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Audiences & Media Use

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

   “The report is based on a survey of more than 70,000 people in 36 markets, along with additional qualitative research, which together make it the most comprehensive ongoing comparative study of news consumption in the world. A key focus remains in Europe where we have added Slovakia, Croatia, and Romania for the first time – but we have also added four markets in Asia (Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore) along with three additional Latin American countries (Argentina, Chile, and Mexico) ... In particular we have focused on two areas: (1) the extent to which people are prepared to pay for news or the different ways journalism might be funded in the future, and (2) understanding more about some of the drivers of low, and in some cases declining, trust in the media. For the first time we’ve attempted to measure and visualise relative levels of media polarisation across countries and identify a link between media polarisation and trust. Another focus has been on the media’s relationship with platforms – in particular how news is discovered and consumed within distributed environments such as social media, search, and online aggregators.” (foreword)

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

   “Based on 15 months of ethnographic research, this book aims to understand why low-income Brazilians have invested so much of their time and money in learning about social media. Juliano Spyer explores this question from a number of perspectives, including education, relationships, work and politics. He argues the use of social media reflects contradictory values. Low-income Brazilians embrace social media to display literacy and upward mobility, but the same technology also strengthens traditional networks of support that conflict with individualism.” (back cover)
   http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/10025054/1/Social-Media-in-Emergent-Brazil.pdf

ASIA & PACIFIC

   “Access to and use of internet in Afghanistan has grown in the past decade to reach approximately 12% of the population. Social media penetration has followed the same course, challenging traditional media platforms and providing new platforms for public discourse. Social media carries the expectations of propagating change in Afghanistan through open expression, but the reality of its usage provides a need for a more nuanced assessment of its impact on Afghan society Social media users represent approximately 9% of the Afghan population, and are a homogenous group of primarily young, urban, and educated individuals.” (executive summary)

   “The Bougainville Audience Research Study seeks to increase understanding of the Information and Communication landscape in Bougainville [Papua new Guinea] for the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). The research is designed to inform the development, implementation and evaluation of communication initiatives and awareness undertaken by ABG. The focus of the research is on understanding the access and use of media and communication channels by the people in communities, and to provide a voice for their understandings and concerns with regards to the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) and the upcoming Referendum. The study was undertaken by the Centre for Social and Creative Media (CSCM) at the University of Goroka. As part of the study 18 field researchers from Bougainville were trained in research design and data collection. The study used a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative methods. It presents a baseline study that can be used to monitor changes in the media and communication landscape in the years to come. As information and communication is key to most development and addressing social issues, it is hoped that this research study provides useful information to other government departments, non-government organisations, aid agencies and local groups and organisations. Above all, this reports aims to represent the voices of the audience, the people of Bougainville, as it captures their current situations and their aspirations.” (introduction)

“One of the first ethnographic studies to explore the use of social media in the everyday lives of people in Tamil Nadu, ‘Social Media in South India’ provides an understanding of this subject in a region experiencing rapid transformation. The influx of IT companies over the past decade into what was once a space dominated by agriculture has resulted in a complex juxtaposition between an evolving knowledge economy and the traditions of rural life. While certain class tensions have emerged in response to this juxtaposition, a study of social media in the region suggests that similarities have also transpired, observed most clearly in the blurring of boundaries between work and life for both the old and the new. Venkatraman explores the impact of social media at home, work, and school, and analyses the influence of class, caste, age and gender on how, and which, social media platforms are used in different contexts. These factors, he argues, have a significant effect on social media use, suggesting that social media in South India, while seeming to induce societal change, actually remains bound by local traditions and practices.” (back cover)

http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1558926/1/Social-Media-in-South-India.pdf


“Tom McDonald spent 15 months living in a small rural Chinese community researching how the residents use social media in their daily lives. His ethnographic findings suggest that, far from being left behind, many rural Chinese people have already integrated social media into their everyday experience. Throughout his groundbreaking study, McDonald argues that social media allows rural people to extend and transform their social relationships by deepening already existing connections with friends known through their work, school, or village, while also experimenting with completely new forms of relationships through online interactions with strangers. By juxtaposing these seemingly opposed relations, rural social media users are able to use these technologies to understand, capitalise on and challenge the notions of morality that underlie rural life.” (back cover)

http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1514478/1/Social-Media-in-Rural-China.pdf

