undertaken in 2012. As such, we illustrate both the current views on tertiary journalism programs from the view of industry practitioners in Perth and the ways in which those views have or have not changed over a ten-year period.

The data collection for this qualitative research project was undertaken over a three-month period in 2022 via structured interviews that proposed 26 pre-determined questions, with a mixed of open-ended questions and Likert-scale modelled questions. Twelve industry practitioners who were acting as current news editors were interviewed and each asked the set of same questions. The interview cohort has an average experience in news media of 18.4 years.

As the following study will illustrate, the resounding sense across the interview cohort was that universities are still typically the best place to teach journalism, and that students are highly competent in digital technologies. This was, however, tempered by an awareness across the cohort that tertiary staff cuts and financial pressures complicate the maintenance of high standards. Due to limited time and resources in both the university setting and the industry, the responsibility for graduate development is now in the hands of these two sectors. This also confirms that industry and academia must work closer together to leverage the resources of either sector.

There were concerns among the cohort about the current state of graduate general and civil knowledge, and that journalism students should be given training in public relations foundations. Also, that practitioners tend to be only *somewhat* convinced that journalism education has improved in past 10-15 years. But overall, it was heartening to find that many of the editors showed genuine enthusiasm to engage with universities to develop students' skills and knowledge.

Key Words

News editors, journalism education, journalism skills, journalism employability, curriculum development

Funding Public Interest Journalism in Japan: an Overview

Authors

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Abstract

Public interest journalism in Japan has been maintained by newspapers, which enjoy a high household subscription rate based on a home delivery system(Hayashi,2017). However, as in other countries, the situation has changed dramatically due to the spread of the internet, where people in Japan are now habitually reading news on free platforms.

For those who read news for free on the Internet, such a situation is not perceived as a serious problem; whereas newspaper companies are struggling to survive with declining advertising and fewer readers. Japanese newspapers have also avoided major changes, focusing on employment in home delivery system services and newsrooms, so there has not been as much cutback in journalists as in other countries(Sakai,2021).

Around the world, how sustainable models of journalism can be maintained has been much debated with the potential of crowdfunding models (Aitamurto,2011,Cha,2020,Hunter,2015, Carvajal,2012) , donation models(Friedland&Konieczna,2011,Wright,Scott&Bunce,2019), membership models(Friedland&Konieczna,2011, Konieczna&Robinson,2014) and Nordic press support models (Kaufholz,2020) all being discussed. However, these models are largely dependent on a country's socio-political situation, thus limiting them from being adopted universally. In fact, while some broadcasters sell their content to streaming platforms, most media companies from broadsheets to community newspapers in Japan, operate in the conventional way, with advertising or subscription fees.

This study focuses on the funding conditions of Japanese news outlets involved in public interest journalism, and investigates what new funding attempts are being implemented. The funding situation of national and regional newspapers and the current state of journalistic activity in community media will be examined. It also discusses the current status and challenges of alternative news websites not relying on print editions, and explores future challenges for public interest journalism in Japan.

This research reveals 1) Japanese newspapers are struggling to monetise on the internet, whereas magazines are finding their way to web-based subscriptions; 2) Japanese alternative journalism, albeit only slightly, is built on a donation system; 3)Public interest journalism activities are rarely practised in Japanese community media; and 4) The lack of sufficient support systems and networks to support small-scale journalism in Japan.

Key Words

Public Interest Journalism, Newspaper, Hyperlocal Journalism, Alternative Media, Monetize,

Divergence and Identification: China's "Global Security Initiative" in the Perspective of Cultural Distance

Authors

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Abstract

In recent years, the world is full of uncertainty and instability under the influence of endless global events, such as the covid-19 epidemic and regional conflicts. The global peace deficit, security deficit, trust deficit and governance deficit have increased unabated, and the international security situation has become growingly intricate and complex. Against this backdrop, consolidating peace, dialogue, reconciliation and international cooperation has become a top priority.

Under the circumstances, the Global Security Initiative (GSI) was proposed by China, aiming to call on all countries to promote the common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom for all humanity and to jointly address various global challenges.

In the context of reality, the GSI is China's understanding and creation of international security norms as an international actor. Under a constructivist perspective, audiences from different countries and regions interpret the GSI in different ways and generate emotional feedback. In this process, media play a central role as the public's main source of information. The construction and guidance of media discourse is a key part of audience emotional attitude formation.

Based on this, this study uses **structural topic modeling** and **sentiment analysis** to analyze representative news articles about China's Global Security Initiative in the international community. The study examines media from various countries present what topic selection and sentiment characteristics when reporting on the GSI. On this basis, this study plans to further explain specific findings by drawing on the theory of cultural distance. In *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remarking of World Order*, Samuel Huntington argued that the essence of international conflict is the conflict between different civilizational circles. Nowadays, his theoretical insights have revealed the limitations of the times. The inherent changes and power growth of different civilizations have gone beyond the pattern shown by Huntington, but the clash and integration of civilizations are still the core elements that deeply affect the current world security pattern.

In summary, this study proposes the following three research questions.

RQ1 What topic focus characteristics the English-language media present when reporting on the GSI?

RQ2 What sentiment tendencies the English-language media from different cultural circles present when reporting on the GSI?

RQ3 How does the cultural distance between China and the countries in each cultural circle affect the media's emotional tendency to report on the GSI?

By responding to the above questions, this study examines the current state of the GSI's international communication and interprets the deeper motives of the media's emotional tendency from a cultural perspective, so as to provide a theoretical reference for the stability of the global security landscape.

Key Words

international norm, Global Security Initiative, global media coverage, cultural distance

Study on News Value in Digital Journalism Practice: Selection, Presentation and Communication--- A Qualitative Comparative Analysis Based on 71 Cases in 2021-2022

Authors

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Prof. Xuan Tang - Communication University of China

Mr. alson zhao - Communication University of China

Abstract

The digital technology environment is reshaping traditional news value concept and practice, which calls for the analysis of the changes and development of their connotations beyond the established framework. Most of the previous studies are based on theoretical speculation, while empirical studies are scarce. This study applies qualitative comparative analysis (QCA), focusing on eight conditional variables, to empirically analyze 71 news events that occurred in China between 2021 and 2022. As for the criteria for judging the value of news in the digital era, Brighton and Foy pointed out that elements such as "topicality", "expectation", "composition" and "external influences" should be part of the value system of news in the digital era. Some scholars believe that the elements of news value in the digital era vary according to the media form. Common and broad news value standards, including "human interest" and "entertainment", should be subdivided and redefined. Other scholars believe that the analysis of news value in the digital era can include four aspects: "material", "cognitive", "social" and "discourse". Based on the above theoretical framework, this study designed the index measurement system of condition variables and result variables. The research questions are as follows: First, in the digital context, what are the key elements or combinations of events that can become news; Second, whether the traditional news value elements have changed; Third, what are the social reasons behind these influencing factors; Fourth, how does digital technology reshape the news production and dissemination? It is found that: (1) News selection in digital journalism context is often the outcome of a combination of multiple value elements; (2) In the traditional news value elements, the Proximity declines and the Freshness is highlighted; (3) By the empowerment of digital technology, the first release form of audiovisual reporting has promoted the possibility of more coverages of weakly public/conventional events. The disclosures from We-media also promotes the reverse construction of media agenda; (4) On the perspective of emotional orientation of digital journalism, events with positive emotion are more likely to be selected and presented by mainstream media. Faced with controversial events of high social context, mainstream media tend to directly intervene and determine the nature of the events, performing the function of social construction of news. This paper expands the research on the basic concept of news value through empirical materials in China, which is beneficial to the theoretical development of digital journalism.

Key Words

News value; Media convergence; Digital journalism; Fuzzy-set qualitative comparative analysis

Collaborative apps and new journalistic practices: mediated coverage of urban violence in Brazil

Authors

Dr. Aline Grupillo - University of Beira Interior

Abstract

Assaults, threats and murders have changed the way journalists cover urban violence in Brazil, especially in regions marked by armed conflict which are considered hostile to the presence of reporters. In the first seven months of 2022 alone, there were 66 serious assaults on journalists in Brazil, a number which is 69,2% higher than in the same period of 2021. In Rio de Janeiro, for instance, where most of the main television newsrooms are located, security protocols have been put in place in order to protect journalists after three reporters were killed while covering police operations. Journalists are forbidden from entering regions attached to crime and drug trafficking (Grupillo, 2019), and the diminished journalistic coverage in those areas has been decisive in the appearance of new communication tools (Nunes, 2017), which are designed to disseminate information about the routine of violence that citizens face.

One of the most important tools of this kind is OTT - Onde Tem Tiroteio (Where Is The Shootout), a messaging application about urban violence, created and run by non-journalists, gathering citizens from different places around a common problem (Latrônico & Mattedi, 2019). The administrators of the app rely on a network on informants in conflict areas who aid in the verification of the information on the app which is then passed on to reporters. OTT performs in the national production of information on violence and reaches approximately five million people.

The goal of this article, is to show the arisal of new journalistic practices that involve the use of collaborative apps, resulting in a mediated coverage of urban violence. Our intent is to discuss how these apps can supply vetted information and credible images from areas of conflict, mediating between journalists and these territories, accelerating the process of reporting the news, and simultaneously covering the gap left by the distancing from the traditional media reporters. In order to do so, we will explore the case of OTT.

In order to reach our goal, we have adopted a direct observation methodology, inspired by virtual ethnography (Hine, 2000), both in the app and of the WhatsApp group which connects the app with 245 reports from several different communication outlets, for a period of six months. After systematical analysis of this tool, we performed 13 in depth interviews (Duarte, 2005) with journalists at different places in the professional hierarchy.

We identified that OTT, in spite of the absence of journalists, has achieved a journalistic status, as it plays a mediating role as more than just a source. It supplies vetted and credible information, as well as images, which have been filtered and edited from violence in conflict territories in Brazil.

Journalists appreciate the application's ability to work as database for violence, which helps pre-produce pieces. They value the speed of the collaborative system developed by the app, which allows it to obtain first hand information and images. Journalists state that reliable tools like OTT can contribute towards the acceleration of news production too.

Key Words

Collaborative app, violence, journalistic practice, television

News stories about individuals victims of Covid-19 are more valuable than statistics in the eyes of the public yet readers are less affected by casualties with a Chinese name

Authors

Dr. Francesco Somaini - Central Washington University

Mrs. Patrizia Chirco - University of Bern and Central Washington University

Abstract

Mass communication research on the coronavirus pandemic that between 2020 and 2023 caused at least 6,700,000 deaths worldwide and more than 1,100,000 in the United States alone has only started to scratch the surface of the relationship between information about Covid-19 and human behavior (Ong & Negra, 2020; Pollock & Vakoch, 2021). Media scholarship has mostly investigated its impact on news consumption (Casero-Ripolles, 2020; Ramirez et al., 2020; Ren & Kang, 2021), information spread, overload and seeking patterns (Masip et al., 2020; Moreno et al., 2020; Shobowale, 2021), frames in the news (Ogbodo et al., 2020; Hubner, 2021) and social media (Yu et al., 2020; Caiani et al., 2021; El-Dakhs, 2021; Mudavanhu, 2021), and health promotion (Nwakpu et al., 2020; Tran et al., 2020; Wang & Lee, 2020). Little has been published on potential effects of Covid-19 coverage on news consumers. Meanwhile, the pandemic has been accompanied by overt racism and hate crimes against people perceived to be Southeast Asian (Croucher, 2021; Venkatraman, 2021) linked to their dehumanization (Markowitz et al., 2021).

Through two experiments, we investigated U.S. readers' reactions to news stories about Covid-19 framed thematically and episodically (Iyengar, 1991) and compared the episodic ones whose protagonist carried an Anglo-American name to those whose protagonist had a Chinese name. We hypothesized that news stories about Covid-19 casualties thought to be Southeast Asian would prompt them to blame the victims for their own fate to a greater extent than would victims more likely to be thought of as Anglo-American. In addition, because readers can gain the most comprehensive information from news stories framed thematically (Iyengar, 1991; Benson, 2013), we anticipated that they would find thematic ones more useful to stay abreast of the pandemic.

In Study 1, we randomly assigned participants ($N = 163$) to read a news story about a man named James Smith who succumbed to the virus, one virtually identical in which he survived, a story reporting death toll and morbidity rates of Covid-19, or one identical to the latter but reporting the number of people who recovered from the disease. In Study 2, we repeated the experiment ($N = 171$) but named the protagonist of the episodic stories Li Wang.

Findings: Participants' feeling (positive vs negative) was less negatively affected by reading a news story about Li Wang than about James Smith dying of Covid-19. Further, participants were more likely to attribute responsibility for contracting Covid-19 to society when the protagonist died and had an Anglo-American name than when he died and had a Southeast Asian name. On the other

hand, overall participants who read an episodic story reported finding stories about individuals affected by the coronavirus informative to a stronger degree than readers of thematic stories did about stories with statistics on the pandemic.

News professionals should keep these findings in mind while balancing thematic and episodic coverage of Covid-19 to reach and better inform a broader audience. More stories about Covid-19 victims who are members of minority groups may help humanize those casualties.

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Key Words

Covid-19, episodic vs thematic framing, news stories, attribution of responsibility.

Nonfiction writers, artistic propagandists, or novel professionals: How literary journalism is practiced by some Chinese journalists as alternative role in changing media system

Authors

Mr. Kang Yan - University of East Anglia

Abstract

Literary journalism is a journalism that “reads like a novel” or “short story”. It is a genre which connects literature and journalism to some degree and some journalists use this genre to conduct an alternative practice in journalistic field. Most previous studies of the Chinese journalistic field have only focused on the descriptive analysis on some literary journalists and their news works. The questions about who are China’s literary journalists and how about their role perception and performance are currently under-explored and under-theorised. This paper examines the journalistic role perception and performance of Chinese literary journalists based on recent newsroom fieldwork within three Chinese news organisations. Those include ZMCONNECT (Zhengmian Lianjie), a Chinese news start-up based on WeChat platform, and *Southern Weekly* and *Southern People Weekly*, a Chinese party-organ newspaper and party-organ magazine. The fieldwork in these three news organisations lasts four months and includes interviews with seventeen journalists and participated observation of the newsroom work. The practice of literary journalism in these three news organisations is not merely the usage of literature technique in their journalism practice, such as the use of first-person, rather complex writing practice by different practitioners based on different media organisational context in current Chinese social context. According to the fieldwork, this article explores the multiple journalistic roles in the practice of literary journalism of these three news organisations, which is based on two levels. Firstly, the analysis of the practitioner-level reveals that the role perception and performance of literary journalists in ZMCONNECT are heterogeneous, with no consensus about their professional identity and role perception. The literary journalists perceive their professional identity diversely, such as alternative watchdog, an observer, nonfiction writer, and social channel for ordinary people. They also perform the literary journalism in multiple way. However, the daily practices of literary journalists of SW and SPW, who perform their role as alternative professionals and artistic propagandist, are far more routinized, while the literary technique provides a safe channel for their practice at discursive level. They are using the technique of literature to keep the balance between the role of propagandist and professional journalists under the strict media regulation in current China. Secondly, the paper explores the role performance and perception of the literary journalists from these three at organizational level to show how, on the one hand, ZMCONNECT is a dynamic and connected sub-field. On the other hand, SW and SPW is a sub-field lacking in autonomy from the state and with established organisational hierarchy. Not only incorporating some non-traditional and even some non-professional practitioners into the practice of literary journalism, but also ZMCONNECT as an organisation plays role as a platform for people who cannot voice in

mainstream media in China. They not only tell the story about such social groups and connect with more social classes as soon as possible, but also try to conduct more topics which are not feasible in mainstream media in China. The newsroom of ZM also calls their practice as a newly feature-columnized and experimental writing rather than conventional journalistic coverage. While SW and SPW are two party-organs, these two media organisations have their role performance through the protection of autonomy by literary journalism. The journalists in SW and SPW regard the practice of literary journalism as a discursive tactic to unveil some social issues in an artistic way, which the relevant topics are not easily available on Chinese mainstream media. This paper shows that because the literary journalists variously compare themselves with nonfiction writers in other social media and critical journalists in mainstream media in China, there is no universal term for the practice or sub-field of Chinese literary journalism. Ultimately, the paper critically interrogates the complex and contested role perceptions and organisational routines that define the practice of literary journalism in China.

Key Words

Journalistic role, role perception, role performance, Chinese literary journalism

Hidden in Plain Sight- public engagement in data journalism on digital platforms in China

Authors

Prof. Qi Yin - Xiamen university

Dr. Shiyu (Sharon) ZHENG - Newcastle University

Ms. Zhenhan Fu - Xiamen university

Abstract

Data journalism or data-driven journalism, which has been defined simply as journalism based on large data sets or big data (Rogers 2011; Bounegru et al. 2012), is on the rise worldwide. The use of data in news production is considered to promote a closer interactive relationship between journalists and audiences, and data journalism has become an important field for audiences to participate in news production (Miller & Nelson, 2022).

With the rise of digital media platforms, private news organizations have emerged in China. However, different from its western counterpart, under China's strict media control system, the granted licenses are only available for state-owned media. Therefore, these emerging private news organizations are faced with *dual legitimacy* problems, that is how to gain professional recognition as newcomers in journalism and how to produce news without an official license.

Previous research on Chinese data journalism has mainly adopted a technological approach, focusing on how legacy media (which is state-owned media) deploy data to produce news as well as its following impact on journalism in the digital transformation. However, under China's unique media system, how private news organizations engage in data news production activities, and what features their relationship with audiences remain to be explored.

Therefore, this study aims to address two research questions: (1) In the process of data journalism from private news organizations in China, how and why does the audience engage in news production? (2) How does dual legitimacy shape and influence the audience's participation?

Using semi-structured interviews with 19 Chinese data journalists, the current research reveals: (1) audiences engage in the data news production in similar ways as what they do in traditional journalism, such as providing clues, receiving interviews, and offering feedback, etc. (2) the authors of data journalism are professional practitioners from digital media organizations in China. These practitioners pretend to be users and audiences to circumvent identity legitimacy whilst the central part of data news production, such as data collection, analysis, interviews, writing, and editing, are still under the control of digital media professionals. (3) Due to the lack of dual legitimacy of digital media organizations and the strong influence of the business logic behind "internet traffic", audience engagement in data news production is greatly restricted.

Therefore, different from the western context in which wide audience participation has been viewed as one aspect of the professionalism of data journalism, audience initiatives and motivations in Chinese data journalism have not been further explored. Our research provides a new perspective and empirical basis to understand data news production from private news agencies and the journalist-audience relationship on digital media platforms in an authoritative regime.

Key Words

Data journalism, audience participation, news production, digital platform, China

Can Explanatory Journalism Revitalize News Agencies in Japan and Elsewhere? A Cross-National Comparison of Digital Journalism in Japan and Other Democratic Nations

Authors

Mr. Koichiro Shigaki - Toyo University

Abstract

A new form of online journalism seems to be emerging in the west, targeting new generations who are often familiar with social networking. As new, internet-adapted journalistic practices have emerged, the term Explanatory Journalism (EJ) has been re-proposed in the U.S. and elsewhere since the 2010s, along with Citizen Journalism, Data Journalism, Investigative Journalism, and others.

The purpose of this presentation is to examine the potential of EJ as a sustainable form of journalism in Japan and elsewhere. In this presentation, I discuss the potential development of EJ and its problems in the context of Japanese online news trends, comparing it to those online outlets outside of Japan.

It is no coincidence that the rise of EJ in the U.S. and elsewhere has come during a period of heightened interest in politics, including issues on economic inequality. Voters can now evaluate the merits and demerits of specific candidates- and party-policies by accessing EJ news outlets. News websites with infographics providing comparative viewpoints and visual materials on social issues make a tedious study of public affairs easier. In the U.S., online news sites like *Vox* are watched by Millennials and Generation Z, which apparently meets their needs. Besides *Vox*, the *Economist* from the UK, the Wall Street Journal's YouTube channel, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's *Behind News* are other examples of EJ, among many others. In Japan, *NewsPicks* and *Ameba-Prime News* provide expository news programs mixed with EJ and some emphasis on the traditional news/talk-show format.

This may be an indication that journalism is changing from traditional reportage to a discursive approach providing outlets for learning with contextual background knowledge, similar to how colleges and universities offer this in humanities and social sciences.

In this talk, I invite critical thought and discussion from the audience on questions like these: (1) Can EJ solve problems persisting in Japanese and other news industries, such as the declining power of newspaper corporations and loss of public trust in news agencies which do not conform to professional standards? (2) How should an organization producing EJ differ from traditional news? And what types of personnel are required? (3) What kind of media literacy is needed to consume EJ news?

Key Words

Explanatory Journalism, Digital media, Expository Journalism, SNS, Japanese news, Infographics

‘Ideal’ versus ‘typical’: The focus of journalism education in the time of global risk societies and manifold crises

Authors

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Abstract

The current circumstances of the world have highlighted the nature of modern world risk societies (see Beck, 2013). As the world returns to ‘normalcy’ (some semblance of it or a new version of it) more than two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, countries are also trying to cope with the transnational repercussions of the Russia-Ukraine war, another manifold, protracted crisis that triggered steep recession, an energy crisis, and even fears of civil unrest.

It is therefore necessary to explore how the nature of global risk societies influenced journalism as a practice, given the fact that the profession itself is also in a protracted crisis of sorts, and how it influenced journalism education. This paper is concerned with the latter, with questions and perspectives regarding the focus of journalism education in the time of external (e.g., global risk societies) and internal (e.g., crises of epistemologies in the time of algorithmization and populism) disruptions. Given all these, what should be the focus of journalism education (especially in terms of competencies) in the time of global risk societies and crises within and external to the profession?

This study explores critical perspectives on the ‘ideal’ and the ‘typical’ journalism education through a semi-systematic literature review and in-depth interviews with experts from over 30 countries, including countries from the so-called ‘Global South’. A multi-layered strategic sampling technique was used in the selection of the interviewees and countries. The criteria for selecting interviewees include publication portfolio, academic tenure, industry experience, role in professional associations, and role in comparative research projects. The philosophy underpinning the sampling is aimed at arriving at a global perspective (as the state of research suggests a strong mainstream European-North American bias) as well as a critical perspective (as notions of the ‘ideal’ journalism education is still largely defined by the industry perspective in many settings).

Through a semi-systematic literature review (covering studies published from 1988 to 2020), pertinent issues regarding the focus of journalism education were identified and then explored in the in-depth interviews. Experts were asked to discuss what they think is the focus of the ‘ideal’ journalism education given the current circumstances of the practice (and the world in general), and then compare it with the focus of ‘typical’ journalism education in their respective countries (i.e., the current focus of journalism education in general). A directed qualitative content analysis was used to make sense of the data from the transcripts (roughly 565 pages of material, more than 2,038 minutes of recording).

Based on the findings, the study proposes a framework describing how journalism education is contingent on a set of variables, e.g., prevalent role perceptions, educational infrastructure, among

others, which vary across environments. Notions of the 'ideal' journalism education share a lot of characteristics in common (hence an experts' 'consensus'), such as a focus on developing competencies in critical reflection as an academic endeavor, audience research and engagement, among others. These notions often differ from the 'typical' journalism education. The experts' description of the typical journalism education in their countries were triangulated with findings of available empirical studies.

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Key Words

journalism education, journalism norms, crisis, global journalism, journalism competence, algorithmization

The necessity and innovation of in-depth reporting from a sociological perspective of news production

Authors

Dr. Yue Pan - Communication Uni

Abstract

As an important feature of the new media era, fragmentation has liberated users' subjectivity and given rise to personalized content production, but at the same time dissolved the depth and seriousness of the content, and traditional in-depth reporting has declined. With this background, this paper takes 'news framework' as the theoretical basis, tries to analyze the reasons for the formation of fragmented communication from the perspective of the sociology of news production, discusses the necessity of in-depth reporting for society and media organizations, and proposes innovative paths for in-depth reporting in the mobile Internet era by combining social control theory and the characteristics of fragmented communication. In addition, we propose the innovative path and development direction of in-depth reporting in the mobile Internet era.

Key Words

Sociology of News Production; Fragmentation; In-depth Reporting

Studying the Cognitive Mechanism of Digital Reading for Depth News Reports: An Eye-Tracking Experiment of Chinese University Students

Authors

Ms. 苗 (Miao) 熊 (Xiong) - Shenzhen University

Dr. Han ZHANG - Shenzhen University

Abstract

Depth news reports are now more widely presented and more fully expressed thanks to the internet age. Additionally, audiences now primarily access news through mobile devices or computer websites, which has led to a shift in how audiences consume news. The majority of studies in China have concentrated on the effects of a particular type of depth news reports, such as investigative news reports or feature news stories, on the audience and its evolution in the digital era, how to write depth news reports in the digital era. The study focuses on the reading habits of audiences in the digital age, although a lot of attention is given to how the medium has changed as a result of news events that influence audiences' opinions, rather than how the precise substance of depth news reports interacts with audiences or if audiences' reading contexts have an impact on their perceptions. This study investigates how, in the digital age, depth news reports affect viewer impressions.

The study is guided by the following questions: How does a depth news story mobilize the audience's emotions/feelings and influence their attitudes and behaviors? What are the influencing factors? This paper attempts to conduct an empirical study at three levels: news content (presence or absence of news text details, images, etc.), reader interface format (computer web interface vs. mobile interface), and individual reader differences (presence or absence of in-depth news report reading habits).

Based on this, this study combines narrative transportation theory and the emotional turn framework in journalism research to conduct an empirical study. This experimental study uses eye tracking to examine what factors (i.e., whether news text details and images are presented or not) affect the audience's emotions/feelings and influence their attitudes and behaviors. Thirty-one subjects were recruited from all disciplines and majors of Shenzhen University in their sophomore year and above. The eye-tracking experiment control method was adopted mainly combined with retrospective out-of-speech thinking.

