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Compiled by Christoph Dietz, Catholic Media Council (CAMECO), Aachen, Germany, christoph.dietz@cameco.org.

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> Audiences & Media Use p. 1
> Children & Media, Youth & Media, Media Literacy p. 3
> Christian & Religious Communication p. 4
> Cinema p. 6
> Community Media p. 7
> Conflicts, Media & Peacebuilding p. 8
> Democracy, Governance & Media, Political Communication p. 11
> Development Communication, Environmental Communication, Health Communication p. 16
> Disaster & Humanitarian Crisis Communication p. 19
> Economics & Management of Media p. 21
> Entertainment, Popular Culture & Media p. 22
> Freedom of Expression, Media Policies, Media Legislation p. 22
> Gender & Media p. 26
> International Communication, Foreign News, Public Diplomacy p. 28
> Journalism & Journalism Education p. 29
> Media Assistance p. 32
> Media Landscapes, Media & Communication General p. 36
> Migrants, Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, Disadvantaged Groups & Media p. 37
> Research & Research Methods in Communication & Media Studies p. 39
> Technological Aspects of Media & ICTs p. 39
> Author & Publisher Index p. 40
> Country Index p. 42

Media Development Literature
July 2018 – June 2019


"Despite the efforts of the news industry, we find only a small increase in the numbers paying for any online news – whether by subscription, membership, or donation. Growth is limited to a handful of countries mainly in the Nordic region (Norway 34%, Sweden 27%) while the number paying in the US (16%) remains stable after a big jump in 2017. Even in countries with higher levels of payment, the vast majority only have ONE online subscription – suggesting that ‘winner takes all’ dynamics are likely to be important. One encouraging development though is that most payments are now ‘ongoing’, rather than one-offs. In some countries, subscription fatigue may also be setting in, with the majority preferring to spend their limited budget on entertainment (Netflix/Spotify) rather than news. With many seeing news as a ‘chore’, publishers may struggle to substantially increase the market for high-priced ‘single title’ subscriptions. As more publishers launch pay models, over two-thirds (70%) of our sample in Norway and half (50%) in the United States now come across one or more barriers each week when trying to read online news. In many countries, people are spending less time with Facebook and more time with WhatsApp and Instagram than this time last year. Few users are abandoning Facebook entirely, though, and it remains by far the most important social network for news. Social communication around news is becoming more private as messaging apps continue to grow everywhere. WhatsApp has become a primary network for discussing and sharing news in non-Western countries like Brazil (53%) Malaysia (50%), and South Africa (49%). People in these countries are also far more likely than in the West to be part of large WhatsApp groups with people they don’t know – a trend that reflects how messaging applications can be used to easily share information at scale, potentially encouraging the spread of misinformation. Public and private Facebook Groups discussing news and politics have become popular in Turkey (29%) and Brazil (22%) but are much less used in Western countries such as Canada (7%) or Australia (4%). Concern about misinformation and disinformation remains high despite efforts by platforms and publishers to build public confidence. In Brazil 85% agree with a statement that they are worried about what is real and fake on the internet." (summary, p.9)

2. Simon Kemp: Digital 2019: Essential insights into how people around the world use the internet, mobile devices, social media, and e-commerce. We Are Social; Hootsuite, 2019, [221 p.]

"The big story in this year’s data is the accelerating growth in internet users. More than 360 million people came online for the first time during 2018, at an average rate of more than 1 million new users each day. 57 percent of the world’s population is now connected to the internet, with trends indicating that all of the original ‘Next Billion Users’ are now online. We’re spending significant amounts of time online, too. The average internet user now spends more than 6½ hours online each day, meaning that the world’s digital community will spend a combined total of more than 1.2 billion years using the internet in 2019. Social media continues to account for the greatest share of that time, and the average user spends more time on social today than they did this time last year. The number of social media users around the world has increased by more than 280 million since January 2018, but there have also been some user declines across some of the world’s top social platforms. To help you make sense of this changing social landscape, we’ve included detailed data by platform across all of our reports." (p.3)

3. Laura Silver, Aaron Smith, Courtney Johnson, Kyle Taylor, Jingjing Jinag, Monica Anderson, Lee Rainie: Mobile connectivity in emerging economies: Publics see mobile phones and social media bringing certain benefits to them and their societies. But these views are paired with widespread concerns about their impact on children. Pew Research Center, 2019, 92 p.

*Surveys conducted in 11 emerging and developing countries across four global regions [Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia; South Africa and Kenya; India, Vietnam and the Philippines; and Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon] find that the vast majority of adults in these countries own – or have access to – a mobile phone of some kind. And these mobile phones are not simply basic devices with little more than voice and texting capacity: A median of 53% across these nations now have access to a smartphone capable of accessing the internet and running apps. In concert with this development,
social media platforms and messaging apps – most notably, Facebook and WhatsApp – are widely used. Across the surveyed countries, a median of 64% use at least one of seven different social media sites or messaging apps. Indeed, smartphones and social media have melded so thoroughly that for many they go hand-in-hand. A median of 91% of smartphone users in these countries also use social media, while a median of 81% of social media users say they own or share a smartphone. (p.4[short comment] https://www.pewinternet.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2019/03/PI_2019.03.07_Mobile-Connectivity_FINAL.pdf


"Part 1: Public Opinion Polls and Surveys, contains references to recent public opinion polls and surveys that measure public trust in journalism across dozens of countries and geopolitical regions including Australia, Africa, Asia, China, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. Part 2: Peer-reviewed Academic Literature, is equally geographically and culturally diverse It includes references to peer-reviewed studies published as books, book chapters, journal articles and major university-published reports. Most of these studies investigate factors that influence perceptions of credibility or public trust in the news media. The section also contains theoretical papers and literature reviews that engage in reflexive analyses and propose new research directions. Part 3: Perspectives from the Journalistic Field, presents a collection of news articles, features, editorials, commentaries, blogs and other contributions from journalists, news editors and media scholars working on collaborative projects between news organisations and universities. (contents) https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/article/downloads/Trust%20in%20Journalism%20Biblio.pdf

5. Amy Mitchell, Katy Simmons, Katerina Eva Matsa, Laura Silver: Publics globally want unbiased news coverage, but are divided on whether their news media deliver: Deep political divides in many nations on satisfaction with news media. Pew Research Center, 2018, 54 p.

"Publics around the world overwhelmingly agree that the news media should be unbiased in their coverage of political issues, according to a new Pew Research Center survey of 38 countries. Yet, when asked how their news media are doing on reporting different political issues fairly, people are far more mixed in their sentiments, with many saying their media do not deliver. And, in many countries, there are sharp political differences in views of the media – with the largest gap among Americans. To build off Pew Research Center’s earlier findings about U.S. news media habits and attitudes, this new cross-national survey begins to study these dynamics globally. The survey finds that a median of 75% across 38 countries say it is never acceptable for a news organization to favor one political party over others when reporting the news. Just 20% say this is sometimes okay. People in Europe show the greatest opposition to political bias in their news." (p.3) http://www.pewglobal.org/2018/01/11/publics-globally-want-unbiased-news-coverage-but-are-divided-on-whether-their-news-media-deliver/

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARIAN


ASIA & PACIFIC


"The study found that there is a widespread preference towards local media as people feel that these media outlets provide them with information relevant to their local communities and daily lives. Television is a preferred medium for consuming news but social media, and Facebook in particular, is catching up. A culture of sharing news and information ensures that even people without access to Facebook know of the platform and get updates through friends and family. People’s trust in media differs but with many preferring state-owned media to deliver trustworthy and reliable news and information. Some news consumers showcase a natural skepticism towards news and information, but limited access to reliable information makes it difficult for them to verify what they read, see or hear. Despite some people’s ability to critically reflect on the information they encounter, the level of media literacy in Myanmar remains low with many finding it difficult to decipher media content and grasp the role and purpose of media and news. Based on the findings, the report ends with 12 recommendations. Six are directed towards the Myanmar media industry, journalists and other content producers while the remaining six are targeted at media development organizations and learning institutions." (executive summary) https://www.mediasupport.org/publication/myanmars-media-from-an-audience-perspective/

EUROPE


"As before, the popularity of TV among older viewers (46+) greatly contributes to its leading position in the media consumption totals. As usual, residents in the western regions comprise the largest TV audience among all regions of Ukraine. 1 + 1 and Inter remain the most popular TV channels in the country. Digital (internet) media remains the most popular news source among younger audiences, with internet users aged 18-45 years preferring news sites, and youth (up to 35 years old) – social networks. As before, most consumers prefer news aggregators (like ukr.net) over other digital media outlets. The social media consumption patterns keep changing – the Facebook audience is gradually growing, while the Russian social networks have lost their leading positions. The levels of trust in both national and regional media have increased in all media categories. This trend was observed in all regions of Ukraine. Public trust in Russian media remains low - in fact, levels of trust in Russian TV, radio and press continue to decrease year in and year out since 2014." (key findings, p.5) https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/2018-MediaConsumSurvey_EN_FINAL.pdf


"55% of the interviewees have mixed feelings about how well informed they are regarding the general events from the Republic of Moldova. 43% of the respondents stated that they don’t feel informed at all or feel informed to a small extent regarding the events from the country. At the same time, 40% stated that they are satisfied with the Republic of Moldova mass media. A large percentage - 92% - of the respondents totally agree or somewhat agree that “it is important for Moldovans to be able to distinguish the news which intend to manipulate and misinform citizens”. At the same time, when asked what type of sources they use for information, almost half (45%) mentioned that they follow the news, but are not sure which sources are independent. 44% of the respondents believe that it would be "difficult" or "very difficult" to distinguish when mass media’s intention is to manipulate or change the opinion of the citizens. At the same time, 61% of the interviewees believe that the population of Moldova could hardly make a difference between fake and real news. 85% of the participants believe that news in the Republic of Moldova are influenced by politics “a lot” or “very much”. (summary) https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/03_INTERNEWS_Final%20report_25.10.19_EN_web.pdf

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


"The retrospection, which covers Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates, includes the following highlights: Internet penetration has increased in every country since 2013. The biggest increase occurred in Lebanon – from 58 percent to 91 percent in the last five years; Smartphones are the ‘go-to’ device, connecting 97 percent of people to the internet as declining numbers of people (45 percent) rely on computers as their primary source of internet access; In terms of social media, fewer Arab nationals now use Facebook (74 percent) and Twitter (27 percent), while Instagram and Snapchat have risen to 40 percent and 29 percent respectively, due perhaps in part to the privacy these applications provide; Direct messaging is ubiquitous, with 97 percent of people using it; 47 percent of people send messages to group chats; Trust among Arab nationals in mass media is widespread, but figures have declined in several countries such as Tunisia (from 64 percent to 56 percent) and Qatar (from 69 percent to 64 percent); Most Gulf nationals say news media in their country is credible, but nationals elsewhere tend to disagree (Qatars are among the highest group in this respect with 62 percent saying their national media is credible, and Jordan among the lowest, at just 38 percent - down from 66 percent in 2013); At the same time, the belief
Children & Media, Youth & Media, Media Literacy


"The Operational Handbook for Contact Centres for online safety of children contains action guidelines as well as knowledge, procedures and rules for successful work through the helpline for providing quality assistance and support to children, youth, families, professionals, teachers and others working with children and young people on the safer and secure use of the Internet and protection of children and young people when using modern technologies, as well as reporting illegal or harmful content on the Internet (hotline). The document also contains examples of good international and regional practices on the functioning of similar centres (Safer Internet Centres). The purpose of the Operational Handbook is to analyse the work of the Safer Internet Centres and offer guidance to the National Contact Centre for online safety of children in the Republic of Serbia on how to improve its efficiency and enhance its impact. This analysis also included a wider context in which the children helplines and reporting lines function, mapped out some of the new risks that children and young people might encounter in the digital environment, as well as the necessary support and resources needed for effective response and implications for the operational efficiency." (p.6)

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/15493/pdf/operational_handbook_for_child_online_safety_centres.pdf


"The aim of this document is mapping and assessing the existing support services for children who have suffered a form of violence in the digital environment, including the best national and international practices and models, in order to provide recommendations for future actions of institutions and professionals in the Republic of Serbia. Mapping organisations and institutions that aim at providing support to children victims was done in order to make a comprehensive overview of protection for children victims of digital violence from victim identification, victim support and epowerment technique and the process of integration and reintegration into the society. The mapping focused on best practices in protection of victims of various forms of violence against children in digital environment." (p.9)


http://www.mideastmedia.org/uploads/5_Year_Retrospection_Horizontal_v5.pdf


"We wrote this booklet to help our sisters learn about problems that we can run into on the internet (like leaked or stolen personal photos, viruses, and scams), how we can make informed decisions every day to protect ourselves, and to help make the internet a safe space for ourselves, our families, and all other women." (p.1)


"In development agendas regarding children in low-income communities, both older and emerging media are typically ignored or assumed to have beneficial powers that will redress social and gender inequality. This article builds on a recent rapid evidence review on adolescents’ digital media use and development interventions in low- and middle-income countries to examine the contexts of children and adolescents’ access to, and uses of, information and communication technology (ICT). Noting that only a handful of studies heed the significance of social class and gender as major axes of inequality for adolescents, the article scrutinises the gap between the rhetoric of ICT-based empowerment and the realisation of ICT-based practice. It calls for a radical rethinking of childhood and development in light of the actual experiences, struggles, and contexts." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/09615452.2018.1438366


"While cyberviolence may be targeted at any individual or group and may entail a wide range of acts, this mapping study focuses in particular on children and women, who are often the victims of cyberviolence. The experience and solutions with regard to these victims should modus operandi be applicable to other categories of victims while taking into account the specificities of violence against different categories of victims. The present study is thus aimed at mapping acts that constitute cyberviolence and drawing conclusions as to typologies and concepts; providing examples of national experiences and responses to such acts (including policies, strategies, legislation, cases and case law); discussing international responses under the Budapest Convention and other treaties (in particular the Istanbul and Lanzarote Conventions of the Council of Europe); developing recommendations as to the further course of action."(p.2)

https://rm.coe.int/t-cy-2017-10-cbq-study-provisional1680ce4914

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Despite having a robust child protection framework and a burgeoning media, child rights abuse still occurs in Uganda. This takes the form of child neglect, defilement, torture, trafficking. The researchers set out to investigate media coverage of child rights issues in Uganda. A triangulation of methods was used, and as will be shown later, reporting on child rights abuses is not systematic due to fragmentation of actors. The researchers found out that 185 child abuse stories were published in The New Vision in 2015. Most of the published stories were from the country’s capital – Kampala. The other obstacles to effective child rights reporting identified are as follows: concentration of reporters in urban areas, lack of special training in child rights reporting and commercial interests of media houses. The researchers recommend recruiting and training journalists to specifically report on issues of child rights and empowering upcountry reporters where many cases are committed." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1386/jams.10.2.149_1

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"La tesis del estudio, y probablemente una de las pocas premisas capaz de generar consenso entre los millenials, es que la tecnología se sitúa como el escenario común en todos y cada uno de sus actividades: la utilizan para mantener el contacto con sus amigos y crear nuevas relaciones, para aprender cosas nuevas, para buscar trabajo, para entretenérse en sus momentos de ocio, para participar en política y defender sus derechos, etc. El ecosistema digital y móvil en el que han crecido es la causa y la explicación de muchas de sus actitudes y comportamientos: la inmediatez las hizo impacientes y ansiosas; las redes les hicieron sociables y abiertas; la descentralización del poder y el acceso a la información les empujó y les hizo críticos y exigentes. Por ello, preferimos hablar de cultura digital, en lugar de generación millenial. La cultura millenial no sería exclusiva para los nacidos entre 1982 y 1998, sino que permitiría a personas nacidas en otras fechas sentirse millenial e identificarse con sus características. (p.108-109)

subjects: youth; youth cultures / youth milieus; youth identities; youth & internet / ICTs; internet & social media use; youth - Uruguay

https://www.fundaciontelefonica.com/arte_cultura/publicaciones-listado/pagina-item-publicaciones/temas spindle/650


"El presente informe estudio a los jóvenes de entre 16 y 29 años, en relación con la televisión y la política nacional. Se indaga en su nivel de equipamiento tecnológico

"The Digital kids Asia-Pacific (DKAP) Framework proposes a comprehensive and holistic set of competencies across five domains: Digital Literacy, Digital Safety and Resilience, Digital Participation and Agency, Digital Emotional Intelligence, and Digital Creativity and Innovation. The framework is also anchored in a rights-based approach, in full recognition of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). The framework was then used as the basis for the creation of a self-reporting survey to measure children’s digital citizenship competencies. The survey was administered to 5,129 students aged 15 in four Asia-Pacific countries – Bangladesh, Fiji, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam. Among the five domains, children were most confident in their Digital Safety and Resilience competencies, and least confident in their Digital Creativity and Innovation competencies across all four countries. Some domains showed homogeneous levels of competencies across the four countries, while others showed wider gaps between the countries."


MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


"This study investigates how three young Arab influencers negotiate their identities in cyberspace. Abdallah Al Maghouth, Abdurrahman Mohammed, and Laila Hazineh were selected for this study because they were listed among the top MENA influencers by the Arab Social Media Summit (2015) or by Stepfeed.[1] The article draws on the cultural hybridity perspective to demonstrate how these influencers articulate cultural identity across three themes: human engagement, women’s empowerment, and cultural revivalism. Cultural hybridity gained prominence within a range of cultural and social theories beginning in the 1980s. Recently, it has come to be interchangeably used with Robertson’s notion of ‘glocalization’ (Robertson 2012). Hybridity is a dynamic process set of competencies across five domains: Digital Literacy, Digital Safety and Resilience, Digital Participation and Agency, Digital Emotional Intelligence, and Digital Creativity and Innovation. The framework is also anchored in a rights-based approach, in full recognition of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). The framework was then used as the basis for the creation of a self-reporting survey to measure children’s digital citizenship competencies. The survey was administered to 5,129 students aged 15 in four Asia-Pacific countries – Bangladesh, Fiji, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam. Among the five domains, children were most confident in their Digital Safety and Resilience competencies, and least confident in their Digital Creativity and Innovation competencies across all four countries. Some domains showed homogeneous levels of competencies across the four countries, while others showed wider gaps between the countries." (executive summary, p.xiii-xiv).

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000367985

Christian & Religious Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"This edition updates and develops the concerns of the emerging field especially also in view of growing technical developments. The section on Evangelizing communication has been partly re-written to more clearly indicate the communication dimension of the field."

Católica a través de los medios de un modo que no tiene precedentes. Los pontificados de Benedicto XVI y Francisco han profundizado, cada uno con acentos propios, en el legado medievo de Juan Pablo II: el crecimiento de la estatura medievo de los papas es quizá una de las grandes historias de la comunicación y los medios a finales del siglo XX y comienzos del XXI. Con la herencia de Juan Pablo II como punto de partida, se realiza una síntesis de hitos comunicativos relevantes de los pontificados de Benedicto y Francisco en la última década, se plantean ‘patologías’ que pueden acelerar a la comunicación de instituciones globales tan complejas como la Iglesia Católica y se proponen recomendaciones para paliarlas. (resumen)

subjects: media coverage of the Catholic Church; Pope / Papacy; Benedict XVI <Pope>; Francis <Pope>

https://doi.org/10.1080/23753234.2019.1566746


"First, we will introduce the international Catholic communication associations OCIC and UNDA through a short history of both organisations, exploring the activities they deployed, the most important developments during their 73-year existence, and look into their relations with the Church, organised laity and the broader field of local, national, international, and intergovernmental (media) organisations. In the second part of this report, we will introduce the OCIC-UNDA archives through a short history of the archives’ management and a detailed institutional history of the organisations that shaped them. Taking this into account, we will then analyse their structure, content and lacunae and evaluate their state of preservation. We will also provide an overview of the reference library’s contents with special attention to publications of OCIC, UNDA and their predecessors." (introduction)


https://doi.org/10.1080/13537903.2019.1585122


"In the past two decades or so, Botswana has witnessed a spectacular growth of prophetic Christianity and experienced a media revolution through the emerging use of new media. While studies have generally focused on either the growth of Pentecostal Charismatic Christianity or the new media revolution, little attention has been paid to the characteristics of emerging prophetic ministries, entailing the appropriation of new media and how this has accelerated the development of religious practices in Botswana. In light of positioning and mediatisation theories, this paper examines the ways in which prophetic ministries position themselves and shape the religious landscape of Botswana and how prophetic ministries have adopted and appropriated the use of new media technologies. It argues that the synergy between prophetic ministries and technological developments of new media opens a new space for cultural production of religious practices and experiences as well as religious imagination, experience and identity." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/02589001.2018.1490009


"Christianity as the predominant religion in Zimbabwe consists of several faith groupings, each of which responds to public events through the mass media. Mainline churches uphold a conventional human rights approach to faith-based political criticism, while Mapostori or Apostolic churches follow an Africanist form of faith and appear to condone some alignment with the authoritarian ruling party. In the sampled media coverage of three online newspapers, the political use of religious strategies or practices from various faith groups by the president and high-ranking party functionaries is reported from either the former government-sanctioned view or an oppositional stance. Moralist reprimand is levied at various politicians from a religious rationale, assuming good and evil, church and state, Christianity and African spirituality, which, however, remain abstract since there is no overall faith-based guidance for political behaviour beyond a secular constitution that still appears utopian. The critical discourse analysis suggests that complex relationships exist among the various faiths, causing diverse religious interpretations of political events. This suspension of Cartesian thinking results in a continuing circular logic of blame and prayer, disaster and prophesy instead of the use of constitutional democratic institutions to hold politicians accountable. Such logic seems sustained by politicized interpretations of spiritual entities, spiritual interpretations of political events and by the perceptions of the Zimbabwean public, who, as believers of one or other faith, is equally at the mercy of opportunistic ‘prophets’ from many denominations as it is targeted by the political powers of the day.’ (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1386/jams.10.3.273_1

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"A personal relationship with God is central to Evangelical belief. It unfurls as believers interpret internal sensations as coming from outside—from God. How does the formulaic design of testimonies present the audience with a personal relationship with God as a pursuit that is both feasible and deeply desirable? Analyzing the discursive rules structuring the appearance of emotion in the most popular testimonies on the online platform of ‘Christianity Today’ reveals that such texts expertly present a microcosm in which the experience of reading mirrors the trajectory toward belief writers describe. To read a testimony from start to finish, readers must choose to tolerate the unfamiliar: that is, feel emotions that specifically belong in an Evangelical frame. Online written testimony relies on compelling storytelling to move readers, making them practise what it feels like to hand over part of one’s own story to God." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/13537903.2019.1658122

33. Alejandro C. Reid: Broadcasting live the visit of Pope Francis to Chile. In: Church, Communication & Culture, vol. 4, 2019, p.79-95

"Papal visits to different countries are very important to bring about closeness between the Church and the people. To assure the effectiveness of a visit, it is essential to have a well-planned broadcast of the event. The broadcast will transmit the message to the audience and move it beyond time and space, transforming a local homily into a universal message. The experience of organizing the broadcast of a visit can be used as a road map to futures visits; this work may help to plan a broadcast from scratch and understand the essential role TV has on today’s apostolic trips. A good broadcast strategy will facilitate the relationship with the media and make it easier to generate content and news with the provided feeds." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/135775003.2019.1566747


"Monseñor Óscar Amfillo Romero fue un gran comunicador, aunque no haya sido periodista", nos dicen los autores de este texto. Y quienes tuvimos la suerte de entrevistarlo, nos dicen que el 'periodista', nos dicen los autores de este texto. Y quienes tuvimos la suerte de entrevistarlo, nos dicen que el 'periodista', nos dicen que el 'periodista', nos dicen que el 'periodista', nos dicen que el ‘periodista’ fue un hombre muy particular, que dejó su impronta en el mundo de la comunicación, que dejó su impronta en el mundo de la comunicación, que dejó su impronta en el mundo de la comunicación, que dejó su impronta en el mundo de la comunicación, que dejó su impronta en el mundo de la comunicación, que dejó su impronta en el mundo de la comunicación, que dejó su impronta en el mundo de la comunicación.

https://doi.org/10.1080/23753234.2019.1566746

"Social media have become part of the private and public lifestyles of youth globally. Drawing on both online and offline research in Indonesia, this article focuses on the use of Instagram by Indonesian Muslim youth. It analyzes how religious messages uploaded on Instagram through posts and captions have a significant effect on the way in which Indonesian Muslim adolescents and women express their identities and life goals. This article argues that Instagram has recently become the ultimate platform for Indonesian female Muslim youth to educate each other in becoming virtuous Muslims. The creativity and zeal of the creators of Instagram da'wa (proselytization), and their firm belief that ‘a picture is worth a thousand words’, has positioned them as social media influencers, which in turn has enabled them to conduct both soft da'wa and lucrative da'wa through business." (abstract)


Pictures: Buddhist Cartoons and Documentaries in Contemporary Taiwan / Stefania Travagnin -- 13 The Curious Case of Discovering Noah's Ark in Hong Kong / Yann Chi-Kueung -- 14 Beyond Living Buddhas, Snowy Mountains and Mighty Mastiffs: Imagining Tibetan Buddhism in Contemporary China's Mediascape / Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa -- 15 Huan-ting Zen: Crossing the Straits and Engendering Emotional Transformation through Digital Media / Paul J. Farrellly.