EUROPE


subjects: internet & social media use - Belarus - user surveys (case studies)
http://www.laender-analysen.de.belarus/pdf/ BelarusAnalysen34.pdf

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


"Compared to five years ago, internet penetration rose in all six countries surveyed and most dramatically in Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia. Smartphone ownership tracks closely with internet use in the six surveyed countries. Nearly all nationals in Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE own a smartphone compared with 83% of Jordanians and 65% of Tunisians. Use of Arabic online has increased proportionally with the increase in internet use. In comparison, use of the internet in English remains essentially flat, 26% in 2013 and 28% in 2017, despite the increase in internet use. As internet penetration rises, nationals are less likely to be using offline media platforms compared with 2013. Most nationals still watch TV, but the rate declined modestly since 2013 (98% in 2013 vs. 93% in 2017). Rates of newspaper readership, however, declined more sharply from 47% in 2013 to 25% in 2017. Radio and magazines also declined in popularity since 2013 (radio: 59% in 2013 vs. 46% in 2017; magazines: 26% in 2013 vs. 19% in 2017). [executive summary, p.10]


"The report has two main parts. In the first part, we explore the questions discussed in the previous paragraphs [on the internet of things] through a regional survey spanning the 22 Arab countries. In the second part we continue the tradition set in the previous editions of the Arab Social Media Report series by exploring the growth and usage trends of influential social media platforms across the region, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and, for the first time, Instagram. The findings highlight important challenges—and some opportunities—in the ways social media is infiltrating demographically layered societies in Arab regions, be it gender, age and language.” (introduction, p.8)

http://www.mbrsg.ae/getattachment/05534635-16f6-497a-b4a3-d086061bdaf0/Arab-Social-Media-Report-2017

Children & Media, Youth & Media, Media Literacy

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


http://www.nordicom.gu.se/en/publikationer/beyond-stereotypes


also published in French and Spanish

“This report surveys the landscape of digital opportunity as it relates to — and affects — children. It examines the digital divides that prevent millions of children from accessing through the internet new opportunities to learn and, someday, to participate in the digital economy, helping to break intergenerational cycles of poverty. It also explores the undernibely dark side of the internet and digital technology, from cyberbullying to online child sexual abuse to Dark web transactions and currencies that can make it easier to conceal trafficking and other illegal activities that harm children. It reviews some of the debates about less obvious harms children may suffer from life in a digital age — from digital dependencies to the possible impact of digital technology on brain development and cognition. And it outlines a set of practical recommendations that can help guide more effective policymaking and more responsible business practices to benefit children in the future. Equally crucial to this transformation is making it easier for children and young people on the impact of digital technology in their lives — telling their own stories about the issues that most affect them.” (foreword, p. vi)


“Based on an evidence-focused literature review, the first part of this paper examines existing knowledge on how the time children spend using digital technology impacts their well-being across three dimensions; mental/psychological, social and physical. The evidence reviewed here is largely inclusive with respect to impact on children’s physical activity, but indicates that digital technology seems to be beneficial for children’s social relationships. In terms of impact on children’s mental well-being, the
most robust studies suggest that the relationship is U-shaped, where no use and excessive use can have a small negative impact on mental well-being, while moderate use can have a small positive impact. In the second part of the paper, the hypothetical idea of addiction to technology is introduced and scrutinized. This is followed by an overview of the hypothetical idea that digital technology might re-wire or hijack children’s brains; an assertion that is challenged by recent neuroscience evidence. In conclusion, considerable methodological limitations exist across the spectrum of research on the impact of digital technology on child well-being, including the majority of the studies on time use reviewed here, and those studies concerned with clinical or brain impacts. This prompts reconsideration of how research in this area is conducted. Finally, recommendations for strengthening research practices are offered. (abstract)


http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002605/260547e.pdf


subjects: cyberbullying, cyberharassment; countermeasures; digital, information & online literacy; media literacy & education: youth - position papers / recommendations