The study finds that the form of the reading interface affects readers' reading and acceptance of news content to a certain extent, the details of news content in depth news reports, especially the details of characters in news events, can mobilize readers' character association imagination to the greatest extent, and then cause readers' empathy and sympathy, which has a greater impact on readers' news event awareness and emotional attitude, and the factor of individual differences (with or without the reading habit of depth news reports). The influence of individual differences

(whether or not they have depth news reports reading habits) is relatively small in the digital reading process.

This study is a tentative empirical study to explore the cognitive mechanism of readers' cognition of in-depth news reports in the digital era. The specific investigation found that even in the context of the digital era, for news genres that emphasize high-quality content, it is mainly the content of the news report that has the greatest impact on the audience's cognitive attitudes, especially the details of the news and the completeness of a news story.

Key Words

depth news reports, narrative transportation, audiences' cognitions, eye tracking, emotional turn

Semiotics of hate in digital news media in Spain. Case Jennifer López and El Mundo.

Authors

Dr. Max Römer Pieretti - Universidad Camilo José Cela

Prof. Julio Montero Diaz - Universidad Internacional de La Rioja

Dr. Elias Said-Hung - Universidad Internacional de La Rioja

Abstract

Analyzing hate speech on social media from semiotics is a task that requires defining the interactions of the actants in this kind of digital space. Nöth (2011), Trifonas (2015), Gaines (2015), Snoussi and Korbi (2021), Barrios-Rubio & Fajardo (2022) or Galofaro and Toffano (2022) have been analyzed from denotative and connotative perspective. A phenomenon where a metalanguage contains underlying denotative meanings and where under every semiotic act. Denotations are used as new connotations, where the emotional and the conative prevail as functions within the messages published on social media such as Twitter.

Concerning hate speech, from the point of view of xenophobia, the number of studies focused on this form of hate is still deficient. A review of the main articles published in journals indexed by the WoS or Scopus offers slightly less than fifty works published, in general, in both databases up to 2022 and in fields of knowledge associated with communication. Most of these focused on: the design of detection models for this type of expression (Benitez-Andrades et al., 2022), on the descriptive approach to the phenomenon, both at the network level social as well as at a social level (Breazu and Machin, 2022), in the legal approach against the proliferation and fight of this type of expressions and associated crimes (Khoma and Kokoriev, 2021), in the way that political movements (e.g. nationalists and extreme right) favour the dissemination of this type of expressions (Damcevic and Rodik, 2018), and in the journalistic study and from the media, around this phenomenon.

This work aims to be the prelude to creating an algorithm that analyzes hate messages from the denotation and connotation in Spanish media chats, as well as on Twitter, within the framework of the project PID2020-114584GB-I00, financed by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación - Ministry of Science and Innovation. Based on Kristeva -intertextuality- (1969), Barthes -denotation-connotation- (1970) and Greimas and Courtés -generative trajectory- (1979), we want to analyze the levels of xenophobic hatred in messages issued by readers of the news media Spanish digital from the semiotic point of view. The analysis is made from the tweet associated with the singer Jennifer López (<https://twitter.com/elmundoes/status/1351980993968799749>) during her speech at the inauguration of US President Joe Biden and the 33 related messages with this one, published by the Twitter user of El Mundo, which had an outstanding level of viralization, with 83 retweets and 472 likes. The results reflect that the digital media and their interaction codes follow what authors such as Gaines exposed, in the sense that they are extensions of individual identity in

society. It implies the codes are intertwined in their levels analyzed from the authors' perspectives and demonstrates that the context occurs with the dialogical relations between the users of the Twitter context. It occurs in the generative trajectories presented in the work expected to be shown in this presentation.

Key Words

digital news media; Semiotics; Spain; Hate Speech; Social Media; Twitter

Journalism Safety and the surprising exclusion of journalists/ism in exile

Authors

Dr. Stef Pukallus - University of Sheffield

Prof. Jackie Harrison - University of Sheffield

Abstract

Journalism Safety has long been a policy priority for international policy-makers (EU, UNESCO, European Council and NGOs) with the UNESCO Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity launched in 2012 representing one of the main global initiatives. What is conspicuously absent from the journalism safety agenda are references to and concerns for journalists in exile and correspondingly, any measures to protect both journalists and journalism in exile. In this paper, we argue that this a significant oversight which ultimately risks international policy-makers being (un-)intentionally complicit in the silencing of journalists and enabling impunity by national governments across borders. We understand political exile in the way Judith Shklar (1998, 2009) did and that is as the withdrawal of citizenship from a person accompanied by the loss of a domestic location in the world. More specifically, those in political exile are 'involuntarily removed from their country either by being forced to leave on pain of death or shut up in a camp or prison that is to all intents a foreign state within the geographic limits of their country.' (Shklar 2009: 206). In this way they can find themselves in a 'space of exception' (see Harrison and Pukallus 2018; Pukallus et al 2020). In this paper and based on semi-structured interviews with journalists in exile we explore the challenges and problems these journalists face. More specifically we argue that exiled journalists face these problems and challenges in three potentially cumulative ways: first, as individuals, citizens and humans; second, as human rights defenders – through their reporting, but also through their associative work to support other journalists at the risk of exile or already in exile; third, as journalists through the challenges their face to carry out news journalism from outside their home country. Understanding these challenges and providing adequate protection for journalists and journalism in exile is an urgent imperative for the international community as well as for academics who have long overlooked this specific group of journalists.

Key Words

Journalism, Journalism Safety, Exile, citizenship, public and audiences

Reconstruction of Discourse: U.S. Mainstream Media Coverage of COVID-19 in China from December 2022 to February 2023

Authors

Mr. mingzhe liu - Communication University of China

Abstract

News report is a conventional discourse mode with a specific schema structure (van Dijk, 1988). A variety of values and belief systems are also conveyed in these texts. Through the choice of words, language and structure, news reports convey specific meanings, and shape our understanding of reality. According to systemic functional grammar framework, this process is realized through the conceptual function, interpersonal function and textual function. (Halliday, 1994)

Previous studies on discourse analysis of American news media mostly start from the text and discourse structure to analyze the language features of their reports. (ZengQingxiang, 2008; HuJiang, 2016; LianShaoying, 2021) Some studies make an overall analysis from the perspective of grand national strategic conception and strategic communication. (JiangJing 2022; Huangmin, 2008)

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, various reports from American news media are abundant in quantity and form. They shaped China's image from the lens of epidemic prevention and control. This paper conduct discourse analysis starts from December 2022. Previous relevant discourse studies focused on the period from 2019 to 2022. However, China gradually canceled almost all the prevention policies from December 2022. More studies are needed to analyze the changes in media discourse at this stage. On the one hand, it complements some of the gaps in relevant studies. On the other hand, it discusses how American news media reconstruct new discourse under a new situation.

This paper examines how American media complete the establishment of legitimacy and form dominant discourse according to the new situation. We use three dimensions of *text analysis*, *discourse practice* and *social and cultural practice* (Fairclough, 1992). We selected all (157 in total) the reports from CNN on the COVID-19 epidemic in China published in the two months (From November 20, 2022 to February 2023).

This paper finds that--

From the perspective of text: Firstly, the semantic expression of reports is influenced by liberalism and hegemonic discourse. Secondly, CNN extensively use semantic extension, metonymy, and over-lexicalization.

From the perspective of discourse: CNN subtly arrange the intertextuality and adjust the foreground level of the article. Firstly, CNN carefully select information sources from social media to construct the discourse of panic, distrust and failure. Secondly, CNN extensively use critical and predictive patterns, strengthen the selected information sources and views. Thirdly, CNN use news features to construct secondary facts, enlarge the appeal of details, and deconstruct China's

prevention policy. CNN Conditionally select Chinese official news, use neutral attitude to comment on the role of prevention that government have done which downplayed positive information. Similarly, CNN use quotes from international organizations, experts to compensate the need for objectivity.

From the perspective of cultural practice: CNN describe the Chinese people and the government as the opposite side. Peculiarly it metaphorically uses the attitude of "instructor" to hint and imply the failure and chaos of the Chinese government and enhance the superiority of its own discourse power.

Key Words

discourse analysis, CNN, discourse construction, COVID-19

China's Experience and Roads: An Exploration of the International Communication Talents Training Model—An Empirical Study Based on Chinese Universities

Authors

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Abstract

Whether in college education or on-the-job training, international communication professionals usually emphasize the three-dimensional requirements of ideological value, theoretical knowledge and practical ability, which is different from Western countries.

Under this situation, an international communication talents training model with Chinese characteristics has been gradually formed, blending the influence of both the China national strategic orientation and the cultivation of college characteristics.

On the basis of historical and documentary exploration, this paper preliminary summarizes the training of international communication professionals with Chinese characteristics into three modes: the dominant mode of cross-language communication in foreign language colleges; the dominant mode of international relations in comprehensive colleges; the dominant mode of communication professionals in journalism colleges. These three modes have jointly constituted the international communication talents training model with Chinese characteristics. To improve the effectiveness of international communication, the three modes respond the China national strategic goal in different aspects.

Hence, this paper also adopts the research methods of field investigation and in-depth interview, and continues to explore the advantages and disadvantages of these three modes in the age of convergent media, by comparing and analyzing the international communication education objectives, related curriculum settings, practical training of content production and so on.

In conclusion, this paper holds that China has initially explored and formed an international communication talents training model which adapted to the development of the international situation and China's national conditions. And in the future, China's international communication talents training would be more professional, open and diverse, dedicating to cultivate multiple talents with multi-category capabilities.

Key Words

International Communication, Empirical Study, Talents Training Model

The Impact of Short Video Platforms on the Epistemology of News in China: An Example of News Production on the Douyin(TikTok China) Platform

Authors

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Abstract

Research background and questions

News epistemology is a theory that studies how journalists and news organizations know what they know and how their knowledge claims are expressed and justified (Ekstrom et al., 2019a). Traditionally, journalists associate journalism with objectivity, professionalism, impartiality, fairness, and credibility (Deuze, 2005), and these beliefs are used by journalists as professional norms (Gil de Zuniga and Hinsley, 2013; Bennett et al., 1985). The perception of news has gradually deviated from traditional news epistemology. With the rise of social media, the public's view of news has evolved from simple reading to clicking and retweeting (Costeria et al., 2015). Journalism has become overly reliant on platforms (Ekstrom et al., 2019b). Technology (Schlesinger et al., 2015) and the market (Hjarvest, 2013) have gradually become news creators' focus in such an environment.

In China, traditional news production has long emphasized the media's responsibility to the leading authorities and lacks attention to the people (Yu, 2004). In recent years, the rapid development of the internet has driven significant changes in China's news production model (Peng, 2018). Many digital platforms are involved in news production, with short-video platforms represented by Douyin (Tik Tok China) having the most significant impact. Here raises the question of whether the traditional Chinese news epistemology has changed in the context of digital news production and the changes generated by global news cognition.

Thus, this study takes news on Douyin as an example and examines whether digital media platforms, represented by Douyin, have influenced news epistemology in China along three dimensions of news epistemology: representation of truth claims in news texts and metadiscourses, how journalists produce, verify and justify news, and the way viewers receive and verify the news (Ekstrom et al., 2019a).

Methodology

This study takes the top news videos on Douyin during 2019-2022. Topic modeling (LDA), sentiment analysis, and quantitative analysis are used to explore the influence of Douyin platform characteristics on the dissemination of Douyin news. In addition, this study will also interview

practitioners and users of Douyin news to delve into the changes in Chinese news epistemology in the new media environment and the influence of Douyin on news production.

Findings

This study initially found that, in terms of news content, Douyin news gradually shifts the focus to ordinary people, presenting a scenario where traditional mainstream news and ordinary people's news coexist. Douyin news has shown a clear emotional shift in the emotional dimension of news reporting. From the news production system perspective, China's original four-level media system has evolved into a different ecology on the short video platform, with central-level media still dominant and county-level media only accounting for 2.2%. It indicates that China's traditional news epistemology is changing in the context of digital news production.

Key Words

Keywords: News epistemology; Short video platform; China

Tabloidization to popularize data journalism: the case of Chinese newsrooms

Authors

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Abstract

Researchers generally argue that data journalism, as an innovation, represents a digital continuation of the tradition of journalistic professionalism, inheriting key elements of precision journalism and computer-assisted reporting to deliver high-quality news stories (e.g., Gray et al., 2012; Appelgren, 2019; Young et al., 2018). Western data journalism practices believed in enhancing objectivity and encouraging the audience and journalist to act as watchdogs under open data initiatives to reinforce journalism's contribution to democracy (e.g., Parasie & Dagiral, 2012; Appelgren et al., 2019; Cushion et al., 2017). In China, attempts at data journalism that upholds journalistic professionalism exist. However, the effort expended far outweighs its benefits. Journalists suspect that data journalism is incompatible with China's existing media system (Zhang & Feng, 2019). This is especially true when they find that data journalism is not fundamentally different from traditional journalism in terms of audience engagement, which puts data journalism with greater costs in a dilemma (Wright & Nolan, 2021). In addition, this dilemma is not limited to China. The social distance between data journalism and audiences has been mentioned by researchers (de-Lima-Santos & Mesquita, 2021).

Through three years of field observations, this study attempts to provide a contrary theoretic path to its journalistic innovation by investigating how Chinese newsrooms have made data journalism popular through a tabloid transformation. Content analysis and in-depth interview methods were used to illustrate this question. Four of the most active data newsrooms in China are first selected. Their most successful (in terms of audience engagement, including page views and likes) data journalism stories are sampled to build a dataset ($n=500$). This study relies on Reinemann et al.'s (2011) analysis of tabloidization and visualization typology, such as the data-ink theory and interactivity (Tufte, 1990; Khan & Khan, 2011) to create a coding framework. The latter includes headlines (focus on suspense and sensationalism), topics (focus on infotainment), data-ink (appropriately fancy rather than simplicity), and interaction (static charts or Gifs rather than interactive sites), thus conceptualizing the characteristics of tabloidized data journalism as predictors of audience engagement with data journalism. Afterward, using a series of completed in-depth interview materials with Chinese data journalists ($n=15$) and audiences ($n=15$), the structured reasons for the tabloidized characteristics of data journalism in China are summarized: increased censorship, limitations of social media platforms (limiting sharing and interaction interfaces), lack of visualization literacy of both journalists and audiences, and Chinese users' own news context culture.

This investigation from Chinese data newsrooms highlights the potential ambivalence of data journalism in terms of news quality, which may stem from differences in media market structures. However, it may also be applicable to the global context of digital journalism development - humanizing data and softening the style of news (Otto et al., 2017). This case simultaneously contributes to how non-Western journalism can balance innovative technology adoption with traffic and reputation while echoing researchers' calls for data journalism to move beyond technological determinism (de-Lima-Santos & Mesquita, 2021) in order to embrace more audience-centered innovations in newsrooms.

Key Words

Data journalism, Digital journalism, Tabloidization, Chinese newsroom, journalism innovation

Les podcasts de témoignages intimes en Suisse romande : co-construire des récits avec les citoyens pour retrouver leur confiance

Authors

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Abstract

« Le but du journalisme intime est simple : Il s'agit de comprendre le monde des autres de l'intérieur » (Harrington, 1997, p. xxv) (notre traduction). Cette affirmation du spécialiste en journalisme narratif intime résume bien le sens que les producteurs de podcasts intimes en Suisse romande donnent à leur pratique. Si une partie du métier de journaliste est de faire le lien avec des experts, des acteurs institutionnels de ce monde et des politiques, l'expertise « officielle » est aujourd'hui remise en question (Grundmann, 2022). Grâce aux témoignages intimes, qui se développent depuis la popularisation des podcasts (Swiatek, 2018), nous assistons à une réelle revalorisation de la parole citoyenne et à une forte connexion aux publics de la part des journalistes (Wilson, 2018).

Dans cette étude, nous nous demandons de quelle manière les journalistes suisses romands perçoivent-ils et traitent-ils les paroles citoyennes ordinaires lors de la création de podcasts de témoignages intimes et quelle importance ils accordent à ces voix dans leur travail ?

Ce type de journalisme - au plus proche des citoyens et de leurs vécus - est étudié grâce à des entretiens semi-directifs avec 10 journalistes producteurs de podcasts de témoignages en Suisse romande. Notre collecte de données est triangulée car elle mobilise deux techniques de récolte différentes (Denzin, 1978). Nous procédons, d'une part, à une analyse de contenu systématique de type catégorielle et des évaluations (Derèze, 2019) de nos entretiens et, d'autre part, à l'analyse de contenu de 8 épisodes de podcasts de témoignage.

Nous faisons l'hypothèse que la pratique des témoignages intimes dépasse une relation journaliste-source classique. En effet, nous observons que l'interaction tissée lors de témoignages relève davantage de la co-construction de récits. Une pratique d'autant plus importante à étudier dès lors que l'intégration des citoyens à la production de l'information peut être vue comme une piste afin de renouer avec les publics (Pignard-Cheynel & Amigo, 2022).

Cette étude nous permet de constater que, bien que les pratiques de co-production de contenu sont rares, voire anecdotiques, dans la partie francophone du pays (Pignard-Cheynel & Amigo, 2022), les journalistes semblent adopter de réelles logiques de coopération avec les citoyens dont ils récoltent le récit de vie lors de l'enregistrement de leur podcast. Pour répondre davantage aux besoins de l'audience qui cherche « au-delà de l'autorité, de l'authenticité » (McGregor & Fraser, 2022) (notre traduction), les journalistes mettent automatiquement en place des stratégies à travers leurs relations à leurs sources.

Dans cette perspective, l'objectif global de cette recherche est d'analyser la relation entre des journalistes et des sources citoyennes ordinaires, afin d'approfondir la question de ces relations qui s'est, jusqu'à présent dans la littérature, davantage concentrée aux références institutionnelles et leur rôle actif comme co-constructrices de l'information (Francoeur, 2017 ; Gatien, 2009 ; Neveu, 2004 ; O'Neill & O'Connor, 2008 ; Schlesinger et al., 1992).

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Key Words

podcast, témoignage, co-construction, récits, expertises, sources

Obstacles to Freedom of Information. How laws, technology and bureaucrats sets the terms for investigative journalists in Norway

Authors

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Abstract

The Norwegian Freedom of Information Act gives journalists the tools they need to investigate government agencies and public companies. This includes transparency of all decision-making processes, public records and documents.

However, the bureaucrats tasked with handling these requests have different skills, attitudes and understanding of the law. They also work with different technical solutions for archiving and accessing data. This makes access to information quite difficult for journalists and often results in them not receiving the information to which they are legally entitled. They then have to deal with the administration or look for other creative ways to get the data.

Public access is one of the most frequently described journalistic activities in the Norwegian SKUP reports. These reports describe the working processes of journalistic works nominated for the annual SKUP awards for investigative journalism. Since the inception of the prize in 1991, 1520 nominations have been submitted, resulting in a portfolio of over 18,000 pages of methodological descriptions.

In this article, we examine the descriptions of access to public information in detail to explore the different ways journalists work to gain access to government agencies and administration, and how this changes over time in light of legislative changes and new technologies.

Key Words

Investigative journalism, public access, FOIA, Transparency, SKUP

The Undercurrent of Resistance: News Parody Short Videos in China

Authors

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Abstract

News parody, as an umbrella term, encompasses various types of satire and parody of news content and other textual forms, especially using humor for political critique and engagement with current events (Baym & Jones, 2012). In recent years, the study of news parody in Western democratic contexts has mainly focused on political satire in traditional media such as television shows (Leicht, 2022). In China, however, the concept has expanded more. While strict censorship in traditional media has inhibited the birth of news parody (Tang, 2013), political satire promoted by the public has flourished on the Internet (Tang & Bhattacharya, 2011; Tang & Yang, 2011; Yang, 2009). This political satire is seen as a Chinese Internet subcultural practice used for resistance (Chang et al., 2021; Yang & Jiang, 2015). News-related Internet satire is also seen as one of these cultural practices, such as Tang (2013) 's focus on Chinese netizens' parodic comments on the news.

However, on the one hand, the analysis of cultural perspectives neglected the specificity of news, especially in authoritarian countries, news is a dominant discourse of power. It carries the official ideology and is almost propaganda. On the other hand, previous studies have neglected the impact of communication technologies and the new face of journalism in response to technological innovations. Accordingly, this study focuses on personal news parody videos created by users on short video platforms as parodies of short video news published by media or institutions. Specifically, it discusses the following questions: What are the characteristics of these user-created parody videos, and what are the patterns of appropriation, assembly, and parody in these videos? Moreover, what new meanings do these videos give to the Chinese Internet resistance culture under the technological influence of the platform's recommendation algorithm?

Accordingly, this paper adopts both multimodal discourse analysis and participant observation methods. The samples for multimodal discourse analysis were drawn from two of the most prominent short video platforms in China (Douyin and Kuaishou), with a total of 200 user-generated news parody short videos, which were divided into two modalities: video and audio, and further subdivided into image/text and music/speaking. From October 2022 to February 2023, participant observation lasted five months, using blank accounts to watch video streams recommended by the platform at fixed times and continuously forming usage habits.

This paper argues that user-generated news parodies create a comedy of confusion between real and fake by imitating and copying the structure of short video news. Furthermore, a larger audience can participate because such works' easy-to-produce nature, further shaping the parody's meme flooding. This paper finds that news parody on short video platforms adapts to the characteristics of recommendation algorithms and video waterfall streams differently from

Internet political satire before. This change reflects that China's Internet resistance culture has transformed from individual quality-led to group scale-led resistance. It can be argued that, with the support of new technologies, scaled-up news parody, as a ubiquitous "undercurrent of resistance," shows a new dismantling of the meaning of authority.

Key Words

news parody, short videos, China, Internet, resistance, media technology

Employing social media in building academic brand of the UAE's Universities: A comparative analysis

Authors

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Dr. Ahmed Elgody - United Arab Emirates University

Dr. Ahmed Al Mansoori - United Arab Emirates University

Abstract

The increased competition among universities locally and globally has placed a challenge on many higher education institutions. In response, universities have started to consider their online presence as a potential competitive advantage. Social media platforms have been widely used as an important public relations tool in achieving the institutional goals of higher education due to their accessibility, connectivity, and interactivity. Many universities actively employed social media to deliver news and events, promote academic reputation, and engage with the various key publics. This paper aimed at studying the branding strategies of the top five universities in the United Arab Emirates (based on Times Higher Education Ranking) through an analysis of their performances on Twitter. The sample includes all the posts from the official Twitter accounts of the five universities in 2022. The study employed a 2-step approach using mixed quantitative content analysis and qualitative thematic analysis. The quantitative content analysis provided necessary pointers to examine different topics that evolved in discussion and interactivity between universities and their audience. Qualitative thematic analysis was employed to deepen knowledge on different strategies used across the sample. Our findings showed that social media use by higher education institutions is on the rise. Results also indicated different strategies used by all universities through social media platforms to brand their image, build connections, and engage with the targeted publics. A comparison of social media strategies is also conducted between private and public universities. The study offers insights into how academic institutions can optimize the use of social media platforms in building their reputation amid intense competition locally and globally. As one of the few studies of its kind in Arab and Emirati contexts, this study is an attempt to enrich research on social media analysis and branding in the region.

Key Words

university branding, social media, Twitter

Towards Ecological Civilization: A Study on the Media Construction and Discourse Strategies of China's Environmental Governance Discourse

Authors

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Abstract

Global environmental crises affect the survival and development of human beings and are significant challenges facing the world today. Environmental communication is regarded as a risk communication practice. Environmental news reports affect the public's awareness of environmental risks and participation in actions, which play an essential role in response to environmental crises. Facing the problematic global environmental situation, China put forward the concept of "ecological civilization," which has become the core of national environmental discourse. Chinese official media is the discourse space for leading environmental risk communication and environmental advocacy. This research focuses on China's environmental communication practice in the context of ecological civilization, studies how Chinese official media construct ecological civilization policy discourse, and aims to answer the question of the role of the media and the interaction between them in China's environmental governance.

This study examines the policy discourse transformation and the discourse strategies in China's central and local media. We selected China's central media, "People's Daily," and provincial and municipal media as the research objects. We used "ecological civilization" as the search term to obtain 1,124 news reports in the past five years. To investigate the construction of environmental policy discourse, we adopted the method of content analysis based on the three aspects of environmental risk perception, environmental risk control, and environmental risk benefits in the risk communication process. Eight primary discourses are identified, including (1) policy communication, (2) publicity and education; (3) ecological practice; (4) pioneer/demonstration; (5) environmental supervision; (6) ecological benefit; (7) experience and achievement; (8) international evaluation/responsibility. The media reports are coded and classified into units of articles. Regarding the media discourse strategies, based on the spatial-temporal-axiological model of the proximization theory, we further adopted the method of discourse analysis to study the strategy underlying different discourses with specific cases. The mixed quantitative and qualitative approach addresses the limitations of a particular approach and contributes to a more nuanced understanding of environmental discourse practices.

The study initially found that in China's media-policy interaction network, the ecological civilization discourse of the central and local media showed differences in the roles of "policy guidance" and "practical advocacy." The communication strategies adopted by the two types of media were differentiated. Still, they all show the characteristics of proximization in spatial-temporal-axiological, jointly constructing the "environmental risk control" discourse around environmental

policies, thereby promoting the consensus of ecological civilization policy and environmental advocacy practice.

The contribution of this research is that we are concerned about transforming the environmental worldview of non-western countries represented by China and the corresponding environmental governance discourse and practice. In the context of the global environmental crisis, in addition to the sustainable development or ecological modernization theories advocated in Euro-American geographies, the depiction of China's ecological civilization discourse also expands the understanding of global environmental governance discourse.

Key Words

Ecological civilization; Discourse; Risk communication ; Policy–media interaction; proximization theory

Third-party Fact-checking and Trust in the News: Do Political Misinformation and Scientific Misinformation Make a Difference?