Introduction: Media theory and the study of Buddhism -- Wheeling and dealing: transportation, communication, and axial age religion -- Discourse and the Buddha: trade, urbanization, and communication in ancient India -- The information superhighway of old: Buddhism along the Silk Road -- Electrifying Indra's net: how the Internet shapes the reception of Buddhist ideas -- Self, selves, and selflessness in cyberspace -- Thus I have clicked: quantitative data and survey results for Buddhism online -- Conclusion: computer-mediated communication and the future of Buddhist ideas.


"Christian media in a highly fragile region are faced with a number of challenges: the issues of security, trust and persecution have prevented them from developing more inclusive strategies, strengthening their relationship with their audience or conducting qualitative or quantitative audience research. The problem of funds and the competitive fundraising market have resulted in low-quality, monotonous productions with limited diversity, and limited capacity to hire professionals in the field, as well as compromised their vision and strategies. Therefore, the challenges they face have affected their working strategy, negatively impacted their performance and limited their responses to the needs of Christian communities and the wider societies in the region." (conclusion)

Cinema

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"For more than 14 years, the WCF has helped give shape and visibility to largely unseen cinema -- by supporting film production in countries that lack a constructive film industry and by giving talented filmmakers the opportunity to gain or improve their international awareness and reach a global audience. More than 209 successful projects and films have been supported by the WCF. In 2004 we started the WCF as an initiative of the Berlinale together with the German Federal Cultural Foundation, with the goal of creating an artistically unique funding structure based on an efficient production and cooperation model. Although German or European producers are always the administrative recipients of our support, they are required to spend the money in the projects’ regions of origin, a very effective way to support production in places where the money is most needed. The WCF is increasingly able to satisfy different project structures and needs, offering tailor-made funding opportunities. Besides the traditional WCF funding programme – which since 2004 has represented the WCF’s core – in 2015 we started WCF Europe, supported by Creative Europe’s Media programme, which partners directors and producers from funding regions with European producers. One year later we launched WCF Asia, thanks to the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, with the goal to optimise film production and promote and disseminate film culture in the Sub-Saharan region." (p. 8-9)

https://www.berlinale.de/media/pdf_world/world_cinema_fund/WCF_Booklet.pdf


"El cine de cárceles ha desarrollado un lenguaje propio, casi como si de un género se tratase. Y lo ha hecho para presentarse ante la audiencia con muy diferentes intenciones: desde denunciar un sistema penal con serias imperfecciones a relatar historias de superación, pasando por descubrir injusticias e implicamos en trepidantes fugas. Pero ya sea con la intención de emocionarnos, sobrecogernos o incluso hacernos reír, cada vez que una cámara se ha colocado al otro lado de las rejas lo ha hecho para recordarnos el valor de un bien no siempre del todo apreciado: nuestra propia libertad." (tapa posterior) subjects: prisons & prisoners; human rights reporting; political & advocacy films – filmographies

"This article considers the impact of online distribution on the long-term availability and preservation of African cinema. It examines the case of Electronic Media Network’s (EMN) African Film Library (AFL), a video-on-demand (VOD) library of classic African films that was launched in 2012, but taken offline by 2013. The article argues that this short-lived project represents a pivotal moment in the way we think about African film archiving and distribution, in which new technologies and consequently disintermediated business models promised to facilitate the circulation of African films in a manner that was socially beneficial, but which in reality resulted in monopolistic control of the content that presented a serious threat to its long-term preservation. The article goes on to argue that the AFL case encapsulates the entire discourse surrounding the shift to online distribution, in which a ‘cybertopian’ narrative of a disintermediated and thus democratized film culture quickly gives way to a reality in which content is more tightly controlled by an increasingly narrow and powerful set of private stakeholders, ultimately threatening the preservation of any content that is vulnerable to the shifting demands of the market.” (abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1386/jams.10.3.239_1


"The 16th African Film Festival Köln will present 75 new films from Africa – with a wider focus on migration within Africa Let’s start with some numbers: there are currently 68 million displaced people worldwide, most of whom now reside in countries bordering their homelands. The wide range of reasons for their displacement is well known: war, democratic deficits and economic deprivation. Only a small percentage of the world’s refugees accommodated in Africa swells to around 50.


Table of contents:

Community Media


"Community radio stations are important social-inclusion structures, empowering communities through media access and production, reinforcing their ties with the wider civil society. The free and open-source software movement has been established since the 1980s, founded on the freedom to use, to study, to share and to improve a software’s source code. It focuses on sharing knowledge, enabling action within a community towards a common goal. With millions of projects and market dominance in specific areas of IT, open source is one of the most successful community movements of our time. In this article, we argue that theoretical frameworks and other insights drawn from the open-source movement can be valuable tools for understanding and critically analysing the designated community radio sphere in terms of technology, content creation and community management to provide a sustainable broadcast practice, expanding already-existing inclusive environments and potentiating empowerment through participation.” (abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1386/rja.17.1.29_1


"Community radio broadcasters obtain economic support from a variety of sources. During my discussions with community broadcasters and activists, there was a general expression of pragmatism towards the economic tensions they faced in running their stations. Their programme content may need to be suitable not only for their local communities but also for the agencies and organisations that support them. However, frequently the greater tensions was simply getting enough funds to operate effectively. They found the strain of a constant lack of funds gruelling, and there were often concerns about the sustainability of their stations.” (conclusion)

"The Prove It toolkit is a resource for community radio stations to enable them to conduct their own audience research. It provides stations with the information and expertise to both measure their audience listener figures and assess the impact that they are having on their community of listeners." (p.4)


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


International Media Support (IMS) carried out two initial assessment missions in Ethiopia in June and August 2018, and the community radio sector was identified as an area of possible cooperation and support. In order to follow up on this finding, an IMS team consisting of Mr. Tewodros Negash and Mr. Per Oesterlund was assigned to carry out an assessment of the community radio sector in Ethiopia. This report synthesises findings from desk research and field-work conducted by IMS. The first phase of the assessment analysed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the community radio sector based on literature reviews, discussions and interviews held with relevant actors such as government regulatory authorities, radio station managers, journalists and listeners. Subsequently, visits to selected community radio stations in rural areas and urban centres outside Addis Ababa were undertaken. (introduction)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


Renspanguando la comunicación mediatizada en el contexto latinoamericano. table of contents: https://www.gbv.de/dms/skp/ia/to/1035335255.pdf

subjects: community radios; community media; local communication & media; neoliberalism - Latin America


subjects: participatory communication; community radios; gender and radio; educational radio programmes; university radios; digital radio - Brazil


subjects: television; local television; digital television; cooperativism - Argentina

https://www.academia.edu/37750383/Televisi%CC%81n_cooperativa_y_comunitaria_diagnostico_an%C3%A1lisis_y_estrategias_para_el_sector_no_lucrativo_en_el_contexto_convergente


“In Bolivia community, radio has tended to support local community interests rather than discourses of the state, non-governmental organizations, or corporations. Yet, as the state has lately appropriated the language of community radio activists, ironically there is now a vulnerability that was not there when Bolivia was ruled by authoritarian governments. With the state establishing alternative radio channels to disrupt bottom-up interlinking of community radio stations, the game has changed. The structural and symbolic appropriation of community radio may make the state so deeply intermingled with its potential opposition that it would be impossible to separate one from the other. In addition, community and alternative radio in Bolivia face significant challenges arising from digitization.” (conclusion, p.298)

https://doi.org/10.1080/01972243.2018.1497742

ASIA & PACIFIC


“In this article, we posit that Maori radio as it is structured in Aotearoa/New Zealand is at the same time national, international and transnational. Based on a research project that we carried out with the radio station Tautoko FM, we show that this station caters for national Ngapuhi audiences, that it engages in international networking with other iwi-based radio stations and that it has invested in transnational connections with diasporic audiences. As a result, it has constructed a public sphere for both national and transnational indigenous audiences. This is facilitated by the changing nature of radio as a medium, which is evolving into a multimedia experience incorporating broadcasting, live streaming, websites and social media. Maori radio in Aotearoa/New Zealand is one example of a global trend in which indigenous communities have adapted new media technologies to re-centre notions of national identity. The digital media landscape allows them to form indigenous media networks, to narrate indigenous experiences in new ways and to acquire attention for indigenous struggles.” (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1386/rjao.16.2.127_1

CONFLICTS, MEDIA & PEACEBUILDING

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


“The News Organizations Safety Self-Assessment provides a tool for news outlets to review and improve safety practices and protocols that affect the newsroom and journalists out in the field. The Self-Assessment should help news organizations to identify and better understand their own weaknesses and strengths in relation to the security of all the individuals working for them who are exposed to danger, including freelancers. The Self-Assessment should prompt a constructive internal conversation around best practices and encourage practical and effective ways to advance these internally. The suggested Self-Assessment can be used as a template, can be modified and adapted according to the nature of the news organization, or used to inform mechanisms already in place.” (introduction)


subjects: war reporting

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Social media is used by al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and ISIL in Africa. The importance of cross-media communications to the strategies of all three groups is underlined by the existence of dedicated branches for media planning, namely al-Shabaab’s al-Kata’ib, Boko Haram’s Media Office of West Africa Province and ISIL’s Al Hayat Media Center. In part driven by growing Internet access in Africa and on-going technological advancement, it is clear that the use of social media by all three groups has increased in recent years – although this inevitably varies by geographical area depending on the level of ICT penetration. There appears to be a spectrum of sophistication across the three groups in relation to their social media strategies: ISIL’s strategy is more advanced than those of its two counterparts, which may be linked to its more far-reaching and international support base. While still less sophisticated overall than those of ISIL and al-Shabaab, Boko Haram’s social media strategy has become more professionalised since its declaration of allegiance to ISIL in 2015, whether due to the direct or indirect influence of ISIL’s concerted online activities. "(summary of key findings, p.65-66)


"IsiZulu is one of South Africa’s Lingua francas and has two successful news publications, iLanga and iSolezwe, both written in isiZulu but vastly different in how they convey, craft and package news. This article aims to examine how iSolezwe, an isiZulu-language tabloid, used two editorials to shape its stance on the May 2008 xenophobic riots. Through the editorials agenda-setting execution, we are able to analyse the tabloid’s ideology; even when the news reports, and photo-journalistic pieces offered ‘impartially full’ accounts, but, metaphors stray from headline to headline, photographs that really meanings in themselves become significant when juxtaposed to a piece of text (Fowler 1991: 225) ... iSolezwe’s coverage began with ambivalence, exhibiting sympathy towards the frustrated South African perpetrators, but was shocked at the level of violence. The news reports were more ‘balanced’ in their coverage, without assuming a position in contrast to the editorials. Examining the entire coverage, a theme is evident, from ambivalent editorials, to news reports that were more balanced. The second editorial dovetailed from the then president of the African National Congress (ANC) Jacob Zuma’s condemnation of the violence but the tabloid did condemn the xenophobic riots outright, and its reporting ends with a repatriation theme and the tabloid never explored notions of integration. “(abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1386/jams.10.3.297_1


"This book offers fresh insights on digital activism and cyberconflicts through a comparison of sociopolitical and ethnoreligious movements in Nigeria. Occupy Nigeria, Boko Haram and The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) highlight the digital and organizational aspects of conflict mobilization in contemporary Nigeria." (publisher)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"Der landesinterne Konflikt in Kolumbien und die damit einhergehende Gewalt sind seit deren Ausbruch in den 1940er Jahren zentraler Gegenstand des kolumbianischen Kinos. Unter dem Einfluss sich wandelnder Gewaltdiskurse und Produktionsbedingungen entwerfen die kolumbianischen Filmemacherinnen vielschichtige Porträts der kolumbianischen Gesellschaft und liefern neue Ansätze zur Reflexion und Bewertung der Gewalt in Kolumbien. Anne Burkhards diskursanalytisch fundierte Untersuchung von 17 ausgewählten Filmen, darunter einige Klassiker des kolumbianischen Kinos, wird ergänzt um die erste umfassende Darstellung der kolumbianischen Filmgeschichte in deutscher Sprache." (publisher information)

table of contents & first chapter: http://www.transcript-verlag.de/978-3-8376-4673-3

subjects: media violence; film; films; film history; war films - Colombia


"The Law of Victims and Land Restitution, ratified in June 2011 and enforced since January 2012, constitutes an unprecedented attempt to end armed conflict in Colombia by applying a transitional justice framework and fostering rural development. Drawing on a methodology that integrates framing and rhetorical analysis, this article analyses the role of seven national and local Colombian newspapers in promoting governmental or alternative actors and frames regarding institutional, developmental, and peace and human rights agendas linked to this legislation. In addition, it evaluates the influence of rhetorical framing on media’s role and the resulting quality of media coverage. The results show that the media promoted governmental frames regarding institutional and developmental issues, and alternative frames advocated by other actors in relation to peace and human rights issues. In addition, they confirm the key importance of rhetorical framing in shaping that role. This was detrimental to the quality of media coverage geared towards sustainable peace and human development." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1177/1750635217710677

ASIA & PACIFIC

64. Information flows and radicalization leading to violent extremism in Central Asia. Search for Common Ground; Internews, 2019, 77 p.

"The study is comprised of three main parts: a desk study of available and accessible material – reports, documents and media material; a qualitative study comprising over 200 interviews with ordinary people, experts, and persons with direct experience with radicalization leading to violent extremism (RVE); and a quantitative component consisting of national surveys of people’s information consumption habits. For the desk study, the effort was made to gain as broad a picture as possible, that is, to cover all five countries of Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. However, predictably and unfortunately, Uzbekistan and especially Turkmenistan proved difficult cases to study in full. For both the qualitative and quantitative field research activities, for several reasons, only the first three countries were included. As a result, this study is able to report most robustly on these three countries and propose observations regarding Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan only to a limited extent. Based on the desk study, the drivers of extremist sympathies as well as the level of control over the information space, or the degree of hegemony..."
over public discourse. Of the three most fully studied countries, hegemonic discourse was the strongest in Tajikistan, followed by Kazakhstan, and the least in Kyrgyzstan. Uzbekistan, analyzed to a limited extent, would be closer to the extreme of Tajikistan, whereas Turkmenistan was too closed to make reasonably robust observations.” (p.3)


“Our over the past decade, radicalisation to violent extremism (VE) has become a matter of pressing public and political concern in Central Asia. Between 2000 and 5000 Central Asians responded to calls to join jihadi in Syria and Afghanistan, most of them radicalised while foreign workers in the labour camps of Russia’s cities. While rates are low by global standards, the phenomenon has nonetheless spurred the governments of the region to respond. The legal response taken up by Central Asian countries cowers heavily from Russia’s anti-terrorism measures. Laws are unclear and overbroad in their definitions of extremism, leading to legal uncertainty and repressive application. They set legal penalties for those creating or disseminating VE and mandate restrictions on the dissemination of VE material, including online. A lack of clarity about what is and is not extremism has resulted in uneven and harsh application of these laws, with lengthy prison terms and forced convicts. It is more than taking an extremist Facebook post ... This report is written in three parts: Part A sets out legislative definitions of extremism and extremist content in Central Asian states, and outlines how they have been applied through criminal prosecution. Part B gives the results of analysis of VE content on Central Asian open social media, blogs and online forums from late 2018, detailing the actors, their use of social media, and the narratives they promulgate; and, Part C examines how content blocking, education and engagement have been used to counter VE content online, and assesses their success.” (executive summary) https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Violent_extremism_CentralAsia_Eng-2018.pdf


“From the analysis of one week of conflict coverage in May 2018, this study found that the media relies on a limited number of sources to cover conflicts. Stories are often reported with a single or no sources and elite sources are preferred over people who have experienced the conflict and its consequences. Furthermore, limited access to information forces private-owned media to rely on information brought by government-owned or military-owned media, which increases the risk of circular reporting and spreading of mis- and disinformation. Limited access to information also impacts news selection as journalists in Myanmar are often restricted from entering conflict areas (or do not have the necessary safety training nor equipment) to report from the field. Although the media is able to cover conflicts from a human-interest point of view, this choice of framing is not consistent. There is a big difference in how the conflict in Rakhine is being covered compared to other conflicts. Particularly the coverage of the Rohingya Muslims is inadequate and unsettling. The Rohingya appear to be a non-priority for the media, and the presentation of the minority group is marked by prejudices.” (conclusions, p.18) https://www.mediasupport.org/publication/conflicting-coverage-insights-into-the-medias-coverage-of-conflicts-in-myanmar/


“This report assesses widespread claims that pan-Arab satellite news channels are responsible for inciting sectarian violence during the Arab uprisings. Based on an empirical study of how the most popular channels (Al-Jazeera Arabic and Al-Arabiya) and a competitive newcomer (Al-Mayadeen) have framed seminal events involving violence between sects in Syria and Iraq, the report finds that while often geo-politically charged, some of these claims are valid. While abusive language and direct promotion of violence are rare in a mainstream context, incitement to sectarian violence has been invoked primarily through linguistic and thematic tropes that forge legitimacy claims and narratives of victimhood. The paper draws on these findings to make recommendations for UK policymaker engagement with the Arab media.” (abstract) http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/100536/1/Watkins_J_Satellite_Sectarianisation_Author_2019.pdf


“Les médias reflètent-ils les sociétés telles qu’elles sont aujourd’hui ou bien ne reflètent-ils que les tendances majoritaires ? Comment mettre en lumière les différences et les particularismes sans encourager le communautarisme et contribuer aux divisions ? Le rôle des médias est-il de rapporter les faits ou de contribuer activement à une certaine vision de la société ? Les critères professionnels du journalisme sont-ils suffisants pour éviter les discours de haine et les messages exacerbant les tensions communautaires ? Lancé par CFI et le centre SKEyes pour la liberté de la presse et de la culture (de la Fondation Samir Kassir), le projet Nasiej – qui signifie « tissez » en arabe – s’appuie sur les médias pour restaurer et maintenir un débat équilibré autour de ces questions. En examinant ce que les médias libanais, syriens et irakiens publient et diffusent, le langage utilisé, les concepts promus, les groupes qui y sont représentés et ceux qui ne le sont pas, Nasiej tente de promouvoir une vision inclusive du journalisme. L’objet n’est pas de demander aux journalistes de rester la paix ou d’éviter les conflits, mais de contribuer à l’émergence de conditions plus propices au dialogue à travers une meilleure qualité d’information vérifiée et professionnelle, évitant les généralisations et les stéréotypes. Il n’est pas de demander aux médias d’accorder un traitement privilégié aux minorités face à la majorité, mais de mettre en lumière les difficultés auxquelles font face les citoyens, tous les citoyens, quelles que soient leurs appartenance. Ce livre montre la synthèse d’une étude, réalisée en octobre 2017, sur la couverture médiatique de la diversité dans les médias irakiens, libanais et syriens, réalisée par la Fondation Adyan et la Fondation Samir Kassir.” (introduction) subjects: media coverage of minorities & disadvantaged groups; media coverage of religion; cultural diversity; religious freedom - Iraq; Lebanon; Syria - content analysis (case studies) https://www.cfi.fr/sites/default/files/CFI_Naseej_FR.pdf

"This ethnography uses the Syrian case to reflect more broadly on how the networked age reshapes contemporary warfare and impacts on the enactment of violence through images and on images. In stark contrast to the techno-utopias celebrating digital democracy and participatory cultures, Donatella Della Ratta’s analysis exposes the dark side of online practices, where visual regimes of representation and media production dramatically intertwine with modes of destruction and the performance of violence." (publisher)