"In June 2017, 490 children aged 10–18, from 26 different countries and speaking 24 official languages, participated in workshops held by UNICEF Country Offices and National Committees to share their views on how and why they use digital technologies in their everyday lives, as well as their aspirations for the future of our digitally mediated world. Undertaken with the aim of generating data with children for publication in the State of the World’s Children (SDWC) 2017 report, this project was a joint effort of the RERights.org team in the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University, UNICEF New York and a network of 26 UNICEF Country Offices and National Committees. It built on a previous international study that channelled children’s insights into global efforts to reinterpret the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the digital age (Third et al. 2014). Summaries of the findings of this project have been included in the SDWC report. This Companion Report, which should be read alongside the main report, explores in further detail the rich contributions of children for understanding the opportunities and challenges digital technologies present in their everyday lives."

(executive summary)


"This article presents an ethnographic approach to how low-income Brazilians of impoverished urban areas have engaged in community journalism and media activism. Exploring empirical materials collected during a seven-year research process (2009-

2016), the article has two main objects. One is to analyze how low-income youth reflect on their own processes of engagement in communication for social change (CFSC). Another objective is to demonstrate how ethnography can provide in-depth analyses of trajectories and initiatives in CFSC. The article primarily focuses on retrospective accounts of young adults who had participated in media-educational projects by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and subsequently became active agents of change in, through and about media. The analysis of these accounts indicates how the participation in NGO projects characterize actions for self-development. It also demonstrates how interactions among participants–not necessarily anticipated by NGOs –are crucial for low-income youth to engage in activist media and journalism in peripheral Rio de Janeiro. The article ends with a reflection about how ethnography is a useful method to add in-depth qualitative layers to the evaluation of CFSC initiatives." (abstract)

http://revistas.uca.es/index.php/cayp/article/download/3298/3170


"Los jóvenes constituyentes del estudio -hombres y mujeres, estudiantes de primer año de licenciatura de la universidad pública y universidades privadas de la ciudad de La Paz-- alcanzan el grado de competencia mediática Desfavorable, en la escala adecuada para la investigación. La categoría Desfavorable es el rango en el que se ubica el puntaje total logrado: 31,73 puntos, producto de la suma de los conseguidos en las ocho dimensiones. El puntaje total corresponde al 31,73% del 100% posible. Esto desvela un nivel limitado en la competencia mediática que poseen estas personas, dentro de los criterios establecidos para la presente investigación. (balance y análisis, p.92)

subjects: media literacy & education: youth - Bolivia - user surveys (case studies)


"El proyecto Videoteca de las Culturas de la Dirección Diversidad Cultural y Eliminación de la Discriminación Racial, prioriza la utilización del medio audiovisual para generar procesos reflexivos y pedagógicos en niños, niñas y adolescentes ... El lema del proyecto 'Desde tus ojos, con tu voz' plantea que a través del registro audiovisual propio, la ciudadanía, especialmente los niños, niñas y adolescentes de pueblos indígenas u originarios y población afroperuana puedan utilizar este medio para expresar su mirada, para comunicar su voz. El énfasis del proyecto está en reconocer la importancia que tienen la experiencia y subjetividad de las personas y colectividades que portan la cámara y que representan el mundo desde sus culturas. Así, el proceso audiovisual participativo puede aportar en la construcción de un ciudadano que desde su pensamiento crítico haga pleno ejercicio de su derecho a la comunicación. Al examinar esta posibilidad, debemos entender que los contenidos audiovisuales resultantes no son neutrales, siempre tienen un rol en la formación ciudadana. Es por eso que presentamos las lecciones audiovisuales para ciudadanos y ciudadanas interculturales, a partir de una selección de videos participativos y documentales que expresan la mirada y la voz de distintas comunidades afroperuanas, andinas y amazónicas de nuestro Perú. Proponemos estos materiales como dispares de una reflexión y un trabajo que acerquen a nuestros estudiantes a la comprensión del nosotros peruano."