Authors

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Abstract

This study investigates if third-party fact-checking enhances public trust in news. Fact-checking is one form of global response to countering fake news and currently has become a multi-billion-dollar industry. While independent fact-checkers in Taiwan include TFC (Taiwan FactCheck Center), My-Go-Pen, RumToast, and CoFacts, little is known about what effect they have on public trust in news where many false claims can be found. Since Taiwan's news industry has been criticized for relying more on quoting news sources' statements rather than investigating them via cross-examination and verification, third-party fact-checkers are believed to help minimize false information. However, according to studies of backfire effects, in some cases corrective information in news may fail to reduce misrecognition and can sometimes even increase it, particularly among people with a specific political ideology in a polarized media environment. In this study we ask if all corrections are. Therefore, we seek to differentiate the fact-checking effects between non-political misinformation and political misinformation. To do this, our study examines two cases covered by two representative publishers in Taiwan: "Pfizer Vaccines' side effects" and "Representative of Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) invited to President Biden's inauguration."

Three research questions and a hypothesis are raised as follows:

RQ1: What are the relationships among topics, publishers, and fact-checkers and participants' trust in the news article?

RQ2: What are the relationships among topics, publishers, and fact-checkers and participants' trust in the publishers?

RQ3: What are the relationships among topics, publishers, and fact-checkers and participants' trust in fact checkers?

Hypothesis: Partisanship, political interests, and media trust moderate the effects of topics, publishers, and fact-checkers on participants' trust in news, publishers, and fact-checkers.

To answer these research questions, the study administered a quota-sampled non-probability survey experiment through PollcracyLab run by the Election Study Center at National Chengchi University. PollcracyLab maintains a large panel of Taiwanese respondents who are broadly representative of the population and are compensated for their participation.

There are three components in the survey experiment. First, we asked all respondents a series of pre-treatment demographic and institutional trust questions. Second, we conducted the

experiment by randomly dividing participants into four groups. Two groups received a news story plus a third-party fact-check verdict of the central political/scientific claims embedded in the news story respectively (treatment groups). The other two groups received only the story without any third-party fact-check (reference groups). We also randomly assigned one of two mainstream publication sources of news, *Liberty Times* and *United Daily*, of an identically-worded news story to all participants. Third, respondents answered questions regarding their levels of trust in the news story and, for those who received fact-checking information, levels of trust in the fact-check.

Our analyses show significant main effects for fact-checkers. Indeed, users without any fact-checker conditions evaluated the news as being less trustworthy than those with fact-checker conditions. Lastly, partisanship and trust in media moderate fact-checkers' effects.

Key Words

political misinformation, scientific misinformation, fact checkers, trust in the news

Do News Affects Our Mind? Investigating Relations between COVID-19 News and National Identity in Hong Kong and Mainland China

Authors

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Abstract

The fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong began in late December 2021, inducing hundreds of death cases and even “a pause of the society.” During the pandemic, news is a significant channel to learn about the updated information of the pandemic. News framing of the severe pandemic in Hong Kong between Hong Kong and mainland China centered on different perspectives of facts, with biased statements of the trustworthiness and different wording of narratives. Framing is a communicational process of people forming a certain concept of a question or resetting a particular question, where meaning is condensed, the context is given and a specific perception is formed. News exposure can activate individuals’ national identity by presenting particular aspects of the reality that are associated with national identity and by making these aspects more prominent in the news text.

News framing shapes one’s mind, while the perception of media bias may either lessen or aggravate the effects of news framing on our minds. Thus, this study focused on the relations between COVID-19 news exposure and national identity in Hong Kong and mainland China, mediated by the perception of news bias.

The study first reviewed four cases of COVID-19 news in Hong Kong from Hong Kong news agencies and mainland China news agencies, aiming to explore the characteristics of COVID-19 news framing between Hong Kong and mainland China. An online survey was conducted among 178 oversea students in Hong Kong.

The study found that the exposure to news regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong from mainland China news agencies positively correlated to the perception of news bias towards mainland China’s news agencies. The perception of bias towards mainland China’s news agencies positively correlated to individuals’ sense of national identity. No mediation effect was found between the news exposure from mainland news agencies and individuals’ sense of national identity. No significance was found between exposure to news regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong framed by Hong Kong news agencies and the sense of national identity. The mediation effect of the perception of news bias towards Hong Kong news agencies was not supported either. However, during the pandemic in Hong Kong, oversea students generated a higher perception of news bias from mainland China news agencies than from Hong Kong news

agencies. This study theoretically and practically contributes to the debates about how news framing affects individuals' minds in China.

Key Words

News framing; perception of news bias; national identity.

Whose Information Disorder is "Fake News"?: Political and cultural inputs in framing information's Other

Authors

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Abstract

Contemporary concerns over information trouble are embodied in recent UNESCO publications on methods for ICT decontamination (Allan et al., 2017) and World Health Organization (2020) conferences on infodemiology, in which the language of medical contagion is applied to the viral spread of troubled information. The expanse of technical affordances has not superseded Plato's basic concerns over information manipulation: the scale and scope of participation afforded by new information and communication technologies (ICTs), have not been the promised gateway technologies tuning peoples into democratic communities, but have themselves increasingly become the target of democratic critique. In the above context, a variety of labels have been proposed to measure and intervene in this complex social problem. However, concerns over the lack of clarity over older and more recent neologisms to conceptualize information trouble – propaganda, public diplomacy, disinformation, misinformation, fake news and adjacent terms – have led to calls for definitional rigour (Jayakumar et al., 2021; Wardle & Derakshan, 2017). Drawing from discussions within the political economy of objectivity in news (Zhao and Chen 2022; Hackett and Zhao 1998; Schiller 1980; 1981), this paper argues for a conceptualization of information's Other to help frame contestations over information as a contradictory social process.

To further highlight the need for such an analytical framework, this paper expands on a range of definition case studies for information trouble drawn from the history of study and practice of the field of communication. In some cases, "trouble" is found in information manipulated by propaganda and public relations. In other cases, the "trouble" is in the apparent lack of trouble: as found evidenced in historic promotions of the free flow of information or in so-called disinterested international objective news standards. These cases are put in discussion with insights from the critical political economics of communication aimed at bringing together one world with many voices. By developing an analytical category to understand contexts whereby information is othered, this framework distances itself from conceptions of information trouble that may ignore political and cultural determinants of information, and may overlook wider systemic concerns over the access to the production and dissemination of information and informational omission as the result of strategy or structural considerations. Taken together, these highlight the need for a political economy of information able to not only tackle today's alleged "information disorder" (Wardle & Derakshan, 2017) but also bring into focus concerns with "information order" (Nicolai, forthcoming).

Key Words

news objectivity, propaganda, ideology, utopia, information disorder

Saving the planet with school strikes is fine, but gluing himself to streets is over the line? How German newspapers cover different climate movement organizations

Authors

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Abstract

Protests movements such as *Fridays for Future* or *Black Lives Matter* are an integral part of modern democracies since they are considered to be a driving force for (social) change (della Porta & Diani, 2015). In view of the growing gravity of the global climate change, meanwhile a range of movement organizations formed to promote an environmental change, and to fight for justice in this regard (Mendez, 2020). Like all movements, they face the challenge of generating public resonance in order to achieve their goals (Lipsky, 1968). For this, they rely on journalists' judgement and media reporting (Glamson & Wolfsfeld, 1993). However, previous research suggests that in journalistic media coverage protests are often delegitimized, activism is framed as deviant behavior, or as threatening and not effective. These characteristics are summarized in the so-called *protest paradigm* (e.g., Chan & Lee, 1984). Since these patterns of media coverage have been observed for single protest events only (Gil-Lopez, 2020; Lee, 2014), we know little on how the protest paradigm can be applied to media coverage of protest movements, such as climate movement. The climate movement addresses an issue that affects large parts of the population and thus differs from other protest movements. This might affect the way journalists report on this movement. Further, within the climate movement, organizations employ various forms of protest such as school strikes (*Fridays for Future*), or gluing one's hands to the street (*Last Generation*). This may also shape the media coverage evolving around each organization. Hence, this paper asks how coverage of the climate movement differs compared to other movements, and to what extent there are differences in the coverage of various climate movement organizations. Based on a quantitative content analysis of eight major German newspapers (including quality press, tabloid, progressive and conservative newspapers) we analyzed newspaper articles on ten protest movements (N = 3.752) covering a time period of seven years, and including four key climate movement organizations (*Fridays for Future*, *Extinction Rebellion*, *Ende Gelände* [against coal mining], *Last Generation*). Preliminary results showed for example that the overall tone of climate movement coverage was more positive than of other movements (e.g., *Black Lives Matter* or *Pro-Choice Movements*). Among climate movement organizations, ratings appeared to vary with the degree of civil disobedience the movements engaged in. Looking at specific patterns of the protest paradigm, all of them were explicitly legitimized more often than other movements. Further, the *Last Generation* and *Ende Gelände*, which often stand out through blockades, received less support from the public. Thus, this study revealed that facets of the protest paradigm vary in German

coverage of the climate movement. Furthermore, the comparison of various climate movement organizations highlighted differences that point to the form of protest as an explanatory factor.

Key Words

media coverage, newspapers, protest paradigm, climate movement, content analysis

Deepfake affects journalistic authenticity: Process and reasons

Authors

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Abstract

Deepfake can create or synthesize specific content (e.g., replacing the face in the original video) through some computer technology, such as deep learning, and it is usually used for audio-visual content production, such as making pornographic movies, false news, political rumors, etc (Zhou et al., 2021; Rense, 2018). The application of deepfake on social media is expanding rapidly (Godulla et al., 2021; Hall, 2018). Can deepfake affect the authenticity of information and how?

Some research has explored the impact of this technology and has systematically expounded the influence of deepfake on the journalistic authenticity (Godulla et al., 2021). However, the process and reasons for the influence of deepfake on journalistic industry, especially on the journalistic authenticity and the audience's trust in the media, have not been sufficiently explored, which still need to be systematically teased out and interpreted.

To explore the influence of deepfake on journalistic authenticity, we first systematically outlined the previous related researches and then conducted an interview study. In the interview study, we first introduced the deepfake to each participant in the same way to ensure that each participant had the same level of basic knowledge about the deepfake. Then we began the formal interview. Twelve participants who often use social media were asked to discuss the influence of deepfake on the aspects such as journalism, journalistic authenticity and their information reception according to their own feelings. We converted the voice material of the interview into text material. Hermeneutic method was adopted to analyze the text material. The results show that:

- 1) It is more difficult for participants to discriminate deepfake information than text information, which may have a deep influence on the journalistic authenticity.
- 2) Compared with Internet information, participants show more trust in the information of formal media, however, they worry that deepfake information will affect the authenticity of information sources of formal media.
- 3) The coexistence of deepfake information and real information affects the audience's trust in both true and false information and different kinds of media (especially Internet information and Internet media), but it may also make the audience more trust in traditional media (such as paper media, radio and television).
- 4) There is still no consensus on whether need to remind and how to remind the existence of deepfake information.

According to Joshua Meyrowitz (1994), we are now at the stage of electronic media civilization (Meyrowitz, 1994). Deepfake is one of the products of the electronic civilization stage. The results of our study will help us to better understand the influence of the evolution of media technology

on society such as journalistic authenticity and journalistic authenticity practice, and help to improve the ability to use science and technology more appropriately.

Key Words

deepfake, journalistic authenticity, media trust, evolution of media technology

Core and Essence of China's Independent Knowledge System of Journalism: The Constitution and Internal Logic of the CPC's Thought on News & Public Opinion

Authors

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Abstract

From the period of the new democratic revolution to that of socialist revolution and construction and to the new period of reform and opening up and socialist modernization, till the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Communist Party of China (CPC) led the Chinese people to create a revolutionary, constructional and reforming practice with distinctive Chinese characteristics. As an indispensable part of ideology and superstructure, the practice of journalism and public opinion always accompanied and complemented by the practice of revolution, construction and reform, naturally has Chinese characteristics as well. The CPC has combined the basic principles of the Marxist views on journalism with the specific reality of the work of news and public opinion, combined with the national conditions of China and the characteristics of the times, and gradually created a holistic ideological system on news and public opinion, which is completely different from the western journalism theory. The CPC's thought of news & public opinion, rooted in, derived from and serving the centennial journalistic practice with Chinese characteristics, is the most basic, typical, important and core content of China's independent knowledge system of journalism. From the perspective of system science, this paper regards the CPC's thought of news & public opinion as an ideological system composed of three subsystems of ontology, methodology and the theory of practice, and attempts to outline the constitution of this system and explore its internal logic, so as to provide theoretical basis, ideological resources and academic nourishment for the construction of China's independent knowledge system of journalism. Ontology provides the premise, purpose, principle and background for the practice of news & public opinion. The theory of practice is the function and value of the thought of news & public opinion, and the methodology is the guarantee for the realization of the function and value. These three subsystems are connected, affected, interacted, restricted and coordinated with each other, and are unified in the practice of news & public opinion. The internal logic of the CPC's ideological system of news & public opinion is reflected in the historical logic that derives from the same origin and progress with the times, the theoretical logic that integrates universality and particularity, and the practical logic that comes from practice to practice.

Key Words

Journalism, Communist Party of China, News & Public Opinion

Breaking free from hectic daily media production. Collaborative innovation as a platform for wayfinding, exploration and self-reflection.

Authors

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Abstract

Expectations around the uptake of new technologies and their impact on the field of journalism continue to characterise the media innovation discourse, outside and inside academia (Steensen & Westlund, 2020). The disruption narrative has contributed to reducing innovation to something valuable for its own sake (Creech & Nadler, 2018). Yet, journalism scholarship has already long reacted to this oversimplification, mostly by practising socio-constructivist and socio-technical approaches towards media innovation, primarily as part of newsroom studies (Schmitz-Weiss&Domingo, 2010; Lewis and Westlund, 2015). A wealth of research has demonstrated the importance of certain organisational dynamics for bolstering newsroom innovation, such as inter-departmental collaboration (Nielsen, 2012; Drew&Thomas, 2018; Konieczna, 2020) and distributed agency (Lowrey, 2011; Boyles, 2016).

However, in light of a series of structural transformations of the news media sector (increasing freelance work, outsourcing and grant-based work), the newsroom is not considered anymore the only place for testing and implementing innovations (Hepp & Loosen, 2021). Recent empirical studies have indicated that there is a growing need for seeking inter-firm collaborations, involving knowledge sharing and strategic synergies (Slot, 2021; Cook, 2021, Heft, 2021). Furthermore, theoretical research on technology development has already illustrated how innovation is a socially-embedded process which benefits from being carried out at the intersection of different disciplines and sectors, involving the cross-fertilization of diverse assets of knowledge (Bijker, 1997; Tuomi, 2002).

In this paper we adopt a socio-constructivist organisational perspective to innovation practice and apply it to the emerging locus of cross-border and cross-disciplinary collaborations. We rely on twenty qualitative interviews with media practitioners and media managers who have been involved as team leaders in collaborative projects supported by European seed funding for media innovation, namely under the Stars4Media Programme. The interviews took place after the implementation of the collaborative projects, between March and April 2022. The companies represented by the interviewees were mostly medium to large size and have been selected with the objective of ensuring geographical balance, in the European context. Furthermore, despite many collaborative projects being carried out by news media companies in partnership with tech startups, consultancies and content agencies, only news media companies were involved in the interviews, as the focus of this research is the trajectory of transformation of the journalistic sector.

We strive to understand how practitioners conceive innovation in their overall work, what obstacles they encounter and how collaborative work supports them in their innovation trajectory. We find that the role and value they attribute to innovation reveal that they mostly don't conceptualise it in solutionist terms, but as an ongoing practice of adaptation to a changing environment. We also find that collaborations offer media practitioners a platform for wayfinding, creative work and explorative research, thanks to occasions of knowledge sharing, improvisation and self-reflection, that are usually not available under the hectic rhythms of daily media production. Lastly, we learned that the cross-border dimension deflates the competition concerns that usually hamper national media collaborations, by offering companies opportunities for participating in larger international partnerships.

Key Words

collaborative innovation; knowledge sharing; cross-disciplinary collaboration; media innovation

Friends like these. The normative relocation of conflict journalism

Authors

Dr. Rob Sharp - Sussex

Dr. Richard Stupart - University of Liverpool

Abstract

This paper draws on previous work in the fields of conflict studies and journalism studies, as well as empirical work by the authors on the normative language of conflict journalism to argue that this subfield of journalism appears to have increasingly 'moved house' from the normative universe of institutional journalism to that of professional humanitarianism. We describe three shifts that are taking (or have taken) place whose effects may include a transformation of ideas around 'what conflict journalism is for' and how it understands its presence in armed conflict.

Firstly, out of the literature from journalism studies, we observe that humanitarian news subsidies, an increase in work being done for both journalism and humanitarian organisations and untenable precarity in conflict reporting is increasingly driving journalists into careers that rely on the finances of the humanitarian and (I)NGO sector over that of news publications.

Secondly, out of conflict studies research, we argue that the presently-existing safety infrastructure in major armed conflicts incentivizes a reliance by journalists on humanitarian actors for safe passage and fosters opportunities for developing a common habitus and imaginary between humanitarian actors and journalists covering conflict. In situations where journalists working in conflict areas aren't able to bear the costs of safe transport, accommodation and evacuation plans, humanitarian organisations and international organisations such as the United Nations may offer them limited access to their own, secure networks of transport and secure accommodation.

Finally, we observe that the language in which the profession justifies itself in moments of loss appears to rely far more on the language of humanitarian cosmopolitanism than that of institutional journalism. We argue that the the language used by memorial foundations to commemorate journalists killed reporting on conflict increasingly relies on a normative ideal of conflict journalism as a humanitarian, witnessing endeavor in ways that diverge from previous ideas of what conflict journalism 'was for' and what its ideal motivations were.

Taken together, we argue that there is an increasing entanglement of the normative and professional universes of journalists and humanitarians. If there was once a time when the war correspondent was socialised within a conventional news environment, where reporters imbibed the norms of the journalism world and then went out to report on conflict; that is no longer the case. Those who replaced conflict journalists, the stringers and freelancers who spend a lot of time in conflict spaces, don't tend to be socialised in anything resembling a 'normal' newsroom. The social world to which they belong, the values which circulate around them are far more like the

norms of humanitarians and the others who share the protected space in which these journalists circulate. Certain forms of journalism are now normatively and infrastructurally 'moving house' out of newsrooms, such that that the field now operates much more withing the imaginaries of the humanitarian universe. Reading these shifts together in turn provokes questions for the practices and duties of both humanitarians and journalists.

Key Words

journalism

conflict

humanitarianism

journalism practice

Twitter: a necessary evil? Journalistic Responses to Elon Musk and the Ethics of Platform Use

Authors

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Abstract

When Elon Musk overtook Twitter as CEO in October 2022, digital journalists relying on the platform for their work faced a new challenge. Through measures like commodified verification systems and direct suspensions of journalist accounts, the “invisible structure” (Steensen and Westlund, 2021) enabling the daily working routines of many journalists no longer seemed like neutral ground. In this paper, I explore how journalists responded in the first few months after the platform’s change in ownership.

In particular, I investigate how journalists think about their routines on Twitter under Musk in relation to their journalistic role conception. We know that journalistic norms may adapt and be renegotiated in response to changing platform affordances (Molyneux and Mourão, 2017). While social media logic can sometimes be perceived as hostile to journalistic ideals, journalists also tend to employ a variety of strategies to reconcile their professional values with pragmatic incentives to maintain an active online presence (Christin and Petre, 2020; Mellado and Alfaro, 2020). The aftermath of Musk’s acquisition provided a unique moment in time to deepen our understanding of these dynamics. How do journalists reconcile (or not) their platform routines with their professional values when their platform of choice becomes less hospitable?

To explore these questions, I undertook over 15 semi-structured interviews with print journalists based in France, where media workers have been shown to incorporate Twitter in their news production routines to a significant extent (Hernández-Fuentes and Monnier 2022), between November 2022-February 2023. In addition, I observed newsroom meetings and public webinars where the question “should we leave Twitter?” was openly debated.

I found that many journalists found themselves in an “ethical dilemma” – while many felt that Musk stood in conflict with journalistic ideals, abandoning Twitter was deemed to come at a high cost to their professional resources and networks. Instead, journalists (and newsroom managers) started to negotiate which Twitter practices were experienced as more or less legitimate. Journalists sometimes reduced their active posting and interactions in favor of more passive monitoring, and newsrooms considered stopping sponsored campaigns. In a broader sense, journalists questioned to what extent the continued reliance on privately-owned platforms with little accountability was compatible with journalistic principles of transparency and independence.

These findings stress the importance of evolving platform routines in the continuous performance of journalistic norms and its underlying contradictions (Mellado and Van Dalen 2014) Platform use (and platform *choice*) is emerging as a new dimension of the journalistic normative role

perceptions. This needs to be studied in greater detail as we potentially move to a more diverse platform landscape in journalism.

Key Words

digital journalism, social media, journalistic roles, journalism ethics, journalistic routines

Framing pandemic-related issues in fake news: A content analysis of Covid-19 misinformation in China

Authors

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

Abstract

Framing, a concept first coined by Goffman (1974), is the “schemata of interpretation” that enables individuals to make sense of the world. In communication studies, framing is the process of focusing on specific aspects of a perceived reality and presenting them more saliently than others (Entman, 1993). While there are many studies on how health risks are framed in real news articles, few have investigated the framing of them in fake ones.

This study thus aims to fill this gap by investigating how Covid-19 pandemic-related issues are framed in fake news. Specifically, it seeks to identify the primary themes of COVID-19-related misinformation in China, the frames being used, and the connections between themes and news frames. In addition, incorporating time as a variable, we will investigate how themes and theme-frame relationships evolve over the course of the pandemic.

We conducted content analysis on 551 pieces of Covid-19-related misinformation archived by the fact-checking platform Weibo Piyao between January 2020 and January 2023, a period encompassing the entire duration of China’s zero-covid policy. Data include the entire portfolio of misinformation fact-checked by Weibo Piyao, related to Covid-19 and whose original texts can be retraced for analysis. Coding instructions were produced to train coders who need to classify the sample into six themes and identify six generic frames and eleven issue-specific frames presented in the misinformation items.

Results show the most dominant themes of Covid misinformation are “Covid-19 outbreak and control in China” (70%) and “prevention and treatment of Covid-19” (12%), while the less frequently used themes are “origins of Covid-19” (5%), “nature and impact of Covid-19” (5%), “effectiveness and safety of the Covid-19 vaccine” (4%), and “Covid-19 in foreign countries” (4%). Cross-referencing the themes of Covid misinformation and their timelines, we find that Covid-19 misinformation follows closely with the mainstream media agenda, with politicized themes more likely to persist online.

Our analysis also reveals some interesting theme-frame relationships, which are subject to change over time. For example, attribution of responsibility frame is associated more strongly with misinformation covering domestic outbreaks than foreign ones. This finding contrasts with news reporting, where journalists are more likely to use responsibility frame when covering health risks in faraway countries (Guo, 2011). Moreover, misinformation relating to domestic outbreaks used pro-lockdown frame in the first two years of the pandemic and then turned to anti-lockdown

frame starting in early 2022. Because Weibo Piyao almost exclusively fact-checks misinformation from private sources, the findings of this study imply that the public, while witnessing major news events unfold, uses misinformation to engage with the pandemic and negotiate policies that control their lives.

By extending the existing scholarship of news framing to the context of misinformation, this paper shows, to traverse the uncertainties and powerlessness, people project their ideologies, biases, and belief onto the falsehood that they tell and see it as their rebellious act to voice their views or express their emotions. How their thoughts and feelings are condensed and organized into each frame is the perfect manifestation of these struggles.

Key Words

Fake news, misinformation, framing, Covid-19, social media, China

La presencia y el enfoque del cambio climático en la prensa digital de Uruguay

Authors

Prof. Juan Manuel Gari - Universidad de Montevideo

Dr. Victoria Gómez - Universidad de Montevideo

Dr. Álvaro Pérez - Universidad de Montevideo

Abstract

Las respuestas a la crisis ambiental -“la triple emergencia del clima, la biodiversidad y la contaminación” (PNUMA, 2021, pág. 1)- involucran tanto el nivel individual como el institucional sin perder de vista las mediaciones sociales y culturales que pautan las conductas. En este sentido, el consumo de medios entra en juego en la conformación y el reforzamiento o debilitamiento de actitudes hacia el problema ambiental. De hecho, el informe publicado por Climate Promise sobre Percepción social del cambio climático en Uruguay (PNUD Uruguay, 2021) demanda una exploración más profunda del rol de la comunicación mediada en el cambio climático, ya que cerca del 80% del público percibe una baja presencia del mismo en la prensa.

Este artículo analiza cómo los medios representan el cambio climático en Uruguay y se propone identificar oportunidades para la mejora en la cobertura periodística del cambio climático en el país, teniendo en cuenta que el estudio de PNUD Uruguay (2021) revela una distancia del fenómeno con la vida cotidiana de las personas.

En concreto, este artículo analiza una muestra de 289 artículos sobre cambio climático publicados por los cinco medios digitales nacionales más leídos (Radar, 2022) durante el primer semestre de 2022, atendiendo especialmente a cómo se presentan y encuadran las acciones priorizadas en la Política Nacional de Cambio Climático (PNCC). Se ha optado por analizar los medios digitales porque, en Uruguay, el acceso a Internet es prácticamente universal entre los 6 y los 65 años y leer noticias en portales o redes sociales (78%) es una de las cuatro actividades principales de los usuarios (Radar, 2022). En cuanto al análisis de la agenda periodística, se realizó a través de la técnica de análisis de contenido (Berelson, 1952; Abelá, 2002), con una orientación temática que identificó distintos encuadres o frames del cambio climático provenientes de estudios internacionales (León, 2013; León y De Lara, 2013; O’Neill et al, 2015; Schäfer y Schlichting, 2014; Robbins, 2018), además de relevar la presencia de las líneas de acción climática de la política nacional con una matriz construida localmente en el marco del proyecto.