"Against the backdrop of the war in Syria BBC Media Action produced and broadcast 150 episodes of the radio drama Hay el Matar (Airport District) between 2015 and 2017. Funded by the European Commission as part of a broader project aiming to help build an open and inclusive society in Syria, the drama and an accompanying weekly discussion programme was available online and on BBC Arabic. Set in a fictional Damascus suburb, Hay el Matar followed the daily lives of residents and featured love affairs, family feuds and tragedies. Each episode was scripted by a team of Syrian writers and touched on a different issue - from violence, radicalisation and migration, to economic insecurity and forced marriage. To understand how listeners engaged with Hay El Matar, BBC Media Action worked with a professional post-production company to conduct focus group discussions with listeners in Syria and Lebanon. We found that the drama prompted listeners to think about topical issues, challenged stereotypes and gave a view of the Syrian conflict that extended beyond their own personal experience. It also challenged their assumptions and prompted them to talk about and reflect on other people’s multi-faceted experiences of the conflict." (https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction) http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/pdf/research/syria-drama.pdf


"[This publication] seeks to create a deeper understanding of the role of media interventions as strategic drivers of impact on the ongoing Syrian crisis. In exploring the impact of media interventions in this context, we conducted a landscape scan and review of programs and approaches conducted by FilmAid, the nonprofit organization that collaborated with us on this paper. The landscape scan indicates the prevalence of awareness raising activities, with an emphasis on the goal of sustaining or increasing funding. The landscape of projects on Syria is not particularly diverse. Our analysis indicated first, a need for increased transparency in funding and program evaluation, and second, that there is a gap and opportunity in the field for community-centered and impact-driven communications. We analyzed FilmAid’s programs in Kenya and Jordan to understand how entities in the landscape might fill the market gap on community-led narrative. FilmAid’s work in Kenya is ongoing and the organization’s participatory approach has allowed the organization to build a profile as a trusted organization. By engaging the population in media creation in combination with strong media and audience-focused expertise, FilmAid has been able to increase knowledge on topics such as health, education, gender and cash-transfers. Based on interviewee insights on the use of strategic narrative interventions in conflict and crisis situations, particularly in long-term displacements and effective community- and impact-driven media interventions such as those in Kenya, we drew out guidance on what media interventions can offer to Syrian refugees as the crisis deepens and becomes a protracted complex emergency." (executive summary) http://mediaimpact.issuelab.org/resources/31206/31206.pdf


"Media in small emerging democracies face multiple obstacles caused by “smallness” and the state of “late democratization.” “Smallness” raises the question of how to develop financial independence in these countries. “Late democratization” gives rise to the challenge of maintaining political independence. In general, small emerging democracies lack an environment that can enable a culture of independent media. This study selected two Eastern European countries—Slovenia and Macedonia, with a population of about 2 million each, and two Asian countries—Bhutan and Timor-Leste, with populations of around 740,000 and 1.2 million respectively. They all emerged in the “Third Wave” of democratization and were characterized by features of underdeveloped political institutions, insufficient public discourse, and financial vulnerability according to the previous scholarly work. Based on literature review, the researcher found that smallness, along with confounding factors of national identity and economic context, shapes the way media policy is envisioned and developed. Using a mixed methodology of interview and documentary research, the researcher found that the reaction of small emerging democracies to the sudden social and political changes tended to have patterns, although they differed in the paths to democratization. Furthermore, the role of media as a watchdog is undermined by the financial dependence on the government of the day. With respect to media governance, the four countries are all marked by the hierarchical mode of governing. This casts light on the fact that media policy should be constructed with input from private sectors and civil societies. A conceptual framework provided by this study can work as an analytical tool for researchers who are interested in studying similar-sized countries." (abstract) https://repository.ntu.edu.sg/handle/10565/73263


"Our key findings are: 1. We have found evidence of formally organized social media manipulation campaigns in 48 countries, up from 28 countries last year. In each country there is at least one political party or government agency using social media to manipulate public opinion domestically. 2. Much of this growth comes from countries where political parties are spreading disinformation during elections, or countries where government agencies feel threatened by junk news and foreign interference and are responding by developing their own computational propaganda campaigns in response; 3. In a fifth of these 48 countries—mostly across the Global South—we found evidence of disinformation campaigns operating over chat applications such as WhatsApp, Telegram and WeChat; 4. Computational propaganda still involves social media account automation and online commentary teams, but is making increased use of paid advertisements and search engine optimization on a widening array of Internet platforms."

http://comprop.oii.ox.ac.uk/research/cybertroops2018/


"The most important messages on the roles technologies can play in enabling citizen voice and accountable and responsive governance are: 1. Not all voices can be expressed via technologies. 2. Technologies can play decisive roles in improving services where the problem is a lack of planning data or user feedback. 3. Common design flaws in tech-for-governance initiatives often limit their effectiveness or their governance outcomes. 4. Transparency, information or open data are not sufficient to generate accountability. 5. Technologies can support social mobilisation and collective action by connecting citizens. 6. Technologies can create new spaces for engagement between citizen and state. 7. Technologies can help to empower citizens and strengthen their agency for engagement. 8. The kinds of democratic deliberation needed to challenge a systemic lack of accountability are rarely well supported by technologies. 9. Technologies alone don’t foster the trusting relationships needed between governments and citizens, and within each group of actors. 10. The capacities needed to transform governance relationships are developed offline and in social and political processes, rather than by technologies. "(conclusions, p.24)

https://opendocs.iids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13452/RR_Synth_Online_final.pdf


"In many countries, mobile operators have teamed up with social media platforms to offer free access to specific websites or internet services—including news websites. The most well-known of these offerings, Facebook’s Free Basics, has been explicitly pitched as a way to give citizens in developing countries greater access to news, but Facebook is not the only company touting these so-called “zero-rated” arrangements as a bridge across the digital divide. This report examines whether these arrangements are broadening access to diverse sources of news, as promised, and whether they might have broader consequences for the news market. Little evidence exists that zero-rating alone has been a successful strategy to grow audience reach. Technical hurdles jeopardize news media inclusion, especially for smaller outlets. Zero-rated news is a concern for fair markets and pluralism as it might strengthen the dominance of large internet platforms." (key findings) https://www.cima.ned.org/publication/zero-rating-the-news/


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN

84. Beyond watchdog journalism: Media and social accountability. Grahamstown: Rhodes University, School of Journalism and Media Studies; Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), 2018, 67 p.

"The following report is an exploratory case study analysis of social accountability monitoring of the Eastern Cape Department of Education by the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) and mainstream media in the Eastern Cape. It provides in-depth analysis of the education programme’s work within PSAM and a study of newspaper coverage of education in the Eastern Cape. The argument made herein, is that for either civil society or the media to be effective in holding duty bearers to account, and to equip citizens to hold public officials to account, they have to work collaboratively in their efforts. What is required is a shift in the assumption that simply reporting on or highlighting events of maladministration or mismanagement of public resources is sufficient. Highlighting poor resource management is necessary but not sufficient to equate to social accountability. The current media coverage, while extensive and voluminous, does not provide citizens with the contextual knowledge they need to effectively hold duty bearers to account for poor service delivery. Rather, as a result of the formulac reporting style, corruption and maladministration are further normalised. Fostering a more strategic, conscious and direct relationship between civil society and the media, will ensure a symbiotic relationship of effective society accountability resulting in better public resource management. "(executive summary) https://psam.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Role-of-media-in-Social-Accountability-Final.pdf


"News media played a prominent role in perpetuating the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Since then, Rwanda has undergone impressive social and economic growth, but the media landscape during this redevelopment remains understudied. Qualitative interviews with Rwandan journalists reveal that reporters censor themselves to promote peace and reunification. Short-term, prioritizing social good over media rights might help unify the country, but ultimately it could limit development and reinforce existing authoritarian power structures. Findings suggest that McQuail’s development media theory and Howard’s developmental media concept do not adequately account for the relationship between media, development and democracy, a notable and relevant issue point but point to the need for a new or revised media development paradigm. "(abstract) https://doi.org/10.1177/0022216318792201


"During the 2018 electoral period in Zimbabwe, Media Monitors monitored mainstream media to assess the nature of election coverage with a focus on three issues: Fair and balanced coverage of political parties, the media’s role in informing the public on electoral processes, and professional and ethical conduct by the media. In the final assessment, Media Monitors concluded that while the election agenda dominated on all media platforms, continued polarised coverage affected the media’s capacity to be fair and balanced, there was a lack of equitability and gender bias. Professionally, there was lack of objectivity in the journalists’ reporting, which manifested itself in the form of unbalanced coverage, denial of the right of reply, lack of follow up to issues raised and

"In this paper we assess the electoral consequences of candidate selection into the supply of widely-disseminated programmatic information in the setting of Liberia, where clientelism is pervasive and the media sector is weak. We partnered with USAID and the NGO Internews to study the impact of randomized elements of a nationwide initiative to hold debates for all 73 House of Representatives seats ahead of the Liberian election of October 2017. Beyond lawmaking, House members in Liberia control access to development funds as well as play key roles in the allocation and implementation of public goods, and thus voters have incentives to care about the policy priorities of the candidates and vote accordingly. However, historically, votes have been bought as often as won (Bowles et al., 2017). In an effort to improve democratic accountability, Internews organized 129 standardized debates, with at least one in each electoral district, to solicit the policy promises of the participating candidates. In the debates, the 59% of candidates who participated were asked a series of questions by moderating journalists on particular issues of local policy relevance, most often relating to district schools, primary healthcare facilities, and infrastructural investments. Rather than large townhall-style debates, the emphasis was on soliciting concrete policy platforms and promises from the candidates that would then be rebroadcast by community radio stations. To shock the supply of policy promises, we randomly varied the intensity of invitation efforts to persuade candidates to participate in the debates. The decision to participate is risky, particularly in clientelistic settings where the returns to programmatic competition can be both limited and highly uncertain. Candidates who win a debate may enjoy greater publicity and net electoral gains, but ex ante they risk performing poorly, revealing their policy priorities to be disconnected from their constituents and restricting their ability to target campaign promises to small groups of influential voters. These risks are especially pronounced for the leading candidates (incumbents and their challengers), who enjoy greater resources for campaigning, are adapted to the existing clientelistic equilibrium, and are more likely to be attacked by opponents to gain publicity." (p.2-3)


"The study has concluded that there exists a positive relationship between vernacular radio programming content and participation of community in issues of governance. Therefore, it is recommended that vernacular radio stations should give more attention to the content of these programs. Priority should be given to issues that are raised by the audience for they are pertinent to them. This will result in more public participation in radio programming content and participation of community in issues of governance." (conclusion)

https://www.aiol.info/index.php/pdcs/article/view/174597/163988


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


¿Qué implica una perspectiva en Derechos Humanos? -- La perspectiva de derechos humanos en la comunicación sobre el proceso de Memoria, Verdad y Justicia -- El derecho a la comunicación y la tarea de comunicar -- Responsabilidad de la comunicación en el proceso de Memoria, Verdad y Justicia -- ¿Qué son los crímenes de lesa humanidad? -- El proceso de juzgamiento de los crímenes de Estado cometidos en dictadura -- Juicios de lesa humanidad -- Víctimas de violencia de Estado y tratamiento mediático -- La tarea de visibilizar la responsabilidad en los delitos de lesa humanidad -- Recomendaciones -- Estrategias posibles para abordar eventos relacionados con memoria, verdad y justicia -- Recomendaciones para asistir a una audiencia oral y pública -- Organismos de derechos humanos -- Términos y conceptos útiles.

subjects: human rights reporting; court reporting; truth commissions - Argentina - criteria catalogues, frameworks, guidelines


91. #meinung #acht #digital 'plattformkapitalismus. In: ila, nr. 426, 2019, p.4-40


subjects: online political communication; cyber advocacy / digital activism; community radios; twitter / microblogs; disinformation, fake news - Latin America - public participation - book reviews


subjects: online political communication; cyber advocacy / digital activism; community radios; twitter / microblogs; disinformation, fake news - Latin America - book reviews


"Talkback radio programs (TBP) were established to educate the Cambodian public on governance issues and provide a channel through which they could communicate with authorities directly. Programs were broadcast in 4 provinces: Battambang, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, and Kampong. This impact briefing reveals the progress made by the radio program towards building political accountability and political participation. TBP listeners displayed consistently better knowledge and understanding of governance than non-listeners. Radio staff also reported strong governance competencies. Crucially, TBP led directly to 122 promises being met or partially met by local authorities." (https://www.abc.net.au/abc-international-development)


"Drawing from often overlooked sources of evidence, this report shows that China’s homegrown social media platforms have responded to market incentives by subtly shielding users from certain forms of online censorship and repression. Meanwhile, the party confronts rising costs—both economically and politically—for stamping out the diffuse forms of dissent that spread across these networks. Has the debate over the role of new communications technology in China’s political system really been decided? China’s $56 billion internet advertising market now dwarfs advertising in print, radio, and broadcast—and investments have frequently followed audiences to platforms where they feel free to express themselves. Chinese state officials are frequently raising concerns about the growing threat to the party’s control posed by social media, including the dangers of “out of control” algorithms. Hiding key indicators from the censors, reviving banned accounts, and creating opportunities for collective action: social media platforms are quietly and subtly testing the political boundaries in response to their audience’s preferences.” (key findings)

https://www.cima ned.org/publication/chinas-new-media-dilemma/


"Ahead of the general election in April and May 2019, Indian political parties are using social media aggressively to propagate their ideology, mobilise public opinion, set policy agendas, and discredit detractors. Since the 2014 general election, India’s two major political parties – the Bharatiya Janata Party, which currently leads the coalition government, and the Indian National Congress, the main opposition party – have invested heavily in digital political campaigning.” (p.1)


https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jcbh/4/1


https://www.boell.de/de/2018/02/01/aspersen-asien-digitalasia


subjects: democratisation & online / social media; social media in political communication - Vietnam


EUROPE


"There is seething unrest in South East Europe and immediately it is called “Balkan Spring.” Many people are protesting in the capitals of Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Croatia out of dissatisfaction with their governments. This frustration is targeted towards the media in these countries as well – especially the public service media which are frequently considered a mouthpiece of the government. The protesters therefore call for resignation of the general directors of the broadcasters.” (p.1)


"This memo presents evidence based on a survey experiment embedded in a national survey of Ukrainians and a laboratory experiment conducted with Ukrainian university students. The findings indicate that anti-corruption messaging that emphasizes the success of anti-corruption campaigns (i.e., a “positive” message) may reduce citizens’ willingness to give bribes. By contrast, anti-corruption messaging emphasizing that corruption is a growing problem (i.e., a “negative” message) appears to be less effective and, in some circumstances, may even inadvertently increase citizens’ willingness to engage in corrupt acts.” (p.1)


"The Center for Media, Data and Society has curated a series of lectures addressing the challenges and the future of public media titled Public Media Institutions at a Crossroads: Visions, Strategies, Tactics. The speakers and themes have included a multi-dimensional outlook on what PSM institutions, and public media more generally, are and can be..."

“This chapter analyses contextual factors that are common to the seven countries of this region that affect developing a genuine public service orientation in media policies and performance. By better understanding historical legacies, inadequate technological development and late entry into digitalisation, and problems rooted in economic underdevelopment and clientelism, the prognosis for the emergence of ‘networked societies’ under illicit conditions is at least tarry and perhaps impractical in the foreseeable future, at least. Contextual factors prioritise a set of values that greatly complicate the development of public service broadcasting in technological and democratic terms, much less the even more complex transition to public service media.” (abstract)


“This chapter presents findings from a recent comparative study on public service media and their regulation as regards their remit, funding, and debate. Based on a literature review, the authors propose three ways in which the network paradigm can be useful for studying public service media: (1) to discuss how public service media embrace the internet, (2) to describe a more profound process of change affecting public service media, and 3) to locate public service media organisations in relation to national and international (stakeholder) networks.” (abstract)

https://www.nordicom.gu.se/sv/system/bd/kapitel-pdf/07_schweizer_puppis.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=39386&force=

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


“Fundamentally, this paper argues that the lack of political will combined with the failure of state-building processes to develop the frameworks and institutions to support independent media is maintaining a media landscape that reflects the key political challenges of Iraq. The politics of successive iraq governments continues to affect the functioning and the perception of the media, leaving them unable to provide content that can support democratic and transparent political processes. Attempts at media reform or support for sustainable, relevant, independent media platforms must take into account the wider context of Iraq and its political structures as well as the existing conditions of corruption and fragility. They also require much deeper consultation with local media stakeholders combined with a greater coordination with global initiatives to support the development of independent media.” (conclusion)

http://epiritus.lse.ac.uk/100991/1/a_fragmented_landscape.pdf


‘Al-Gama’a [The Society], a 25-part television biopic of Muslim Brotherhood founder Hasan al-Banna, was broadcast in the fall of 2010, just before the January 25, 2011 Revolution. The writer of the series, Wahid Hamid, was an important screenwriter for both television and the cinema and a figure known for his affinity with the state’s security apparatus. Al-Gama’a functioned as a rhetorical capstone for decades of anti-Brotherhood state discourse. It also powerfully anticipated the anti-Brotherhood apologists used to rationalize the Rab’a massacre of 2013, which effectively ended revolution and cemented the coup by ‘Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi against Muhammad Morsy. The series enacted a historical narrative that was almost completely absent from Egypt’s formal educational curriculum, thereby furthering a political agenda of dehumanizing Islamists and effectively communicating them from the national community. Hence in 2013, a thousand Egyptians were slaughtered in a day, and yet many of their fellow citizens saw the event as destiny rather than as a crime against humanity.” (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/19436149.2019.1600881


“In this report, I have provided a glimpse of the ways in which innovative media outlets act as political agents in their current contexts, through their expressed positions, their content, and the forms in which they publish. Further work is needed to more fully describe the editorial sensibilities of these projects, as well as audience reception.” (p.13)


‘Lebanese society is famously, and even notoriously, fragmented, along both class and sectarian lines. Here, Nabil Dajani looks at how this societal division impacts on the nature of the mass media in Lebanon. Implementing the wider theory that the structure and content of mass media is unique to the society within which it operates, he looks at how Lebanese media have often helped to sustain the sectarian divisions within Lebanese society. Dealing with newspapers, radio and television as well as new and emerging forms of communication, such as the internet, social media websites and blogs, he examines how the media both reflect societal realities as well as the ways they influence social consciousness. Beginning with an analysis of the socio-political context of modern-day Lebanon, Dajani critically examines the historical and current realities of the media in this country.” (publisher)


‘Egyptian Ramadan TV series have explored the relationship between law and television in a number of iterations over the past few years. In 2017, the most watched production (115 million views on YouTube), Kalabsh, went one step further by examining the interaction between television broadcasting and social media in affecting the course of justice. Even though its events revolve around the framing and wrongful incrimination of a ‘good’ police officer, the dynamics suggest a not-so-subtle reference to the January 25, 2011 uprising. It portrayed social media actors as naïve agitators, outsmarted and used by those same dark networks of business and politics that they intend to expose and ultimately to unseat. This representation strengthens the counter-revolution’s narrative of the January 25 uprising as the making of some ‘Facebook kids’ [‘iyal bitu’ il-face]. With Kalabsh, Egyptian TV series recalibrate the representation of the role of television broadcasting in affecting the course of justice and thus produce a new narrative that includes social media. This representation challenges as ‘optimistic’ the reading of the ‘democratic’ nature of social media by showing how its actors are even more prone to falling prey to mystifications and networks of corruption. The centrality of television broadcasting in affecting the course of justice clearly recedes in Kalabsh, but television broadcasting itself seems to regain some reputation.” (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/19436149.2019.1599535


“The present paper builds on the findings of the previous MedMedia report [Dabbous 2015] by tracking the legal changes that occurred between early 2015 and early 2018. Whenever there are recent legal changes related to broadcasting in general, such changes are mentioned and evaluated. The objective is to provide a critical overview of the state of public service broadcasting and the new regulatory reforms introduced since early 2015, in order to assess the impact of the Arab Spring (directly or indirectly) on the nature and performance of the public broadcasting sector in the Southern Mediterranean region, and the extent to which the wheels that were set in motion in 2011 have resulted in an improved and more democratic public broadcasting sector in these countries– one in which the notion of “the public” is supposed to be at the core of the reform endeavor. The structure of the paper follows largely that of the 2015 MedMedia report on public service broadcasting, covering legal reform in each of the Arab countries in the South Mediterranean separately. However, only 5 of the original 8 countries included in the
Development Communication, Environmental Communication, Health Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


also published in Portuguese

"This module presents a step-by-step process that will enable members of organisations, or campaigns, interested in improving their visibility and impact, to formulate effective communication strategies for social and behavioural change. Chapter One includes elements that help situate the design of the communication strategy within the context of each organisation; including its policies, practices and areas of work. Chapter Two and Three consider the theoretical foundations, paradigms and communication planning models. Chapter Four gives a summary of the different communication strategies and Chapter Five gives an outline of formative research. Chapter Six guides participants, step-by-step, through the design of a communication strategy. Throughout this chapter, participants are introduced to practical workshops that help synthesise and apply key concepts in each step of the strategy design process. Additionally, references to different components of the Conceptual Module are made, including examples and case studies, which can help participants make decisions at each step of the process." (overview, p.vii)


also published in Portuguese

"This module provides key conceptual and theoretical elements for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying processes and methodologies that guide the design, implementation and evaluation of a communication strategy. There are many definitions and approaches that vary depending upon the type of communication approach, and the specific development and social change issues being addressed. While this is not meant to be an academic text and is purposefully written in a way that is accessible to multiple audiences, it does include relevant academic references for those readers interested in the rich communication for development literature. Chapter One includes a general approach to strategic planning in social organisations. It is expected to help assist understanding of how a communication strategy must be formulated as an integral component of the policies and strategic focus areas of the organisation. Chapter Two briefly discusses key concepts and theoretical shifts around communication, culture, development and social change processes. As communication processes often contain a personal perspective, these processes are linked with the goal of strengthening democracy and citizenship, as well as with the achievement of development objectives such as the Sustainable Development Goals and their corresponding targets. This chapter also discusses inclusive perspectives, particularly in relation to gender and human rights. Chapter Three includes a brief history of the evolution of conceptual approaches in the field of communication for development, many of which are derived from important transformations in development efforts over the last 70 years, as well as reformulations of the role played by communication in these processes. Chapters Three and Four introduce key communication models and strategies for social and behaviour change. These chapters emphasise conceptual elements and highlight specific methodological elements that are discussed in detail in the Participant's Module. Finally, Chapter Five provides core concepts and definitions about designing, implementing and evaluating communication strategies for development and social change, including formative research, strategy design, and monitoring and evaluation. Specific guidance on how to implement each of these steps is provided in the Participant's Module." (overview, p.vii)


"This module provides methodological support for the facilitation of workshops aimed at assisting social, community, state and non-governmental organisations in the formulation of communication strategies for development and social change. Facilitators are advised to use this module to plan and prepare workshops while making relevant adaptations based on the context in which the workshop will be facilitated, the needs and realities of participants, and the relevant experiences that each facilitator brings to the workshop. This module suggests activities and timeframes, which can be modified according to the availability of resources of the organisation receiving the training, the complexity of communication, social and development issues that constitute the focus of the workshop, or the scope of the strategy to be formulated." (overview, p.vii)