(subject presentation, p.4)

subjects: media literacy & education: children; media literacy & education: youth; participatory videos & community filmmaking; intercultural communication - Peru - training materials


ASIA & PACIFIC


"The author bases her analysis on five years of fieldwork in the conflict zones of Mindanao, the Philippines, where child protection is of critical importance. She works with the Nonviolent Peaceforce, which specializes in Unarmed Civilian Protection in close cooperation with the United Nations and UNICEF to report and respond to Child Protection issues in Mindanao and the surrounding islands. In the field, she sought to implement the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality among the parties to the various conflicts. She established an active presence, and gained access to remote conflict-affected areas. Such work seeks to document and ultimately protect children, civilians and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are suffering as a result of the armed conflicts. This chapter offers a close examination of UNICEF’s communication and media strategies, as well as behind-the-scenes advocacy and in-person contact under difficult physical conditions and terrain." (introduction to part 6, p.308)

"Of the 939 identified main media literacy stakeholders, over a third were categorised as "civil society" (305), followed by "public authorities" (175) and "academia" (161). Over two-thirds of them do not have a statutory responsibility in this area and base their involvement on a different motivation. 189 networks were identified and the vast majority of them (135) are operating at national level. Since the level of activity differs a lot between some of the 580 identified stakeholder profiles and successful profiles for each of the 28 respondents, but not all of them were able to detect 20), only 547 were identified. The most common project type is "resources" (173); the second is "end-user engagement" (107). These two together account for more than half of all analysed projects, showing that providing front-line support to citizens is a priority. As to the a1 23d addressed media literacy skills, "critical thinking" was the clear winner, being dealt with by 403 of the 547 projects, followed by "media use" (399) and "communication" (395). This trend is also confirmed by the case study analysis of the most significant 145 projects, which also feature projects on "intercultural dialogue" (46 of 145), including skills around challenging radicalisation and hate speech online." (executive summary, p.3-4)

https://rm.coe.int/1800783500


subjects: media stereotypes; discrimination; media literacy & education - France

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


Christian & Religious Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


subjects: film and religion; religious films; Christian films; Catholic Church and cinema - filmographies


subjects: Catholic and church communication; Church public relations


subjects: religion; film and religion; religious films; Christian films; Catholic Church and cinema - filmographies


“Seventy one percent of Palestinian youth say that they are most interested in following local news and events, 14% are most interested in following regional and international news and events, while 15% follow the news at all. New media platforms are utilized the most by youth in the case of all types of news and programmes they were asked about. Youth use new media the most when it comes to social programmes (60%), followed by sports programmes (53%) and economic programmes (55%). The highest use of TV corresponds to political programmes (42%), followed by sports programmes (38%). Radio is still being followed, but at a much lower percentage, while print media is hardly being followed." (Survey findings, p.9)


"This report captures of the findings of the "Youth on Screen" initiative, which was born out of a growing desire amongst youth civil society groups and broadcasters in the Southern Mediterranean Region to tackle the issue of youth representation on television head on. The report not only looks at the structural deficiencies which have meant that the voices of young people remain unheard within media broadcasters but also at representational issues, namely the paucity of television content which deals with youth-related matters." (med-media.eu website)


Islamic prophets in dubbed Iranian films targeted at popular culture. I from the Prophet Muhammad, are prohibited in Sunni Islam from being figuratively represented in its art forms. The perspective and consequently allows figurative representation in its art forms. The situation becomes more complicated when it comes to depicting prophets, who, starting from the Prophet Muhammad, are prohibited in Sunni Islam from being figuratively represented in any form. This article discusses the representation of spirituality in religious media in Nigeria, especially the reception of the representation of Biblical and Islamic prophets in dubbed Iranian films targeted at popular culture consumption. I situate my discussion within the matrix of social control and censorship in northern Nigerian Muslim cultures. (abstract)