La investigación revela, entre otros temas, una gran cantidad de medidas de la PNCC que no tienen presencia en la cobertura periodística nacional, la ausencia de enfoque en las soluciones tecnológicas a los problemas ocasionados por el cambio climático y el casi inexistente uso del formato audiovisual para informar. A la luz de estos datos, el artículo concluye con una serie de recomendaciones sobre la forma en que tanto autoridades políticas como medios de prensa

pueden apostar a una comunicación del cambio climático y la PNCC que contribuya de forma más efectiva a que la ciudadanía comprenda el fenómeno y su relación con el mismo.

Key Words

cambio climático, framing, encuadre, periodismo, uruguay, medio ambiente, conciencia climática

The Question of the Arab audience

Authors

Dr. Omar Al-Ghazzi - London School of Economics and Political Science

Abstract

Questions about an Arab media audience, particularly about how it impacts public opinion, have long been caught up in larger political discourses. On the one hand, the end of Arab nationalism as a hegemonic ideology is often extended to assume the irrelevance of “Arabness” as a political and social category. On the other hand, vague and outdated terminology in reference to Arab public opinion, such as “the Arab street,” continues to feature in media commentary and scholarly debates. Some political events accentuate the former attitude, others the latter. For example, during waves of protest movements crossing borders of different countries, such as in 2011 or 2019, the idea of a unified Arab mood gains importance in political discourse. Meanwhile, in analyses of geopolitics across the region, the idea of pan-regional affiliation is downplayed. My contribution to this panel seeks to address what we mean when we say the Arab audience, particularly in relation to news production and consumption and the formation of public opinion. It draws on an ongoing collaborative research project “Arab News Futures,” which engages in interviews with Arab journalists and conducts focus groups with young Arabic news consumers in London and Dubai . Drawing on the experiences and practices of media workers in multinational newsrooms, as well as the perspectives of young people in accessing pan-Arab news, I am interested in re-thinking the construction and mediation of “the Arab audience” as a single body despite divisions along location, national belonging, political affiliations and socio-economic status. My contribution to the panel is to revisit the notion of the audience in the Arabic-speaking world by dis-entangling it from larger political discourses. Instead, I anchor it in the practices and strategies deployed by news workers to expand audience reach and in the news consumption habits of young people. I conclude by reflecting on the political significance of that news audience, whether imagined or measured, as it relates to transnational public opinion formation.

Key Words

Arab identity, audience, news, young people, MENA, interviews, focus groups

Scrolling the News: News Consumption Practices of Journalism Students in Turkey

Authors

Dr. Şafak Etike - Yozgat Bozok University

Abstract

Academic studies reveal that the new media has been ahead of traditional media in terms of access to both information and news since 2010. As we approach the 2020s, social media has taken the first place among the communication tools used for accessing and consuming news, and has become the main source from which two out of every three people reach the news. Moreover, many studies have entered the literature emphasizing that young people do not consciously and preferentially access news on social media, they are exposed to news, and therefore the quality of news consumption practice has changed significantly. Local studies reveal that Turkey is not immune from this trend, and social media is rapidly climbing to the top of the list, especially among the means by which young people access the news. Social media causes significant changes in both news consumption practices and news production practices. Young people no longer read the news, they scroll it. The news consumption practices of journalism students, who are expected to produce news in the future, also have the potential to cause significant breaks and transformations in the future of journalism.

The aim of this study is to investigate the news consumption practices of Turkish journalism students, who are expected to produce news in Turkey as media professionals in the future, and to reveal data to explain the role of digital media in the change of these practices. The research will be carried out within the mixed research design and mixed method will be applied in the research. As a qualitative method, a questionnaire will be applied to a total of 150 students, 50 from each of the journalism departments of 3 different communication faculties, one from a central, one from a provincial university, and one from a private university. As a qualitative method, focus group interviews will be held with groups of at least 7 students from journalism departments of the same faculties. Quantitative and qualitative data will be interpreted by blending them with each other in a non-eclectic way. The research aims to reveal explanatory results by reaching a descriptive picture of students' news consumption practices and data to explain the role of digital media in the change of these practices.

Key Words

News consumption, News access, Journalism students, Youth, Turkey,

Winning the game against fake news? Using games to inoculate adolescents and young adults in Singapore against fake news

Authors

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Mr. Seth Seet - Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University

Abstract

Guided by inoculation theory and studies that examined serious games as a form of intervention to inoculate individuals against fake news, this study tested the impact on college ($n = 84$) and junior high and secondary school ($n = 30$) students of a fake news computer game developed in Singapore. The findings were replicated across both samples: Those who played the game subsequently improved in their self-reported scores on perceiving fake news as a threat, skepticism toward information from social media, and being cautious about believing in information they encounter online. We also found that those who played the game scored higher in detecting fake news than those who did not play the game—consistent with the predicted effects of message inoculation. Thus, our findings add to the growing line of evidence showing the strong potential of serious games to inoculate young people against fake news.

In contrast to previous studies, we found that our serious game did not increase the players' confidence in their ability to detect fake news. However, this may be an encouraging finding. Some studies found that while some people may be confident in their ability to spot fake news, their actual capability may not be at par. In psychology, scholars have documented the Dunning-Kruger effect, which refers to how some people may be ignorant of their ignorance—their perceived expertise on a subject may be unmatched by their actual expertise. Thus, we argue that lowering one's confidence in their ability to detect fake news may not necessarily be a bad thing—in contrast, this may be a positive development if lower confidence gives way to a healthy dose of skepticism. This current study found that playing a serious game about fake news can increase social media skepticism as well as caution. Future studies can examine the linkages between confidence, skepticism, and caution in the context of online information processing.

Key Words

computer game, disinformation, fake news, inoculation, misinformation

Critical Engagements with News Media Amongst Arab Youth

Authors

Dr. Abeer AlNajjar - American university of Sharjah

Abstract

Technological developments during the 21st century disrupted state control over news media in the Arab countries and among the Arabic speaking MENA audiences. Technologically enabled patterns in news gathering, production, distributions and consumptions have destabilized the lifecycle of news and shifted -even if temporarily- the center -periphery positions in power relations within the region. These digital practices and norms enabled some shifts in geographical monopoly over news production. They also emboldened citizens to reconfigure their role in relation to dominant news originations and their monopoly over news production and over event framing and interpretation. The practices of news production, dissemination, sharing and reproduction resulted in new ways of audience engagement with news content across technological platforms. These new practices affected both the reach and the reception of news items and news sources and organizations. New modes of critical audience/ users engagement with news content threatens channel's control over the lifecycle of their news output. The traditional notion of feedback took new shapes through news sharing, criticizing, correcting, and connecting to other news items and events. In many cases, news channels responded to audience- new modes of feedback and engagement- by withdrawing news items, making corrections, or deleting news content from their social networks accounts. My contribution to this panel explores the ways in which news audiences (users) and journalists in the region perceived these changes in role and impact of the new modes of engagement with news content and its futures in the region. It builds on data collected for a larger collaborative research project engaging with Arabic-speaking journalists and audiences in London and Dubai titled "Arab News Futures". I draw on six focus groups with Arabic speaking undergraduate students from across universities in the London and Dubai/ Sharjah metropolitan areas to investigate their modes of engagements with Arab news, and aspirations and expectations for the future in meeting their news interests.

Key Words

Digital Practices, Arab News Media, Young People, Audience Studies

“Independent News Media” in the Arab region and the question of editorial autonomy

Authors

Dr. Zahera Harb - city, university of london

Abstract

Independence is often seen as one of the core normative professional values in Journalism. The notion of media independence as a normative principle has often been linked to the Habermas (2006) ideal of autonomy of the public sphere from the systematic forces of state and economic power. For Habermas independence is achieved when self-regulatory media system gains independence from its social environments (Habermas 2006: 411).

Within European context, commercial media actors have actively sought to frame the distinction between commercial and public service media as a choice between independent and state media (Karppinen and Moe 2016: 106). Media scholarship is also largely dominated by this binary discourse. However, other scholars (Bennet in *ibid*: 106) contested this binary by arguing that media independence functions “as a utopian vision of the media’s role in society” for many including those who own it, work within it “or even study it”.

News media independence in the Arab region has been studied through this binary of state versus private ownership. Conversely, the complex nature of private news media’s ownership in the Arab countries speaks of a different categorisation.

My contribution to this panel is to engage with the question of what does independence mean in the Arab news media sphere. I examine whether this normative and utopian vision should be applied to the study of Arab journalism. In doing so, the paper considers Arab journalists’ views on the state of news media independence in the Arab region and draws upon their responses on the relevance of media independence to them and where do independence stand in relation to other journalism professional values such as impartiality, balance, fairness, accuracy and accountability.

This discussion of independence relevance in the Arab news media context, bears in mind the rise of alternative online news media outlets in several Arab countries, which are being promoted as independent news media.

Key Words

Political Economy, Independent Media, Arab News, Journalism

Exploring the Influence of Headline Narratives and Affects on News Engagement

Authors

Dr. Charles Feng - Hong Kong Baptist University

Ms. Yiwen Luo - Shenzhen University

Abstract

With the increasing prevalence of online news, understanding the factors that influence audience engagement with news has become crucial. This study investigates the impact of headline content and valence on news engagement, utilizing structural equation modeling (SEM) as the analytical method. The aim is to examine the effects of headline content and valence on engagement behaviors (viewing, liking, sharing, and commenting) and to assess the mediating role of headline viewing in these relationships.

The paper revealed that headline viewing was significantly related to liking, sharing, and commenting. Furthermore, headlines with a narrative appeal generated more views than headlines that consisted of numerical information or a combination of numerical and narrative information. Additionally, headlines with negative affect elicited more views than headlines with positive affect.

The paper also found that the indirect effects of a narrative headline on liking, sharing, and commenting through headline viewing were stronger than those of a headline with numerical information. The indirect effects of a headline with negative affect on liking, sharing, and commenting through headline viewing were also found to be stronger than those of a headline with positive affect.

The paper discovered that the interaction effect of headline content and valence on viewing was significant, with the impact of a negative affect and narrative headline on viewing being stronger than that of a headline with numerical information. Although the results of the moderated mediations were inconsistent, the effects of a negative affect and narrative headline on liking, sharing, and commenting through headline viewing were found to be significantly stronger than those of a headline with numerical information. On the other hand, the effects of a headline with a combination of numerical and narrative information on liking, sharing, and commenting through headline viewing were not significantly different from those of a headline with only numerical information. The results also indicated that headline viewing partially mediates the relationships between the headline and engagement variables, as the headline content and valence had significant direct effects on the engagement variables.

In conclusion, this study sheds light on the impact of headline content and valence on news engagement. The results underline the significance of headline content and valence in shaping audience engagement with news and the mediating role of headline viewing. These findings have

implications for news organizations and marketers looking to enhance their engagement with the audience.

Key Words

narrative, valence, user engagement, structural equation modeling, moderated mediation

Percepciones de autonomía en periodistas de medios nativos digitales en México y Cuba: condiciones de generación

Authors

Dr. Abel Somohano - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Dr. Daniel Peña - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Abstract

La ponencia parte del objetivo de analizar las percepciones de autonomía en periodistas de medios nativos digitales mexicanos y cubanos. Se entiende a la autonomía periodística como la posibilidad del ejercicio libre de la profesión por encima de presiones externas e internas a las organizaciones mediáticas. Se asume, además, como un proceso de disputa perenne entre, por un lado, la pretensión y concreción del control generado por distintos agentes sobre el ejercicio periodístico y, por otro, la presión profesional por materializar sus responsabilidades de frente a los públicos.

En el caso de México se ha documentado que tanto las presiones de la violencia como las formas de desigualdad evidenciadas en amenazas sobre el trabajo, salarios bajos, falta de autoridad al interior de las organizaciones y contratos laborales inseguros explican las percepciones sobre autonomía periodística (Hughes, Garcés, Márquez- Ramírez & Arroyave, 2016). En el caso de Cuba se ha señalado la dependencia de la prensa a estructuras políticas externas, la instrumentalización de los medios, la incidencia directa en el control del periodismo por parte del Partido Comunista (Olivera, 2019) y la existencia de procesos represivos generados desde el poder (Somohano, 2020) como condiciones que atraviesan el ejercicio periodístico, configuran sus marcos de actuación e inciden en las percepciones y reclamos profesionales.

En la ponencia se argumenta que, ante estos contextos, y desde un compromiso con roles cívicos y vigilantes, los profesionales de los medios nativos digitales estudiados apuestan por un periodismo que privilegia la defensa de la autonomía como valor fundamental. Se defiende, además, que sus percepciones están atravesadas, entre otras condiciones, por: a) las agendas abordadas por los medios de pertenencia y los enfoques temáticos, b) la activación de discursos de legitimación o descrédito sobre el ejercicio del periodismo, y c) las acciones concretas en el interior o desde el exterior de los medios orientadas a la restricción o habilitación del ejercicio profesional.

En la ponencia se parte de entrevistas en profundidad a los periodistas de los medios nativos digitales estudiados y se atiende a los hallazgos a partir del diálogo con aportaciones previas situadas en estos y otros espacios nacionales.

Key Words

Autonomía, periodistas, medios nativos digitales, México, Cuba

Navigating the Landscape of News Avoidance and News Consumption in the Digital Age: A Case Study of Spain

Authors

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Prof. Javier Díaz-Noci - Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Abstract

The widespread access to information through digital media has revolutionised how people consume news. While this has led to greater convenience and choice, it has also resulted in news avoidance, where individuals deliberately choose not to engage with news content. This phenomenon has important implications for disseminating information, political discourse, and social cohesion. This study explores the dynamics of news avoidance and consumption in the digital age in Spain.

The present study aimed to examine the landscape of news avoidance and consumption in the digital age. To achieve this aim, we employed a mixed-methods research design that included a survey of 1,004 respondents and six focus groups. The survey was administered online and included a representative sample of the adult population in Spain. The sample was obtained through a stratified random sampling method, considering demographic characteristics such as age, gender, education, and geographic location. The survey was conducted using a web-based platform. The survey consisted of a range of questions designed to measure news avoidance and consumption behaviours, including frequency of news consumption, sources of news, and motivations behind news avoidance.

Additionally, questions were included to measure political views, media literacy, and social media usage. All questions were designed to capture information on individual and situational factors impacting news avoidance and consumption behaviours. We conducted six focus groups with 48 participants to complement the survey findings. Focus group discussion is frequently used as a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the object of study. The focus groups were conducted face-to-face and were designed to provide in-depth qualitative data on the motivations and experiences of news avoidance and consumption. Participants were selected to ensure a diverse range of ages, genders, education levels, and political views. The focus groups lasted approximately two hours each and were moderated by trained moderators. The survey data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, including chi-squared tests. The focus group data were analysed using qualitative content analysis techniques, including coding, categorisation, and theme development. Finally, the results from both the survey and focus groups were triangulated to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the landscape of news avoidance and consumption in the digital age.

The methodology employed in this study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between news avoidance and consumption in the digital age. Using a mixed-

methods research design, we aimed to provide a robust and nuanced examination of the motivations, experiences, and implications of news avoidance and consumption behaviours in the digital age.

Key Words

news avoidance, news consumption, Spain

The Disability Reporting Handbook: addressing disability both in the newsroom and the classroom

Authors

Dr. Faith Valencia-Forrester - Griffith University

Abstract

An increased focus on audience engagement in newsrooms means that future journalists must have an in-depth understanding of diverse communities alongside the requisite practical experience. Both advocates and employers are beginning to understand and appreciate the value of including differently-abled employees in the journalism and media workforce. As it is the role of journalists to inform the public, and as their platforms are powerful means of shaping public perceptions, it then follows that the journalism and media workforce must be knowledgeable and equipped to report on a diversity of topics, especially disability, and should reflect the diversity of the communities they serve (Ellis, 2016; Lück et al., 2022). Disabled journalists are therefore uniquely positioned to make substantial contributions to the journalism and media workforce through their knowledge and connections within different aspects of the disability community (Ellis, 2016; Jones, 2014). However, despite this growing awareness of the benefits to workplaces, individuals and to public knowledge of hiring journalists with a diversity of ability, disabled journalists have discussed facing ongoing challenges with employment opportunities with minimal progress to equitable employment observed (Page, 2022; Keefer & Smith, 1993; Jones et al., 2021). Similarly, journalism students with a disability continue to experience barriers to their education and to develop the employment skills that will enhance their postgraduate employment opportunities (al-Najar, 2022). In producing a future-focused journalism workforce that better represents communities and their needs, higher education institutions must also ensure that students with disability are supported to succeed in their education and are well prepared for the workforce. The Disability Reporting Handbook, was produced through a collaboration between Media Diversity Australia, Griffith University and a number of Disability-led organisations following a student WIL project reporting disability in 2017. This article presents an evaluation of the Disability Reporting Handbook's key messages, and lessons for journalism educators making their classrooms more inclusive. The analysis considers (i) student with disability satisfaction with the internships critically analysing their experience and learning journey; (ii) partner insights into the effectiveness of working with people with disability, and (iii) project team insights into the sustainability of delivering the model in repeat iterations. Results suggest students were overwhelmed by the experience initially but were quick to embrace the opportunity and described the experience as life-changing in terms of their learning and how they engaged with the world. Partners appreciated an opportunity to engage with students about key issues and work collaboratively with the students to find solutions to the complex social issues.

Key Words

Keywords: journalism education, work-integrated learning, disability, advocacy, engagement, strengths-based reporting.

“Symbol of Pride”: Subjugation of Journalism Under Power

Authors

Mr. Huzaifa Muhammad - Colorado State University

Abstract

Numerous challenges or crises have faced journalism over the course of its history. Most non-democratic governments pressure the media and journalists to influence reportage (McMillan & Zoido, 2004). Journalists respond to intense and violent pressure by engaging in extensive self-censorship (Gessen, 2015), which often obstructs the "functioning of a democratic society" (Bar-Tal, 2017).

Over the past few decades, both existing and emerging democracies have witnessed a substantial erosion in democracy (Repucci, 2020). The Bangladeshi government controls the country's media by implementing new laws, incarcerating journalists, limiting advertisements, and giving impunity to those who attack and assault journalists. Their attempts to control the news narrative solidified after the overwhelming majority in Parliament decimated the main opposition party in the elections of 2013. Academics describe this regime as hybrid (Riaz, 2020). However, according to the Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Bangladesh has been under an "authoritarian regime" since 2014.

In this situation, Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh, inaugurated the 6.15-mile "Padma Bridge," which spans the Padma River in Bangladesh, on June 25, 2022. The government portrays this bridge as a symbol of pride for the nation. A government directive "mandated" all newspapers to run daily series coverage for most of June 2022, commemorating the opening of the bridge. The prime minister's office supplied a list of 38 story ideas on Padma Bridge that highlighted the positive aspects of the bridge and the government in general. The coverage ultimately exceeded coverage on any national topic for days, which one of the media specialists in the country termed as "perverse coverage".

Journalism scholars generally agree that it is essential to recognize the factors that affect news content at different levels of study. Many studies examine these influences in different country contexts. But there are few studies that identified the influences which Bangladeshi journalists have been facing. This study will seek the answer to the question: How does the Bangladeshi media's coverage of the Padma Bridge opening reflect forms of government influence on journalists? The hierarchy of influence model explains influences on journalism, the propaganda model helps explain the context of that influence and field theory provides insights into how journalists see that influence as a threat to their profession. To examine the government's holistic influences through sources, advertisers, owners of the media and the journalist's perception of autonomy, the study will utilize all these three theories. The study will use one-on-one interviews with two journalists and one news manager each from five Bangladeshi media organizations through a videotelephony software program.

The study will focus on how news media work in an increasingly authoritarian regime and how journalists reconcile their duties. It will help to explain why press freedom is essential for democracy and how they are interconnected. The study will provide insight into journalistic practices, how journalists perform their jobs, and how we understand news production practices in different parts of the world.

Key Words

Hybrid regime, press Freedom, hierarchy of influences, propaganda, Bourdieu, Bangladesh

Short-form video news of the "3.21" China Eastern Airlines plane crash: A disaster news frame analysis of communication on short-form video media

Authors

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Abstract

The concept of frame theory was first introduced by Goffman (1974) in his book "Frame Analysis" and applied to communication scenarios. News framing is the application of framing theory in journalism, which represents a specific perspective used by media organizations to screen report material and process it purposefully, finally presenting a well-designed news report (Liu, 2020). However, past frame studies have selected only textual coverage and neglected video content in terms of media categories. Nowadays, the trend of convergence between news and media forms such as short-form videos is becoming increasingly prominent, and the research gap in this area should be filled.

On March 21, 2022, a China Eastern Airlines passenger plane MU5735 with 494 people on board crashed in Guangxi, China. Its rescue process and follow-up situation sparked widespread media attention. By using different news frames for coverage of such disaster events, the media were able to sort out and simplify information in a dangerous and confusing environment on the one hand and achieve the media's intentions of guiding public opinion and stabilizing public sentiment on the other (Huang, 2016). As a new form of news reporting media, various short-form video platforms were deeply involved in the entire disaster reporting. Among others, this paper chooses TikTok for data collection and analysis because the social media app currently has 800 million active users who rely on the short-form video platform to obtain new information (Laura, 2021)[2].

The main research questions of this paper to pose are: (1) What news frames are used in the discussion of "3.21" China Eastern Airlines crash on TikTok and (2) How do the news frames enhance the effect of communication?

Methodologically, this study focuses on the disaster reports of the Eastern Airlines crash covered by short-form videos, applying the Natural Language Processing approaches, including the LDA topic model and sentiment analysis. "A passenger plane of Eastern Airlines had an accident in Guangxi" is used as the search title to search for relevant short-form videos on TikTok for the period between March 21, 2022, and April 20, 2022. After retrieving and processing the data, a total of N=604 reports are chosen as samples. Then the study leverages frame analysis on 20% of the samples and codes manually.

The study finds that (1) the frame of fact and rescue initially appeared in the series. This kind of frame objectively reported the crash accident and timely follow-up on the rescue operation to calm the audience. (2) The frame of humane presentation of the event then followed to show the

negative impact of the accident on individuals from the perspective of the victims' families and friends, triggering sympathy among the audience. (3) The frame of blame was widely used to analyze the causes of the accident. Under this type of frame, the cause of the accident was attributed to some extent to the negligence of an individual, company, institution, or department to transform the audience's sympathy for the victims into reflection and supervision. (4) The framework of responsibility gradually increased. Government departments and airlines issued official information statements and took guidance on corrective measures to express an attitude of mourning and give the audience an explanation.

The findings show that the frames used for disaster reporting on short-form videos have undergone a process of change: disaster and rescue (the frame of fact and rescue) - blame and reflection (the frame of blame and human). Such a distribution is in line with the three aspects of disaster reporting: "informing and telling the truth," "communicating and mitigating negative effects," and "playing a supervisory and guiding role in public opinion" (Han, 2004). This study focuses on the characteristics of the short-form video news published in TikTok, which is helpful for the application and expansion of frame theory in short-form video news.

Key Words

frame theory, short-form video, disaster reporting

Sense and Sensibility: Examining how China's AI news anchors gain the affection of audiences

Authors

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Ms. Yaqing Zhang - Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne

Abstract

In the past few years, the technology of artificial intelligence (AI) has been applied in the news field in several ways. For television news, AI news anchors are created as the saviors of the journalism crisis. It's said that AI news anchors would significantly cut production and employment costs and enable news broadcasts to be online in real time throughout the day. However, AI news anchors are still in their infancy. Existing studies have shown that current AI news anchors have not been able to replace live anchors since they can only produce and broadcast basic and computerized information.

China's media system is different from the West. It is the result of the interweaving of political logic and commercial logic. The application of AI news anchors in China's media industry has shown a very positive trend. The world's first AI news anchor was released by China's national news agency- the Xinhua News Agency on November 2018. After that, most of China's domestic news media began to use AI technology in journalism with the government's policy support.

This study focuses on China's first news-attributed "two-dimensional" robot reporter- "*Shen Xiaoya*", which is introduced by Shanghai Media Group (SMG). One of the researchers worked as an intern for "*Shen Xiaoya's*" television program. The researcher acquired data by understanding the functioning of the process of showing and producing avatars. In addition, this study employs in-depth interviews and field observations to examine how Chinese news media have developed sensibility and sense between AI news anchors and audiences. The researchers also aim to answer how the AI news anchor made viewers emotionally sensibility, rather than merely its position as a "human figure" throughout the television news show.

The significance of this study mainly includes two dimensions: theory and practice. At the theoretical level, the research aims to enhance the theoretical considerations of digital journalism, especially AI news anchors. In practice, the purpose of this article is to provide a beneficial exploration of the development and application of AI news anchors in journalism.

Key Words

AI News Anchor, Television News, Journalism

Not Much Left to Lose: Resisting repression in Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines

Authors

Dr. Lisa Brooten - Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Abstract

Ranging from pop culture-themed protests, to radical fashion shows and transnational networking, to the more mundane tasks of reporting key developments and events, conducting critical and investigative research, documenting abuses, and lobbying for legislative change, the various forms of resistance to authoritarianism in even vastly different contexts share some key characteristics. These include the centrality of affect, precarity and trauma, albeit to varying degrees and in various forms, in the work of not only activists but also professional journalists and other artists and media makers working in authoritarian contexts.

While autocracy and authoritarianism are well established in the research, and many versions of authoritarianism posited, discussed and debated, the actions of those who resist authoritarianism and the authoritarians' approaches to media and media practices remain less than satisfactorily theorized. This is particularly the case with respect to the key role of affect and trauma experienced by those journalists working with independent, non-state or non-state-affiliated media outlets, most of whom identify as professionals rather than activists, yet who are also members of the communities they are reporting on, which are often targets of state for one reason or another, usually involving critical coverage of state actions.

This paper focuses on three Southeast Asian countries: Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines, and draws from fieldwork in Southeast Asia in 2019, 2020 and 2021, including participant observation in media offices and protest events, in-depth interviews with those working to improve the media landscape and promote progressive change, and textual analysis of key documents. The paper also draws insight from multidisciplinary research on precarity and trauma in sociology, political science, social movement studies and media and journalism studies.