"This study develops a technosocial framework for assessing the efficacy of global aid agencies’ use of Twitter’s algorithmic affordances for participatory social change. We combine computational and interpretive methods to examine tweets posted by three global aid agencies—U.S. Agency for International Development, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the International Committee of the Red Cross—as well as public tweets that mention these agencies (N = 100,000). Results indicate that when an agency (a) replies to or retweets public tweeters, (b) includes publicly oriented hashtags and hyperlinks in its tweets, and (c) tweets about topics that the public is also interested in and tweeting about, the social network that develops around the agency is more interconnected, decentralized, and reciprocal. Our framework can help development institutions build more participatory social networks, with multiple voices helping determine collective goals and strategies of collective action for sustainable social change. We also discuss the theoretical implications and methodological significance of our approach." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764219835248


"From HIV to Ebola, from gender discrimination and violence to infant mortality, from malaria to climate change and access to justice, evidence shows that Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) works. It is critical to strengthening the agency of ordinary people, transforming societies and assuring access to life-saving information and support. Uniting us across SBCC’s diverse methodologies and approaches are core principles that came to the fore at this Summit. These constitute the foundation of all our work: Communication is a right. The SDGs are for everyone. We embrace complexity and appreciate the importance of geographical, cultural and social context. We are committed to the active participation of citizens and communities in shaping and implementing public policies and programs. We are committed to rigorous analysis of what works, building on successes and turning failures into lessons. We ensure our work is informed by evidence, and we are also willing to take the risks that go along with innovation. We value participatory evaluation of our SBCC work through which communities actively question, review and weigh the impact of what we do together. We believe that the credibility of our field rests on transparency regarding who decides how social and behavior change investments get prioritized, which behaviors or social norms should be changed, and in whose interest. We keep the ethical dimension of our practice at the forefront of everything we do. We will engage with the media – traditional and new – to shine a light on untold stories of change. We embrace new approaches fuelled by science and breakthroughs in technology." (Declaration of the 2018 International Social and Behavior Change Communication Summit, p.9-10)


"Across the board, respondents called for NGOs to diversify their strategies. As well as children, they wanted to see images of parents and grandparents, local development workers and doctors, for example. They highlighted the importance of maintaining the dignity of the individuals portrayed, especially when depicting children and called for more sharing of stories to give those presented in images identity and agency. Respondents also talked about where they would draw the line, and many agreed that images of nudity and violence should not be used. It was also clear that some images that are used by INGOs to get a specific message across—for example the image of an older African man drinking beer—may get lost in translation when viewed by a person in a completely different context." (conclusions)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52720d41e4b024943bdf6241/t/5c0930151ae6cf7b15cf46a/1544106023462/RADIAlIDRESEARCH.pdf

"Closely examining the relationship between foreign correspondents of international news media and humanitarian organisations, Lena von Naso shows how the aid and media sectors cooperate in Africa in a unique way. Based on more than 70 interviews with foreign correspondents and aid workers operating across Africa, the book argues that the changing nature of foreign news and aid is forcing them to form a deep co-dependency that is having a serious and largely unnoticed effect on Western news coverage." (routledge.com)


"Since 2013, BBC Media Action has been working closely with Unicef to support polio eradication. Through mass media programming – radio magazine shows and drama, and radio and TV public service announcements (PSAs) – it has sought to break down barriers to immunising against polio and other childhood vaccines among vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Somalia to increase demand for and uptake of them. This briefing synthesises findings from research conducted in the three countries – Afghanistan, Nigeria and Somalia - with a focus on Afghanistan. Research findings suggested that BBC Media Action’s programming provided listeners with accurate, trusted and clear information against misinformation and harmful rumours, increased knowledge on the requirement of multiple doses of vaccines and vaccination schedules, prompted discussion and dialogue in communities, garnered trust and confidence among caregivers thorough the use of doctors and religious leaders and encouraged parents to vaccinate their children by dispelling misconceptions about vaccinations." (https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction)


subjects: climate change reporting; foreign & international news - Australia; Brazil; Chile; Germany; India; Indonesia; Mexico; Portugal; Swiss; Sweden; Singapore; Spain; South Africa; Thailand; United Kingdom; USA - content analysis (case studies) https://www.springerprofessional.de/transnationalisierte-oefentlichkeit-und-klimapolitik/1586740


"This article examines trade relations in alternative food networks as a space where communication practices can prove empowering for rural communities. Drawing on a theory of diverse economies, the article offers an alternative view of the global market, highlighting the social relations that underpin market transactions. These relations are then explored through a case study of a farming community in South India and their interactions with private enterprises in North America and Europe. The findings demonstrate how a dialogical communication process between the two groups can contribute to farmers’ well-being beyond economic growth, creating opportunities for more permanent social change." (abstract) https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2018.1432569


"Human trafficking, which is closely linked to slavery and forced labour, is a complex social problem that requires thoughtful, informed and, above all, compassionate journalism to provide context, give voice to the victims and assist in the search for solutions. Media and journalism should play a positive role in persuading the world that trafficking can be diminished if not eradicated. Political leaders and the public at large need to read, hear and see the full story. It is an essential first step in getting the political will needed to overcome the fundamental causes of human trafficking. The advice and suggestions set out in these pages can help journalists to think twice about how they report on trafficking; to consider the legal and human rights issues involved; the treatment of the victims, their privacy and welfare; and how to tell the story with humanity and style while helping audiences to understand better what must be done." (introduction) https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/resources/publications/media-trafficking-guidelines

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Effective campaigns require careful planning and execution. And drawing on the experiences and knowledge of others can help overcome some common stumbling blocks and improve the chances of success. To this end, this booklet profiles eight public awareness campaigns conducted in African countries. It gives an overview of how the campaigns were designed and implemented, and outlines the lessons learned ... We looked for campaigns with strong links to Africa – that is, they are either run by organizations or individuals in Africa, or they target African countries. We also specifically sought insight from people working on campaigns that were diverse in the way they were created, organized and funded – from large organizations with considerable resources and formal structures to volunteer-led coalitions with limited funding. Despite their different models, however, the campaigns had much in common in that the challenges they faced and the lessons learned were strikingly similar." (introduction) https://www.dw.com/downloads/45904934/dwa-public-awareness-campaign-web.pdf


"Along with the valorization of “beneficiary” participation in development praxis, contemporary communication scholarship has tended toward internet-enabled technologies and applications. This study breaks ranks with the implicit loss of faith in the capacity of the so-called legacy media, and radio in particular. It argues that precisely those advances in new technologies, together with the peculiar media ecology of Ghana and Africa generally, are the bases for prenotions about the enduring relevance of radio. To verify this claim, focus group discussions were conducted among radio audiences in Ghana. The findings suggest three factors for a renaissance of radio as a development communication medium: its contribution to democratic pluralism; the use of local languages that enables social inclusion; its appropriation of new technologies for audience participatory engagement. Radio has thus evolved from the powerful effects of a one-way transmitter of information to an increasingly more interactive, audience-centric medium." (abstract) https://doi.org/10.1177/0169796X19844916


"This article discusses the commodification of development programming such as news and other content in the Ghanaian media space. It uses the case of two NGOs operating..."

This study examines the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in shaping health reporting in Tanzania. Drawing on in-depth interviews with representatives from NGOs cited in HIV/AIDS-related stories published in the Tanzanian newspapers, the Daily News and The Guardian, the analysis focuses on financial incentives and resources committed by NGOs to foster collaborative relationships with journalists. Findings reveal that media training opportunities, seminars and “sitting fees” are used to gain and keep journalists’ attention on health issues, increasing promotional and advocacy-based reporting. Incentive-based reporting raises ethical and normative questions about editorial freedom for both news sources and journalists. (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2018.1473267


The debate on the effectiveness of foreign aid in the economies of sub-Saharan Africa often overlooks how the local journalists of a region report on aid. This study is a quantitative content analysis assessing how newspapers in Senegal write about different forms of aid received within the country, using papers from 2014 and 2015. The purpose of this study is to examine how the print journalists of Senegal set the agenda on Senegal’s structural adjustment plan (Plan Senegal Emergent), foreign donations to entities in Senegal, and five other forms of economic and agricultural aid. Results are analysed in SPSS using a Crosstabs analysis, to understand if journalists are writing favourably or unfavourably about each variable. The study also uses excerpts pulled from articles on aid (translated from French into English), which create a supplementary qualitative picture of how journalists are subjectively choosing to write about aid. Findings show Senegalese newspapers devote large amounts of the newshole to stories of development, but are largely uncritical of the country's acceptance of foreign loans, international donations and other forms of international development. (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2018.1473268

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"Hemos estructurado el documento en tres grandes partes. La primera es una lectura del Vivir Bien / Buen Vivir desde las prácticas de las experiencias sistematizadas. Es un esfuerzo por conceptualizar la Comunicación para el Buen Vivir / Buen Vivir desde las prácticas vividas. Siguiendo las narrativas, voces, imaginarios y palabras contenidas en las experiencias autositematizadas, hemos podido proponer una aproximación conceptual centrada en la Comunicación para el Buen-Convivir y Bien-Transformar. La segunda parte recoge el “Manual de Autositematización”, que está compuesto de cinco módulos: El Módulo I se remite al estudio de lo que es la sistematización, estableciendo sus funciones, características y usos principales. El Módulo II hace un repaso de las características principales de la Comunicación para el Vivir Bien / Buen Vivir. El III trabaja la recuperación de las experiencias en su proceso vivido desde su creación. El Módulo IV propone una reflexión valorativa crítica sobre la experiencia en sus contextos. Finalmente, el Módulo V dedicado a establecer los puntos de llegada, recoge las principales lecciones aprendidas y las proyecciones posibles. La tercera parte “Conociendo las prácticas innovadoras de Comunicación para el Vivir Bien / Buen Vivir”, contiene una presentación descriptiva y resumida de las experiencias autositematizadas, en apretadas síntesis sobre sus características generales, sus objetivos, sus cronologías o recorrido histórico, sus principales lecciones aprendidas y sus posibles proyecciones." (p.16-17)

subjects: Buen Vivir <Good Living> - Non-Western approaches; alternative communication; comunicación popular; self-evaluation - Latin America - case studies


"La Guía para el diseño de estrategias de comunicación para la defensa del territorio busca contribuir a una pacificación integral de los territorios utilizando como herramienta la comunicación comunitaria. Algunos podrían pensar que somos idealistas, pensarán que sólo somos bruscos e imponiéndonos con violencia y miedo se terminan las guerras. Queda claro, con las enseñanzas de Sun Tzu y los Pueblos Indígenas, que con sutileza, paciencia, astucia y creatividad se pueden construir mundos más vivibles, más humanos. La primera nos lleva invariablemente hacia la muerte y la destrucción, la segunda nos permite imaginar otros mundos. Por último, esta “Guía” busca ser eso, una guía, en consecuencia, no tiene respuestas estáticas o lo que yo llamo “de receta”. Por el contrario, se alimenta de preguntas, paisajes, suelos y esperanzas. Esta guía necesita del movimiento porque sólo así podremos defender el territorio, es decir, la vida." (p.1)

subjects: environmental communication; communication strategies; community communication; alternative communication; Non-Western approaches - criteria catalogues, frameworks, guidelines


How Peruvian police became people’s uncle. Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDS), 2019

"Thanks to social media, Peruvian police does a better job in communicating with people. In its videos and posts, it uses celebrities, popular phrases, famous movie scenes or lyrics of well-known songs. Its social media page has been encouraging people to refrain from drinking alcohol when taking the wheel, to double check information found on the internet to avoid fraud, to cycle more to reduce traffic jam and to report assaults or harassment to help police better protect people. Uncle PNP [<the social media account of Peruvian police] replies to people’s queries in a trice, giving them advice or tagging other public institutions on Facebook that are in a better position to help. And it works.
Economic factors." (p.6)

Understood without assessing the complex interactions between ecological, social and biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems, or climate change challenges cannot be.


"The Agenda 2030 strives for a transformative approach that requires a broad shift in

communication and learning objectives are as ambitious as the SDGs. Loss of

Cities, Goal 13 Climate Change, and Goal 15 Ecosystems. In this context, the

sustainable practices are a result of public discourse and transparently communicated

Evidence that overall exposure to the campaign may influence beliefs about vaccination

"Redistribution programs in developing countries often "leak" because local officials do

not implement programs as the central government intends. We study one approach to

reduction leakage. In an experiment in over 550 villages, we test whether mailing cards

with program information to targeted beneficiaries increases the subsidy they receive

from a subsidized rice program. On net, beneficiaries received 26 percent more subsidy

in card villages. Ineligible households received no less, so this represents substantially

lower leakage." (abstract)

https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/publications/553_Tangible-


Disaster & Humanitarian Crisis Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

"Internews Rumour Tracking Methodology consists of four key functions: 1. A

strategy to fact-check information and rumours; 3. A variety of accessible and inclusive

mechanism to determine and document which rumours are circulating; 2. An effective

mechanism to ensure that every project should include in order to implement the Internews Rumour Tracking

value of Internews Rumour Tracking Methodology as a tool for communicating with

and actionable information; the damage rumours can do in a humanitarian context; and the

much as producing information and that link the national, local, and hyper-local

information levels. This Learning Collection manual offers case studies, practical

instructions and a template library to implement Internews rumour tracking methodology

and through this effectively address rumours in humanitarian crisis and conflicts around

the world. "Part I. Context" describes the importance of access to fair, accurate

and actionable information; the damage rumours can do in a humanitarian context; and the

value of Internews Rumour Tracking Methodology as a tool for communicating with

communities and humanitarian accountability. "Part II. Case Study" gives an overview of

several Internews rumour tracking projects and an in-depth case study of rumour

tracking in Greece. The case study also covers challenges and lessons learned in order to

offer recommendations for future rumour tracking activities." (p.9)

https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Rumor_Tracking_Mods_3_How-to-

Tracking_in_Greece.pdf

Internews Rumour Tracking Methodology. Part III: How to


"You will find information and advice on everything from how to source rumours and

factcheck information, to how to share actionable and practical answers to address

these rumours. Internews Rumour Tracking Methodology is designed to be flexible and

responsive to local context – and you should be too. While there are minimum standards

that every project should include in order to implement the Internews Rumour Tracking

Methodology (see minimum standards, p. 6), projects need to build on these standards

based on local contexts." (p.5)

https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Rumor_Tracking_Mods_3_How-to-

Guide.pdf

https://medium.com/forskenn-data-and-society/how-peruvian-police-became-

peoples-uncle-36601aa82f87

ASIA & PACIFIC


"Celebrity endorsements are often sought to influence public opinion. We ask whether

celebrity endorsement per se has an effect beyond the fact that their statements are

seen by many, and whether on net their statements actually lead people to change their

beliefs. To do so, we conducted a nationwide Twitter experiment in Indonesia with 46

high-profile celebrities and organizations, with a total of 7.8 million followers, who agreed to let us randomly tweet or retweet content promoting immunization from their accounts.

Our design exploits the structure of what information is passed on along a retweet chain

on Twitter to parse reach versus endorsement effects. Endorsements matter: tweets that

users can identify as being originated by a celebrity are far more likely to be liked or

retweeted by users than similar tweets seen by the same users but without the

celebrity endorsement per se has an effect beyond the fact that their statements are

seen by many, and whether on net their statements actually lead people to change their

beliefs. To do so, we conducted a nationwide Twitter experiment in Indonesia with 46

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on Twitter to parse reach versus endorsement effects. Endorsements matter: tweets that

users can identify as being originated by a celebrity are far more likely to be liked or

retweeted by users than similar tweets seen by the same users but without the

celebrities' imprimatur. By contrast, explicitly citing sources in the tweets actually

reduces diffusion. By randomizing which celebrities tweeted when, we find suggestive

evidence that overall exposure to the campaign may influence beliefs about vaccination

and knowledge of immunization-seeking behavior by one's network. Taken together, the

findings suggest an important role for celebrity endorsement." (abstract)

https://www.nber.org/papers/w25589


"The Agenda 2030 strives for a transformative approach that requires a broad shift in

values, norms, beliefs, attitudes and practices towards more sustainable societies. In

this debate on sustainable development, environmental communication and learning processes are driving forces for success. Criteria and options for decisions regarding sustainable practices are a result of public discourse and transparently communicated and learned alternatives. Therefore, environmental education and communication (EEC) plays a key role in the achievement of the SDGs, particularly Goal 4 Education, Goal 11 Cities, Goal 13 Climate Change, and Goal 15 Ecosystems. In this context, the communication and learning objectives are as ambitious as the SDGs. Loss of

biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems, or climate change challenges cannot be

understood without assessing the complex interactions between ecological, social and

economic factors." (p.6)


http://www.cdacnetwork.org/tools-and-resources/j/20190205105256-aoi9i


"You will find information and advice on everything from how to source rumours and

factcheck information, to how to share actionable and practical answers to address

these rumours. Internews Rumour Tracking Methodology is designed to be flexible and

responsive to local context – and you should be too. While there are minimum standards

that every project should include in order to implement the Internews Rumour Tracking

Methodology (see minimum standards, p. 6), projects need to build on these standards

based on local contexts." (p.5)

https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Rumor_Tracking_Mods_3_How-to-

Guide.pdf

"Scholars from various research disciplines have focused on ways of helping a civilian population withstand mass natural or human-instigated disasters. The present study examines the theoretical principles suggested by Hobfoll et al. (safety, calming, efficacy, connectedness and hope) by an analysis of the spontaneous discourse of educational radio presenters during emergency broadcasts when the region’s residents live under the constant danger of rocket fire. This study analysed 198 broadcasting hours sampled from three different periods of military conflict (2008-14). The radio presenters’ spontaneous discourse was analysed by content, drawing a distinction between resilience-promoting (function) and resilience-impairing (dysfunction) messages. The findings show that despite the presenters’ intention to help the community contend with the difficult situation, numerous resilience-impairing messages also appeared in their spontaneous discourse. The present study contributes by providing an additional layer of theoretical research on interventions in community stress situations and looks at utilizing the potential inherent in educational radio as a tool to aid development of community resilience." (abstract) https://doi.org/10.1386/nqao.16.2.207_1


"This book presents a comprehensive framework for disaster communication, with a main focus on earthquake-related communication, building on a previously fragmented, single-case study approach [especially based on experiences in Italy] to analysing the role of social media during natural disasters." (publisher)


"The book develops the analytics of grievability as an analytical framework that unpacks the ways in which news about death constructs grievable death and articulates relational ties between spectators and sufferers. The book employs the analytics of grievability in a comparative manner and analyses the coverage of three different case studies (terror attack, war and natural disaster) by two transnational news networks (BBC World News and Al-Jazeera English). This comparative analysis showcases the centrality of news media in selectively cultivating a sense of cosmopolitan solidarity in a global age." (publisher's information)

143. Martin Scott, Kate Wright, Mel Bunce: The state of humanitarian journalism. Humanitarian-journalism.net; University of East Anglia, 2018, 36 p.

“Very few international news organisations routinely cover humanitarian affairs. Only 12 news outlets reported on all four of the humanitarian events we analysed in 2016. Because of the high costs of producing regular, original journalism on humanitarian issues, commercial news organisations do not usually cover humanitarian issues, with the exception of major ‘emergencies’. Most humanitarian journalism is now funded by states or private foundations. This is worrying because claiming that particular actors or activities are ‘humanitarian’ is a powerful form of legitimacy. It is important that media about the suffering does not become a vehicle for commercial or political interests. A major challenge of foundation funding is its unsustainable nature, as most foundations want to provide start-up money, rather than giving ongoing support. Meanwhile the major challenge of foundation funding is its unsustainable nature, as most foundations want to provide start-up money, rather than giving ongoing support. Meanwhile government funding can constrain where and how humanitarian reporting takes place because of foreign policy objectives and diplomatic tensions." (executive summary)


“When we hear stories of distant humanitarian crises, we often feel sympathy for victims, but may stop short of taking action to help. Past research indicates that media portrayals of distant suffering can promote helping behavior by eliciting sympathy, while those that prompt a more rational response tend to decrease helping behavior by undermining sympathy. The authors used an online experiment to test whether certain media frames could promote helping behavior through a more rational, rather than emotional, pathway. The study tested whether framing distant suffering as either solvable or unsolvable might promote helping behavior if a rational evaluation of a crisis leads one to determine that help is efficacious in solving the problem. Survey respondents were randomly assigned to read one of three messages: a high solvability message, a low solvability message, or a control message. Contrary to expectations, both low solvability and high solvability conditions increased participants’ intentions to help. The results suggest that this is because framing problems as unsolvable drives up sympathy, thus promoting willingness to help, while framing problems as solvable drives up perceived efficacy, also promoting willingness to help. The authors conclude that, in contrast to earlier studies, and to the assumptions of many of those working in media, emphasizing rationality can promote helping behavior if audiences rationally interpret the problem as solvable.” (abstract) https://doi.org/10.1027/1864-1105/a000232

ASIA & PACIFIC


“Radyo Bakdaw was set up by Internews in Guian, Eastern Samar after the typhoon Yolanda/Haïyan hit the Philippines on November 8th 2013. The typhoon passed through 9 provinces, an estimated 14 million people were affected by it, 4 million people were displaced and killing at least 6286 people. In the 4.5 months that followed, Internews trained local radio makers to become humanitarian reporters, and gave a wider audience the chance to speak up, be listened to, and be part of the whole humanitarian response, as a ‘Humanitarian Information Service’. (https://internews.org)


“Since August 2017 over 671,000 people (mostly Rohingya) have crossed the border from Myanmar to Bangladesh to escape violence in Rakhine State. There are now more than one million Rohingya refugees staying in camps along the Bangladeshi side of the border. In September 2017 Internews conducted an information ecosystem assessment, which found that 77% of the Rohingya population do not have enough information to make decisions for themselves and their family and 62% reported that they were unable to communicate with aid providers. Additionally, the assessment found that 96% of refugees use Rohingya as their primary language. In the meantime, the funding requirements for Communication with Communities (CwC) went from 4 million USD in the Humanitarian Response Plan (September 2017 – February 2018) to 5.9 million USD in the Joint Response Plan for the period of March until December 2018. This shows at the very least an increased understanding of the importance of CwC among individual agencies, sectors and the wider humanitarian system. Moreover, it highlights that more agencies have integrated CwC in their plans and rolled out CwC-related activities. So, while the first assessment of Internews looked at the demand-side of CwC, this report looks at the supply side of communication and investigates what kind of CwC services are on offer half a year after the initial assessment. The survey, conducted in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh from late February to early March 2018, not only captures different activities but also highlights the gaps in communication activities.” (introduction) https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/Internews_%20feedback_Rohingya_2018-July-web.pdf