“AMECEA Gaba Publications was founded in 1958 in Gaba, Uganda, by the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa (AMECEA) bishops. Its main publications are the African Ecclesial Review (AFER) journal and Spearhead monograph book series. The concern of this case study was that AMECEA Gaba Publications (AGP), which has been in the business for a relatively longer time than most publishers in the region, and with the influence it has across all of the East and Central Africa thanks to the support of AMECEA bishops, should by all estimates be doing better or at least competing favourably with the other players in the field of publishing in the region. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Over the years, Gaba Publications has witnessed a great reduction in its subscription, readership sales and authorship contributions. What is Gaba Publications not doing to stay competitive and in keeping with the publishing trends in the region? What is the Publishing doing wrong? This study sought to answer these questions by examining the current publishing status of AMECEA Gaba Publications, identifying some of the opportunities available for Gaba Publications to improve its current financial status and assessing the capacity of Gaba Publications to engage in e-publishing. From the study findings, it was established that Gaba Publications, being an evangelical publishing firm, may never fully achieve self-sustainability. However, the findings of the study also indicated that a number of opportunities are available for Gaba Publications to improve its current financial status and help it make steps towards improving its current publishing status. The key lessons that this study has yielded are that a publishing company must have a product that has a distinct quality, genre and style, it must have a mission and goals that consumers can relate to, and be able to effectively sell its goods and services. (abstract)


http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/spu/bitstream/10539/21981/1/Caroline%20Jelagat%20888301%20final%20Submission.pdf


“Satellite TV channels from the Middle East started beaming into Eritrea from 1996, and the Eritrean youth are avid consumers of the global messages from across the borders. Following an in-depth interview method as a research technique, using an unstructured, openended questionnaire, the present study presents how ethnicity and religion play a role in making meaning out of the messages of Middle East-based Arabic TV channels among lowland Tigrinya-speaking Eritrean youth aged 18–25 years. The researchers have observed the way foreign TV channel programmes have influenced family norms, role models, values and cultures of young Tigrinya viewers. The study concludes that Islam and Arabic language are two important factors influencing the lowland Tigrinya youth in picking up Arabic channels as they reinforce the same culture and traditions apart from creating Pan-Arab identities among the Arabic–Tigrinya speaking youth, at the same time preserving the indigenous culture from the influence of the West.” (abstract)

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

31. Diez años de Aparecida: Iglesia y comunicación. In: Punto de Encuentro (Signis ALC), vol. 9, nr. 126, 2017, p.3-17


“A obra é resultado de dissertação de mestrado em Ciências da Comunicação defendido na Universidade de São Paulo (USP) em 2012, a obra contextualiza as práticas educativas das salesianas a partir do paradigma da educomunicação. A pesquisa foi orientada pelo professor Ismar de Oliveira Soares, responsável pela pesquisa que identificou, no final dos anos 90, a educomunicação como um campo autônomo do conhecimento na interface Comunicação-Educação. É possível dizer que a reflexão sobre a Educomunicação transformou-se numa prática corrente entre as Salesianas, ao menos em nível institucional. Como será demonstrado ao longo da presente obra, as Salesianas vêm aprimorando a temática em assembleias mundiais, em eventos e em suas inúmeras publicações no Brasil, nas Américas e em nível mundial. Fruto de um levantamento minucioso, a pesquisa buscou nas origens da história salesiana do ramo feminino em seus quase dois séculos, a inter-relação entre comunicação e educação, partindo do contexto latino-americano até chegar ao contexto mundial que assumiu a educomunicação como revitalização do Sistema Preventivo. Voltando para o contexto brasileiro, o foco da investigação buscou as indicias educomunicativos no material didático, no currículo e nas atividades do contrato escolar da Rede Salesiana de Escolas nas cinco regiões geográficas.” (página web Editora Fi) subjects: media literacy & education; children; media education; Catholic Church; Salesians (SBD) - Brazil; Latin America https://www.editoralfi.173antoniaelles

ASIA & PACIFIC


“This chapter attempts to assess the information discussed on digital social media such as Twitter, Internet, and Instagram related to the Dhammakaya Temple and its abbot. Content and contextual analyses will be conducted. The research findings will be discussed against the background of modernization, Thai Buddhist culture, and digital communication in Thailand.” (abstract)

http://www.springer.com/cda/content/document/cda_downloaddocument/9789811041235-c2/785GWID=0-04-45-1606161-p180697406