Those working to counter mis- and disinformation in Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines have employed a plethora of creative strategies to fight media repression and widen access to information for marginalized groups, as well as to develop more inclusive, transparent spaces for public discussion in their communities struggling with and within contexts of violence. The research provides insight into the impact of emotion and trauma on these change makers, and highlights the interplay of their emotional and traumatic experiences with the emergence of new forms of creativity and tactical innovation in the uses of information and media for movements of resistance.

Key Words

authoritarianism, dissent, resistance, precarity, affect, trauma, media, journalism, disinformation

Newspaper framing of river pollution: The case from a developing country

Authors

Ms. Ashfara Haque - Texas Tech University

Abstract

Industrial projects, poor implementation of laws, and reckless human acts in developing countries like Bangladesh are affecting its environment, particularly the conditions of the rivers, one of which is the river *Buriganga*. Bangladeshi newspapers publish a wide range of news items on river pollution – from news stories to op-eds in order to raise public awareness. The Daily Star, a leading national daily has been running an advocacy campaign since 2009 in order to raise public awareness and policy actions to protect the major rivers surrounding the capital city Dhaka. Through the campaign, the daily called for immediate government action against illegal acts of river bank filling, grabbing and encroachment, and mainly against polluting the *Buriganga*. In response to such advocacy, the government took an initiative called "*Buriganga River Recovery*," an expensive project to save the river from the pollution caused by such pollutants as industrial waste, tannery waste, medical waste, and household waste. Davidsen (2011) identifies constant media coverage of environmental issues as one of the most important means to construct media discourses. The *Buriganga* issues received not only national media attention but also got international media attention. A number of news reports, as well as scholarly articles mention the "zero-oxygen level" in the river's water (Uddin, 2021; Ahmed, 2016), which according to a report (Majumder, 2009), is also one of the most contaminated waterways in the world. Environmental activists are deeply concerned about the deteriorating conditions of the river as it has already started to lose its natural characteristics as a river. Wyss (2008) listed a number of environmental risks that raises public concern, such as water pollution from hazardous and nonhazardous waste, industrial wastes, toxic chemicals, industrial releasing pollutants, and sewage plants (pp. 44-45). Despite extensive reporting on the causes, the level of pollution in the *Buriganga* remains almost the same over the years. Applying content analysis, the study is set to analyze the framing of the *Buriganga* river pollution in the news-stories that appeared in 2022 in the selected two Bangladeshi newspapers.

Key Words

The *Buriganga* river, river pollution, content analysis, newspaper framing

Deconstruction and reshaping of "Professionalism" by news We Media in the era of globalization

Authors

Ms. Ye Baomei - 中国传媒大学

Abstract

The advent of the era of globalization has given birth to news reports of integration, independence and diversity. In 2022, the number of news We Media has surged. They are acting as "New Opinion Leaders" on the Internet, making the principles of traditional journalism gradually lose their due effectiveness and the crisis of "Professionalism" increasingly prominent.

This paper mainly adopts the text analysis method, in-depth interview method and questionnaire method to carry out research. The research finds that, news We Media deconstructs traditional news and its media in many aspects: in terms of media positioning, the civilian perspective represented by news We Media is more authentic, persuasive and exclusive than the "Agenda Setting" of traditional public media; in terms of reporting methods, news We Media is not professional and lacks a review mechanism, but makes good use of highly personal style and subjective judgment to continuously earn traffic; in terms of propaganda purpose, news We Media doesn't shoulder the responsibility of political communication and positive orientation, but gets personal profit by consuming hot spots and audiences.

At the same time, news We Media has also reshaped many aspects of the press media: in terms of the mode of communication, the one-way chain communication of gathering, editing, broadcasting and clipping has gradually changed into the network communication of one-click transmission on the social media platform; in terms of communication content, it no longer sticks to the rigorous and regular words of traditional media, but forms a unique and unified expression of anchors; in terms of the perspective of communication, the political and propaganda characteristics are gradually weakened while the inclusiveness is amplified; in terms of transmitting-receiving relationship, We Media and fans are more like merchants and consumers, exacerbating the status inequality between them.

News We Media makes news reports increasingly generalized, personalized, depoliticized and commercialized while traditional media is gradually aphasia, which leads to the balance of credibility from traditional media to We Media and has various degrees of impact on social stability and national security.

Key Words

Professionalism; News We Media; Globalization

Caption as a Cue: The Influence of Modality on Online Video news Users' Credibility, preference, and intention to use

Authors

Dr. Ryeong Oh - Ewha Womans University

Abstract

This study aims to determine the influence of modality on users' attitude regarding online video news. Particularly, I focused on captions across media modalities.

Legacy broadcasters are experimenting with online-only video news to please audiences. Captions matter greatly. Instead of reporters, captions give language information. In YouTube channels' original content, Reuters and the BBC provide news via captions instead of audio. This study tries to determine the user's reaction to online video news by examining these changes.

Based on the media richness theory and the MAIN model, this research analyzed the role of captions. According to the media richness, rich media may serve as a cue to influence viewers. And the MAIN model assisted that media modality serves as a cue and influences preferences, perceptions of quality, and credibility. The richness of the video is impacted by the video's caption. Therefore, it is essential to identify if the caption is a cue. Captions can be ordered in a variety of ways, depending on their form and content. Thus, rather than the display of captions, extensive research must be conducted to discover caption cue situations.

Captions can replace voices. And when voice information is provided, extra expressions can be added by the captions(Producer comments that do not match the voice). Accordingly, this study suggested two research questions. 1) Can the voice presence and type of captions affect the audience's attitudes? 2) Can the quantity and content of captions influence the audience's attitudes under the circumstance of voice presence? This study conducted two experiments to answer these questions. The participants were exposed to three online video news. The dependent variables were estimated based on preferences, perceptions of quality, and credibility of viewers.

Experiment 1 was designed that 2 (caption type: sentence vs. summary) x 2 (voice presence: voice vs. music). This is to determine whether news captions can replace voice information. There were 97 participants. According to the results, the caption type had the main effect on preference and quality perception, with summary captions receiving better ratings for preference and quality perception.

Experiment 2 conducted a 2(caption content: suit the voice vs doesn't suit)x2 (caption quantity: full vs. half) design. When speaker's voice is the major information, we analyzed whether or not the user positively recognizes the caption's content, even when it contains extra information. A total of 106 individuals participated in the study, and the results suggested that the caption

content had a significant impact on credibility, with captions that matched the voice being the most credible.

In conclusion, this study found which captions can be a new cue. This research investigated the modality's effect on users' attitudes regarding online video news. And I presented various digitally-optimized captions for online video news in order to achieve preferences, perceptions of quality, and credibility.

Key Words

online video news, modality, caption, media richness, news user

WIP paper - Innovative approaches to journalism education: Combining constructive journalism and work-integrated learning for enhanced student learning outcomes

Authors

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Dr. Katrina Clifford - Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University

Abstract

Practice-based learning has been a driving premise of journalism education around the world, including recent initiatives on how to better integrate Work Integrated Learning (WIL) approaches to create conditions for professional responsibility, graduate employability and to enhance the experiential experience of journalism students.

Concurrently, a focus on constructive journalism has also increased recently as a news philosophy and practice as the 'journalism of tomorrow' (Haagerup U., 2017) that challenges traditional negative tones and concepts in news storytelling, and flips narratives towards more positive and solutions-driven journalism (Mast, J., Coesemans, R., & Temmerman, M., 2019).

This research explores both industry and student learning outcomes of combining these two principles during a recent student digital journalism project, conducted in partnership with an Australian public broadcaster between 2020-2022. The study explores both the design of and impact in student learning of combining WIL and constructive journalism approaches in the project, resulting in a series of published student articles.

Over a period two years, 30-40 undergraduate and postgraduate students at The University of Technology Sydney (UTS), pitched story ideas to the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), were published and paid at professional journalist rates, working with both academics and a newsroom editor, in order to shift student learning beyond more traditional integrated approaches such as internships.

The project pivoted from a theme in 2020/2021 called 'A Year Like No Other' that focused on the impacts of the coronavirus, to a switch in 2021/2022 to 'feel-good' features, with audiences tired of negative news storytelling, particulate acute during the pandemic (Mannell K., & Meese J., 2022).

This study reports finding from interviews with 10 participants in the project, reporting both the newsroom industry leaders and student learning outcomes for combining these two approaches, as well as learnings on multimedia (Deuze M., 2004) and building better diversity in digital storytelling.

This research aims to contribute to wider discussions, addressing gaps with how WIL is and can be approached, including how to integrate more academic theory with practical knowledge and

learning (Orrell, J., 2011; Bowen,T., 2018), and particularly how to combine it with constructive journalism in order to broaden WIL in journalism education.

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Key Words

Constructive Journalism, Work Integrated Learning

Technological Advancement and Cultural Genealogy: A Study of the Local Paradigm of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Journalism in China

Authors

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is re-shaking up present-day journalist practice in China. Automated news writing and distribution, with or without human supervision, is already a reality in the newsroom. Tencent Finance released its first robot news in 2015, officially opening the practice of news automation production in China. After the exploration and development in recent years, automated news writing and distribution has evolved from a few media concerns to a new production method in the news industry. As a member of the newsroom, the AI has automatically generated text from the beginning, to have video editing, synthetic anchor, voice recognition, live interviews and many other news-gathering skills. AI journalism already opened up a new battlefield for journalism, and media organizations are embracing technology to meet the changes in the smart media era.

This paper presents a new picture of the current AI journalist practices by sorting out the fast-changing ideas and patricidal model that occurred in China's mainstream media and others, by which to understand the progressive dialogue between the rise of the discourse of media convergence and intelligent technology. This paper also tries to map out the transition in the academic field of journalist studies by criticizing the debates among the tractional journalism and communication theory, philosophy of news, cognitive science, and computer science. It aimed to identify the knowledge matrix hidden behind China's journey of finding out the value of AI journalism, in which the existential crisis of the journalism industry, the professional transformation of news reporters and editors, the ethical challenges of journalism, the black box of technology, and copyright ownership, gradually being intertwined together and forming a Chinese paradigm of so-called smart-media journalism scholarship.

The development, rise, and research boom of artificial intelligence journalism in China highlights the fact that new computer information technology and artificial intelligence are evolving into an important force in reconfiguring journalism. It is also a technologically oriented way to save the traditional journalism industry from an existential crisis and impact, trying to establish a new production model within the industry. Along with the continuous upgrading of technology and the standardization of the industry, academic research has also shifted from simple phenomenal descriptions to more academic and empirical explorations, launching a new field of journalism and communication research in China.

Key Words

Artificial Intelligence Journalism, New Industry Model, Intelligent Technology, Cultural Genealogy

Is Journalism Just a Job? A study of Chinese Journalists' News Efficacy and News Avoidance Based on Structural Equation Model

Authors

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Abstract

With the profound transformation of Chinese journalism, there is a dilemma between “journalism as a vocation” and realistic commercial pursuit. The question arises whether Chinese journalists still maintain the ideal of public service or just regard it as a job. Therefore, it is necessary to make an empirical study on the social identity of journalists. This study constructs a double-layer framework of “career motivation—news attitude” to comprehensively consider the social identity of Chinese journalists. By using the methods of quota sampling survey (n=1,000) and structural equation modeling (SEM), this study examines the influence of different career motivation on news efficacy and news avoidance, and then explains the different orientations of Chinese journalists' social identity. The results show that Chinese journalists who work in journalism for the public ideal tend to have higher news efficacy and lower news avoidance, while journalists engaged in journalism for realistic factors tend to show higher willingness to avoid news, and have no significant impact on news efficiency. This is inseparable from Chinese intellectual tradition. The results also suggest that journalists from official media tend to be more ideal-driven. Finally, the paper discusses the debate about news avoidance, arguing that the concept is more negative than critical.

Key Words

journalism, social identity, news efficacy, news avoidance, motivation

‘the Enemy of Chinese people’ or ‘exemplary professionalism’? ---the online metajournalistic discourse on Western media in China

Authors

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Abstract

Journalism has increasingly been recognised as ‘a culturally contingent practice’ (Carlson, 2016), and scholars have argued for the import of studying the social relations of the journalistic field where the meanings of journalism are negotiated and co-produced by various social actors. Metajournalistic discourse---public discourse evaluating or critiquing journalistic practice---has become a useful theoretical framework to understand how journalism is being legitimised or delegitimised by social actors, which in turn shape the fluid journalistic norms and practice (Carlson, 2016; Zelizer, 1992). The prevalence of digital press criticism where social actors are networked by digital technologies further heightens the urgency for more research on online metajournalistic discourse and how the meanings of journalism are being discursively negotiated and (de)legitimised. Studies to date largely focus on a single national context, in most cases, a Western context, overlooking the increasingly multifaceted landscape of transnational journalism, which is being restructured by the changing geopolitical hierarchy (which is disbanding the old Anglo-America led global journalism order) and the rising populist nationalism around the world (which is challenging the cultural authority of foreign press in the host country).

This study expands Carlson (2016)’s theory of ‘metajournalistic discourse’ to transnational journalism, examining how the cultural authority of Western media is discursively negotiated and (de)legitimised online in China. In China’s tightly controlled media environment where press is supposed to toe the official line, Western press following a watchdog instinct have long been the target of surveillance and castigation by Chinese state propaganda apparatus . This antagonism has grown particularly acute in recent years, amidst the escalating geopolitical tension between a rising China and the West, perfectly illustrated in the contested media discourse over the Xinjiang human rights violation. The official narrative to antagonise the West as a bullying ‘Other’ (as opposed to a cultural collective of ‘Chinese people’) is interwoven with the state-led hostility against any critical reporting by Western media, shaping an online public discourse of Western media as ‘the enemy of Chinese people’ with a mission to ‘smear China’. Yet in what Jiang (2016) describes as the ‘co-evolution of civil society, uncivil society, and authoritarianism’ in Chinese cyberspace, various social actors co-construct the public discourse, creating contentious dynamics between nationalistic discourse and liberal voices who admire Western liberal journalistic norms such as professionalism and press freedom.

Recognising the multifaceted dynamics of public discourse construction in Chinese cyberspace, this study looks at the ‘reactive metajournalistic discourse’ (Carlson, 2016) on Chinese social media

around Western media's coverage on the highly contentious issue of Xinjiang from 2020-2021. Using a mixed-method approach combining discourse analysis and digital ethnography on two biggest social media platforms in China--Weibo and WeChat, the study identifies how the nationalistic 'China-West' dichotomy and journalistic professionalism each underpins how different social actors on social media discursively legitimise or delegitimise the journalistic practice by Western media. Apart from conceptually expanding the theory of 'metajournalistic discourse' into transnational journalism and non-Western context, the findings of this study also contribute to understanding how social media reconfigures public discourse in China.

Key Words

metajournalistic discourse, media criticism, anti-West nationalism, China, social media

El tratamiento informativo de la migración en agencias de noticias internacionales: Diseño de investigación para el análisis del framing visual y las rutinas de producción periodística en Centroamérica - El Caribe - México

Authors

Mr. Ernesto Navarro - Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Abstract

Esta ponencia contiene los avances en el diseño de investigación, los estudios de caso seleccionados, las técnicas de análisis, las categorías teóricas y conceptuales básicas y los primeros resultados de la prueba piloto tanto del análisis de las fotografías, como de las primeras categorías que surjan de las entrevistas. El proyecto se ubicado en los estudios críticos de los medios masivos y los estudios sobre periodismo, en especial el periodismo internacional.

En un primer momento, busca analizar desde la teoría del *framing* fotografías de cuatro agencias de noticias (EFE, AP, AFP y Reuters) sobre la cobertura de cuatro momentos relacionados a procesos de migración en el corredor migratorio de Centroamérica, el Caribe y México. Por otra parte, busca explorar y conocer las rutinas de producción periodística periodistas de las agencias mencionadas que cubren temas de migración en el área antes mencionada.

Muestra

La muestra de fotografías está compuesta de cuatro episodios relevantes relacionados a migración que pasaron a la agenda mediática internacional. Por otro lado, se realizarán entrevistas a profundidad con reporteros, camarógrafos y editores de internacional de las agencias antes mencionadas para identificar sus dimensiones identitarias y del deber ser profesional, así como sus rutinas de producción periodística.

Conceptos teóricos y diseño de la investigación

Los cuatro episodios seleccionados son: 1- Primeras caravanas de migrantes en Centroamérica y México, octubre del 2018 / 2 – Deportaciones en la frontera entre México y EU escala durante el COVID (febrero-marzo, 2021) / 3 - Migrantes Haitianos acampan en puente en Del Río Texas (septiembre, 2021). / – Mueren 52 migrantes asfixiados en camión abandonado en Texas (27 de junio, 2022). Las fotografías serán analizadas desde la perspectiva de la teoría del *framing* (Entman, 1993; Reese, 2001; D'Angelo y Shaw, 2018).

Realizaremos entrevistas a profundidad semiestructuradas a periodista, fotógrafos, camarógrafos y editores de secciones internacionales de las agencias, y observación participante en las redacciones de EFE y AP. Basándonos en el trabajo seminal de la sociología de la producción de la noticia y la jerarquía de influencias, de Shoemaker y Reese (1996; 2013), en especial de los corresponsales de prensa de agencias (Archetti, 2015; Seo, 2016). Con ello, buscamos explorar las

identidades profesionales y las rutinas de recopilación de noticias sobre temas de migración en esta área del continente americano.

Aportes de la ponencia

Creemos que existe una estandarización de las imágenes que conforman los reportes de las agencias sobre el tema del flujo migratorio en el corredor migratorio de Centroamérica – El Caribe – México, con elementos simbólicos limitados para poder dar el contexto suficiente a la narrativa de las agencias para una comprensión más profunda de las razones y las implicaciones que tiene este flujo migratorio.

Por otro lado, creemos que el campo del periodismo de agencias está configurando una mecánica de cobertura de los temas referentes a las migraciones a través de la colaboración entre diversos perfiles de periodistas. Por un lado, periodistas con un alto nivel de profesionalización en temas como Derechos Humanos, Política Internacional, Seguridad Nacional, entre otros, y, por el otro, echando mano de las redes de contactos, fuentes y conocimiento del campo de los periodistas locales contratados por agencias. Esto podría contribuir a una cobertura más robusta, con mayores recursos para ofrecer contexto y voz a las fuentes en campo, así como a nivel macro, con temas referentes a lo legislativo, lo geopolítico, lo social y lo cultural.

Key Words

Migración

Periodismo Internacional

News Agencies

Visual Framing

Newsgathering

Emotionally demanding environments and psychological aid for journalists: The Venezuelan case

Authors

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Abstract

Journalists' professional life, especially when covering conflicts, has an emotional dimension (Stupart 2021). Many journalists are prone to post-traumatic stress disorder (e.g. Pyevich et al. 2003) and other types of trauma. However, most of the previous studies have only focused on disaster or war journalism, and only a few (e.g. Anderson 2018; Hughes et al. 2021) have examined how to support journalists in a continual risk.

Formal aid or training organised by media outlets is often scarce (e.g. Anderson 2018). Instead, journalists commonly resort to informal strategies to manage work-related emotions (e.g. Thomson 2021) such as seeking support from family, colleagues or friends. However, journalists may also care about their mental health through self-censorship and avoiding interviewing someone (García Santamaría and Salojärvi 2020; Chinweobo-Onuoha et al. 2021; Miller 2021), which inevitably impacts democracy. Thus, in this study, we seek to advance the understanding of the role of emotions in journalistic practice, the attitudes of journalists towards mental health care and external support and the potential necessity of including emotional literacy in journalists' education.

The data includes 20 semi-structured in-depth interviews of 30–62-year-old Venezuelan journalists. Venezuelan journalists may experience stress due to uncertain economic situation of the country, which extends to their professional practice; political tensions that affect all sectors of life; self-censorship (Pain and Korin 2021) or perceived repression (García Santamaría and Salojärvi 2020). Moreover, the journalists face difficult societal and economic situations, physical threats, occasional natural disasters and social unrest, all of which result in practicing journalism in an emotionally challenging environment.

An interpretative phenomenology approach (IPA) – which suits for analysing the meanings that individuals attribute to their experiences (Pietkiewicz and Smith 2014) – was adopted as a methodological framework. A thematic analysis was applied to the corpus to describe participants' experiences, as it focuses on the main statements, which can lead to further generalisations (Stebbins 2001).

The results show that working in a continual risk is emotionally demanding, not only due to inherent risks derived from the context situation but also because the covered stories may be emotionally draining. Moreover, all of this may affect their personal and family lives. Most of the interviewees had received psychological aid during their careers or sought emotional help through

other means, such as religion. Unfortunately, not all journalists had equal access to therapy due to financial constraints, taboos or geographical location, even though online technologies have democratised access geographically.

Based on the results, we recommend that 1) schools, unions, NGOs and media outlets should provide emotional training and aid to journalists; 2) there should be public debates on mental problems among media professionals; 3) journalists' wellbeing and healthy lifestyle (e.g. fair salaries, workload and labour conditions) should be integrally promoted and 4) psychological aid should be planned for journalists in a continual risk, taking into account contextual variables, such as infrastructural constraints, so that the provided practical solutions are tailor-made for the specific setting. Hence, all journalists, despite their gender, age, experience, working contract, ethnicity or religion, should be emotionally trained.

Key Words

Journalists, emotional stress, psychological aid, continual risk, Venezuela, interpretative phenomenology

Weathering Distribution Storms: Why Writing the Important Stories Is No Longer Enough In The Digital News Space

Authors

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Abstract

How do journalists hold attention on important topics, and who is responsible for whether a digital news story lives or dies? Are journalists to blame if important information fails to reach its intended audience?

Writing great news is no longer enough in the digital space – if the work is invisible, so too is the message. This paper will address an often-neglected part of the work in reporting important journalism to the public – the digital distribution process.

Based on ethnographic research in Australian digital newsrooms during undertaken at the start of the 'Black Summer' of fires (MacDonald, 2020) this paper will highlight problems in digital news diffusion that journalists and editorial staff have been expected to address, amid a loss of control in distribution and rampant platformisation of the news business. (Diakopoulos and Koliska, 2017; Bodó, 2019; Petre, 2021; Poell et al., 2022)

The mechanics of metrics have become a deeply important part of sharing quality journalism, and through the newsroom case studies in this paper, I will argue that there are some deep structural challenges plaguing digital newsmakers when they attempt to 'spread the word' against a backdrop of newsroom endless analytics.

These cases raise questions about the increasing influence of third-parties on digital newsrooms' distribution capacity, and the systemic problems of creating balanced news information flows to the broader community.

I will also review the moral problem metrics create for journalists when choosing what to share with the audience. Should they invest in acts of journalistic discovery (with high risk and unknown rewards), or engage in processes of metric confirmation (ie: cheap, fast, traffic)? The case studies highlight what workers did - in real time - and unpack some of the reasons why.

It raises questions around whether journalists can be held accountable for audience and subscription acquisition.

Key Words

Digital, journalism, newsroom, ethnography, metrics, distribution, platforms, distribution, Australia, news

The Generation of Hidden Field Capital: A Qualitative Study on the Influences of Audience Metrics on News Production

Authors

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Prof. Bin Wang - School of Journalism and Communication, Renmin University of China

Abstract

In the digital era, news audiences indirectly participate in news production in the form of audience metrics. The impacts of audience metrics on professional news work and occupational values have aroused concerns.

Guided by field theory, this paper analyzes how audience metrics influence news production and reflects the relationship among news workers, news audiences, and the journalistic field, based on interviewing 19 journalists and editors who work in Chinese mainstream news media.

It is found that the journalistic habitus of news production, influenced by audience metrics, has been added, retained, and changed. The added habitus refers to that more steps in news production are widely adopted by news workers including looking through, analyzing, and reflecting audience metrics. They conclude the rules of news stories with high clicks and utilize them in future news work. The retained habitus indicates that the norms of news judgment and selection do not change. Original news values are still dominant while audience metrics play a role in verifying news workers' judgments, making their decisions more convincing. What is more, news workers change the habitus limitedly in terms of headlines and expressions such as using prevailing and affective vocabularies.

Based on the characteristics of journalistic habitus, we find that the dual actions of "maintenance" and "compromise" for cultural capital are carried out. On the one hand, affected by audience metrics, news workers protect their embodied cultural capital by maintaining the habitus from being transformed with the typical manifestation of persist in traditional standards of news values. News workers can adjust the degree of the influence of audience metrics and strategically perpetuate the embodied cultural capital. On the other hand, objectified cultural capital is selectively abandoned by news workers. They are willing to change the way of storytelling and expression, which can be regarded as a roundabout strategy that they sacrifice some less important cultural capital to protect the core one and aim to gain more popularity among audiences in the intensely competitive news markets. The "maintenance" and "compromise" for cultural capital seem to be contradictory while they target uniformly in conveying their judgments based on certain ideologies with more clicks by the audience.

Audience metrics are the intermediary for field capital conversion. Audience metrics indirectly help news workers convert cultural capital into economic capital and symbolic capital by electing and awarding good news reports weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly. Similarly, for news

organizations, audience metrics play an intermediary role in transforming cultural capital into economic capital, and symbolic capital while the specific conversion process varies with media. Audience metrics are the bridge for market-oriented media to convert cultural capital into economic capital and symbolic capital. However, state-owned media do not have financial stress with the abundant administrative appropriation. They value audience metrics for the purpose to convert cultural capital to symbolic capital.

News audience can be regarded as hidden field capital, as well as mediated capital, which influences the journalistic field structure and the inter-field relationship.