“A survey, conducted in July 2018, interviewed 750 people from the Rohingya community and 750 people from the host community (local Bangladeshi citizens) about how they access information, what they think of the information and how they communicate with aid providers. The survey tracked how perceived provision of information has changed since an initial information needs assessment, carried out by Internews, in October 2017 ... The survey shows that people feel substantially more informed in July 2018 than they did in October 2017. The Internews study in October found that only 23% of Rohingya men and women felt they had enough information to make good decisions for themselves and their family. This recent study shows that 84% feel they have enough information to make good decisions for themselves and their families and three quarters (75%) of the Rohingya community said it had become easier to get information over the last six months. This is similar to other data collected – a recent Translators without Borders study found that 68% of Rohingya refugees feel they have enough information to make decisions. During fieldwork, almost a third (30%) of Rohingya survey respondents asked the data collectors questions such as, did they know where to collect relief, or did they know anything about the Government’s plans for repatriation? This suggests that while the Rohingya community feel better informed than when they first arrived, they still have many questions, particularly around their future –

"Three years after writing the report Publishing for Peanuts, in which we surveyed 35 media startups mostly from the Global South, we decided to go back and see how the outlets had fared. Our area of interest in 2015 was small-medium size independent media outlets with a track record of consistently producing credible content independently of state and mainstream media in the countries in which they were operating. ‘Startup’ describes their work practices but, in fact, some of those we interviewed had been in operation for many years but may have undergone a relaunch or adapted to new circumstances following a political event. Those ‘Global Muckraker’ outlets remained our focus in 2018. As questions about media viability remain unanswered we wanted to understand the experiences of journalists in the Global South. Returning to the 35 outlets, we found three had failed, and six had been seriously reconfigured or renamed ... Our key findings: Financial survival is the biggest worry for the media outlets we profiled, followed by political risk and physical safety. The outlets remain dependent on donors. Advertising is hard to come by and raising funding from audiences has proven difficult. Donors need to accept this reality and be willing to commit to long-term support for outlets creating a public good. The grim political climate, rise of right-wing demagogues and attacks on the media have made the outlets feel appreciated in many countries. They recounted tales of support and encouragement from their audiences. But this sentiment does not translate into sustainable forms of funding. The outlets have professionalized in the sense that many now have accounting software, bookkeepers and full-time staff working on grant writing. But many still rely on unpaid contributors and some use office space that was provided for free or rented at a discount. There is a strong correlation between employing a full-time marketing staffer and generating revenue ..." (executive summary) https://www.cima.ned.org/resource/fighting-for-survival/


"The main aim of the present study is to assess the status quo and the influencing factors of media viability in developing countries and economies in transition (i.e., Cambodia, Ecuador, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine). Accordingly, three general research questions have been formulated: 1. Which factors determine the viability of alternative online news media organizations in developing countries and economies in transition? 2. What are the transnational similarities and differences for media viability of alternative news media organizations? 3. How are financial sustainability, editorial independence, and journalistic quality interrelated in the context of media viability of alternative online news media organizations?" (p.21)


"Having surpassed 5 billion people connected to mobile services in 2017, the global mobile industry will reach further milestones over the next eight years. The number of unique mobile subscribers will reach 5.9 billion by 2025, equivalent to 71% of the world’s population. Growth will be driven by developing countries, particularly India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh, as well as Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. The speed of growth is slowing though, with most of the developed world approaching saturation. The more significant growth opportunity will lie in mobile internet – a market that will add 1.75 billion new users over the next eight years, reaching a milestone of 5 billion mobile internet users in 2025." (executive summary) https://www.gsma.com/mobileeconomy/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/The-Mobile-Economy-Global-2018.pdf


"In July 2018, the government of Uganda implemented a tax on individual users of social media platforms. In the first three months following the introduction of the tax in the country, internet penetration dropped from 47 percent to 35 percent. Given that a significant amount of news circulation now happens via social media and messaging apps, how might this new tax impact the news media ecosystem? The negative effects on news media are less direct and arguably more pernicious than might be expected. Journalists noted a significant decline in the level of engagement with readers and sources via social media platforms. Traffic to new sites has been only minimally impacted, indicating that sites were not reliant on social media to begin with and/or that many individuals have turned to VPNs to avoid the tax." (key findings) https://www.cima.ned.org/publication/how-social-media-taxes-can-burden-news-outlets-the-case-of-uganda


"This study critically examines how the private press in Zimbabwe survived during periods of economic and political crises. In year 2010, the Zimbabwe media fraternity saw the re-opening of Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe (ANZ) after closure in 2003 and the emergence of the NewsDay, published by the Alpha Media Holdings (AMH). The study examines how these publishers survive the economic challenges in Zimbabwe, especially during the prolonged period of the Zimbabwe Crisis from 2010 to 2018. It critically investigates how these two publications have remained operational despite the limited advertising revenue – owing to company closures – and the adversarial relations with the government – a critical source of huge advertising revenue. Given that copy sales of newspapers hardly sustain business entities, this article explores the alternative sources of income and the impact of vested interests on alternative revenue for privately owned newspapers. It is a qualitative research based on findings from thirteen semi-structured in-depth interviews with a purposive sample of ANZ and AMH officials and journalists. Publishers have relied on two main survival strategies, namely, internal cost-cutting strategies and building good business relations with the ruling political elites. Internal cost-cutting strategies have included newspaper convergences, retrenchments, salary reductions and freezes, reduction of newspaper pages and shutting down national newspaper bureaus. External survival methods, on the other hand, have been seeking donor funding, attracting political investments and embracing the new political order for government protection in the event of failure to pay statutory obligations such as taxes and pensions." (abstract) https://doi.org/10.1386/jams.10.2.201_1

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"Newsrooms have come a long way since journalists hawked the latest edition on street corners or metal boxes collected coins from anonymous visitors sucked in by a juicy headline. Today’s publishers need to be much more savvy about distribution, getting their arms around who their customers are, what makes them pay, and how to drive the right behaviors across a varied and complex online landscape. That means applying new technologies, adapting a “test and learn” way of thinking and going where

"Myanmar’s local media outlets face a variety of internal and external obstacles hampering their prospects for sustainability. Key among these today, and the focus of this report, are the business realities that every media outlet must tackle." (Introduction)


"Until the state and its aligned media operate in a fair and competitive media market, there will be little space for independent news media to survive, much less make the investments needed to innovate and survive in this raucous, frontier environment. Myanmar has a much smaller overall advertising sector than neighboring countries, and audiences are rapidly shifting to digital/mobile platforms. Outside Yangon, ethnic and regional news media, often operating in rural and conflict-filled environments, have little possibility of generating sufficient amounts of market-derived revenue to support their operations. To lose their voices would be to lose the plural, local and diverse voices of an inclusive society. To create a vibrant overall media sector, the government must have the political will to create a vibrant public service media sector. To repeat: at the very least, it should stop competing for revenue against the news media it licenses, regulates, can sue, prosecute and imprison. The Broadcasting Law has provisions for this; the government should embrace them. It must also further develop the legal infrastructure supporting media, including copyright, intellectual property, and online privacy laws. For all the laws governing journalists and journalism, there are few that protect their work product or that support the news media industry and its role in the broader economy." (Conclusion)


EUROPE


"Over the course of the past few years, crowdfunding platforms have made significant gains in art and technology, and more recently in the field of journalism. This article provides an overview of Rapport, a Finnish crowdfunding platform designed to allow a new approach for journalists to fund their work." (p.91)


ingl. ed.: Telenovelas in Pan-Latin Context. Routledge, 2018

"El presente libro ofrece una visión general de fácil comprensión sobre la historia de la telenovela en América Latina. Las telenovelas, una variedad aparte de series televisivas que se originan en América Latina, invocan temas clave de raza, clase, identidad sexual y violencia, entretejiendo historias con aventuras melódramáticas y la búsqueda de la identidad. June Carolyn Erick analiza las implicancias sociales de estos temas en las telenovelas, en el contexto de la evolución de la televisión, como parte integral de la modernización de los países latinoamericanos." (tapa posterior)

subjects: soap operas & telenovelas; social change and media - Latin America


"This Yearbook is divided into three parts. The first is an introduction chapter, containing a comparative synthesis of fiction in the Obitel countries. This comparison is made from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, which makes possible to observe the development of fiction in each country, highlighting their main productions, as well as the theme of the year. The second part consists in 11 chapters, one for each country, with an internal structure of fixed topics, but with new additions every year. The sections that compound each chapter are the following: 1) Country’s audiovisual context: this section presents general information about the audiovisual sector regarding the production of television fiction, such as history, trends and relevant events. 2) Analysis of premiere fictions: it is made through quantitative tables that show specific data about national and Ibero-American TV fictions released in each country. In this section the ten most watched titles of the year are highlighted. Since 2017, the Yearbook also brings the five most watched national productions of the year in an effort to enhance and deepen the issue of national identities in each country. 3) Transmedia reception: this section presents and exemplifies what channels offer to the audience fiction on the internet, as well the description of the audience’s behavior when watching, consuming and interacting with their fictions through websites, social networks and other platforms. 4) Highlights of the year: the most important productions not only in terms of audience (rating), but also for their sociocultural impact and for generating innovation in television fiction production or reception. 5) Theme of the year, which this year is Ibero-American TV fiction on video on demand platforms. This theme converges with the interests of Obitel, which for years has been following the trajectory of Ibero-American television fiction by rapidly changing scenarios. Multiple screens, transmissions, new formats, pay TV, UGC, among other topics, have been monitored and analyzed theoretically by each Obitel country research group. In this Yearbook, the proposal is to discuss production on video on demand platforms (VoD), addressing new forms of distribution and consumption. The objective was to verify the panorama of VoD production and consumption in the Obitel countries and the presence of national fiction on these platforms. In order to do so, we attempted to identify the reconfigurations that are occurring in the television scenario of each country in the face of new platforms of production, distribution and audiovisual consumption. Such reconfigurations take place from production to reception, from narrative forms to business models, to debates on legislation and regulation." (p.21-22)


subjects: drug trafficking; soap operas & telenovelas; extremism & terrorism reporting; crime & violence reporting; media violence: television; web entertainment series; Netflix - Colombia

Freedom of Expression, Media Policies, Media Legislation

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

161. Helpdesk. Reporters Without Borders, 2019

"helpdesk.rsf.org is a resource for journalists who want to inform and train themselves about digital security. Media production today can be threatened online in various ways, such as surveillance of communication, blocking of content, or defamation of journalists over social media. We provide guides for digital security concepts, give recommendations about tools and their uses, offer an interactive formula to practice individualized threat modeling, and conduct regular online webinars about digital security." (About the project)

https://helpdesk.rsf.org/

163. Ayden Fédérline: Big data, not big brother: New data protection laws and the implications for independent media around the world. Washington, DC: Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), 2019


166. Pressefreiheit: nicht überall erhältlich. In: blätter des iz2W, nr. 365, 2018


Pressevielfalt trotz dominanter Regierungspolitik in Namibia / Reinhart Kübler -- »Viele über Selbstzensur«: Interview mit Bob Rugukira aus Burundi über Radioamor im Exil -- Brasilien guckt in die Röhre: Die Freiheit der Medien ist auch eine Frage des Eigentums / Nils Brock -- »Repression war immer vorhanden«: Interview mit dem Schriftsteller Dogan Akhanlı über seine Verfolgung durch die Türkei -- Strategien des Widerstands: In der Türkei ist die Meinungsfreiheit weiter umkämpft / Oliver Kontrny -- »Schreib doch mal was Positives«: Freier Journalismus zwischen Engagement und Desinteresse / Andrea Jeska - - So frei wie sie erkämpft wurden: Essay zum dialektischen Verhältnis von Freiheit und Unfreiheit in Meinung und Rede / von Georg Seeßlen.

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN

- 23 -
considerable gaps in practice. Moreover, the legal environment restricts data collection and research. (*) (http://www.mom-rsf.org/en/countries/tanzania)
http://tanzania.mom-rsf.org/en/


"The toolkit encompasses a broad variety of issues, which should be considered by judicial actors in the course of their work to protect human rights. It covers legal standards of freedom of expression according to international and regional instruments and core texts and surveys pertinent jurisprudence on freedom of expression from regional and sub-regional courts or quasi-judicial bodies that deal with human rights issues. The toolkit expalicates conditions under which speech can be legitimately restricted, while also giving prominence to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, the latter representing one of the main obstacles to guaranteeing freedom of expression and freedom of information. Finally, the toolkit also addresses recent challenges to freedom of expression on the internet, including on social media, which have become vital means for sharing information and expressing views. The question of gender representation in media content and careers, and gender-specific threats for women journalists, are also addressed." (foreword, p.10) https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366340


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

173. Media ownership monitor Argentina. Reporters Without Borders; Tiempo Argentino, 2019 also published in Spanish

"The sample of media investigated by MOM includes 52 national outlets: 14 Television channels, 14 radio stations, 10 printed newspapers and 14 news websites. Most of them are owned by a few private companies mostly located in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires. They concentrate audience shares, income from private and state advertising, news production and distribution networks. State-owned media outlets are less and less influential. Each of the four media sectors (TV, radio, printed press and online) in the MOM study shows high levels of ownership and audience concentration. Grupo Clarín is the only conglomerate that has a considerable market power in all areas of the media and telecommunications industry. Other less important actors include Grupo América (formerly, Grupo UNO), which has focused on free TV and radio since it sold its cable TV company Supercanal in 2016; and Grupo Indalo, which holds interests in radio, TV and print, although its future is uncertain due to the judicial investigation involving the group’s owners, who were in prison at the time of this study." (http://www.mom-rsf.org/en/countries/argentina)
http://argentina.mom-rsf.org/en/

174. Carlos Correa (ed.): Informe 2018: situación del derecho a la libertad de expresión e información en Venezuela. Espacio Público, 2019

"Entre enero y diciembre de 2018, se registraron 387 casos/situaciones en los que se vulneró el derecho a la libertad de expresión, lo que representa un total de 608 denuncias de violaciones al derecho. Esto representa una reducción del 45% de los casos y de 41% en las violaciones respecto al 2017. Sin embargo, el 2018 se ubica como el segundo periodo con mayor cantidad de casos, al desplazar al 2014 que registró 350 situaciones en un tiempo de alta conflictividad social y política. El impedimento de cobertura en la calle a través del desalojo, las detenciones arbitrarias, y el enfrentamiento que algunas veces escala en agresiones, se sostiene como patrón regular, con especial incidencia en periodos de alta tensión social o política. En el mes de mayo se llevó a cabo un acto electoral convocado por la ilegítima asamblea nacional constituyente, evento que no cumplió con las condiciones básicas para un proceso libre, universal, auténtico y democrático; esto rencudeció el panorama de la crisis política, empezó la situación social y económica, ante la ausencia de condiciones y voluntad política para la ejecución de medidas correctivas eficientes. En agosto se aplicaron las medidas económicas por parte del Ejecutivo Nacional que implicó un aumento salarial del 5900%, lo que se tradujo en el cierre de empresas por la incapacidad de pagar los sueldos, entre ellos al menos 12 medios de comunicación." (comienzo del documento) subjects: press freedom violations - Venezuela - annual reports & yearbooks http://espaciopublico.org/informe-2018-situacion-del-derecho-a-la-libertad-de-expresion.html


"El investigador Óscar Lucien, exdirector del Instituto de Investigaciones de la Comunicación (Inicof) de la Universidad Central de Venezuela y autor del libro Cerco rojo a la libertad de expresión (La Hoja del Norte, Editorial Dahbar, Caracas, 2011), sostiene que el régimen venezolano ha diseñado una arquitectura legal de control a la información, por un lado, y de limitación a la libertad de expresión, por otro." (p.2) subjects: election reporting; government communication strategies; media in (semi) authoritarian regimes & dictatorships - Venezuela


El manual fue creado por IWPR en base a las experiencias y recomendaciones de periodistas trabajando en Cuba, con la participación de expertos y varias organizaciones internacionales comprometidas con la libertad de expresión y la protección de periodistas. El producto final es único en su tipo ya que por primera vez, integra información sobre seguridad física, psicológica, digital y legal de acuerdo a las necesidades y el contexto cubano. El objetivo del manual es fortalecer las capacidades de prevención, autoprotección y seguridad para ejercer cualquier actividad informativa en la Isla. Los diferentes apartados de este manual responden, de manera secuencial, a distintas necesidades que las y los periodistas tienen antes, durante y después de realizar su trabajo." (http://iwpr.net) subjects: safety of journalists - Cuba - manuals & training materials
https://iwpr.net/sites/default/files/download/publication/holistic_security_guide_for_cuban_journalists_es.pdf

ASIA & PACIFIC

177. Media ownership monitor India. Reporters Without Borders; Data Leads, 2019 also published in Hindi

"The Media Ownership Monitor – India finds out that while the ownership of media seems fairly plural at the national level, it is highly concentrated when one zooms into the regional level. More importantly, prominent national players have ceded their position of eminence at the regional level, where local players rule." (http://india.mom-rsf.org/en)
http://india.mom-rsf.org/en

178. Media ownership monitor Pakistan. Reporters Without Borders; Freedom Network, 2019 also published in Urdu

"The Media Ownership Monitor found that a high degree of concentration in ownership and audience share prevails in the media industry in Pakistan and a professionally weak regulatory system poses a threat to media pluralism and freedom of expression in the country." (http://pakistan.mom-rsf.org/en)
http://pakistan.mom-rsf.org/en


"In 2018, South Asia was declared by the IFJ as the most deadly region in the world for media workers, which most brutally demonstrates the reality faced by far too many in the industry. Nowhere was this more acutely felt than in Afghanistan with eight journalists and four other media workers killed, another eight threatened with death and 61 recorded violations on journalists attempting to do their job. The horrific targeted assassination of revered journalist and editor Shujaat Bukhari in Kashmir, India, in June 2018 sent shockwaves through the troubled region and beyond. Scores of journalists and even ordinary citizens turned out to mourn and shine a light on an important voice extinguished, a key voice of reason and advocate of peace in the protracted conflict. In Bangladesh, mass political demonstrations by students over road safety saw another brave advocate of freedom of expression, photojournalist Shahidul Alam targeted. Accused of spreading false and provocative statements in an interview with Al Jazeera, he was jailed for more than 100 days drawing global condemnation on the Bangladeshi government. Alam was one of 21 jailed or detained media workers in the region, on charges such as violation of digital security laws, sedition and even vague criminal determinations. Right now, Pakistani journalist Cyril Almeida is also bravely fighting..."
treaty charges in the courts for his coverage of the Kashmiri state's patronage of militant groups, while being honoured internationally as a press freedom hero.

Meanwhile Kashmiri journalist Asif Malik continues to languish in jail, charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for a story on the second anniversary of the death of a young Kashmiri militant. Many other journalists in the region were detained without charge for periods ranging from a few hours to months. All in an attempt to silence their critical voices. The period from May 2018 to April 2019, saw the mass haemorrhaging of journalist jobs in the region, most acutely in Kashmir. *(overview, p.5)*

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368232


“This report—based largely on interviews in Myanmar and analysis of legal and policy changes since 2016—assesses the NLD government’s record on freedom of expression and assembly in its more than two years in power. It updates Human Rights Watch’s prior report, “They Can Arrest You at Any Time”: The Criminalization of Peaceful Expression in Burma, issued in June 2016, focusing on the laws most commonly used to suppress speech. We conclude that freedom of expression in Myanmar is deteriorating, directly affecting a wide range of people, from Facebook users critical of officials to students performing a satirical anti-war play. Domestic journalists are particularly at risk.” *(p.2)*


“Facebook commissioned BSR to undertake a human rights impact assessment (HRIA) of the company’s presence in Myanmar. BSR undertook this HRIA between May and September 2018, using a methodology based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). This assessment identifies and prioritizes actual and potential human rights impacts, reaches conclusions about those impacts, and makes recommendations for their mitigation and management. This HRIA was funded by Facebook, though BSR retained editorial control over its contents.” *(About this report, p.1)*


183. Media ownership monitor Sri Lanka. Reporters Without Borders; Verité Research, 2018

also published in Sinhala

“Viewership, listenership and readership in the Sri Lankan media market is highly concentrated among a few media owners, many of whom have political affiliations. Limited access to ownership information and a number of regulatory shortcomings pose a further threat to media pluralism in the country.” *(http://www.mom-rsf.org/en/countries/sri-lanka)*

http://srilanka.mom-rsf.org/en/


“Since 2013, Bangladesh authorities have used draconian provisions in the Information and Communication Technology Act (ICT Act) to arrest scores of people for political and social commentary critical of the current Awami League government or its leaders. Those targeted have also included journalists and editors arrested for articles critical of government officials or for writing about corruption or maladministration, as well as numerous individuals arrested for allegedly offending religious sentiment or for defamation. ‘No Place for Criticism’ details dozens of cases since authorities amended the act in 2013 to add harsher penalties and allow the police to make arrests without warrant. Since the Cyber Tribunal was established in 2013, the police submitted 1271 charge sheets to the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka, most of them under section 57 of the act, a particularly sweeping provision. Many detainees have been held for months without trial. A significant number of those arrested are linked to Bangladesh opposition parties and were detained following complaints to the police by members of the governing Awami League. The government has pledged to replace the ICT Act with a new law, the Digital Security Act, a draft of which is now being considered by parliament. However, the proposed new law in some respects is broader and more open to abuse than the law it seeks to replace, and it continues to violate Bangladesh’s international obligation to protect freedom of speech.” *(back cover)*


185. Steve Swerdlow et al.: “You can’t see them, but they’re always there”: Censorship and freedom of the media in Uzbekistan. Human Rights Watch, 2018, 32 p.