“From a Buddhist perspective, social change needs transformation of both spiritual and personal aspect. Mindful communication is a methodology to a critical self-reflexivity and social engagement. It is to help us cope with greed, anger, and delusion. For the mass media and the media industry, delusion deems to be addressed for both media practitioners and corporations. Being mindful is being addressed in this chapter. Anyone, not only journalists, should benefit from mindfulness understanding and practice.” (abstract)


“This study aims to examine the pastoral situations of Wenzhou Diocese, to evaluate the formation for laity in Wenzhou Diocese under pastoral communication perspective, to find its positive and critical signs, as well as to analyze the pastoral needs, which leads to integrate pastoral communication in lay formation. The survey result shows that “Xue Xi Ban” (Basic Ecclesial Community in Wenzhou context) helps laity in Wenzhou to know Catholic faith, to live as Christian, to have sense of belonging, and to exercise their responsibilities as Catholic. As a result, the study content, need for community building, and missing structural support, are the critical signs of “Xue Xi Ban”, which indicates the pastoral needs for lay formation. These needs are categorized as the need of strengthening pastoral communication in ministry (Preaching, Catechesis, Liturgy, Biblical Apostolate, and Service), the need of formation for catechists, and the need of means of social communication. This study also finds out seven challenges for lay formation: the lack of formation for laity in Wenzhou Diocese under pastoral communication perspective, to make a five-year pastoral plan, to promote Basic Ecclesial Community, to use possible


37. Kerstin Radde-Antweiler, Hannah Grünenthal, Sina Gogolok: ‘Blogging sometimes leads to dementia, doesn’t it?’: The media-related communication is considered as necessary for translocal authority figures... This article is intended as a resource for community broadcasters and researchers. It is a useful resource for community broadcasters. (abstract)

38. Raphael Rauch: 10 Jahre “Islamisches Wort” und „Forum am Freitag“- 6 -

"...there are, for example, tendencies of ‘branding’ and ‘professionalization’ on a translocal level. Locally, however, we can observe quite different processes: a reluctant appropriation of the organization’s media ensemble by the local authorities even though media-related communication is considered as necessary for translocal authority figures such as the pope or bishops. Regarding the religious organization, we can observe a tension between a ‘deep’ degree of mediatization in regard to a translocal scope in contrast to a ‘less deep’ degree of mediatization within a local scope. An interesting follow-up question and part of our own future research is how such different degrees of mediatization produce different tempi of transformations: a slower transformation process on a local level in contrast to a faster transformation process on a translocal level, the tensions that emerge and the negotiations that have to be made—not only between translocal and local, but between different localities worldwide." (Conclusion)


"This article is intended as a resource for community broadcasters and researchers. It draws on interviews and discussion with community broadcasters and activists to identify practical examples of funding methods. The seven common methods of funding a community station are detailed. These are: support from the station’s own community; patronage from a larger organisation; commercial advertising and sponsorship; competitive grants; service contracts; support by NGOs; support by governmental agencies. The article points to resources where the reader can discover more fully how each funding method is used, and concludes that a prudent station may use several methods to help ensure economic sustainability." (abstract)


"There are currently 280 community broadcasting services (275 community sound and 5 community television services). According to AC Nielsen and All Media and Products Survey (AMPS) data, community broadcasting services collectively take up an audience share of 6.3 million people in South Africa. However, this has not necessarily translated into advertising revenue, for example Community TV has a 9.5% reach but only yield an advertising spending less than 1%. Likewise, Community radio reaches 25%2 of the population but only receives 2% of the advertising spend. At face value this can be attributed to the profile of the community sector’s audience, that is, this sector does not deliver audiences that are attractive enough to advertisers to derive revenue that is comparable to commercial and public broadcasting services. However, factors contributing to the success of the community broadcasting sector are more complex. The study highlights the fact that the community broadcasting sector’s challenges emanate from a lack of corporate governance, management capacity and revenue diversification strategies. There is also a limited concerted institutional support, capacity building and funding strategies for community broadcasting in South Africa. Currently the Authority’s regulation of corporate governance, financial accountability and community participation is limited. Given the time and resources expended on addressing compliance challenges associated with this sector, it may be necessary for the Authority to consider Regulations or guidelines to address these shortcomings." (executive summary)