Key Words

audience metrics, news production, habitus, capital, journalistic field, field theory

A hybrid media storm: Unraveling the role of legacy, alternative and social media in the construction of a political scandal in Belgium

Authors

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Abstract

In 2021, a political scandal in Belgium involving alleged fraud by a famous politician was widely reported by Belgian news media, resulting in a hybrid media storm as described by Chadwick (2013). A hybrid media storm is a dynamic phenomenon in which news events are rapidly and extensively spread across both 'older' traditional news media and 'newer' digital media platforms. This study explores the role of different platforms, including (print and online) legacy news, digital alternative, and social media, in constructing this political scandal. The paper aims to understand the impact of the hybridization of the media system on the meaning-making surrounding this political scandal and the influence and reinforcement between different platforms. Based on quantitative content analysis, the study investigates if the hybrid media system led to a greater diversity of actors participating in the debate (RQ1) and if this goes hand in hand with broadening the debate by exploring differences and similarities in framing (RQ2). A total of 801 tweets and 1687 print and online articles from six Flemish newspapers, the public broadcaster's news website, and eight alternative media were examined between 1 February 2021 and 31 October 2021.

This study shows that the 'newer' digital platforms did not contribute in a large proportion to a greater heterogeneity of actor categories in this debate. Legacy news media were primarily relying on institutional sources. In terms of alternative media, it were primarily right-leaning alternative media outlets actively publishing articles and tweets on this case, mainly giving a forum to political and governmental actors, similar to legacy news media. Furthermore, alternative media often referred to media and journalists as sources in their articles in which they were particularly responsive to legacy news media coverage. Twitter played a significant role in disseminating information and was dominated by a small group of users, including actors with little voice in news media, such as citizens. Most tweets included a link to a news website in which legacy news media and alternative media frequently shared their articles on Twitter. The different platforms created an amplifying effect rather than widening the range of actors in which articles from legacy news media gain further visibility in alternative media and on Twitter. Articles from alternative media are not often cited in legacy media but are on Twitter.

The framing of the coverage of this case on social media was one-sided, with a dominant portrayal of the accused politician as a deliberate fraudster. Legacy news media provided a more balanced representation of actors, sources, and perspectives. Alternative media's coverage, although slightly less pluralistic than legacy media, still offered more diverse views than social media.

In today's hybrid media system, digital media platforms allow other actors to take the lead in pushing the meaning-making of news events in a particular direction. The results highlight the importance of considering the role of different media platforms in constructing and shaping a hybrid media storm and the need for a diverse and inclusive media landscape to ensure a broad range of views.

Key Words

Hybrid media system, Political scandal, legacy news media, online platforms

"Vlog News": An Innovative Form of Rural Reports

Authors

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Abstract

Background

With the development of technology, the global journalism industry is transforming into digitization, triggering the crisis of "essential change in the object of study" of journalism (Peters & Broersma, 2013), which needs to be "re-conceptualized" (Anderson, 2010). Based on the "fifth paradigm" of journalism (Steensen & Ahva, 2015), "digital journalism", Chang Jiang and other scholars proposed to "describe the basic structure of digital journalism" and "promote a conceptual system for actors to 'transform' journalism processes" in three dimensions: "material, affective, and networked" (Chang Jiang & He Renyi, 2022). This view can be seen as a macro description of news innovation.

In 2018, CGTN was the first to cover the Boao Forum For Asia with a Vlog, and subsequently, many journalists have reported news with Vlogs, which this study calls "journalist Vlog". These reports are usually journalist-centered, narrated or interviewed by journalists, centered on journalists' stories, and interpreting "hard news".

There is one type of video which is not sufficiently recognized, namely, "Vlog News" in which journalists participate as symbols and collaborate with self-publishers to report "soft news", which is considered a micro-level journalistic innovation in this study.

Research Design

In this paper, we took a total of 20 "Xinhuanong Brothers" Vlog News items jointly released by "Xinhua News Agency" and "Huannong Brothers", a farmer's internet celebrity, on the Bilibili as the research object. The videos have received a lot of attention and praise since their release, with an average of over 1 million views. This paper adopts content analysis and text analysis methods. Content analysis is responsible for descriptive statistics and relevance analysis of measurable data and codes, and the unit of analysis is video and interactive texts. In-depth descriptions of definitions, relationships, and features are lacking, which will be supplemented by text analysis of typical texts in this study.

The main research questions are as follows:

(1) What actors are at play in Vlog News?

(2) How do actors embody material, affective, and networked power?

(3) What are the advantages of Vlog News compared to other news production models?

Findings

In terms of micro-practice, based on literature study and observation, this paper argues that there are six types of actors in Vlog News: platform media (users, algorithms), professional media (journalists, selection), and we-media (people, scenes), and the actors interact with each other. The material, affective, and networked power among the actors form a synergy that works together with Vlog News to form a transferable and innovative news production model.

In terms of macro theory, firstly, this paper argues that the Vlog News model is proposed to provide ideas for the production of soft news. Secondly, Vlog News provides ideas for news professional media to integrate platform media and we-media resources. Finally, Vlog News provides a practical test for digital journalism, which helps the academic community optimize the theory of digital journalism and helps the industry understand digital journalism in depth.

Key Words

Digital Journalism, News Production, News Innovation, Vlog News, Soft News

Towards Social Mass Media: Quantitatively Exploring Global News Distribution and Usage Patterns on Instagram

Authors

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Abstract

Around the world, news audiences increasingly encounter journalistic news content via the feeds of digital platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok (Gottfried & Shearer, 2016). A particularity of this type of news use is that these feeds are personalized by algorithmic systems. They are the outcome of an algorithmic selection and ordering process geared to hook and hold users' attention and trigger their engagement. The high degree of personalization suggests a fragmentation of the news and its audiences (Webster & Ksiazek, 2012). Mass audiences for journalistic content no longer seem to exist on digital platforms as users get their personalized, atomized news diet. Nonetheless, this study presents empirical evidence that a mass audience for news persists in personalized news feed environments. A small subset of news content from some of the most followed news publishing brands still manages to reach and engage a mass audience on digital platforms. The analysis uses digital trace data from 662 global news publishers' Instagram accounts from the analytics platform Crowdtangle. The analyzed Instagram accounts represent publishers with headquarters in 50 countries (incl. Taiwan and Hong Kong) who publish content in 49 different languages, including previously underexplored ones, such as Dari, Igbo, Pidgin, and Welsh. During the analysis period of 12 months, from August 2021 – July 2022, the sampled Instagram news accounts published >1.79 million Instagram posts that received >12 billion interactions (likes + comments) and >34 billion video views. Our findings provide empirical evidence of what Bogost (2022) recently claimed to be a shift from social *networks* to social *media*: Instagram was initially invented as a social network where people can connect and share user-generated content. However, the platform has transformed into a social media platform allowing organizations and popular individuals, such as celebrities and influencers, to distribute large amounts of professionally produced content and to engage large numbers of followers. This trend also applies to news content distribution: In a global context, our findings show that news publishing and use on Instagram are highly skewed. Small subsets of publishers post very frequently and receive disproportionate amounts of user interactions, respectively. For example, in our sample, one of the most popular news content on Instagram was a video reporting in Farsi published by BBC Persian. It received more than 700,000 interactions and 2.4 million video views. The most interacted post over 12 months was from Portal R7, a Brazilian online news platform that amassed 1.4 million interactions and 14 million video views. Our findings show that those targeting non-Western news audiences, notably in Farsi, Arabic, Hindi, and Tamil are among the most active

and interacted publishers on Instagram. Hence, this double skewness of distribution (across the top publishers and the posts of individual publishers) might signify a trend back to mass media and against audience fragmentation – or what we call the rise of *social mass media*.

Key Words

Instagram, news distribution, news use, personalization, mass media, audience fragmentation

Return of Propaganda: A Challenge to Paul Lazarsfeld's Medium Effects-- A Study of the Fate of State of Andhra Pradesh and Union of India from 2014-2024.

Authors

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Abstract

While the intention of this study is to show how India is being driven to the verge of political instability and collapse as Lasswellian effects of propaganda began to drive gullible Indian citizen to a state of confusion between truth and false. Due to the polarization of media along with their political actors, social media operators' manipulative ability to engineer messages, and professionally trained propagandists plunging into action, both the Union of India and federal States like Andhra Pradesh, have been wriggling in deep economic crisis and constitutional collapse since 2014 when Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India for the first time.

Repeated telling of patent lies on media platforms including social media by the political parties proves to demonstrate an edge over their political opponents in winning in the elections. Especially those political parties that can invest huge money on circulating false or fake messages, and involve highly professionally trained messengers (e.g. I-PAC) who can create innumerable fake messages in no time are found to influence the public opinion in their favor.

The study being qualitative one, grounded in discourse method , offers a critical analysis of current socio, economic and political situation in the federal State of Andhra Pradesh and in Union of India stands as a good example of return of propaganda, a strong effects model put forward by Laswell and supported by Ellul, etc. posing a challenge to Paul Lazarsfeld's Model.

Key Words

Return of Propaganda, Lasswelling Model, Strong Effects,

Under the Shadow of the Cultural Cold War: “Scholars who move to the Southern” Group, the British Hong Kong Government, the US and the Development of the "Post-Secondary" Journalism Education in Hong Kong after World War II (1945-1963)

Authors

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Abstract

Base on the extensive public and confidential archives, this paper takes the development of post-secondary journalism education in Hong Kong after World War II as the research object, especially focuses on the 1945-1963 post-secondary journalism education in Hong Kong.

This paper divides the development of post-war journalism education in Hong Kong into three stages: 1945-1963, 1963-1997 and after 1997. Specifically, this paper found that during the period from 1945 to 1963, because of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, Hongkong has become a “World Spy Active Base”, due to the anti-Communist policy pursued by the British Hong Kong government and the CIA movement, Hongkong has created “the Cultural Cold War” environment, the Chinese Communist Party was constrained in running schools in Hong Kong, especially the establishment of post-secondary institutions, which indirectly led to the fallen of Marxist journalism in Hongkong and CCP’s Journalism education activities in Hong Kong were interrupted; also due to political needs, the British Hong Kong government tolerated a series of activities of the “scholars who move to the southern” group to establish post-secondary institutions in Hong Kong; The source of many Chinese-language private post-secondary institutions; the United States' funding for the “scholars who move to the southern” group during this period cannot be ignored.

So, the development of post-secondary journalism education in Hong Kong from 1945 to 1963 was influenced by many aspects. In terms of politics, because of the “the Cultural Cold War” environment, Chinese Communist Party exit and lose the control-power of the journalism; To meet political needs, the Hong Kong British government tolerated a series of activities of literati from the South to establish post-secondary institutions in Hong Kong, and gradually "controlled" these institutions in tangible or intangible ways.

In addition, in terms of specific educational practices, the influx of literati from the South to Hong Kong due to the political situation after 1950 became the driving force behind the establishment of many Chinese private post-secondary institutions, and post-war post-war journalism education in Hong Kong was also born. Unfortunately, most of these colleges applied for registration to the British Hong Kong government and the Ministry of Education of the Chiang Kai-shek government in Taiwan. At the same time, the British Hong Kong government also officially "stopped" setting up

post-secondary journalism education, but the majority of its teachers were still literati from the South. In addition, the influence from the United States cannot be ignored. In particular, American NGOs have heavily funded Chinese private post-secondary institutions in Hong Kong, which has had an impact on school administration and the development of post-secondary journalism education-- The Chinese University of Hong Kong is the product of the Cultural Cold War

In addition, judging from the few teachers' information, most of the post-secondary journalism education teachers established in Hong Kong after 1950 were journalists who had worked in Kuomintang news organizations, and some were from famous journalism schools such as the University of Missouri and Columbia University. As a result, the ideas and viewpoints of post-secondary journalism education in Hong Kong are biased toward so-called "democratic countries" such as the Kuomintang, the United States, and the United Kingdom—even though Chinese is used as the teaching language, and the "inheritance of Chinese culture" is more or less emphasized. ", but itself has been gradually westernized. After the closure of the Department of Journalism at United College, there was a gap in institutionalized journalism education in Hong Kong until the establishment of the Department of Journalism two years after the establishment of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (1965).

Key Words

Hong Kong, post-secondary education, journalism education

Engaging Audiences with Local News: Can Positive News be a Solution to Local Journalism's Crisis?

Authors

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Abstract

It is well documented that local journalism is facing a challenging and uncertain time. There is still a clear consensus that local journalism correlates with functioning local democracies, as more informed audiences usually mean more engagement in local decisions, especially during moments of crisis (Lavender et al., 2020). During the global pandemic, although the UK's news sector as a whole saw more than 2,000 staff losing their jobs due to the resulting decline in circulation and advertising, local news still recorded high online interest during its peak (Wahl- Jorgensen, Garcia-Blanco, & Boelle, 2022). Despite that, the local news industry's long-simmering crisis continues, with audience disengagement being one of the major concerns. Recent years have seen local news outlets experimenting with different types of news content and storytelling approaches to engage audiences. Nonetheless, local journalism remains under-theorized, and our knowledge of the variations in local news consumption remains limited (Gulyas, 2022). Previous research tends to highlight audience fragmentation by exploring the underrepresented topic of the audience's shared experiences in a local community (Gulyás, O'Hara, & Eilenberg, 2018).

This paper goes a step further from that literature to explore increasingly touted power of positive news as a potential measure for local media to attract and engage audiences. Positive news here is understood as news that highlights the bright, beneficial aspects of events/issues in contrast to negative news that highlights the dark, harmful ones (McIntyre & Gibson, 2016). Positive journalism, especially constructive solutions-oriented journalism, aims to make people feel happy, relieved, uplifted, hopeful and encouraged, thereby contributing to their overall well-being and civic engagement (McIntyre & Sobel, 2017), but the evidence remains mixed and absent at the local news level. In this study, we take one local outlet (Chiswick Calendar) in a London district as a research site to investigate audiences' evaluation of and engagement with positive local news stories published amidst the dark days of the pandemic. Contrary to much previous research, our findings, from in-depth interviews with 21 news users, indicate that audiences judge local news, positive or negative, based primarily on their community experience and their existing knowledge of local news outlets. In doing so, they may express a degree of scepticism over the positive and cheer-leading tone of the positive stories in question. Their concerns can be explained in light of audience expectations of what Silverstone (2016) calls the "proper distance" between local journalists and their sponsors and sources. The general sentiment is that local news should serve a *monitorial* role, not a promotional one, even in small communities' contexts. Whether positive

journalism might help local media overcome the problem of audience disengagement is, therefore, still open to debate.

Key Words

Audience engagement; local journalism; solution journalism; constructive journalism; positive news

Sustainability and Impact: Capacity-Building for Media Outlets Led by People of Color

Authors

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Abstract

This paper examines the assets and barriers faced by media outlets led by people of color as they are developing self-sustaining strategies for economic sustainability and journalistic impact. Based on findings from focus groups and qualitative interviews with journalists of color at hyperlocal news outlets in Southern California (USA), this study assesses the organizational needs and strategic priorities of journalists of color. Although media outlets led by people of color are often more trusted by the communities they serve than mainstream media, their efforts reveal unique challenges (i.e. lack of institutional support, lack of resources) in the current media landscape that is dominated by legacy media and technology platforms.

In contrast to other approaches that focus on a top-down process prioritizing institutional journalism, this study follows a bottom-up strategy to address common challenges, experiences, and opportunities for organizational development. Our results are based on conversations in four focus groups (20 participants total) and qualitative follow-up interviews in Southern California. Given its diverse population, the area can be viewed as a laboratory for developing and testing new strategies in various ethnic and racial communities. The results focus on two areas: (1) comparing practices, skills and tools to combat disinformation; (2) developing sustainable business models to cultivate community buy-in. We draw on Activity Theory (AT) (Engestrom 2010) methodologies in which researchers support individual and organizational development as a way of producing practical, actionable, and strategic insights for community-driven capacity building. Ultimately, this paper synthesizes insights and identifies goals for collective capacity-building, charting new pathways of innovation towards an equitable and community-strengthening approach to hyperlocal journalism.

More research on the specific challenges for media outlets led by and focused on people of color is urgently needed. A study by the Democracy Fund (Donelly and Clark, 2018) found that out of \$1.2 billion in grants invested in journalism, news and information in the United States between 2009 and 2015, only 6% went toward efforts serving specific racial and ethnic groups. For example, there are currently nearly 300 media outlets across the U.S. that primarily serve Black communities, according to the Center for Community Media (2020), but no major industry reports or scholarly monographs exist analyzing their assets and barriers.

This research is important because it demonstrates how the production of public information for news purposes always already reflects underlying societal fissures, tensions, and historical injustices. It analyzes how media structures, economics, and professional practices contribute to

and/or inhibit media's democratic potential, especially with regard to historically underrepresented groups. Ultimately, highlighting capacity-building for media outlets led by people of color and its opportunities for better serving local communities can make a contribution to a media environment that is more equitable and diverse, addressing the needs of historically marginalized communities.

Key Words

Community media, journalistic practices, social justice

Dynamics of media attention dedicated to Covid-19 during the first State of Alarm in Spain

Authors

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Dr. Rafael Pedraza-Jiménez - Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Abstract

In the first semester of 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a State of Alarm was declared in Spain. During this period, the most widely read Spanish newspapers (*DNR*, 2020) published more than 106,000 news items related to the coronavirus. With them, the newspapers reported both the impact of the pandemic on public health and its effects on different areas of the population's daily life. Thus, during the referred period, the media addressed hundreds of issues related to the coronavirus.

The objective of this work is to identify the topics covered by the main Spanish newspapers during the State of Alarm declared from the COVID pandemic. In addition, we study whether there is a relationship between these issues and the most relevant events that occurred during the pandemic in this country. To achieve this objective, we have used the following methodology: 1) we identified semi-automatically the topics covered by the mentioned news corpus, through the use of the *Dow Jones Intelligent Indexing System*, 2) then we verified the existence of possible relationships between the detected themes -which would be indicative of the existence of new thematic categories. To do this, we pointed out the existing correlation between these themes during the analyzed period, based on their publication frequency. Then, 3) based on journalistic and institutional chronologies (*El País*, 2020; *ECDC*, 2020), and previous academic works (Aleixandre-Benavent, et al., 2020), we identified the events that, from a social perspective, can be considered the most significant during the State of Alarm period; and, finally, 4) we studied whether the occurrence of these events coincides with the journalistic media attention dedicated to certain topics, and if these are descriptive of said events, which would indicate their relationship with the dynamics of media attention (Lörcher and Nerverla, 2015).

Our theoretical perspective is based on models (Downs, 1972; Lörcher and Nerverla, 2015) that describe, respectively, cycles and dynamics of media attention. Additionally, our description formalizes the frequency of said coverage based on the contributions of Stefan Geis (2018). On the other hand, our sample, made up of 106,685 publications, was obtained through the Factiva database, and includes news from the most widely read Spanish newspapers (*DNR*, 2020): *El País*, *El Mundo*, *20 Minutos*, *El Periódico*, *Marca*, *ABC*, *La Vanguardia*, *El Diario*, *El Confidencial* and *La Razón*.

The results achieved allowed us to identify 500 different themes. These can be grouped into new categories, where interrelated topics gather based on the frequency with which they have been covered by the indicated newspapers. In this way, dynamics of media attention have been

identified, quantified, and categorized around various events subordinated to the pandemic, which notably affected the following areas of the Spaniards' daily life: economy, security, work, and entertainment, among others.

Key Words

Media attention dynamics, Digital journalism, Data journalism, Digital methods.

Calling Gossip “Gossip,” Not Journalism: In Search of a Citizen Journalism Model in the Age of “Fake News”

Authors

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Abstract

Citizen journalism is a contested concept. Some have welcomed the idea of swinging open the door of journalism to everybody, hailing it as a “democratization of media” or “democratic journalism” (Baase 2008; Bowman and Willis 2003; Nduhura and Prieler 2017). A majority of people with a journalism background, however, have expressed serious concerns about citizen journalism. Samuel Freedman denounced it as an “attempt to degrade, even to disenfranchise journalism” (Profita 2006). David Hazinski equally dismissed the possibility of citizen journalism, saying that “it really isn’t journalism at all.” He even went on to argue for the need to regulate the practice of citizen journalism, citing “the strong probability of fraud and abuse” (Romenesko 2007).

Over two decades have passed since web-based citizen journalism emerged, but the sentiment regarding the new trend has not significantly improved, as evinced by recent studies. When asked to define citizen journalists, the answers given by the largest percentage of journalists focused on their “lack of training” (Chung, Nah, and Yamamoto 2017, 1702-4). They see citizen journalists as “non-trained members contributing information [...] without regard to the accuracy and fairness of their contributions.” In the same vein, the news editors who participated in the survey defined citizen journalism in terms of “opinion” and “bias.” Their perception of citizen journalism is “typically inaccurate info from misinformed people who write based on their opinions.” If citizen journalism means inaccurate information coming from misinformed people, it would be the opposite of journalism, rather than a form of journalism.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, from the onset, citizen journalism has taken seriously the core values of journalism such as accuracy, reliability and independence. OhmyNews, which has spearheaded internet-based participatory journalism, has been fact-checking all the stories before publication since its launch in 2000. OhmyNews’ citizen reporters not only work closely with the professional editorial staff but also are required to abide by its own code of ethics and journalistic standards. By failing to consider journalistic integrity, a crucial aspect of citizen journalism, many critiques tend to become straw man arguments, creating an unfortunate, missed opportunity for a constructive discussion of a potentially beneficial practice for journalism.

A common mistake found in the discussions on the topic is examining citizen journalism in connection with “user-generated content” (UGC) or “Web. 2.0.” A notable example is a 2007 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which defines citizen journalism as a type of user-created content (UCC) (OECD 2007). Constructed as a technology-oriented business discourse, the UGC framework fails to reflect the elements of truth, intent, morality, and social responsibility that constitute the essence of journalism. By ignoring the

fundamental qualification of journalism, the language of UGC has reinforced the misunderstanding of citizen journalism (Kang 2016). Criticizing the UGC model, this study explores the possibility of developing citizen journalism into a public forum “by and of the people, rather than merely for the people” (Wahl-Jorgensen 1999, 28).

Key Words

citizen journalism, accuracy, verification, UGC, fake news, OhmyNews

Local News Deserts in China: The Role of the Smartphone-based Personal Communication Networks and Digital Platforms

Authors

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Dr. Zixue Tai - University of Kentucky

Prof. Jianping Liu - Minjiang Univesity

Abstract

Local news plays a vital role in community building, and a vibrant local news ecology fosters social cohesion and collective identity. In this regard, the diminishing presence of newspapers in an ever-expanding list of communities is a great cause of concern (Gulyas & Baines, 2020). The field of local news is often associated with news deserts, typically defined as communities without newspapers (Abernathy, 2018). This phenomenon is expanding in the global society due to the diminishing presence of newspapers at moments of accelerated digitization (da Silva & Pimenta, 2020).

In China, the boom of the newspaper industry from the 1990s to the early 2000s has been followed by a new era of accelerated decline in the past 15 years, and this downward trend does not seem to be reversible. The expanding news desert in the wake of these developments has significant implications for the civic, communal and social engagement in these affected communities. Our study examines the multiplex nature of the expanding news deserts in suburban and rural China in the absence of local newspapers, and interrogates the emerging role of smartphone-based personal communication networks and digital platforms in fulfilling communicational needs and reshaping the information ecology of residents in these communities.

Our multi-methods approach combines two focus groups with 44 semi-structured in-depth interviewees representing 20 suburban areas (places relatively close to cities) and 24 rural communities (remotely located from cities) from nine provincial regions across the country. The research questions pertained to two broad areas: First, how residents in these areas obtained news in general, and news about their local communities specifically in regard to any informational channel or venue; Second, how users engaged various platforms of social media in the consumption of local and non-local news.

Findings (which are rich and wide-ranging in scope, have to be condensed into a few thematic threads here) show that smartphone-based social media applications and digital platforms function as viable sources of news for the vast majority of users in these regions in China, incidental exposure to news has become the norm of digital news use. Government-orchestrated convergent media services and WeChat channels are preferred choices by most users for local news. While conventional newspapers and legacy media such as television and radio still have their niche place in today's media ecosystem, their respective roles have been transformed in adaption to the digital media ecology. We argue that a media ecology perspective may be a productive

approach in understanding community news and local newspapers. Our findings are contextualized in the overall Chinese socio-political environment and the particularities of the Chinese media system.

Key Words

China; news desert; community news; social media; media ecology

Beyond post-Fordism understanding about current digital news labour: The journalist in cognitive capitalism

Authors

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Abstract

The critical visions about journalistic practice, especially those from deskilling thesis's perspective, usually concern about the undervaluation and fragmentation of newswork. With this pessimistic outcome, individual journalists would become more replaceable as their skills and knowledge were trivialized and then controlled further by centralized management system. When news worker had less authority over their own product and production and receive unfair compensations from duty, their work would be tedious and meaningless that they lost the whole picture of a story and could hardly do serious investigation against powerholders. However, the following studies would focus more on the flexible conditions of journalistic labor in the even unstable environment of news industry. As the all in-house production could not beat out the small-business network which could react better to changing market demand, the extreme division of labour in bureaucratic organization would fade out while small and diversified enterprises rose to take the outsourced tasks. Under this new scenario, the journalists should have more comprehensive skills to complete the production and even distribution process along. This so-called post-Fordist understanding, therefore, had different forecast about journalistic practice as the en-skilled or multi-skilled news worker would contribute more to modern business than the atomized and fooled individual ones did. Both visions stood on the similar ground of presumption that private news company has one mission of profit-maximizing and labour is the only source of added value, meaning news workers were deemed to be exploited day by day whether they were deskilled or en-skilled. Journalists in these two opposite scenarios would be trapped in the same situation: work harder and receive less. For those in post-Fordist scenario, journalist became a total self-disciplined worker who governed his/her whole production process and product quality. Their working hours were longer and felt no less pressure than the ordinary worker had in news organizations. They were exhausted to death.