“For more than two decades, Uzbekistan has been a country with severe restrictions on free speech and media and some of the longest-imprisoned journalists in the world. There are now tentative signs of change in Central Asia’s most populous country. Opportunities for more open debate and independent reporting are increasing, but politically-motivated prosecutions and measures of state censorship still impose pressure and a chilling effect on media outlets, journalists and other government critics. “You Can’t See Them, But They’re Always There”: Censorship and Freedom of the Media in Uzbekistan examines the situation for journalists, media outlets, and the exercise of free speech since Uzbekistan’s second president, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, assumed the presidency in 2016. Although Mirziyoyev’s government has taken some positive steps including the release of long-held journalists from prison, it has more to do to demonstrate meaningful reform in the area of free speech. It should immediately end powers of censorship, drop ongoing prosecutions against journalists, and allow effective access to information, including online. Advances for media freedom will be fleeting unless the government fully embraces freedom of speech and sends a message that peaceful criticism of government policies will be respected and protected in Uzbekistan.” *(back cover)*


EUROPE


subjects: media self-regulation - South-East Europe - criteria catalogues, frameworks, guidelines

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000367835.locale-fr


This report specifically examines legal remedies for online attacks against journalists. It looks at three case studies, in Finland, France and Ireland, of female journalists who were viciously attacked online for their work and the ensuing attempts to hold the perpetrators accountable. From an analysis of the case studies, it offers best practices and recommendations for OSCE participating States in implementing and interpreting laws so as to effectively respond to the diverse and growing forms of online harassment and protect the rights of journalists to do their work safely online without compromising freedom of expression as guaranteed by international human rights law.” *(https://www.osce.org/representative-on-freedom-of-media)*

https://www.osce.org/representative-on-freedom-of-media/413552


also published in Hungarian

“The main goal of the 2017 Soft Censorship report is to show how massively uneven the playing field has become for the various players. What remains at this point is only seemingly a market, in reality the enterprises with ties to the government operate in a whole different framework and logic than the independent media companies. Certain aspects of the report might sound familiar based on our previous reports: Every year
since we started this report we have reviewed the Media Authority’s frequency tender practices, the trends in state advertising spending and the ownership structures in the media. A whole new aspect of our report is the look at the revenue side of the Hungarian media ecosystem, which serves to analyse the behaviour of commercial advertisers and advertising agencies." (introduction)


“2017 was marred by the assassination, in Malta, of the investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, an event which represented the darkest hour for media freedom and media pluralism in the European Union since the 2015 Charlie Hebdo massacre in France. This crime has profoundly shaken Europe and has had an impact on its image as a bastion of human rights and democratic values. Publishers continued to face significant economic pressures, and 2017 confirmed the decline in the revenues of the press sector and of many local and community newspapers across Europe, a worldwide trend signalling continued job losses in the sector and the lower viability of the media business as organisations struggle to find sustainable business models in the face of digital transformation. The spread of online disinformation and hate speech, including concerns about their impact on elections and referenda in 2016, represented major areas of debate during 2017. States, international institutions, and private enterprises have discussed or adopted measures – both legislative and non-legislative – to address these phenomena, and several of these measures have, in turn, raised concerns about their impact on the freedom of expression and respect for the rule of law. Due to the aforementioned concerns with regard to the economic difficulties faced by publishers, as well as online hate speech and disinformation, 2017 was noteworthy for an increased interest in the analysis of the influence of major online platforms in both public debate and public opinion. Queries over accountability, transparency and the overall effect on democracy in relation to the digital platforms have escalated. In 2017, several stakeholders expressed concerns about such platforms’ use of machine learning and algorithms in personalising news feeds, as well as their use of the end-users’ data for targeted advertising purposes.” (executive summary) http://cmap.eu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Media-Pluralism-Monitor_CMPF-report_KPM2017_A.pdf

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA

190. Media ownership monitor Egypt. Reporters Without Borders, 2019

“A hostile takeover of Egypt’s media is under way, leaving the influence on public opinion to be controlled by the state, the secret services and a few wealthy owners loyal to the regime and with close ties to the former president Hosni Mubarak. In a move to gain influence over the State-owned media, the media giant Egyptian Media group signed several deals with the National Media authority on 20 January 2019 extending its control and increasing the influence of the General Intelligence over the Egyptian media landscape. The coordinated attack on media freedom and pluralism is facilitated by a set of new laws restructuring the media sector in 2018 and by the ongoing pressure on journalists and media workers by the state.” (http://www.mom-rsf.org/en/countries/egypt)

http://egypt.mom-rsf.org/en


"Through a meticulous empirical examination of the criminalization of the Turkish hacktivist group Redhack, Dogan explores the critical conflation of hacktivism with cyber-terrorism—by national security organizations and academic researchers alike — that enables states to criminalize non-violent hacktivist groups. The paper’s empirical sources include interviews with Turkish security agents, legal and regulatory texts, and its theoretical grounding is a combination of literatures on moral panic, hacking, social sources include interviews with Turkish security agents, legal and regulatory texts, and its theoretical grounding is a combination of literatures on moral panic, hacking, social movements, critical criminology, and framing analysis. In examining how Redhack constitutes an anomaly, and in exploring how anomalies point to the necessity of grounded, context-sensitive research, Dogan contributes conceptual development beyond Turkey and beyond hacktivism." (p.1)

https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=10106&context=carpc_papers


“On 3 May 2016, the Declaration on Media Freedom in the Arab World (Declaration or Arab Declaration) was adopted at a groundbreaking event in Casablanca, Morocco, attended by over 100 delegates representing journalists’ unions, human rights campaigners and media groups from across the Arab World. The Declaration is historic for a number of reasons. Firstly, it represents the first comprehensive statement on media freedom rights in the Arab World. Secondly, the values it promotes reflect the highest international standards of media freedom and the protection of journalists’ rights. Thirdly and perhaps most importantly, since its adoption, a process has been underway to obtain formal recognition of the Declaration by Arab States, with the result that a growing number of these States are endorsing it. The Declaration, which includes a Preamble and 16 principles addressing different thematic issues relating to media freedom and the protection of journalists’ rights, is clear and self-evident. At the same time, declarations are, by definition, brief, focusing on setting out key principles and standards. This Explanatory Memorandum elaborates on the principles in the Declaration, providing background on the underlying international and regional standards from which they are drawn.” (p.1)


193. Media ownership monitor Lebanon. Reporters Without Borders; Samir Kassir Foundation, 2018 also published in Arabic

“The seemingly buzzing Lebanese media market is, in fact, controlled by only a few highly politicized owners that are either directly affiliated with political parties or belong to Lebanese dynasties. Additional threats to media pluralism arise from clear editorial lines defined by politics, close ties among the dynasties, and a number of regulatory shortcomings.” (http://www.mom-rsf.org/en/countries/lebanon)

http://lebanon.mom-rsf.org/en


“The first part of the report provides a general introduction to the definition of digital rights and what they entail, and surveys key UN resolutions that recognise the impact of the internet on human rights. The second part of the report examines the accessibility of the internet by Palestinians as a basic human right, taking into consideration their geographical, judicial and administrative fragmentation and how this affects their access to the internet and information and communications technologies (ICTs). The third part maps the recent restrictions and violations of Palestinians’ digital rights by three governments: the Israeli government, the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and the de-facto Hamas administration in the Gaza Strip. It also looks into practices and policies of private tech companies and their impact on Palestinian digital rights. The fourth part pays special attention to the issue of gender and the internet, examining in particular Palestinian women’s use of the internet and the threats of cybercrime and gender-based violence online.” (introduction)


Gender & Media

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


“Teachers can cultivate gender-sensitive graduates able to impact on the future communication environment to help make it inclusive, diverse and open. Scholars from 10 universities across from all world regions have collaborated on this project: Complutense University (Spain), Hawassa University (Ethiopia), Howard University (United States), Iberoamerican University of the Dominican Republic (UNIBE), National Autonomous University of Mexico (Mexico), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Chile), RMIT University (Australia), SNDT Women’s University (India), Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, (Ecuador), University of Padova (Italy). In preparing this curriculum, members of these Untwvun universities embarked on a year-long process of research, mapping and writing to ensure that cultural differences were taken into consideration in writing the chapters. This underpins the focus on core concepts such as gender mainstreaming, gender sensitivity, equality and equity, all which have been reflected in the book. It also ensures a wide range of information and up-to-date evidence, that can appropriately resonate in different ways in different countries.” (foreword)

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368963.locale=en

“Cyberwomen is a digital security curriculum with a holistic and gender perspective, geared towards both professional trainers and those who want to learn how to train others on their digital protection and include gender considerations as they do so. It is made up of training modules, interactive games and recommendations for evaluating the training, as well as audio-visual and graphic materials as instructional aids.” (https://iwpr.net)


“In low- and middle-income countries women are 10% less likely than men to own a mobile phone. Over 1.2 billion women do not use mobile internet. There is a significant gender gap in mobile usage – particularly for more transformational services. Women in South Asia are 26% less likely to own a mobile than men and 70% less likely to use mobile internet. Cost is the greatest barrier to both mobile ownership and to mobile internet use. Other key barriers, often felt more strongly by women than men, include lack of perceived relevance, safety and security-related issues and low digital literacy and literacy. Women are less aware of mobile internet compared with men.” (key findings)


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


subjects: media coverage of women & gender issues - Mali - media monitoring (case studies)


“Women in News Somalia aims to increase women’s leadership and voices in the media. It does so by equipping women journalists and editors with the skills, strategies, and support networks to take on greater leadership positions within their media. Through a two-year programme (2015-2017) 12 women media professionals from across Somalia and Somaliland participated in a combination of training, mentoring, coaching and networking to learn practical skills and gain more confidence in their ability to play a key role in the Somali media sector. The WIN Somalia programme consisted of three gatherings where media management and career management training were delivered together with one-on-one coaching to identify and create a tailored career roadmap for each participant.” (p.1)


200. Donald P. Green, Anna Wilke, Jasper Cooper: Silence begets violence: A mass media experiment to prevent violence against women in rural Uganda? [no publisher], 2018

“Preventing violence against women (VAW) requires witnesses to come forward, yet willingness to report is often undermined by social sanctions against those suspected of fabricating allegations. Our theory of the micro-politics of information disclosure in interdependent communities elucidates the role of social norms in preventing VAW. We present experimental evidence from a media campaign attended by over 10,000 Ugandans in 112 rural villages that featured three short videos designed to encourage reporting of VAW in the household. Results indicate a substantial reduction in VAW over a 6-month period following the campaign. Investigation of mechanisms reveals that women in the treatment group became less likely to believe that they would be labeled a gossip if they were to report an incident of VAW, and their personal willingness to speak out increased substantially. We find no evidence of a deeper change in core values pertaining to VAW.” (abstract)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


“En esta investigación se detecta que las noticias de violencia contra la mujer basada en género, emitidas en la radio y televisión, en su gran mayoría, no han sido producidas con enfoque de género, alimentan estereotipos y representaciones distorsionadas de la mujer; refuerzan mensajes violentos; y, por ende, no contribuyen con la prevención de más situaciones de violencia ... La mayoría de las informaciones son noticias simples con un enfoque presentista donde únicamente se narra el hecho, no se contextualiza, no se explican causas, no se presenta información que pudiera ayudar a evitar más actos violentos.” (conclusions)

subjects: media coverage of women & gender issues; crime & violence reporting; gender-based violence: media coverage; gender representation, stereotypes & role models in the media - Peru - content analysis (case studies)


“Al reconocer que estructural y socialmente la enunciación y la sistematización de los saberes comunes y comunitarios es contestataria y disruptiva, apelamos a la sabiduría ancestral y la infalible innovación contemporánea de las colectivas, de las mujeres tecnologías, de las ciberfeministas y de las activistas a favor de los derechos de las mujeres y las entrevistamos. Quisimos saber qué es violencia para ellas y cómo la viven cuando les es narrada por otras que la padecen. Cómo llevan esos momentos primeros de atención, contención y diagnósticos. De qué forma ayudan a las mujeres enfrentando violencias y qué aprendizajes recogen de esos acompañamientos. Y a la par de que compartieran con nosotros algún hack, su noción de límites y las estrategias que han elaborado para difundir su trabajo y sus conocimientos sin poner en peligro a sus pares y alianzas. En el transcurso de escuchar testimonios de más de 20 mujeres provenientes de casi todos los países de América Latina encontramos reflexiones profundas sobre el ser y el hacer de las mujeres y bases sólidas para el fortalecimiento de redes de apoyo, educación y autodefensa.” (introducción)

subjects: gender-based violence: media coverage; cyberbullying, cyberharassment; cybercrime; gender harassment & abuse in the media - Latin America

https://iwpr.net/sites/default/files/download/publication/iwpr-hacks-de-vida-web.pdf

ASIA & PACIFIC

203. We can do it: Cambodia communication assistance project. Impact briefing. ABC International Development, 2019, 11 p.

“The ‘We Can Do It’ (WCDI) radio program was established to educate, raise awareness and responsiveness to violence against women in Cambodia. Programs were broadcast in 5 provinces: Battambang, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Kampot and Kratie. The program ran for three years (2016-2019) under financial and technical support from ABCID and Australian Aid. This impact briefing reveals the progress made by the radio program towards ending violence against women. WCDI listeners consistently demonstrate better knowledge of legal processes and resources than an inclusive sample. Less promisingly, both listeners and non-listeners exhibit decreased confidence in the capacity and willingness of authorities to intervene.” (https://www.abc.net.au/abc-international-development)


“This report provides an overview of the profile of women in the Papua New Guinea media sector, focussing on major or significant media outlets in the capital, Port Moresby. The purpose of this report is to provide background information and analysis needed to make recommendations to overcome barriers to women being in decision making positions and to progress professionally within their organization and the media sector overall. The first part of the study provides a sector overview of gender diversity at the decision-making level and the number of policies, practices, and opportunities available to support women in the workplace. In total, 13 media organisations across, radio, TV, print and online participated in the study... The second part of the study..."
analyses interviews from female and male media sector personnel with experience ranging from 3 months to 25 years. 14 interviews were conducted in total. Participants were selected from the organisations covered in Section 1 of the report. Interviews covered the current state of workplace culture and environment, barriers to women’s career development and recommendations for reducing barriers to women’s career progression in the media industry.” (introduction) 


“To inform the development of a new radio drama for Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar, BBC Media Action carried out a small scale qualitative research study that sought to understand more about Rohingya men and women’s understanding and attitudes towards child marriage, intimate partner violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. Eight in-depth interviews and four mini focus group discussions were held with Rohingya men and women living in two camps in Cox’s Bazar, as well as key informant interviews with humanitarian practitioners working on issues related to gender-based violence (GBV). The study found that intimate partner violence and child marriage are deeply rooted and normalised within the Rohingya community in Cox’s Bazar. The perceived economic and social benefits of marrying their daughters off early greatly outweigh the risks of child marriage for parents, who have little knowledge of the health risks of early childbirth, and fear social criticism if their daughters are not married within two to three years of going through puberty. Both Rohingya men and women accept intimate partner violence as a normal part of life, and believe it is the husband’s right to abuse his wife if she does not fulfil her duties. Women rarely speak out about violence against them, for fear they will be socially ostracised and their husbands will remarry, leaving them without any financial stability and no opportunity to remarry. These findings have clear implications for communications initiatives, including the need to work towards de-normalising gender-based violence, by engaging both male and female audiences in storylines which encourage them to question existing practices and norms.” (https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacttion) http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/pdf/research/briefing-violence-against-rohingya-women.pdf


1: Between On-screen and Off-screen Gender Politics: Contextualising Research -- 2: Breach in the Culture of Shame: Openness in Gender-Based Content -- 3: Understanding the Dynamics of the Production of Gendered Content -- 4: Empowering Women or Bringing Change through Drama Serials: Producers’ Perspectives -- 5: Interactive TV: Empowering Women/Bringing Change on Producers’ Agenda? -- 6: Women Empowered or Disciplined through Gendered Content: the Case of Drama Serials -- 7: Interactive TV: Viewers Empowered or Disciplined -- Conclusions.


“Using the 2012 Delhi Nirbhaya rape case as a case study and keeping gender discourses at its core, this book explores the use of digital media for gender activism in India demonstrating how it has formed an alternate platform for dissent.” (publisher) https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/book/10.1108/9781787545298

208. The status of women journalists at Jordan’s media institutions. International Media Support (IMS), 2018, 35 p. also published in Arabic

“Many women have faced and are still facing hindrances driven by gender-based discrimination that have limited their number, dimmed their role as journalists and restricted their prospects of professional development. The percentage of women at media organisations is less than 23%, while they almost have no presence in leadership positions, which are dominated by men. The key obstacles they face are: Media outlets do not cater for their needs as working women. They impose working-hour regimes and assignments that are not suitable for their social circumstances, and decline to install and nurseries for their children. 40% of respondents said their organizations did not support them to handle situations within their families and communities that restrict and obstruct their work as journalists; Discrimination against women at work in terms of opportunities, job benefits and rewarding performance financially and morally. 90% of respondents said that this discrimination obstructs the progress of women journalists’ careers and leads to an overwhelming frustration with their situation as working women; Discrimination against women by sources such as politicians and government officials, which creates an unfair professional rivalry between male and female journalists in pursuit of information; Rising rates of sexual harassment targeting women journalists verbally and physically, by male co-workers and bosses, during their field work or from sources. 45% of respondents said harassment has rendered the working environment threatening for women journalists, to the point where they might quit; Absence of clear-cut, deterrent laws and regulations that protect women journalists from discrimination and harassment, safeguard their rights and ensure them justice by holding perpetrators to account.” (executive summary) https://www.mediasupport.org/publication/the-status-of-women-journalists-in-jordans-media-institutions-arabic-version/


“The Gender Sensitive Public Communications Project was implemented by Search for Common Ground in Lebanon, together with its local partner Abaad, with an aim to promote women’s participation in politics through the production of gender sensitive television drama and short films. Specifically, the project was designed to increase the belief of television audiences in women’s political leadership capacity and to strengthen the capacity of television professionals to produce gender sensitive programs ... A total of 416.033 viewers have watched two mini series that were aired on the Lebanese TV channel Al Jadeed. With an average minute rating of 5.35%, the performance of the project’s mini series is considered medium as compared to other popular TV series broadcasted on Al Jadeed. Close to 97% of the surveyed participants who have watched the two mini series and/or the four short films, stated that they felt the stories addressed real concerns and issues in the Lebanese society, and that the storylines were realistic. The evaluation findings suggest that the workshops conducted with the students were successful in strengthening the participants’ capacities to produce gender sensitive programs with an aim to promote the participation of women in politics. The workshops were able to increase their knowledge on specific topics, such as gender related legal matters, mapping of ideas and gender sensitive writing. More than half of the students who participated in the workshop, and who were interviewed during the evaluation, confirmed having gained knowledge on gender related topics, and all students who took part in the online survey answered that the workshop had increased their knowledge on producing gender sensitive programs “a lot.” (executive summary, p.5-6) https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Search_Final_Evaluation_Gender_Sensitive_Communications_Project.pdf

International Communication, Foreign News, Public Diplomacy

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


“…While a large number of problematic situations involving members of the Chinese diaspora have resulted in gradual worsening of the image of this specific group. Such problematic issues include the low quality of engineering projects, maltreatment of Angolan workers and a possibility of Chinese neo-colonization of Angola.” (abstract) https://doi.org/10.1386/jams.10.3.251_1

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


“…Featuring a wealth of interviews with a variety of actors – from Chinese and African journalists in Chinese media to Chinese workers for major telecommunication companies – this highly original book demonstrates how China is both contributing to the ‘Africa rising’ narrative while exploiting the weaknesses of Western approaches to Africa, which remain trapped between an emphasis on stability and service delivery, on the one hand, and the desire to advocate human rights and freedom of expression on the other. Arguing no state can be understood without attention to its information structure, the book...
provides the first assessment of China’s new model for the media strategies of developing states, and the consequences of policing Africa’s information space for geopolitical, security and citizenship." (homepage Zed Books)


"Sustained media interest in African countries, funded from deep pockets in Beijing, may well attract admirers if the coverage is positive or uncritical. The forward-looking narrative promoted by \"constructive\" or \"positive\" reporting may help developing nations by not crushing them under too much early scrutiny. However, lacunae in CCTV\'s [China\'s Central Television] Africa\'s critical focus harm its overall journalistic credibility, no matter how widely its features and some of its news reporting are praised.African journalism - rooted in Western traditions — is acquiring the tools to hold its own leaders to account. CCTV Africa may disseminate Chinese soft power, but its state media position militates against the notion that it can be a source of soft power itself." (p.117)


"This article examines the relationship between journalism in Africa and foreign investment in the African media space through an analysis of newsroom practices and the power relations that inform such practices in Chinese media organisations based in Africa. It illustrates the discrepancies between China\'s promise of mutuality and equality and the lived experiences of African journalists working in Chinese media organisations such as CGTN, Xinhua News Agency and China Daily newspaper. The article draws on the routine and organisation levels of Shoemaker and Reese\'s hierarchy of influences model and interviews with African journalists working in the three Chinese media organisations based in Nairobi, Kenya. The findings indicate that an African and Chinese level of gatekeeping and journalistic agency exist within Chinese media organisations based in Africa. Even though these levels co-exist, the Chinese levels are dominant over the African." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2018.1473275


"This article uses data from seven focus groups with media and communication university students in Kenya and South Africa to explore the efficacy of Chinese-mediated public diplomacy. We show that Chinese media have little impact on students\’ information habits, demonstrate that attitudes toward China are predominantly negative, and argue that this stereotyping affects opinions about Chinese media. We also suggest that some students\’ favored news values overlap with those associated with Chinese media. This may indicate a potential affinity between the journalistic practice of Chinese media in Africa and that of future Kenyan and South African media professionals, which could increase the chances of China\’s media engagements having an impact in the long term." (abstract)

https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/7809

ASIA & PACIFIC


"Chinese authorities influence news media content around the world through three primary strategies: promoting the CCP\’s narratives, suppressing critical viewpoints, and managing content delivery systems. These efforts have already undercut key features of democratic governance and best practices for media freedom by undermining fair competition, interfering with Chinese diaspora communities, weakening the rule of law, and establishing channels for political meddling. Actions by policymakers and media development donors in democracies will play a critical role in coming years in countering the potential negative impact of Beijing\’s foreign media influence campaigns." (key findings)


"The media in Afghanistan and Pakistan has never been so large, vibrant and independent. It has attained unimaginable power and become a key player in politics and other walks of life. Media is the fourth pillar of the state and democracy in both Afghanistan and Pakistan in the true sense of the word. Earlier, it was the mainstream print and electronic media that was dominant and had assumed unprecedented importance. Now the social media is making an impact in these two neighbouring countries and often taking the lead in breaking news even if it has lesser credibility than the mainstream media. The media has tended to be overly patriotic and at times even aggressive in context of the perceived national interests of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The poor relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan affect the work of journalists. There is generally lack of awareness about each other due to the virtual absence of Afghan media in Pakistan and Pakistani media in Afghanistan." (p.1)