"This article focuses on how Koch FM and Parmoja FM, two community radio stations in Nairobi, Kenya, worked during the 2007–08 tumult and 2013 general election. The article is based on observations and interviews with community radio practitioners conducted between 2007 and 2013, and addresses the following questions: How do the community radio stations work during elections – times of increased tensions? How do they discourage ethnic violence in their community? How is participation used in order to bring unity to the community?" (abstract)


"Koch FM is a community radio station located in Korogocho, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya. The station aims to provide alternative information, education and entertainment content. Producers at the station and community members who make up the station’s audience have different perceptions of Koch FM’s role. While the producers envision Koch FM as the provider of information and a space for community voice, the community evaluates the station’s performance based on parameters drawn from commercial broadcasters. Consequently, the station acts as a space where sometimes-contradictory ideals play out. In exploring these contrasting viewpoints, this article highlights contextual production practices and the shifting audience expectations facing community radio in Kenya’s vibrant radio broadcast environment. The data are the outcome of ethnographic fieldwork conducted in 2014 and 2015." (abstract)


"This article presents two communities in Uganda that use Community Audio Towers (CATs) as an alternative to community radio, and examines why the communities prefer the use of CATs to ‘mainstream’ community radio. Using data collected through observation at two sites in Uganda and 10 key informant interviews from major community broadcasting stakeholders, including Uganda’s Minister of Information and Communication Technology, the article presents findings indicating that CATs are self-sustaining, with no NGO influence, and they redefine news to mean local emergencies and occurrences, while having no structures (horizontal/vertical rhetoric) as they are started and run by one community member. The challenges of the new alternative media are also discussed." (abstract)

Contents: 1. Reconocimiento de los medios comunitarios (Estándares interamericanos sobre reconocimiento legal; Formas de reconocimiento; Países que no reconocen la radiodifusión comunitaria) – 2. Definición de medio comunitario (Estándares interamericanos para una definición apropiada; Limitaciones y arbitrariedades en su definición – 3. Acceso a frecuencias y a fondos medios (Estándares interamericanos sobre acceso – Acceso a tipos de medios; Reserva de espectro) – 4. Condiciones de uso (Estándares interamericanos sobre condiciones de funcionamiento; Alcance y condiciones técnicas de las emisoras; Duración y renovación de concesiones; Acceso a fuentes de financiamiento; Condiciones en materia de contenidos) – 5. Procedimientos y criterios para concesiones (Estándares interamericanos sobre concesiones; Procedimientos de adjudicación de concesiones; Requisitos para participar y criterios para seleccionar; Órganos que valoran y deciden la adjudicación; Sanciones a la radiodifusión sin autorización.

subjects: community media legislation & regulation - Latin America


“El presente artículo analiza la participación de los medios comunitarios y su importancia para la democratización de la comunicación en Ecuador en el marco del Concurso Público de Frecuencias de Radio y Televisión de señal abierta, convocado en 2016. Este concurso cobró importancia en la agenda pública por ser la primera vez que el Estado utiliza un mecanismo público para otorgar concesiones de frecuencias, abriendo a concurso 1 472 frecuencias de radio y televisión, lo que modificará el panorama mediático por 15 años –tiempo que dura cada concesión–. Este concurso, además, tomó relevancia por desarrollarse en medio de un proceso electoral ya de por sí agitado, por la permanencia o no del Gobierno de la Revolución Ciudadana liderado por Rafael Correa, después de 10 años en el poder. En este contexto, este análisis propone otra visión: desde la mirada del sector comunitario, un actor casi ausente en el debate público, a pesar de ser uno de los grupos que mayor implicación tiene en este proceso. Este documento plantea una comprensión del sector comunitario y de los “medios comunitarios” no como una totalidad cerrada, sino como una categorización que debe ser debatida, diferenciando aquellos medios comunitarios de grupos religiosos de aquellos nuevos medios comunitarios de organizaciones sociales, que como se verá, tienen características y demandas diferenciadas.”(p.1)

subjects: community radios; community television; spectrum / frequency allocation; media regulation; media concentration; democracy / democratization and media - Ecuador