However, is it possible modern capitalism could not be satisfied with the strategies above? This depends if the regime of accumulation changes. As some researchers argue that the knowledge is the core engine of modern economy, the new capitalism needs to adapt new methods to guarantee knowledge production and storage. And the exhausted worker might not perform as good as it expected. Under this consideration, the affective labour and intellectual labour might be secured and enhanced in organization for new capital accumulation. Accordingly, it would be interesting to question if the dehumanized strategies aiming to exhaust journalist still apply in modern newsroom. If not, we shall develop new critical discourse to understand why knowledge deprivation, which is the very core concept of deskilling thesis, matters and how it could be possible via updating labour process in newsroom. This theoretical article would revisit the

previous labour studies in journalism field and then apply the cognitive capitalism's to update the critical perspective about modern journalistic labour.

Key Words

labour study, deskilling thesis, cognitive capitalism, post-Fordism, journalism

The development of Chinese journalism in light of the changing logic of fake news dissemination - A clear set of qualitative comparative analysis (csQCA) based on annual fake news

Authors

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Ms. Xuwen Sun - Communication University of China

Abstract

In 2016, "post-truth" was named word of the year by Oxford Dictionary, and in 2017, "fake news" was named word of the year by Collins English Dictionary. 2018, "fake news" In 2018, "miscommunication" was named word of the year by dictionary.com. In the digital era, the monopoly of the traditional journalistic discourse system has been broken, and the forms, sources and contents of news have become more diverse. The traditional communication order has collapsed, and the credibility of traditional media is gradually declining. With the development of technology, the news cycle has become shorter, and AI face-changing and other deep falsification techniques have caused news production to become difficult for the verification of truth.

Fake news has been a long-standing problem in journalism, and the discipline and field of journalism and communication research on fake news is constantly expanding and developing, combining knowledge from multiple disciplines to create new paradigms. This is not only a topic of concern in China, but also a problem that countries around the world have focused their efforts on to overcome. In previous studies, Chinese scholars have mainly focused on case studies and discursive thinking, while American and European scholars have mainly focused on big data analysis and quantitative research, with significant differences in research perspectives. In this study, a clear set of qualitative and comparative analysis (csQCA) is chosen to combine an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis.

This paper uses the annual fake news (58 in total) selected by the Fake News Research Report of The News Reporter for 2017-2021 as a case study. Divided by year, a clear set of qualitative comparative analysis is conducted for each year's fake news separately. To explore the factors of the high hotness of fake news spread in each year, and to analyze the transformation of the spread factors, so as to explore the development of China's journalism industry and to predict the problems that may arise in journalism in the future.

The study found that source variables are becoming less influential in the spread of fake news and channel variables are becoming more influential in the spread of fake news. The importance of the credibility of information intervention exceeds that of the timing of information intervention. In addition, the influence of social public issues and life related issues is gradually increasing. The influence of entertainment news, sports news and political news is gradually decreasing. The audience is watching the show and spreading false news in a "carnival" style, which leads to false

news being disproven and still being popular. Based on the above, the author calls for the regulation of news production in three directions: publication channels, censorship mechanisms and issue selection, in order to promote the optimisation of China's journalistic ecology.

Key Words

Fake news ,Communication logic ,Clear set qualitative comparative analysis (csQCA)

Temporary Newsrooms: Rethinking Place & Community

Authors

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Abstract

Journalists often draw boundaries to maintain authority and to protect the industry's turf. In some forms, boundaries are abstract such as those created by professional practices. In other forms, boundaries are literally physical in terms of newsroom spaces themselves with newsrooms located in places that may be difficult for ordinary people to access. Both kinds of boundaries may disconnect journalists from everyday people, making it more difficult to reach under-represented communities (Usher, 2021). This study examines one type of response to these concerns: the creation of temporary or pop-up newsroom, an increasingly pervasive organizational phenomenon that suggests different possibilities for the ways journalists might engage with the public.

The study asked: In what ways do journalists see temporary newsrooms changing news work? In what ways do journalists perceive such newsrooms to be changing their interactions with the public? In-depth interviews were carried out with 16 journalists from news outlets in six countries (Australia, Canada, Romania, Slovakia, UK and USA) who have participated in temporary newsrooms.

The findings suggest that these temporary newsrooms often:

- Serve as a means of connecting with and reporting on under-represented communities. Connecting with the community is perceived as helping build a relationship. Journalists suggest that having conversations with the public and not just a hurried interaction to glean answers to their questions helped build trust. Doing so could mean giving up some control and viewing interactions with the public as less driven by a demand for immediate results.
- Create spaces that increase visibility and build on existing resources. They do so by “piggy-backing” on the existing social infrastructure of their communities (Klinenberg, 2018). Instead of being isolated inside their permanent offices, journalists would embed themselves at community spaces (library, a community center) and/or events: a clothing drive, a county fair, a cruise night car show, etc. In this way, they were viewed as part of rather than separate from the community.
- Provide a vehicle to experiment. Some specifically saw the temporary newsrooms as a means to try new ideas about gathering and producing news. Journalists called it an “experiment” that was “agile and adaptive.” Adopting a temporary space freed them from their regular conventions and in some cases certain financial expectations.

In conclusion, journalists reported that a temporary newsroom fostered a new sense of connection and trust, in particular with under-represented communities. In part, they said this is because

temporary newsrooms are less walled off from the everyday lives of community members and more easily help create opportunities to interact beyond the urgency of a parachute-in-and-cover-a-crisis approach that so often drives even local news.

Key Words

Community, Engagement, Interviews, Space

Journalists at the crossroads of disinformation

Authors

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Abstract

As social media platforms gain ground as an important part of journalistic practice, tensions are felt in various stages of news production and professional routines. These platforms become simultaneously a space for sourcing and verifying content as well as fertile ground for the spreading of misinformation.

At the crossroads of online practices in the journalistic world, in their online presence and in information-seeking practices, journalists will encounter “dark participation” (Quandt, 2018), which includes undemocratic contributions such as disinformation and hate speech, sometimes promoted by reliable sources such as political agents. The dissemination of fake content on the internet and Donald Trump’s “fake news” label, as part of a broader movement, has become a strategy of attacks on reporters and the delegitimization of journalism as a democratic institution (Schapals & Bruns, 2022).

The journalistic discourse on disinformation has centred on the reaffirmation of journalistic authority and normative perceptions of journalism, especially regarding the notion of objectivity. This discursive strategy aims to refocus public perceptions of the media as credible disseminators of information (Carlson, 2020; Schapals & Bruns, 2022). Even within the journalistic field, tensions emerge as there are those who believe that it is necessary to reinforce traditional practices, while others believe that contemporary journalistic practices can potentially contribute to the spread of disinformation (Farkas, 2023), as news are produced at an ever-increasing speed, leaving little time for in-depth investigation.

In Portugal, a survey applied to journalists (n=485) within the scope of a research project revealed that the overwhelming majority of respondents agree that disinformation is a relevant problem in the Portuguese context, with journalists having a responsibility on this matter. In detail, more than 60% of them believe that the media have a role in spreading disinformation and more than 40% attribute this same qualifier to journalists themselves. Among the main results observed in an open question, journalists blame the unbridled search for an audience and editorial lines heavy in sensationalism for contributing to the dissemination of misinformation.

Journalists also don’t feel that both the Portuguese legislation and journalistic self-regulation solutions, whether professional and/or sectoral, are adequate for facing the problem. Thus, journalists working in Portugal support a strategy to combat disinformation that involves mechanisms such as public policies or instruments developed by media companies. They point to

the strengthening of journalism, including training and the ethical principles of the profession; to increasing media literacy levels; to more transparency of media practices; for the development of new fact-checking initiatives, for example within the local media; and for the toughening of legislation.

Key Words

disinformation, journalism practice, social media, online sourcing, verification

Dispatching news from the periphery: Experiences of Chinese news correspondents based in Nepal

Authors

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Abstract

Much of the existing scholarship on China's "going out" policy, and symbiotically, on the growing expansion and influence of Chinese media abroad focuses on media-induced diplomacy in Africa and the West. The issues of representation or dissemination in the popular press, or the extension of "soft power", remain a dominant theme in such literature. A less studied topic is China's media-induced diplomacy in its immediate neighborhood. This is particularly significant in view of the fact that China is among the two countries with the largest number of bordering neighbors. Journalistic engagement is emerging as a key strategy in China's neighborhood/periphery diplomacy. How do contemporary Chinese foreign correspondents in the region make sense of their role in their country's diplomacy? This paper, based on in-depth interviews with Nepal-based Chinese foreign correspondents, looks at their experiences from professional values perspective, along factors such as news judgement, roles and functions, nature of news coverage, sourcing practices, and journalistic engagement.

Key Words

Journalism, diplomacy, professional values, China, Nepal

Precarity in pandemic times: job insecurity and work deterioration of journalists in Mexico

Authors

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Abstract

News work precarity is a worldwide phenomenon (Chadha and Steiner 2022), characterized by high levels of insecure employment and the “dismantling of the long-term employer-employee relationship” (Shuey et al. 2018: 265). The phenomenon is more rampant in regions like Latin America, where labor markets are informal, employment is typically outsourced, and labor regulations are lax. In Mexico, journalists are even more vulnerable due to the absence of union intervention and weak labor laws (Reyna, 2019), blurring the boundaries of formal and informal employment. In sub-national regions, poor working conditions and pay are even more endemic. While precarity is mainly approached from the perspective of job insecurity –the persistent threat of losing one’s job and the prolonged uncertainty about the future of the employment status (Urbanaviciute et al. 2018), we argue that the decline in work quality is also a salient form of precarity. Previous survey research shows that Mexican journalists suffer, comparatively, some of the worst working conditions (Márquez et al., 2022).

COVID-19 led to an unprecedented crisis in Latin American and Caribbean economies and labour markets, worsening journalists’ working conditions and precarity. Hence, this paper aims to examine the extent to which journalists in Mexico experienced four phenomena associated with precarity: a) job loss, b) layoffs in their newsroom, c) increase in their workloads and d) salary and benefit cuts. Methodologically, the mixed-methods study is based on an online, self-administered survey (N=472) with journalists from around the country and ten semi-structured qualitative interviews with selected journalists in Mexico City. Theoretically, the paper proposes two dimensions of labor precarity: job insecurity and poor quality of work.

Results show a considerable pandemic impact on journalism labor precarity: by the end of 2020, almost three quarters (70%) of respondents saw their workloads increase; nearly half of respondents (48%) had experienced layoffs in their newsroom and a deterioration of their salary and benefit, and a fifth (20%) had lost their jobs. Logistic regression analysis points at nuances that defy classic assumptions of precarity affecting young entrants with unstable employment. Controlling for variables such as type of contract, rank, experience, gender, type of work and platform, and level of specialism, we found that those with stable contracts and income and people at high and middle rank were the only strongest positive predictors of losing jobs. In contrast, those working for digital and social media were negative predictors. The low experience was the only positive predictor of suffering layoffs in the newsroom. Meanwhile, the deterioration of working conditions mainly affected generalist journalists, those with stable incomes and contracts, and women. Finally, those working in the field, like reporters and photojournalists, and

those frequently covering Covid-related issues, were the most affected by workload increases. Our qualitative results give insights into specific scenarios, revealing recognizable and new precarity patterns.

Key Words

Precarity; Covid-19; survey; mixed-methods; Journalism in Mexico; Work and Employment

Media Entrepreneurship: Perceptions and Motivations of Yemeni Youth

Authors

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Abstract

In entrepreneurship literature, there are two ways one can approach venture creation: *Causation* or identifying an “effect” and working on the means to get that effect; and *effectuation* or identifying the “means” and then working towards possible effects that may occur (Saravathy, 2001). Following an effectual process is useful in conditions of uncertainty, when one is not certain of what the end effect may be, or look like, but is aware of the resources or means one has, to engage in entrepreneurial activity (Barnes & de Villiers Scheepers, 2018).

A glaring deficiency in journalism scholarship related to independent small (or big) news media entrepreneurship is research related to the topic in the Middle East, especially Yemen. Extant studies portray these startups as spaces for innovation and independent agency (Singer & Broersma, 2021) that proffer employment opportunities and greater discretion in content production and distribution (López-Meri, Alonso-Muñoz & Casero-Ripollés, 2021). The civil war in Yemen that began in 2014 continues unabated and news coverage of the issue has been spotty (Sultan, 2019). Additionally, journalists in Yemen are targeted by authorities in power and called “spies of the US,” (Almutwakel, cited in Sultan, 2019, para 6) or arrested for little to no cause as a way of suppressing news media freedoms and freedom of expression in general (Amnesty International, 2022). In this dark situation, the voices of Yemeni youth and their hopes for a better future are often lost. This study takes the first step towards highlighting youth voices and their perceptions and intentions towards media entrepreneurship.

As part of an online global media exchange program, professors in a large southwest university in the U.S. engaged with journalism educators and students from four public universities in Yemen. One of these exchanges included zoom talks organized by a professor from the U.S. university on causation and effectuation approaches to entrepreneurship and applying those strategies to media entrepreneurship in Yemen. Prior to the zoom talks, the students (N=19) were surveyed about their perceptions of the current independent news media scene in Yemen, and their entrepreneurial intentions and motivations. They also were asked about their perceived barriers to starting a media venture in Yemen.

Student submissions for this exercise were a revelation of not only the kind of journalism they felt safe pursuing in Yemen, but also the gaps they perceived in their daily lives. Almost all groups followed the causation approach to entrepreneurship and three of the five groups proposed some form of media venture: A human rights issue website targeted at young students, a media production company that creates videos related to news, advertising and entertainment, and an online newspaper on art and culture that specifically examine the lack of awareness surrounding Yemen’s cultural heritage. The two other groups presented ideas that were non-media related. The

survey results will be discussed in greater detail in the full paper but one important finding: Majority students said not having the financial or social (people/organizations/institutions) capital discouraged them the most from starting their own entrepreneurial venture.

Key Words

Media Entrepreneurship, Causation, Effectuation, Yemen, Entrepreneurial Intentions, Entrepreneurship Barriers, Survey

Feminist journalism in Brazil and Argentina: the collectives Portal Catarinas and Feminacida

Authors

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Abstract

This article presents and analyzes the journalism carried out by two feminist collectives, Feminacida, from Argentina, and Portal Catarinas, from Brazil. The theoretical approach comes from the gender studies and decolonial theories. The collectives were created by cisgender and transgender women journalists between 2015 and 2016. At this time, Brazil and Argentina were undergoing political transformations towards a conservative retreat and feminist groups sought in the media an opportunity to echo their voices, contrary to the ultra rights movements. Both collectives position themselves as pages with not only feminist content, but also broadly promoting human rights. The article presents the collectives and their journalistic, multimodal expressions, which involve not only websites but also social networks, notably Instagram. In theoretical terms, it discusses what feminist journalism would be, its militant relationship, involved in the production of situated knowledge, as Haraway points out, nuanced by a Latin American visage. The research looks deeper into the unfolding of journalistic content in digital social networks, in this case, the Instagram platform. The research is anchored in Digital Ethnography through observation and follow-up. The selected collectives were monitored from 2020 to 2022 with a period of collection of specific posts during four months in 2021. The data collected from the pages of the collectives were divided into categories of analysis, determined according to the examination of the publications. From the survey of the posts and themes, one can see the development of a journalistic practice capable of transgressing the hegemonic journalistic logic, by defending commitment, feminist militancy and articles with educational perspectives. At the same time, a link between the collectives and the issues of Latin American decolonial feminism can be seen, either through the agendas constructed, or through the approaches, but especially through the proposal to build new knowledge with popular participation in debates and workshops, considering the specificities of each country.

Key Words

Feminist journalism, Portal Catarinas, Feminacida, Brasil, Argentina

Taking up the audience relations challenge. A managerial perspective on local news media in French-speaking Europe

Authors

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Dr. Laura Amigo - Université de Neuchâtel

Prof. Olivier Standaert - Université Catholique de Louvain

Abstract

The digital transition in journalism poses significant informational, business and organizational challenges to local news media's relationship with audiences (Nielsen, 2015). This research looks at how European local news organizations are dealing with these changes from a managerial perspective. In this regard, local media form a distinct sub-market, as their presence in a specific area typically requires a close relationship with their audiences (Gulyas & Baines, 2020; Hess & Waller, 2017). The study adopts a theoretical framework that highlights the actions, opportunities, tactical mechanisms and individual practices through which practitioners strategize – as opposed to a conception of strategy as being something that an organization has (Horst et al., 2019; Kung, 2017; Langley et al., 2013).

The study seeks to determine RQ1) how the relationship with audiences is considered from both a commercial and news-production viewpoint and, RQ2) what are the specific human resources dedicated to audience relations. It is based on 45 semi-structured interviews conducted in 11 local news organizations (seven newspapers, two digital-only outlets, and two TV stations) in French-speaking European countries (France, Switzerland, and Belgium). Interviewees were journalists, editors in chief, community managers, publisher's directors and staff from commercial and marketing departments. Questions focused on the implementation of actions aiming at revitalizing the connection with audiences (see Pignard-Cheyne & Amigo, 2022) as well as the allocation of human and material resources to this end.

Data led us to elaborate a framework for evaluating the level of formalization of audience relations within the organizational processes of local news outlets. Indeed, findings suggest that the way local media handle their relationship with audiences can be understood by looking at three factors: the origin and management of audience-focused actions, the resources allocated, and the collaboration between newsroom and commercial/marketing staff. These three factors were classified into two organizational modalities that describe how audiences are embodied in the organizational strategy. A proactive and integrated modality describes news media where the issue of audiences is incorporated into the internal organization often in a structured, visible and tangible way. Here, audience relations appear as rather integrated into the organizational strategy and translates into strategic processes. A reactive and diluted modality characterizes news media that tend to favor a more flexible, opportunistic and bottom-up approach to audience relations. In

this case, audiences appear as peripheral to the organizational structure of newsrooms and are only considered through a variety of (one-shot) means and actions.

Discussions from this research are intended as a contribution to the need for deeper consideration of the role that organizational structures play in the adoption of new practices and technologies (Horst & Murschetz, 2019; Boyles, 2016), at the level of local news media that have tended to be less often under academic spotlight (Guimerà et al., 2018; Gulyas & Baines, 2020).

Key Words

local media, management, organizational modalities, strategy, audience relations, Europe

Prácticas emergentes en el fotoperiodismo mexicano desde contextos de violencias y transiciones tecnológicas

Authors

Dr. Marcela de Niz - Universidad de Guadalajara

Dr. Paola Cortés Almánzar - Universidad de Guadalajara

Abstract

El propósito de esta investigación es mostrar las prácticas de sujetos emergentes en la actividad fotoperiodística dentro de el panorama contextual mexicano actual, a considerar los cambios en la mediación tecnológica que han facilitado muchos procesos; por ejemplo, ciertas competencias “profesionales”, con todo el software y las aplicaciones de los celulares inteligentes han permitido tener a la mano cámaras con ópticas sofisticadas, dispositivos que posibilitan, con poco conocimiento, la edición de la imagen digital, proporcionan plataformas para publicarlas y redes que amplifican la visualización de dicho trabajo. Las tecnologías mencionadas han facilitado tanto el acceso a múltiples habilidades, como el alcance masivo de herramientas sofisticadas de fácil uso en dispositivos digitales.

Por otro lado visibilizar las estructuras de poder mediáticas que desde el Estado han propiciado un paisaje caótico, que no ofrece posibilidades de acción a éstos sujetos emergentes en actividad fotoperiodística desde diversos frentes, desde el trabajo independiente, en medios nacionales e internacionales, tales como algunos fundadores de medios independientes quienes, además, en ocasiones son “unipersonales” o familiares. Así, a partir de las políticas calderonistas que se implementaron en México como estrategia para el combate al crimen organizado, hubo un aumento considerable de agresiones contra periodistas en el país. Durante el sexenio del presidente Felipe Calderón (2006-2012), la estadística de asesinatos a periodistas aumentó más de 100% en comparación con el número del sexenio anterior presidido por Vicente Fox Quesada (Artículo 19 en De la Rosa, 2013:16). Con Enrique Peña Nieto en la presidencia, los números aumentaron un 80% en comparación con su predecesor, con un ataque cada 26.7 hrs. en promedio, a pesar de la implementación de líneas de acción contra el crimen organizado, entre las que se contaba con *La protección y respeto a los derechos humanos*. En el caso de la actual administración los casos no han disminuido, van 37 asesinatos registrados hasta 2022.

En este sentido, hacer una revisión de las políticas gestadas desde el Estado relacionadas con las telecomunicaciones, con el uso de datos personales o derecho de réplica, han sido parte de las violencias estructurales, las cuales han entorpecido y obstruido la capacidad fotoperiodística independiente y crítica. En las relaciones del Estado con los medios se considerarán el sexenio de Felipe Calderón Hinojosa del Partido Acción Nacional, PAN (2006-2012) y de Enrique Peña Nieto del Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI (2012-2018). Si bien cada presidente tuvo diversas estrategias mediáticas, ambos sostuvieron relaciones muy estrechas con las televisoras nacionales, empresas mediáticas con el mayor alcance en el país; tan solo en 2018, el 65% de la población

mexicana vio las noticias por televisión abierta, en la cual más del 60% de la programación estaba cubierta por canales de Televisa y TV Azteca. Con el actual gobierno de Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Morena), la relación con las empresas mediáticas ha cambiado sobre todo en el presupuesto destinado, que por lo menos para el 2019 fue 50% menor que el del gobierno anterior durante el 2018, debido a que se apuesta más por el uso de medios sociodigitales para las comunicaciones oficiales.

Key Words

Fotoperiodismo, violencias, transición tecnológica, medios digitales, prácticas emergentes.

Becoming the news: examining the art and ethics of online obit coverage on journalists lost to the new coronavirus pandemic

Authors

Dr. Dharma Adhikari - Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Abstract

Obituaries have long been an integral part of the newshole in newspapers. Scholars have approached this form of journalism from diverse lenses, including stylistics, rhetoric, culture, gender, collective memory, and ethics. A thread of related research focuses on the journalistic craft of writing obits. Obituaries coverage, amplified by online outlets, has seen a huge surge during the new coronavirus pandemic. Journalists themselves have become the news, suggesting a self-reflective turn in commemorative journalism. It is not too often that they report on one of their own. How does the art of obit writing on journalists reveal itself in online outlets? What ethical questions do such works by journalists on journalists invite? How do the obits from different cultures compare? Journalist's obits serve as a window into their self-reporting practices and a unique vantage for the critique of journalism. This paper thematically analyzes 150 article-length obituaries of journalists published in online outlets from diverse countries. Findings have implications for the study of cross-cultural practices and the ethics of obit reporting.

Key Words

Obituary, COVID-19, journalism, death reporting

Representing Foreign Public Opinion in Chinese State Media: How and Why?

Authors

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Abstract

Increasing journalists are using online posts to report what the public thinks (Humayun & Ferrucci, 2022; McGregor, 2019). Particularly, in Chinese state-run media, journalists not only use social media to represent the opinions of the domestic public, but also extensively translate and quote posts from foreign netizens in their coverage of domestic and global issues. Some authors have studied the translation of these posts and revealed how they are rendered and reframed to play up the pro-China stance (Zeng & Li, 2021), but little literature investigated the norms and motivations for this journalistic practice.

Therefore, this paper aims to answer these two questions: 1) How do journalists in Chinese state media represent foreign netizens' opinions? 2) Why do they represent foreign public opinion in Chinese news stories?

To this aim, this paper consists of two main parts. Firstly, filtering through the WisersOne News Database (慧科新闻数据库), I collected 220 news stories published by three major Chinese state-run news agencies (*Global Times*, *People's Daily* and *Xinhua Agency*) in 2022 that referred to foreign posts as a source. I used content analysis to explore the representation of foreign opinions in these articles along the dimensions of news type, topic, related country, attitude, and quoting style. The results indicate that foreign netizens' opinions occur in both soft news and hard news with a wide range of topics. Compared to those stories that are not directly related to China, China-related articles represent foreign public opinion as a more homogeneous and pro-China viewpoint.

Based upon Bourdieu's field theory, the second part further interprets the results of the content analysis and illuminates Chinese state media's motivation to use foreign posts. It reveals that the manipulated representation of foreign public opinion serves as a symbolic capital of the state, in a field where state firewalls tightly control the flow of transnational information, to enhance its status and prestige. Meanwhile, the form of symbolic capital also results from the traditional Chinese political philosophy featured "morality" (道义, daoyi).

In conclusion, this paper shows how media representation can fit into the complex political-cultural network and function as a legitimation device serving organizations' quests for political and symbolic capital.

Key Words

Representation, Content Analysis, Field Theory, Propaganda

News about deforestation in the Amazon between journalism and strategic communication

Authors

Dr. Claudiane Carvalho - Universidade Federal do Pará

Abstract

Although it has intensified significantly in the last four years, deforestation in the Amazon is a historical problem, marked by development prospects that do not reconcile economic gains with forest maintenance (LOUREIRO, 2019; CASTRO, 2018; GONDIM, 2007; BECKER, 2005); and supported by epistemologies that segregate and hierarchize knowledge, supporting exploration practices (MIGNOLO, 2017; SANTOS, 2019; KOPENAWA, 2015; KRENAK, 2019). The circulation of news about deforestation is not a new phenomenon either, however, sources of information and enunciative strategies seem recurrent, whose arrangements do not favor the different actors involved in the problem, nor do they contribute to the construction of knowledge on the subject capable of mobilizing society more broadly.

Based on the assumption that social reality is constructed in the processes of socialization and interaction mediated by languages (BERGER, LUCKMANN, 2008; COULDRY; HEPP, 2017) and that journalism plays an important role in this fabric, since it produces and circulates symbolic goods in a mediated way (FIDALGO, 2009; PARK, 1969; Meditsch, 1992), it makes us uneasy to understand how the news about deforestation is elaborated discursively, especially in the mass media. Here, our focus is on news constructed between journalistic newsrooms and strategic communication, which professionally mediates the source with the press. In this cut, adjacent questions emerge: how are the different narratives of the actors involved and/or affected by deforestation articulated? How does the construction of the effect of a sense of truth occur, based on the games of interest and power? In order to answer these questions, the domains of Discourse Analysis, Hermeneutics and Theories of Communication and Journalism are articulated.