218. Elira Turdubaeva: Content analysis of the representation of Central Asia, the Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldova in the media of Kyrgyzstan in 2017. Bishkek: Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR), 2018

also published in Russian

"In sum, the representation of the several discussed topics – regional unions, regional cooperation organizations such as the EAEU, CIS, CSTO; Kyrgyz-Uzbek relations, Kyrgyz-Kazakh border conflict, Kyrgyz-Tajik relations and border issues, Central Asian integration, Central Asia and Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine, Central Asia and Moldova, Russia as regional power etc. – provides a rich example of how differently the 15 websites frame the partnership between Central Asia, Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldova. Topics about Kyrgyzstan\’s relationships with neighboring Central Asian countries are prevalent in most state-owned media." (conclusion, p.35)


EUROPE


"This study investigates the relationship between media frames and public perceptions of global poverty. Building on a frame analysis, the paper reconstructs prevailing poverty narratives in British news articles and non-governmental organisations (NGO\’s) advertisements between 2011 and 2013. Following this, these narratives are compared with the narratives that emerge from public opinion studies. The findings suggest that there is a strong connection between media frames and public knowledge and perceptions of global poverty. Both the media and the public define poverty in developing countries\’ terms of destitute victims, lack of development and bad governance. Both suggest that the causes of poverty are internal to developing countries and imply that there has been little progress in reducing global poverty." (abstract)


Journalism & Journalism Education

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"How do journalists around the world view their own function and role in society? Based on a landmark study that has collected data from more than 25,000 journalists in 66 countries between 2012 and 2015, Worlds of Journalism examines the different ways journalists conceive of their responsibilities, their relationship to society and government, and the work they do. The authors conclude that there is no one conception of journalism

"This handbook seeks to provide an internationally-relevant model curriculum, open to adoption or adaptation, which responds to the emerging global problem of disinformation that confronts societies in general, and journalism in particular. Serving as a model curriculum, the publication is designed to give journalism educators and trainers a framework and lessons to help students and practitioners of journalism to navigate the issues associated with ’fake news’. We also hope that it will be a useful guide for practising journalists. The contents draw together the input of leading international journalism educators, researchers and thinkers who are helping to update journalism method and practice to deal with the challenges of misinformation and disinformation. The lessons are contextual, theoretical and in the case of online verification, extremely practical." (back cover)

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002655/265526e.pdf


"The article shows that constructive journalism is no new term and that its inherent principles share similarities with other well-known movements in the history of journalism. These include action journalism that was popular on both sides of the Atlantic at the turn of last century and public journalism that flourished at the turn of this century. Common for most of these movement are, however, their lack of conceptual clarity. The differences and similarities between constructive journalism, past movements, and more classical conceptions of journalism are analyzed through the framework of the Journalistic Compass that delineates four classical roles within journalism. The article concludes by describing the opportunities—and difficulties – that this recent movement faces as still more persons and organizations lay claim to practicing constructive journalism and it discusses how the proponents might learn from former movements that have gained popularity for a period but whose importance has since diminished." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1177/1464884918770523


"This article begins by describing the recently created classifications of elements of constructive journalism and present examples of the media profession applying these elements. Constructive journalism draws on behavioural sciences, specifically psychological psychology. From this, it is assumed that including constructive elements such as solution orientation, future orientation, depolarising techniques and seeking co-creation with the public contribute to the well-being of individuals as well as society. Following a public-oriented perspective, audience research is performed to understand how people value the incorporation of constructive elements in the news. Using an online survey, data were gathered from 3263 people in the Netherlands, aged 20–65. Results show an overall positive valuation, with some constructive elements appreciated more than others. Age, educational background and news interest seem to play a role in the nature of this valuation." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1177/1464884918770537


"Constructive journalism as a (news) philosophy and practice is gaining ground around the globe as both new journalistic ventures and legacy news media variously experiment with so-called ‘constructive’ approaches, and specialized (nonprofit) organizations and training programs have been established. While scholarly interest in the subject has steadily grown accordingly, constructive journalism as a research field in its own right is arguably still in need of further development. Therefore, we set out to explore, advance, and shape a research agenda, and to build a theoretical and empirical foundation for constructive journalism, providing a 360° view by bringing together an international body of scholarship approaching the topic and the issues raised through different disciplinary, conceptual, and methodological lenses." (abstract)

According to the introduction “the present publication has a Janus-like function. It looks back on and reflects on a highly successful series of expert meetings and related work carried out by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media between 2014 and 2015. At the same time, it also looks forward, wondering how the regulatory, ethical, technological and market-related challenges facing Open Journalism can be overcome in the future.” (p.3). The authors state that “Open Journalism is an umbrella term that covers a variety of collaborative and cooperative forms of journalism, for instance between professional journalists and recognised experts on the topics they are covering, or between professional journalists and members of the general public. There is no fixed or authoritative definition of the term, but the notion of participation is key. The term also denotes an opening up of journalism and the recognition that a growing number of actors engage in the activity of journalism. What has changed is the nature of the relationship between journalists and the public. Journalism is no longer the preserve of professional journalists and there can be interaction with the public during all stages of the news production process.” (p.6)

https://www.osce.org/representative-on-freedom-of-media/384432


“IREX partnered with Lore.Ai to test whether machine learning software can automatically detect news articles that contain journalists’ own opinions. This matters because impartial, fact-based news is a powerful indicator for the quality of media and the vibrancy of an information ecosystem. A team of professional media evaluators trained machine learning software to find examples of news articles that contain opinions from a body of over 1,200 online Mozambican news articles. The software identified articles that contained opinions with 95% accuracy. This accuracy was achieved after only 16 rounds of training the software, and anecdotes from the team suggest that the software’s accuracy noticeably improved after only about 20 minutes of “training”. The results have promising implications to improve efficiency, scale, and consistency of traditionally manual and time-consuming media monitoring efforts, such as helping projects target resources more effectively to support journalists whose articles are flagged by the software. The process also surfaced valuable lessons about limitations of applying machine learning to monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) in global development contexts, such as reinforcing human bias or the need to invest in training. The results have promising implications to improve efficiency, scale, and consistency of traditionally manual and time-consuming media monitoring efforts, such as helping projects target resources more effectively to support journalists whose articles are flagged by the software. The process also surfaced valuable lessons about limitations of applying machine learning to monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) in global development contexts, such as reinforcing human bias or the need to invest in training.” (key findings, p.1)


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


“This exploratory study ... argues that in a continent where traditional media organizations are increasingly failing to hold power to account, not-for-profit organizations are leading by example, setting the agenda and constantly scrutinizing those in power. This study further looks at the motivation behind the formation of three not-for-profit investigative organizations, their funding model, as well as their impact in their respective countries. The following organizations are being studied. South Africa’s Amabhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism; Nigeria’s Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism; and Botswana’s INK Centre for Investigative Journalism. This study also argues that although these organizations are playing a crucial role in keeping power in check, their overreliance on donor organizations may spell doom for some of them.” (abstract)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


Publeaks is a failsafe when legal protections fail / Leon Willems – 1. Leaking news to get revenge (Mexico) / Eduard Martín-Borregón, Homero Campa – 2. A case that smells on all fronts (Netherlands) / Annemieke van Dongen, Sander van Mersbergen – 3.


“This article addresses practices of constructive journalism in the local, postcolonial context of St. Maarten, an autonomous Dutch Caribbean island. Building on extensive fieldwork at print and online news media outlets on the island and 14 in-depth interviews with reporters, editors, and news bloggers, this article shows that constructive journalism practices are widespread in St. Maarten. These are based on ideals of contributing to economic development, engagement and belonging, and social stability. The fieldwork, however, also revealed skepticism toward constructive journalism practices because of local political, economic, and socio-cultural constraints. This skepticism parallels broader critiques on active and involved forms of journalism, throwing up questions about the meaning and feasibility of a ‘constructive’ role of journalists in young, postcolonial democracies. This article argues that local constraints on St. Maarten journalism undermine the normative underpinnings of constructive journalism and calls for more disruptive journalism to serve the local community.”

http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1464884918770555


Metodología -- Anatomia de un profesor de periodismo emprendedor -- Radiografía de los cursos de periodismo emprendedor -- Desempeño y impacto -- Sumario de recomendaciones -- Kit básico para enseñar periodismo emprendedor.


“Este livro é fruto da pesquisa de doutorado defendida sob o título “Um novo ecossistema midiático: A história do jornalismo digital no Brasil (1995 a 2017)”. Nela, Rovai chamou de Ultimate Fighting Journalism um estilo de combate informativo na rede que nasceu fruto de décadas de silenciamento das diversas vozes que não compactuam com as elites conservadoras e com o neoliberalismo dominante dos canais de comunicação de massas. Indo em direção contrária aos que clamam pela construção de uma perspectiva centrista e neopositivista, Rovai buscou demonstrar que o combate informativo é fundamental para a democracia. Aqui encontramos a história de 22 anos do jornalismo digital no Brasil. Aqui encontramos uma nova perspectiva teórica para compreender a comunicação em rede e os fenômenos da blogosfera e do midiavilismo. Aqui encontramos importantes revelações, tais como: o site No. pertencente ao banqueiro Daniel Dantas; o Estadão poderia ter sido um grande portal ou plataforma digital, mas sucumbiu diante da incompreensão das tendências comunicacionais da família controladora da empresa; os embates entre os setores da Abril foram decisivas para o fracasso de vários projetos de internet que a editora organizou, entre tantos outros bastidores.” (prefácio, p.10)

subjects: digital journalism - Brazil


ASIA & PACIFIC


“The growing influence of social media on journalistic work has attracted scholarly attention worldwide in recent years. However, due to cultural and language barriers, we lack comprehensive understanding of the journalist social media practice in non-Western countries. To help fill this gap, this study offers a review and synthesis of existing scholarship on journalist social media practice in China. The authors systematically analyzed recent research studies published in both English-language journals in the West

Media Assistance


"This study offers an overview of the current status of journalism and mass communication education in the Arab World. Specifically, through an exploratory analysis of structure, curricula and faculty from ten journalism and mass communication programs in five Arab countries, the study identified four typologies that characterize journalism and mass communication education in the Arab World. These typologies were also determined by political and economic differences in the region. In an effort to expand literature on global journalism and mass communication education, this study was the first to apply typologies in its methodological approach. Through the process of classification, the study was able to provide a better understanding of how and why journalism education differs within a specific region." (abstract)

http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1748048517747492


"This report features 13 case studies that together highlight the range and impact of UNDP’s engagement with the media for the purpose of achieving development outcomes. These examples vary widely in scope and aim: from an election media monitoring initiative in Georgia to an initiative promoting local empowerment through community radio in remote areas of Laos People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR); from engagement with media for peacebuilding in Lebanon to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) awareness campaigns implemented in partnership with the private sector in Brazil. By showcasing successful examples of UNDP’s latest media initiatives, this report is meant to serve several purposes. First, it seeks to demonstrate that, across development contexts, UNDP has increasingly identified media engagement as a priority for its policy and programmes. Indeed, the case studies show that there is growing recognition that engaging the media has become indispensable for making progress on inclusive governance, peace and development outcomes and ultimately for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Second, the report seeks to outline UNDP’s comparative advantage and unique role in this area of work as well as to spark new approaches on media engagement and build new partnerships with media actors, the private sector, civil society and governments. This report therefore builds on broader UNDP efforts at promoting the media’s role in development, including an expert roundtable hosted by the Oslo Governance Centre in November 2017 on the role of media in promoting peace in conflict-prone settings." (introduction)


"Both funding and making media are now dangerous in new ways: Foundations, publishers, editors and journalists across the world are facing not just familiar forms of repression and censorship, but new threats from breaches to digital privacy and a notably uncivil online culture. Funders need to work more systematically to educate and protect themselves and their grantees. Power dynamics are skewed in favor of American funders: The data emphasizes U.S.-based funders, who appear to be setting the agenda for foundation support of media worldwide, raising questions about power dynamics between these funders and local foundations and grantees .... Foundations can have an outsized influence on a country’s media system: This power can be productive or disruptive depending on the context. On the one hand, funders can support convenings, monitoring, regional partnerships and even media distribution from outside of countries where anti-democratic leaders repress the media. On the other, foundations can create perverse incentives through supporting initiatives that don’t match needs on the ground, or through short-term funding that leaves local organizations stranded." (conclusions, p.5)


https://doi.org/10.3726/b14700

“GFMD members welcome the international recognition of media and journalism issues within the overall international development agenda, noting the common language it provides and the accountability tool it may offer towards encouraging governments (including donor countries) to live up to their commitments. Some members caution, however, that there are risks in viewing 16.10, and the SDGs in general, both too broadly and too narrowly. This includes, for example, the wider parameters of access to information—which applies not only to journalists, but to civil society organisations, citizens, and others—as well as a danger that access to information might overshadow attention to violence against journalists. Others suggest that 16.10 should be seen in the overall context of Goal 16—that is: peace, justice, and public institutions—to ensure that attention to violence against journalists. Others suggest that 16.10 should be seen in the overall context of Goal 16—that is: peace, justice, and public institutions—to ensure that attention to violence against journalists.

Media-related assistance continues to look at the fuller enabling environment of laws, policies, and actors that ensure plurality, safety, and viability. Furthermore, some GFMD members caution against getting stuck in the “silo” of 16.10. These members remind of the need to demonstrate that media and information are not just rights in and unto themselves, but they can also be enabling rights for others—such as gender equality and the environment—and thus important and relevant for the whole SDG agenda. This does not suggest instrumentalising media for the sake of contributing to other SDGs, but rather strengthening the role of media in serving as a watchdog, holding governments accountable, informing the public, providing a voice for the voiceless, and offering a platform for debate.10 The leading concern about an SDG approach, however, is that it is ill-suited for authoritarian governments that not only reject the international development agenda, but also international standards on human rights.” (conclusions)


also published in French

subjects: International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC); project financing

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000367938


“With independent media around the world in crisis, what is the role of international donors and private foundations? And how can these international actors provide effective support when the driving forces behind independent media’s decline—simultaneously technological, financial, social, political, and institutional—are so complex and difficult to disentangle? This report argues that complexity is no excuse for inaction. Solutions to this crisis will require that political agency rise to the daunting level of the challenge, and that the structures of international cooperation—forged as the global response to World War II—are now put into motion to safeguard the foundations of independent media. Based on input from media actors, freedom of expression activists, implementers, and donors, the report puts forward three interrelated objectives that, if achieved, would help to international cooperation in the media sector: 1. Build the high-level political will and donor capacity needed to increase support to the media sector; 2. Strengthen approaches to international cooperation focused on the development of media sector institutions; 3. Enhance the effectiveness of media sector support by making it more demand-driven and coordinated.” (key findings)

https://www.cima.ned.org/publication/media-development-ogp/

245. Alexander Fanta: Citizen Google: Wie ein Konzern den Journalismus dominiert. netzpolitik.org, 2019


https://netzpolitik.org/2018/citizen-google-wie-ein-konzern-den-journalismus-dominiert/


“The global effort to promote open and transparent government creates new opportunities to put media development on the political agenda of countries around the world. This report looks in particular at the structures of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which in its 2016 Paris Declaration characterized the media as a “crucial force for transparency and accountability.” In an era of democratic backsliding and declining public trust in institutions of all kinds, the need for pluralistic, independent, and high-quality news media has never been more important. Yet even the most democratically minded countries in the world are having trouble creating the laws, policies, and practices to ensure a healthy media system. Can the Open Government Partnership’s multi-stakeholder forums be used to stimulate solutions to some of the most intractable challenges facing independent media? This report maps the entry points for media reformers in the OGP process, and highlights a series of recommendations for how take advantage of these entry points, including by: Building country-level coalitions that can put media reform on the open government agenda; Investing in global agenda-building and peer-to-peer learning on the intersections between open government and media development; Aiming for long-term and strategic goals related to the OGP’s National Action Plans.” (key findings)

https://www.cima.ned.org/publication/media-development-ogp/

247. Kate Wright, Martin Scott, Mel Bunce: Foundation-funded journalism, philanthrocapitalism and tainted donors. In: Journalism Studies, vol. 20, nr. 5, 2019, p.675-695

“Not-for-profit news organisations are increasingly funded by private foundations, supported by wealthy entrepreneurs. This raises a range of ethical dilemmas for journalists, which are particularly serious when their donors are alleged to have been involved in unethical or illegal activities. Although this is a relatively common occurrence in the non-profit sector, so far there has been no critical discussion of these issues in relation to foundation-funded journalism. In this article, we interrogate a rich and detailed case study of the relations between a non-profit news organisation and a donor accused of being involved in a massive, international fraud scandal. We document how the news outlet justified their acceptance of this donor’s money; the defensive strategies they used to protect their reputation, organisational values and editorial freedom; and the conditions that ultimately led to journalists parting ways with the foundation. In so doing, we draw on ideas about philanthrocapitalism, stakeholders and resource dependence in order to develop model of how nonprofits respond to “tainted” donors.” (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2017.1417053

248. James Deane: Is it time for a global fund for free and independent media? BBC Media Action, 2018

“In recent weeks I have argued there is a need to bring fresh energy, creativity and intensity to efforts to support independent media. But these alone will not be enough. There is a fundamental problem of resources so I propose the creation of a new Global Fund for Free and Independent Media focused in particular on resource poor societies and those societies where media freedom is under most pressure. The fund would support independent journalism, independent media institutions focused on serving the public interest, and other media and social efforts designed to underpin informed and fact based public debate.”

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/mediaactioninsight/entries/1d207ec1-0502-4329-b458-b7bc1e11c40

249. Suzanne Temwa Gondwe Harris: Questioning the role of foreign aid in media system research. In: Bruce Mutsvairo (ed.): The Palgrave handbook of media and communication research in Africa. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, p.401-412

“While the internal dynamics or the role of the state has had a significant bearing on how media systems evolve and change, both internal and external factors have contributed to the type of media that exists in Malawi today. Although Hallin and Mancini did not include at length the role of external forces, they did rightly point out that “media systems are shaped by the wider context of political history, structure, and the culture” (ibid., 2004, p. 46). This being said, media systems in aid-dependent contexts should start with a historical interrogation of foreign aid and its conditionalities; because if, as political realists claim, foreign aid is a coercive foreign policy tool that can be used to manipulate change, its ability to shape the type of media a country has emphasises the need for reassessing the way in which we, as media systems researchers, study media systems. In addition, we should not isolate the analysis of media systems through one theoretical lens, but approach international relations theory to challenge and reconfigure the structural and ideological power arrangements that exist. While no broader generalisations can be made until further analysis is undertaken, it is hoped that the study will serve as a valuable starting point for highlighting the inherently faulty analysis of studying media systems through an internal lens only. This will become even more apparent with the rising economies of China, the United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Korea and India, which “are subtly changing the rules of foreign aid with profound consequences for the role of multilateral institutions and conditionality.”” (p.409)

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-70443-2_22
250. Mathew Ingram: The platform patrons: How Facebook and Google became two of the biggest funders of journalism in the world. In: Columbia Journalism Review, 2018

“Both Google and Facebook may argue—and may even believe—that they simply want to help increase the supply of quality journalism in the world. But the fact remains that they are not just disinterested observers. They are multibillion-dollar entities that compete directly with media companies for the attention of users, and for the wallets of every advertising company that used to help support the business model of journalism. Their funding and assistance can’t be disentangled from their conflicted interests, no matter how much they wish it could.”

https://www.cjr.org/special_report/google-facebook-journalism.php


Five Things You Need to Know. 1 The work foundations care about is at risk -- 2 Journalism must forge new connections -- 3 Sustainable business models are crucial -- 4 Trust in journalism is under threat -- 5 Editorial independence and transparency matter -- 2 Support Five ways to Get Started. 1 Identify grantmaking and investment strategies -- 2 Support innovations in reporting, business models and engagement -- 3 Reinforce partnerships that expand the diversity, scope and distribution of news -- 4 Invest in community data -- 5 Learn more about media grantmaking.


“A sub-text in the discourse on international development assistance is the argument that aid is not necessarily a beneficent, or sustainable, solution to the development needs of African countries. This argument raises a conceptual conundrum with respect to the many training programmes and fellowships designed to address the skills deficits of journalists and media in Africa. While the necessity and value of such interventions may be taken for granted, a counterintuitive question arises about the extent to which beneficiaries are able nonetheless to act independently. This study sought to find out the extent to which capacity-building assistance to journalists in Ghana may have fostered or inhibited their independent practice. Individual interviews were conducted with 24 journalists to ascertain their experiences with such programmes and their subsequent dispositions towards the host country or agency. The findings showed that underlying the manifest objectives of building the capacities of beneficiaries was the implicit intent of the aid country of origin to use the media as agents of economic and cultural diplomacy. The consequent prospect of compromising the journalistic autonomy of beneficiaries of training aid brings into question their capacity to contribute to sustainable development in Ghana.”

https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2018.1473271


“A pesar de una larga tradición de práctica y reflexión de la cooperación internacional en apoyo a la libertad de prensa y el pluralismo mediático, no queda claro que constituya un área o campo definido de especialización, con un objeto común de estudio y acción o preguntas comunes. Esto se complicó aún más después del fin de la Guerra Fría: frente al liberalismo ortodoxo, ganaron terreno visiones más atentas a los contextos específicos y basadas en el paradigma de los derechos humanos. Además, mientras los antiguos problemas de la comunicación pública persisten, surgen otros nuevos. Estas condiciones agudizan problemas crónicos que esta área enfrenta para definirse como tal.” (resumen) subjects: media assistance


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


“West Africa sits at a critical juncture that will determine whether the coming years are spent defending against reversals in media freedom and pluralism, or moving toward new and lasting progress. In this context, the Media Foundation for West Africa consulted stakeholders from all 16 countries of the West Africa region on the question of how cross-border coalitions can help to promote a robust and independent press. This report puts forward a vision for such a region-wide strategy, and how it can coordinate the efforts of civil society organizations, media actors, government allies, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Specifically, the report highlights four concrete actions that could be taken as the foundation for such a coordinated, regional strategy: 1. Formulate a network of media freedom and governance groups and enter into a memorandum of understanding with ECOWAS; 2. Initiate a process and strategy for supplemental protocols and a subsequent legislative review to align national legislation; 3. Commission comprehensive regional research to provide contextually relevant recommendations on media sustainability interventions; 4. Integrate capacity-building efforts into broader governance agendas, including elections and peace-building.”