Our bet is that combating deforestation in the Amazon is also directing concerns to the news and information circulating on the subject. In a society in the process of mediatization, in which the media constitute environments that redefine social practices, relationships and discursivities (HJARVARD, 2014; VERÓN, 2014; LUNDBY, 2014; HEPP et al, 2018; FERREIRA et al, 2018), the dynamics of production, circulation and reception of news are essential to strengthening human and environmental health and safety. This is because the processes of raising awareness and mobilizing public opinion, which can contribute to expanding the debate and elaborating consensus and public policies, are closely associated with the social circulation of informative discourses (CHARAUDEAU, 2012; 2016; LIPPMANN, 2008). In this regard, we understand that two moments of our scientific journey are complementary and interdependent: 1) study on how news of deforestation in the Amazon is constructed; and 2) based on the collected data, investment in activities with journalists and other social communicators, in addition to professors in the area of

communication, so that they have subsidies to deal with deforestation from its interface with different social fields and implications for survival of different living beings. These actions foreseen for the second moment of the research foresee the articulation, in principle, between university, civil society organizations and news media.

The ways of doing journalism are socio-historical, influenced by technical communication devices, cultural dynamics, dominant epistemologies and shared knowledge. Thus, far from ignoring power games and social disputes over meaning, journalism is inserted in the gears that favor the social circulation of meanings and knowledge. Thus, we are interested in understanding how news about deforestation is constructed, especially in the relationship between journalism and strategic communication, focusing on social actors (information sources) who have political, economic and social interests in the subject. In this context, we propose to analyze the social elaboration of the informative discourse on deforestation, articulating the narrative construction of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), linked to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTIC), of the Federal Police of Pará (PF), from the civil society organization Instituto do Homem e Meio Ambiente da Amazônia (Imazon) and social movements and their implications in the discourses of vehicles such as Folha online and G1 Pará. The aim is to understand, in a restricted sample, how the dynamics of media coverage and circulation of meanings about deforestation socially construct the theme.

Key Words

Amazon, deforestation, journalism, strategic communication, circulation, news, mediatization

Teaching reporting and writing-intensive courses online

Authors

Dr. Kelly Fincham - National University of Ireland Galway

Abstract

Teaching reporting and writing-intensive courses is at the heart of the journalism education enterprise, and journalism classrooms typically mimic traditional newsrooms, with an emphasis on revision and rewrites and with feedback conveyed orally and in-person. With online learning becoming more common, however, instructors now need to adjust their teaching practice to better reflect newer norms and routines. Efforts to do so typically reveal multiple contradictions and issues as we try to migrate in-person pedagogy to an online environment. Some of these challenges are rooted in the same questions that arose in the earlier years of online news as journalists simply copied and pasted stories intended for print onto the web. The practice failed because the journalists merely replicated their offline practices in an environment that was ill-suited to it. While shovelware has disappeared from newsrooms, educators face similar challenges in designing digital course content for students primed by online experiences. The content of a face-to-face course cannot be simply copied and pasted into a learning management system (LMS) with an expectation that students will direct themselves through the Word docs or, worse, PowerPoint slides. In addition, there are multiple technical and cultural barriers to consider around the student experience, ranging from challenges with internet connectivity to software proficiency, to the sheer loneliness of working in a distanced location. However, while vastly different to the in-person experience, these online learning conditions are a good preparation for the kind of reporting and writing experiences that are increasingly common in journalism: a reporter working alone in the field or from a home “office,” rather than in the sort of bustling newsroom that was more common 20 or even 10 years ago.

Key Words

journalism, teaching, online, writing-intensive, writing, reporting, students, challenges

Transmedia Ideals, Logics and Values for Journalism: A Review

Authors

Prof. Ana Serrano Tellería - University of Castilla La Mancha

Abstract

In this proposal, we would like to defend how the interface design combined with cross/multi/transmedia ideals, logics and values respond to the challenges, demands and needs detected in the *Hybrid* (Chadwick, 2013) and the *Liquid Media System* (Serrano-Tellería, 2016, 2019, 2020; Serrano-Tellería & Prenger, 2019). Thus, reviewing a brief examination of recent theories of news production and consumption, this proposal describes the transmedia ideals, logics, and values for journalism, and explores how transmedia storytelling addresses the need to ensure the continued relevance of journalism. We test the ideals, logics and values and refine the evolving features and strategies employed by legacy media internationally through case study analysis, complemented with interviews with transmedia producers and previous works carried on within NewsNet research project (2019-2022, extended to 30.9.2023).

Thus, this research analyzes and describes the use of languages, genres, and formats; strategies, resources and platforms for the creation, collaboration, and distribution (*News Lifecycle*, Serrano-Tellería et al, 2019) of journalistic products about Corona/Covid19 and determines whether a transmedia logic is being followed. Likewise, this research proposes a set of good practices that can be applied to other stories-products and media in everyday and planned routines. For this, the field work focuses on the analysis of two aspects: the interface design and the creation and dissemination of content. The pandemic represented a unique frame of analysis due to the intrinsic work conditions, routines and dynamics as well as its limitations and increased demands for information.

Thus, we concluded that transmedia core values, ideals and logic is a suitable frame to embrace in everyday media work, and specifically, in journalism, to adapt, innovate and overcome its crisis and challenges, opportunities and potentials. Transmedia means an ideal, a logic, a group of values to bear in mind when constructing a story. To adapt storytelling to media production, bearing in mind all possible genres, languages, formats, semiotics, and strategies is a fundamental step because audience are used to consume different devices and want the best of all of them to have a full experience.

Key Words

Interface Design, Hybrid Media System, Transmedia Journalism, News Life Cycle

The future of teaching journalism online

Authors

Dr. Susan Keith - Rutgers University

Abstract

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, in at least some regions of the world, journalism education had approached online teaching in much the same way that newspapers initially approached the internet: as a non-urgent opportunity. Some educators across disciplines expressed resistance to or skepticism about online teaching, citing concerns that ranged from inadequate technological support and training to concern for what student learning outcomes might be. In other places, online journalism education were viewed as inadvisable because of a lack of widely available and affordable internet access. Now, however, journalism education has a huge cadre of veteran online instructors, realization that widespread online instruction is possible, practice being nimble, and students who have experienced education in the forms that many most often use for everyday media experiences. This suggests that online modalities offer important considerations for future journalism instruction capable of linking communities of learners across the globe.

Key Words

journalism, journalism education, teaching, online, online learning

‘News Cabaret’: investigating the transformative power of journalism told through drama

Authors

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Ms. Catherine Adams - Nottingham Trent University

Abstract

At a time of continuing mistrust in journalism (Fletcher 2020), political polarisation and social fragmentation around the world, a new field of media research and practice has emerged. ‘Live journalism’ aims to reconnect audiences and rebuild trust around news organisations through interactive events in a public space, as part of the contemporary ‘experience economy’, (Pine and Gilmore, 2011; Vodanovic, 2022).

This paper looks at three live journalism shows produced by the authors (one face-to-face and two online), which diverged in style from events elsewhere by involving actors and theatrical devices to deliver content.

We address the following RQs:

RQ1: How does in-person live journalism compare to online events in terms of engagement and creation of a public space?

RQ2: How useful or otherwise is the use of drama in connection with quality journalism

RQ3 How far does/can the practice of live journalism go towards democratising the communication of stories and be a positive force for change?

We adopted a Reflective Practitioner Case Study (RCPS) approach (Peters, 2020), analysing surveys of participants, recordings, observations, diaries and interviews from all three shows, which 170 people attended overall. Each show consisted of eight short pieces based on previously unpublished pieces of journalism, performed either by the journalists themselves and/or by actors. Approaches included verbatim theatre, stand-up comedy, sketches, monologues, songs, masks and improvisation. Each piece had to adhere to norms of journalistic rigour. Discussions with the audience took place during and after the show.

Our research suggests that the in-person experience, ‘News Cabaret’, was more engaging than the online shows; both cast and audience reported more togetherness, freedom and playfulness. Our findings also indicate that using theatrical devices did not detract from quality journalism. Indeed, there were some unexpected positive outcomes from mixing journalists and actors, such as the creative collaboration, teamwork and performance skills brought by the young actors. The audience reported that they learned new things and the event challenged them to think, made them uncomfortable and prompted some action, albeit limited.

We argue that such live journalism events could be a useful way to revitalise journalism practice, challenge social and political norms and re-engage 'hard-to-reach' audiences. Through this format of live journalism we have also identified a new theoretical development. In place of the traditional 'actor to audience' dynamic, Brecht (1948) identified a triangle between actor, character and audience, with the actor working in and out of role. Our model adds a fourth part - the journalist, who can either speak directly to the audience, or through an actor or character.

Future developments of the form could include furthering the political nature of live journalism and exploring its power to increase the critical public space and discourse, perhaps to create local communities to debate and tackle the urgent social and environmental problems of our age.

Key Words

live journalism; trust; theatre; public space; community; audience; drama; change

What's Newsworthy for Special Branches of Journalism: Study of Newsworthiness in Czech Sports Journalism

Authors

Mr. Miroslav Langer - Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Abstract

Our planet is full of people that bring up various topics and stage events that aspire for media presentation. Digital and social media are disrupting the gatekeeping exclusivity of traditional media (Martin & Dwyer, 2019), and web analytics are replacing experienced journalists' routines (Tandoc, 2014; Tandoc et al., 2021). The news selection process is again moving into the focus of journalism research.

When trying to understand the news selection process through the concept of news values, founded by Galtung and Ruge (1965), we need to identify them in the events and their media representation correctly. According to the two-components theory (Kepplinger & Ehmig, 2006), the news value results from a gatekeepers' evaluation of lower-level characteristics of the events called news factors. Many catalogs of news factors were created for content analyses of general journalism (see a comprehensive list in Caple & Bednarek, 2013), while little attention was paid to test the validity of these factors for various specific branches of journalism, like sports, fashion, cinema, arts, gaming ,etc. The colorful variety of our reality might ask for specialization in this field, which I tested in this research on sports news.

For sports journalism, the analyses used lists similar to the general journalism field (comp. Loosen, 1998; Rehbach et al., 2016, etc.), although there has been a call for specifications soon by Loosen and Ravenstein (2000). The interviews that I carried out in 2020 with four Czech media sports editors proved that the journalists mutually agree on some of the previously used criteria, while some of the other news factors have a different, specific understanding. Some of the most accented factors have not been considered by the previous research at all. These are ethnocentric success and failure, and status of the sport or competition.

Next, I performed a quantitative content analysis of sports news of various Czech media in 2021 was then performed based on a modified coding that reacted to the findings from the interviews. The interpretation of the results primarily shows the strength of the sports-journalism-specific news factors varies. At the same time, it confirms them as difference-making in the news selection or processing.

The presented research discusses the results and the analytical potential of the modified understood or newly postulated news factors in the perspective of previous research, relating the status of sports or competition to the general news value of the elite (Harcup & O'Neill, 2017), while the ethnocentric failure and success combine the ethnocentrism (Gans, 2005) with good and bad news (Harcup & O'Neill, 2017) or success or failure in general (Loosen, 1998).

Similar analyses and considerations should also be made also in other specific branches of journalism.

Key Words

sports journalism

news values

Framing of human rights violations on Facebook pages of AL-JAZEERA, CNN, RT and DW

Authors

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

Abstract

Many of the studies have been conducted on human rights and media and most of them reside on the analysis of coverage of print media such as

magazines and newspapers. Very few studies have been done on framing of human rights violations on Facebook pages of news agencies. Present study explored the framing pattern of human rights violations on Facebook pages of DW, RT, CNN and

Al-Jazeera and compared the level of objectivity in their coverage of human rights violation happened in different countries.

We collected posts from the Facebook pages of CNN, Al-Jazeera, RT and DW, which appeared in the Facebook search of these pages from the January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2021. We selected the first 100 posts from each page that covered human rights violations.

We then did content analysis of the selected posts and they were coded for the presence or absence of frames of 'game', 'nationalisation', 'human interest', 'responsibility', 'humanitarian crisis' and 'othering'. Besides checking the frames, this study explored the level of objectivity in the coverage, based on the work of Mellado, Ramirez and Humanes (2018). We also coded each post for the geographical location of the event covered to check that human rights violations in which countries were reported mostly by Facebook pages of Al-Jazeera, CNN, DW and RT.

From the results of the content analysis of 400 posts of Facebook pages of Al-Jazeera, DW, CNN and RT, we can say that they covered human rights violations world over as almost 50 countries were covered in terms of human rights violations in these posts. However, Afghanistan, China, America, Iran, India, Belarus, Poland, Syria, Israel and the Palestine repeatedly appeared in the selected posts.

The frames of responsibility and humanitarian crisis were the most prevalent in all the posts of four Facebook pages. Posts covered the human rights violations as humanitarian crisis affecting large number of people but they also ascribed responsibility of the violation to the specific political institutions, individuals or groups attributing blame or credit regarding that human rights issue. Prevalence of human interest frame was the highest in DW and the lowest in RT whereas using human-interest frame meant that issue was dramatized and personalized for the sake of creating an emotional response (Cho & Gower, 2006). Prevalence of game framing was the highest in CNN and RT and then in Al-Jazeera and DW i.e. the post portrayed human rights violation as winning or losing situation.

We compared the level of objectivity in the coverage of human rights violation on four Facebook pages of Al-Jazeera, DW, CNN and RT. For this we calculated the objectivity score through objectivity index. The highest objectivity score was of Al-Jazeera (.78), the second highest was of DW (.74), the third highest was of CNN (.64) and the last was of RT (.62).

Cho S. H., Gower K. K. (2006). Framing effect on the public's response to crisis: Human interest frame and crisis type influencing responsibility and blame. *Public Relations Review*, 32, 420-422.

Mellado, C., Humanes, M. L., & Márquez-Ramírez, M. (2018). The influence of journalistic role performance on objective reporting: A comparative study of Chilean, Mexican, and Spanish news. *International Communication Gazette*, 80(3), 250-272.

Key Words

Framing; Facebook pages; DW, RT, CNN, Al-Jazeera; Human Rights Violations

The First Podcast? Alistair Cooke's 'Letter from America'

Authors

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Prof. Howard Tumber - City University of London

Abstract

Although podcasting is deemed as a 'relatively young medium.... one that goes beyond the early notion of the medium as simply an extension of radio', our argument in this paper is that historical analysis of a particular journalistic output can contribute to an understanding of the aetiology of podcasting. We contend that Alistair Cooke's BBC radio series Letter from America (LFA) is a serious contender for a place as one of the first podcasts produced in the UK.

By analysing the history, production, reception and legacy of LFA it is possible to augment contemporary accounts of podcasting. As a relatively immature audio medium theorising of podcasts mainly eschews historical examination of radio journalism apart from conceptualising historical media practices.

The cultural significance of LFA is important because of its monopolistic character, its regularity, its longevity, its large audience reach and its role in the public sphere. Cooke began a weekly radio broadcast for the BBC called American Letters in 1946. In 1950 the broadcast name was changed to the more familiar Letter from America. The broadcasts continued for more than 2,860 episodes, finishing in 2004. It remains the longest-running speech radio programme hosted by one individual.

As a weekly fifteen-minute broadcast, LFA was firmly embedded in the 'cultural anchor of radio'. Its reach was not confined solely to listeners in the UK. It gathered an enormous audience, being broadcast not only in Britain and in many other Commonwealth countries, but throughout the world by the BBC World Service.

Cooke's reflection on his past experiences in the Letters and his personal approach to journalism, which at the time was a departure from the more formal language and structure of other commentators, meant that his devoted listeners were being treated to a very particular view, drawn from Cooke's own experience, living amongst the New York elite. Cooke's 1946 proposal for the series that became LFA, describes it as a personal letter to a Briton by a fireside, and suggests the subject of the series to be: "running commentary on topical aspects of American life", "intimate background to Washington policy", "pictorial excursions to regions and places" as well as "profiles of important Americans who are unknown as personalities" – all approaches that resonate with contemporary journalistic podcasting.

Cooke was an experienced broadcaster with an interest in formal techniques, not just prose form. He had experimented with aural and recording techniques. Compared to other journalists, including those whose work has been placed in a literary/narrative genre, Cooke in his mature style did very little journalistic work, i.e. reporting, investigating and newsgathering.

His topics were rarely exclusively 'current affairs', and when current affairs were part of his topic, they were not explored as news, but as cultural phenomena with history and characteristics. He was not an 'objective reporter', indeed he deliberately reported subjectively approaching news as a cultural commentator. Even when his topic involved the recent past he did not approach it with journalistic methods like seeking out witnesses and interviewing them. The examination of LFA therefore, enables us to see how one particular path to contemporary podcasting evolved.

Key Words

radio; podcast; podcasting; narrative journalism;

Who tells Uyghur stories? Xinjiang Narrative Disparities in Domestic and Foreign Media Report

Authors

Ms. Naziye Mushajiang - University of Leeds

Abstract

Xinjiang has long been regarded as an important component of China's sovereign strength, and its changing and developing security situation occupies a significant position in this regard. Moreover, Xinjiang is also seen as an area where different forms of conflict may occur in a multicultural context, especially those involving human rights, religious issues and the rights of ethnic minorities, which have attracted extensive attention from academia and media. Since 2020, mainstream international media have focused their reports on the issue of Xinjiang and the human rights crisis of Uyghurs, repeatedly emphasizing warnings on human rights issued by international organizations to the Chinese government. On the other hand, Chinese media have primarily concentrated on disseminating the government's responses to such warnings and using scenic propaganda to divert domestic attention. Therefore, analysing the discrepancies in Xinjiang narratives between domestic and foreign media, as well as exploring the various causes thereof, becomes a valuable academic topic; not only can it fill in existing gaps in academia but also enable a better presentation of current focuses under scrutiny.

This study will adopt the methods of text and content analysis to compare and analyze the expression of emotions in the descriptive texts, commonly used words in language and preference for events selection from all news reports published by BBC, CNN and CCTV after January 1st, 2020, related to Xinjiang. In addition, field survey records and critical discussion of the potential causes behind the discrepancies, such as media capture, imperialism, news censorship system and roles played by Chinese network regulation, will be taken into account to achieve a holistic examination of Xinjiang-related news reports.

This study concludes that despite the persistent attention of international media on Xinjiang, the stringent control of the Chinese government over state narratives and its closed, evasive attitude have posed significant challenges and limitations to transnational research on the region in the context of international news. Meanwhile, western media often employs diverging news practices from traditional Chinese news reporting, such as those that are based on human rights principles, emphasize impactful language and ensure independent commentary, which also leads to considerable disparities between domestic and foreign media discourses on Xinjiang. This study will contribute to the audience's better understanding of the actual situation in Xinjiang, while at the same time also affecting international transparency and authenticity of the entire media environment - thus bringing an unprecedented contribution to the global news field.

Key Words

Keywords: Xinjiang issues, Uyghurs, Chinese media regulation, and global news.

Telling Human Stories with Numbers: Data Journalism as Interdisciplinary Expertise

Authors

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Abstract

Reminiscent of “newsroom socialization” as how scientific journalists used to be expected to learn (Dunwoody, 2004), much of the work has been done on how data journalists grapple with new skills in workplace, usually with some degree of messiness (Anderson, 2013). Yet there have been calls for systematic and updated pedagogy in journalism school classrooms (Rinsdorf & Boers, 2016), which will offer not only a clearer definition for this innovative and constantly updating practice, but also a compact space for evaluation and reflection on how interdisciplinary knowledge in data science, computer science and journalism together construct data journalism as a distinctive form of expertise.

Speaking of expertise in data journalism classrooms specifically, this project will draw on Science and Technology Studies traditions (For example, Latour, 1986). My general curiosity is whether the data-oriented characteristic of journalism coincides or conflicts with traditional journalism norms and professional practices, and more importantly, how data journalism instructors highlight common ground and reconcile conflicts when integrating computational language and logic into journalism storytelling in the classroom. The data for this project, a case study at a university, will primarily come from teaching and learning materials, classroom observation, and interview with instructors in its data journalism class during one semester.

Research Questions

I will investigate how data journalism training at this university, envisioned by instructors, selects knowledge from other disciplines, integrate with journalism’s traditional inquiry practices and build its own shape; and how data-oriented inquiry is consistent with or contradicting journalism values (like transparency, sourcing decisions, and debate on evidentiary balance in terms of scientific knowledge).

Field and Methods

I regard the present case study as a feasibility study, potentially foreshadowing a full-scale study nationwide. I will conveniently choose the only intermediate/advanced level data journalism class offered in Spring 2023 semester by the public university I’m enrolled in as the field. Class size is 20 undergraduate and graduate students. There will be three components to my study:

- 1) Qualitative analysis of course materials: At this point I am granted access by the instructor to all class materials, and qualitative analysis is in progress.

2) In-depth interview with the instructor: this component is the most important venue for gathering information on instructor's envision of the course's knowledge system, their decision for including and leaving out material, emphasis of training, how his own expertise as a former data journalist director informs his teaching, and how he connects classroom training experience with industrial reality.

3) Classroom/lecture observation: This part of the project aims to gather the process of transmitting data journalism as theoretical and practical knowledge to college students in action. I tentatively plan to sit in two lectures throughout the semester: writing with data and introduction to data visualization with R's ggplot. The choice of these two lectures is justified by: a) they are among only few lectures with a major teaching component (the rest are more of individual practice lab with little to no lecturing); b) they promise the most vivid confrontation between traditional journalism textual or visual practice and data practices.

Key Words

data journalism, expertise, journalism education, digital storytelling

HOW TO MEASURE THE QUALITY OF AUTOMATED NEWS: HYBRID METHODOLOGIES IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Authors

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Abstract

Robotic storytelling in journalism has been around for more than 40 years (Meehan, 1977), although it was not until the era of big data that it expanded, coinciding with the rise of artificial intelligence. The quality of journalistic narratives has traditionally been a complex and little addressed issue. With the various applications of artificial intelligence in journalism, this issue becomes even more difficult. A systematic review of the scientific literature on research on the quality of artificial journalism reveals that it emerged in the middle of the last decade and focuses on how algorithms are able to write news by themselves (Carlson, 2015), on the level of automation in newsrooms (Lecompte, 2015), on the processes of production and consumption of content (Napoli, 2014) and, most notably, on how news written by robots is perceived (Clerwall, 2014; Haim & Graefe, 2017, Moravec et al. 2020, Zheng et. al 2018) and on confirmation bias, i.e., evaluator bias when aware of (human-machine) authorship (Jia & Johnson, 2020; Jung et al. 2017; Lermann et al., 2023; Waddell, 2019; Wölker & Powell, 2018; Tandoc et al. 2020). In addition, other works with different approaches are located where similarities and differences are sought between both types of texts, automated and written by journalists (Murcia Verdú et al., 2022), as well as patterns in their structures (Ufarte & Manfredi, 2019), between others, trying to elucidate the quality of automated news. In conclusion, although there are some reference frameworks and focuses that seem to be predominant in the study of the quality of news written by robots, it is necessary to establish solid theoretical frameworks and references that contribute to cementing the research in this field, because of the variety and mix of theoretical frameworks found.

Key Words

automated news; artificial intelligence; research methodologies; journalism; experimental design; algorithm

Fact-checkers' perception of their task in different media environments: The US, France and Sweden in a comparative perspective

Authors

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Abstract

Fact-checking can be defined as journalistic activity of verifying, rating and reporting about the truthfulness of information disseminated publicly (Amazeen 2015). However, it should not be confused with another use of the term 'fact-checking' which is the journalistic routine of carrying out verifications before publishing a news story (see Himma-Kadakas & Ojamets 2022). Fact-checking initiatives expanded remarkably across the world in the aftermaths of Trump's 2016 campaign (Brandtzaeg et al. 2018) which were characterized by unprecedented scales of misinformation (Bennett and Livingstone 2018). Thus, they were established to mitigate the effects of the spread of misleading information which assumably are harmful for democracy and threaten authoritative journalism (Cheruiyot and Ferrer-Conill 2018). From 186 in 2016, the number of active fact-checking projects around the world was 391 in 2021 (Stencel, Ryan and Luther 2022).

Though their declared purpose is commendable (Amazeen 2015), fact-checking initiatives have been criticized by some scholars who argue that their criteria for selecting claims to verify are flawed and their ratings are flimsy (see for example Uscinski and Butler 2013; Uscinski 2015). This point of view is important paying attention to, giving that if fact-checking ideally is expected to strengthen both democratic institutions and political news journalism (Amazeen 2015), poor fact-checking on the contrary might be harmful to the society (Uscinski and Butler 2013; Uscinski 2015).

Against this background, the purpose of this study is to understand how fact-checkers themselves perceive their activity, especially concerning (1) the usefulness, (2) the methods and processes and (3) the achievements. Indeed, although the body of scholarship dedicated to fact-checking is growing remarkably, insufficient attention has nevertheless been paid to the perception of fact-checkers. Thus, this study fills an important gap in the literature.

The study uses the experiences of French and Swedish as cases study in a comparative approach. Theoretically, the research is guided the epistemology of fact-checking. Methodologically, it employs in-depth interviews with French and Swedish fact-checkers to collect the data.

Comparing Sweden and France is theoretically interesting because the structures and operations of fact-checking initiatives in these two countries differ significantly. First the two countries belong to different media and political environments (Hallin and Mancini 2004). The implication is that the understandings of fact-checkers might also vary following the characteristics of national media environments. Furthermore, in France most fact-checking initiatives are established solely by news media organisations (Graves and Cherubini 2016) whereas in Sweden they are often the cooperation of several media houses. Moreover, fact-checking initiatives in France largely operate permanently, while in Sweden they are often operated during election campaigns. Thus, by

sampling both fact-checking initiatives which are operated permanently and those which are operated occasionally, this study contributes to the scholarly debate about the impact of structural organisations on the practice of fact-checking (see Amazeen 2015; Uscinski and Butler 2013; Uscinski 2015).

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Key Words

Fact-Checking, journalists, News media, France, Sweden, disinformation