“Donor-funded journalism is a complex sphere, frequently characterised by balancing acts between the priorities of two vastly different environments. The health desk of one of South Africa’s legacy media outlets, the Mail & Guardian, owes its existence to philanthropy. Launched in 2013, the Bhekisisa Health Journalism Centre produces in-depth, analytical coverage of health and social justice issues in Africa. With a grant from the German government, Bhekisisa appointed a health editor and two reporters in January 2013. In September 2015, the organisation expanded further to six full-time staff members and 15 freelance correspondents, after it received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Because of donor funds, Bhekisisa has become an entity that a few years ago was unimaginable: the Mail & Guardian’s largest specialist desk—more than twice the size of the political desk. But the centre’s donor resources, and accompanying impact, have come at a great cost. It has radically changed staff members’ job descriptions from being mere journalists or editors to spending significant time—often up to 30 per cent for reporters and 40 per cent for editors—as data collectors, fundraisers, event organisers, proposal writers, conference moderators, creators of information management systems and donor report writers.”

https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2018.1468347


“The authors briefly survey the contemporary and complex relationship between aid and journalism and the role of foreign aid/development assistance in shaping African media systems. A call is made for greater research into the aid and journalism relationship and the impact these processes have on fostering independent national media sectors in Africa.”

https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2018.1474121


“Recent trends in journalism education in Africa indicate a substantial increase both in scope and specialisation. While this increase is usually attributed to higher education institutions’ response to market trends, certain journalism education programmes are born out of development assistance initiatives that envision nation-building imperatives of democratisation and development. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is notable for its involvement in higher education journalism training at a graduate level in select countries in the Global South. This article assesses the presently discontinued involvement of NORAD in the establishment of a graduate journalism programme at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia between 2004–2007. In doing so, it reviews what has been learned over the lifespan of NORAD’s sponsorship of the programme by discussing what worked and what did not work. Findings generated from document analysis, an online survey, and interviews indicate the project fell short of its mission due to its top-down, magic-bullet conceptualisation of democratisation that failed to take into account the political and legal-rational conundrums of the Ethiopian state. However, unanticipated yet useful contributions emerged from the project in terms of forging small-scale partnerships that yielded favourable results in the development of journalism education in sub-Saharan Africa.”

https://doi.org/10.1080/23743670.2018.1473269

“Esta reflexão diz respeito à ajuda internacional recebida pelo Brasil e América Latina no campo da Comunicação e do Jornalismo digital nos últimos 30 anos. Trata-se das primeiras impregnações sobre o apoio internacional e nacional (do Brasil a outros países) oferecido para desenvolver práticas, pesquisas e estudos voltados para a comunicação digital, redes sociais digitais e internet. Em tempos digitais, esse tipo de apoio cruzou a fronteira dos Estudos de Comunicação, mesclando os campos da Comunicação e das telecomunicações. Entre as instituições que oferecem ajuda internacional ao Brasil e América Latina estão, por exemplo, a União Internacional de Telecomunicações (UIT), Fundação Ford e Open Society.” (resumo)

subjects: media assistance: donor organizations; media assistance: digital journalism - Brazil


“Cuando se habla de programas de asistencia y cooperación internacional dirigidos al desarrollo de los medios se suele pensar, por lo general, en dos áreas distintas. Por un lado, se hace referencia a las intervenciones de las grandes potencias con programas dirigidos a socavar gobiernos legítimamente constituidos en América Latina. En ese sentido, se piensa en los programas de la Agencia Central de Información (CIA, por sus siglas en inglés) de los Estados Unidos para controlar, sobornar o asesinar periodistas. Por otro lado, se alude a aspectos más sutiles de la cooperación, comúnmente asociados a programas de desarrollo urbano y rural, transferencia de conocimiento y fortalecimiento de las instituciones democráticas -entre las que se cuenta el periodismo como institución social (Chaparro Escudero, 2009; Beltrán, 2008). Estas voces han sido vitales en cambiar la forma en que entendemos la relación entre programas de desarrollo y los medios en América Latina.” (resumen)

subjects: media assistance - Latin America


“Media democracy promotion is a hidden form of international development aid (IDA). However, the dynamics underlying democracy promotion and their adaptation in local contexts is hardly considered when evaluating or theorizing international media development aid (IMDA). Multi-lateral organizations (MLOs) are important carriers of democratic ideals and different interpretations. In this paper, I unravel the dynamics between multi-lateral organizations and local actors during the media reform debates in three MERCOSUR countries; Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.” (abstract)


“Back in 2011, the Spanish government decided to fund the creation of the newspaper Voces in El Salvador within the wider context of public diplomacy and a favorable political atmosphere. This article examines the implications of this aid in the frame of news media plurality in that nation. We suggest that thanks to it the Salvadorian public were given media assistance that reflected alternative worldview. However, we also argue, the intervention itself possesses a series of ethical issues and challenges that merit further study in order to inform present and future discussions around foreign aid, media and journalism.” (abstract)


“Este artículo analiza las estrategias de colaboración transnacional desarrolladas en los últimos años por medios latinoamericanos, destinadas a desplegar proyectos periodísticos que pone el acento en la investigación y la calidad. Financiadas con la aportación de fundaciones internacionales, estas iniciativas aprovechan las ventajas digitales y las sinergias para unir esfuerzos en la denuncia de la corrupción o la violación de derechos humanos.” (resumen)

subjects: media assistance: investigative journalism; digital journalism - Latin America


¿Cuál ha sido el papel de la cooperación internacional en la configuración de las prácticas, investigación, educación y políticas de comunicación en América Latina desde los años 70? Argumento que la ayuda extranjera a la comunicación en América Latina fue crucial para: (1) desarrollar las principales instituciones del campo de la comunicación regional; (2) promover intelectuales, activistas y políticos tanto en el campo de la comunicación como en el político; y (3) potenciar organizaciones que tuvieran impacto en las reformas de las políticas de comunicación durante los últimos 15 años. La asistencia internacional ha ayudado a promover actores asociados a modelos participativos, al tiempo que promueve políticas modernizadoras.” (resumen)

subjects: media assistance - Latin America

EUROPE


subjects: media assistance; tax reductions for media; public funding & support policies for media - Austria; Germany; Switzerland
also published in French
"Part of a €17 million EU-funded programme entitled "Media and Culture for Development in the Southern Mediterranean", MedMedia was implemented in the Southern Mediterranean from January 2014 until May 2018. The MedMedia programme has given media policy makers, regulators, public service broadcasters, journalists’ unions, media schools and human rights campaigners in the Southern Mediterranean a unique opportunity to act as catalysts for media sector reform in their region. MedMedia supported local stakeholders’ efforts to push forward media reform processes, sparked by the Arab Spring with a view to creating a regulatory environment supportive of media freedom and public trust in mainstream media outlets. It has offered access to expertise and knowledge from both sides of the Mediterranean and has facilitated a mutual learning process between media institutions from the Southern Mediterranean. MedMedia’s activities were divided into three complementary components: Capacity development for media professionals and institutions based on a bottom-up approach; Networking activities involving decision makers and media practitioners; An overview of the media sector for decision-makers and practitioners across the region." (p.4)

Media Landscapes, Media & Communication General
AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Overall, it seems that few local media houses have really dedicated significant resources, time and capacity to exploring how best to both utilise and integrate online digital media and mitigate the threat of digitalisation. With regards to newspapers, NMH has probably been most active in seeking to use digital platforms as well as trying to create a new revenue stream by implementing a pay-wall for its online offerings. Internationally there is some very recent evidence that subscription-based pay wall models can be a viable business strategy. However it is far from clear if Namibia’s small market and limited readership can sustain such a model, or if it will even prove popular … Besides the worries expressed regarding media houses’ revenue streams, a further significant issue is the threat to quality, independent journalism in Namibia. Again, there are indications that journalism is coming under increased pressure with regards to digitalisation and the overall financial health of local media businesses. A number of observers already state that ethical reporting standards have slipped, and that editorial independence is being undermined consistently by business and political interests among the majority of Namibian media houses." (conclusion, p.35-36)


http://media-progress.net/downloads/Overview%20of%20the%20Ethiopian%20Media%20Landscape%202018.pdf

"This report presents the findings of a media environment assessment in Ethiopia led by International Media Support (IMS) within the context of the present socio-political developments in the country ... The specific objective of the mission was to carry out an assessment of the media landscape in Ethiopia, and to delve into specific areas related to communication and community engagement in order to identify possible avenues for future media development activities by IMS. The assessment covers both the private and public media sector, centering on the restrictions and enabling factors for strengthening free, independent and professional media in Ethiopia." (introduction) https://www.media Support.org/publication/media-assessment-ethiopia-in-transition-hope-amid-challenges


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

"El presente trabajo es un significativo esfuerzo que invita a la reflexión intelectual y práctica sobre la situación actual y los retos de la radiodifusión. Su propósito es el de identificar los criterios así como analizar los problemas y desafíos que matizan el quehacer radiofónico. Con esa finalidad, propone un marco conceptual de la labor radiofónica desde una postura multi-paradigmática que reformula objetos, concepciones y metodologías para el estudio de la comunicación en radio ... esta obra revisa el impacto de la tecnología como posibilidad para las variaciones en los patrones y formas de locución y producción, el fenómeno del involucramiento de intérpretes menos especializados y más cercanos a la convivencia diaria, lo que transluce un alejamiento de la tendencia esteticista de promoción de “voces bonitas” para alternativamente buscar “voces reflexivas o analíticas”; igualmente se abordan las experiencias que trastocan la construcción tradicional de un quion radiofónico y fundamentan sus opiniones a partir del tratamiento de la información disponible en la web. Adicionalmente este trabajo reflexiona sobre la diversidad de entornos y espacios en los que se desarrolla la actividad radiofónica, marcados por la diversidad de herramientas que han facilitado la difusión, sistematización y disponibilidad de contenidos con un coste marginal. Esta nueva realidad, que hace unos pocos años era impensable, se ha tornado hoy cotidiana y ha permitido que la legislación vigente en la mayoría de países no sea un límite para la participación de actores sociales que no cuentan con los permisos ni los recursos para acceder al uso del espectro radioeléctrico (aunque no sea esta la óptima experiencia para la participación). En el caso de América Latina y el Caribe, estos modelos han favorecido enormemente a los medios comerciales en detrimento de los medios comunitarios o populares que han encontrado en el uso de Internet como el espacio de convivencia propio para disminuir esas barreras, pero sin que en muchos casos cuenten con la especialización necesaria." (introducción, p.13-14)

Pensando desde el sur / Omar Rincón – Entre medios y mediaciones / Jesús Martín-Barbero – Introducción a: De los medios a las mediaciones, 1997, 1998, 2010 / Jesús Martín-Barbero – Ensayos acerca De los medios a las mediaciones / Nick Coulby, Amparo Marroquin, Francisco Sierra, Germán Rey – El cariño desde el sur: 35 amigos se cuentan con la especialización necesaria." (introducción, p.13-14) subjects: radio culture; radio use; radio programmes & genres; radio production; digitalization; audience feedback & participation - Latin America

"This year, the Freedom of Speech objective just crossed the threshold into the near sustainable category due to continued improvement in the legal framework after the 2015 election and the fact that no major incidents were committed against the media in 2018. Professional Journalism (Objective 2) was the only objective to decrease this year, which panelists attribute to politicization of news media, self-censorship, and few resources to pay adequate salaries or invest in quality, investigative journalism. This study separately analyzed how the media serves the public in Objective 6, with panelists noting that the media tends to reflect the views of the government, media owners, or the elite, rather than the concerns or needs of the general public." (p.5)


EUROPE


"The 2019 Europe and Eurasia Media Sustainability Index (MSI) saw another improvement in the combined average score for the 21 countries studied: In 2018, the combined average score was 1.84, and in 2019 this increased to 1.86. In comparison with the previous year’s study, there were modest gains at the regional level in Objectives 1 (Freedom of Speech), 2 (Professional Journalism), and 3 (Plurality); the largest increase happened in Objective 5 (Supporting Institutions), which moved from 1.99 in 2018 to 2.04 in 2019. Objective 4 (Business Management) saw a slight decline, reflecting the financial and economic challenges media across Europe and Eurasia continue to experience. At the country level, Armenia moved into the highest ranking position (by overall score) of all countries studied by the MSI with an overall score of 2.60—powered by, in the words of the chapter’s author, “[a] momentous revolution, dubbed “velvet” by its leader, Nikol Pashinyan, [that] changed the Armenian political landscape, turned the media world upside down, and made 2018 a truly unprecedented year in Armenia’s modern history.” Following Armenia, the top five highest ranked countries included Kosovo (2.53), Albania (2.49), and Montenegro and Romania (tied at 2.45)." (executive summary, p.ix)


Migrants, Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, Disadvantaged Groups & Media

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

279. e-Media toolkit [on immigration reporting]. Human news stories: learn, train and share. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA); Ethical Journalism Network (EJN); European Broadcasting Union (EBU), 2019

"The online e-Media Toolkit provides first-hand assistance to media professionals with learning resources, training courses, and opportunities to share and interact in three sections: 1. Learning: allows users to take courses in which journalists or editors of leading media outlets share their real-life newsroom dilemmas of reporting on migration; 2. Training: provides material for media trainers to design their own courses; 3. Sharing ethical journalism principles: allows users to interact with other users through forum discussions on fundamental rights and users can also propose new courses or download the news examples for further discussion among peers." (EJN homepage)

https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/


subjects: disabled people & communication / media; internet & social media use: youth - manuals & training materials


Introducción -- La salud mental en cifras -- El tratamiento mediático de la salud mental -- La salud mental en las redes sociales -- Recomendaciones para periodistas -- Preguntas y respuestas sobre los problemas de salud mental y no de diagnósticos? -- SALUD MENTAL ESPAÑA: ¿Cómo podemos ayudarte? subjects: mental health; health journalism; journalistic style & language - manuals & training materials


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Much migration within Niger and across its borders is driven by poverty and the hope for a better life, but these movements are also risky and open new vulnerabilities. Migrants from Niger or other African countries constantly face difficulties and are often among the poorest and most disadvantaged and excluded people. Their vulnerabilities are in part due to their lack of quality information. This study analyses whether people on the move in the northern Nigerien region of Agadez, more specifically in the city of Agadez, have accurate information at their disposal. It maps information needs and habits of migrant and displaced communities in Agadez to better understand how these individuals and communities receive information, which sources they trust, and what kind of communication channels or platforms they use. Gaining accurate information in this largely informal and insecure environment is one of the key issues for people on the move in Agadez. Both Nigerien and international migrants who participated in this study appeared to be in critical need of alternative sources of information to make proper decisions." (executive summary, p.4)


"This study analyses if people on the move in the northeastern region of Mali, more specifically in the city of Gao, have accurate information at their disposal. It maps information needs and habits of migrant communities in Gao to better understand how these individuals and communities receive information, which sources they trust, and what kind of communication channels or platforms they use. Gaining accurate information in this largely informal and insecure environment is one of the key issues for people on the move in Gao. Both Malian and international respondents to this study appeared to be in critical need of alternative sources of information in order to make proper decisions." (executive summary, p.4)


"This article attempts to examine the efficacy of indigenous-language newspapers published in South Africa during the colonial era. In doing so, the article is particularly interested to see how the success achieved by those publications could be replicated to boost post-apartheid indigenous-language media in their encounter with the hegemonic onslaught of the mainstream media whose scope and hegemony continue to expand at an alarming rate. The article embraces the notion of the public sphere and the theory of hegemony to make sense of how indigenous media permeated the language and political discourse and emerged as a strong voice for the oppressed, reinforcing at once what Herman and Chomsky (2002) refer to as 'class consciousness'. The notion of the public sphere is found to be particularly profitable in highlighting the exclusion/inclusion of wide-ranging voices in the public affairs while the robustness of the theory of hegemony lies in its strengths to unravel the political imperatives and the ideological contest that characterized the colonial era. The article argues that indigenous publications succeeded in becoming viable platforms for the indigenous communities who had been pushed beyond the margins of citizenship. The article concludes that indigenous-language media were particularly important for their political mobilization and contribution to media diversity through the range of voices that they orchestrated." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1386/jams.10.2.169_1


"Between October and December 2018, Internews carried out a rapid assessment in Kyangwali to examine two key issues: the settlement’s information ecosystem, and the formal and informal justice system operational in the settlement and available particularly to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The information ecosystem assessment sought to examine communication channels employed and trusted by refugees in Kyangwali as well as languages spoken by refugees, levels of literacy among refugees, and information needs and gaps. Internews also examined the community engagement and communication strategies applied by humanitarian agencies servicing refugees in Kyangwali. Finally, Internews sought to understand the technical capacity of media partners serving the district where the refugee settlement is located in producing high-quality human rights and SGBV-related programming. In addition to the information ecosystem assessment, Internews undertook a mapping exercise to identify credible formal and informal justice mechanisms and other services available to refugee survivors of SGBV within and outside Kyangwali settlement." (internews.org)


ASIA & PACIFIC


"Women and girls make up only a small percentage of the overall prison population; however, there has been a significant increase in their representation, most notably over the past twenty years. Despite this, fundamental understandings of the role of prisons, as well as issues around recidivism and desistance are based on a male norm, failing to meet the needs of women affected by the criminal justice system. This article outlines the findings from an ongoing grassroots action research project conducted with a support group for women of lived prison experience, based in Adelaide, South Australia, to investigate radio production as a means for supporting women in their transition to life outside of prison. It draws on observations made over a two-year period of radio production and thematic content analysis to investigate the role of community radio as a tool of desistance for formerly incarcerated women." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1386/rjae.17.1.7_1


subjects: indigenous language media productions; community media - Australia

EUROPE

290. Aidan White: *Muslims in the media: Towards more tolerance and diversity*. London: Ethical Journalism Network (EJN), 2019

"This report has been compiled to investigate the ways in which Muslims are portrayed in the media across Europe. It investigates how media report on topics where the problem of anti-Muslim bias often arises, particularly migration and terrorism. The aims of the investigation are to establish the prevalence and nature of bias and to look at what is being done and can be done in the future to counter negative narratives. The countries included are: Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom. In carrying out this investigation, which covers the years 2015-2017, investigation has reviewed relevant material including EJN regional reports on the coverage of migration within those countries and a further ten countries bordering the Mediterranean; current literature on reporting terrorism; news reports from both print and online media. The report looks at how the bias emerges in the coverage of two major stories that have dominated headlines in Europe over the recent years – terrorism and migration. The report examines also the internal and external pressures that influence how journalism works, in particular the structural and commercial changes that are reducing newsroom capacity as well as the growing and persistent threat of undue political influence." (introduction)

https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/resources/publications/muslims-media-tolerance-diversity


subjects: information services for migrants & refugees; digital media usability; internet & social media use: minorities; information needs of refugees - Germany - criteria catalogues, frameworks, guidelines


MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


subjects: diaspora media; ethnic / minority films - Iran

overcoming coloniality in Francophone Africa. As we analyze the progressive institutionalization of the field through the creation of journalism schools and training centers, research networks and academic journals, we try to identify the constraints in which scientific knowledge is produced and disseminated. We conclude that Francophone research is not only still impacted by strong ties with the former French and Belgian colonizers but also experiencing difficulties to connect to the research activity that is densifying in Anglophone Africa. Therefore, we suggest that the path-dependency approach can help to understand the current situation of media and communication research in that part of Africa.\(^\text{[5]}\)


“What this chapter does is to see critical discourse analysis (CDA) as a method of critical inquiry in communication research that is beyond traditional academic analysis. The chapter looks at CDA as a Western-originated paradigm of social enquiry with a difference. As I will discuss in subsequent sections, CDA is concerned with the issues of inequality, management of power relations among elites, ideology and dominance expressed in linguistic forms. Following Fairclough (2016), Van Dijk (1993) and Resigl and Wedak (2016), CDA seeks to correct the ills of the society. It is a social movement that aims to correct the injustice meted against the poor and the powerless by deploying the power of language to draw attention to the issues of inequality, injustice and exploitation. As a method of critical enquiry, CDA is a level above a theory or research methodology. Why is this important for communication research in sub-Saharan Africa? Sub-Saharan Africa is faced with challenges related to governance, poverty, corruption and a host of other areas. The media itself is not insulated from these challenges. Studies by Williams (2014), Wasswa and Kakooza (2011), Ladamo and Skjerdal (2010), Yushua (2009, 2010) and Skjerdal (2010), have shown how corruption, “freebees” and other forms of bribery plague the media industries in sub-Saharan Africa. To understand the causes of these challenges and how to solve them, CDA is a major platform.\(^\text{(p.466)}\)
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-70443-2_26


"This report outlines the methodology and processes of the Radio Content Analysis Tool, a prototype developed by Pulse Lab Kampala to analyse public radio content in Uganda and explore its value for informing development of UN projects and programmes on the ground. It distills the technology behind the creation of the Radio Content Analysis Tool and presents the lessons learned along the way. The report also details the results of several pilot studies that were conducted together with partners from the Government, UN agencies and academia to understand the validity and value of unfiltered public radio discussions for development ... By sampling different indigenous languages, types of broadcasters, and locations within Uganda, the pilot studies assess the potential uses of radio talk across five topics: perceptions towards refugees in Uganda, the impact of small-scale disasters on livelihoods, perceptions around the delivery of healthcare services, understanding the spread of infectious diseases, and monitoring the effectiveness of awareness raising radio campaigns." (executive summary)

Technological Aspects of Media & ICTs


http://dashboard.mazsystems.com/webreader/57127

In this chapter, we demonstrate the challenges inherent in the process of truly


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Part 1 approaches social media analytics from the point of view of media outlets’ most frequent needs. When you set out to analyze your social media activities, it can be hard to know where to start. The first part of the guide helps you to quickly find the answers you need, without having to go through the whole document. In part 2, we will look at some of the basics of social media analysis. We’ll explore what different social media metrics mean and which are the most important. Part 3 looks briefly at the resources you should have in place to effectively analyze your online communication. Part 4 is the main part of the guide, in which we are looking at Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and WhatsApp and will show you how to use free analytics tools to find out more about your communication and your audience ... Part 5 introduces you to reporting, i.e. how you can best present your analyses to managers or advertisers. Part 6 provides guidance for trainers who want to use this guide in workshops or training. Last but not least, part 7 contains a comprehensive glossary that explains the most important technical terms related to social media analysis.“ (introduction, p.6)

"Social scientists and international relations scholars are increasingly analyzing data collected from Twitter or Facebook to examine political processes in which social media are used. The sheer amount of web 2.0 data and its heterogeneity (including text, photos, and videos), however, pose challenges which analysts frequently seek to overcome through a mixed method approach relying on both quantitative and qualitative methods. This article discusses the advantages and limits of using mixed methods for analyzing social media. We show how the shortcomings of quantitative methods such as sentiment analysis and data mining can be remediated by qualitative content methods in a study of the Twitter activity of private military and security companies (PMSCs)." (abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1093/isp/eky013

"As a nonprofit news entity, getting analytics you need to prove your impact to your organization and its funders can be a challenging undertaking given that the rules for other news outlets don’t apply to you. But there are workarounds. This guide covered other news outlets don’t apply to you. But there are workarounds. This guide covered