“El argentino Law 26.522 on Audiovisual Communication Services (cualmente under reform) aimed at democratizing the media arena by recognizing multiple actors such as community broadcasters, school and indigenous media, among others. According to the legal classification, community broadcasters were regulated as private non-profit media, despite having specific objectives, programming, organizational logic and economic conditions. Conversely, school and indigenous media merged into the public sector, even if they may act as community media. This article compares results arising from two research projects carried out in Northern Argentina through in-depth interviews with key informants from two indigenous radio stations and two school radio stations. The theoretical framework mainly draws on literature about community, alternative and popular communication research to show that communities participate in such media foundation or management and that media content deals with cultural and political issues related to their interests or needs. Indeed, emerging features allow considering such broadcasters as community media.” (abstract)


“Artigo 19 entende que muitos comunicadores populares se encontram em situação de vulnerabilidade social e legal em decorrência da omissão do Estado em regularizar o funcionamento de suas rádios e de suas políticas restritivas para o setor. Por esse motivo, elaborou orientações que serão reunidas em dois blocos – primeiro algumas perguntas e respostas sobre o procedimento de fiscalização das rádio e, depois, a relação dos processos criminais que podem enfrentar os comunicadores comuns. Tais orientações são baseadas no fato de que os agentes da Anatel e da Polícia Federal são obrigados a seguir procedimentos padrão baseados na legislação brasileira, como também devem seguir uma conduta ética – e o mesmo vale para os processos criminais que podem ser instaurados contra os comunicadores. Com o objetivo de sanar o desencontro de informações a respeito desses procedimentos, esta apresentação irá abordar em quatro parcelas o panorama enfrentados pelas rádios comunitárias e, em seguida, analisar a possibilidade de agilizar a obtenção da autoria de funcionamento via instrumentos legais e administrativos, além de orientar os comunicadores sobre os seus direitos e a agir caso suas rádios enfrentem procedimentos de fiscalização, levando em conta questões que possam ser tomadas nesse momento e em momento posterior, no âmbito judicial.” (objetivo de publicação, p.11-12)

subjects: community radio legislation & regulation; communication rights; trials - Brazil
http://artigo19.wp-content/blogs.dir/24/files/2017/08/R%C3%A1dios-Comunit%C3%A1rias-o-que-fazer-diante-da-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-de-fiscaliza%C3%A7%C3%B3es-de-processos-judiciais.pdf


“En octubre de 2009, la Ley 26522 inaugura un escenario inédito para las radios y televisiones del sector social-comunitario. La norma, por primera vez en la historia de la radiodifusión argentina, reconoce a todos los medios sin fines de lucro –incluidas las cooperativas- como prestadores legales de los servicios de radiodifusión, les reserva un tercio del espectro radioeléctrico, no les impone restricciones para su funcionamiento, les asigna un lugar de representación en el Consejo Federal de Comunicación Audiovisual, y establece un fondo de fomento. La Ley se basa en el paradigma de la comunicación como derecho humano... Desde entonces y hasta 2015, los medios sin fines de lucro del país contaron con las condiciones más favorables para su emergencia y desarrollo que se conocieron hasta ahora. No obstante, se enfrentaron también a nuevas dificultades y desafíos a resolver, tales como: las condiciones para su legalización, la fortaleza de la gestión institucional y económica para asegurar su sostenibilidad y crecimiento, la cantidad y calidad de producción temática y estética para disputar sentidos y alcanzar masividad, la formalización de sus relaciones laborales y de propiedad, la conciliación entre intereses en conflictos y, por último, el desafío de los medios sin fines de lucro (p.5-6).”

subjects: community radios; nonprofit media; community media legislation & regulation; media policies; community media sustainability - Argentina - case studies

ASIA & PACIFIC


“Desde una perspectiva crítica de la comunicación para el desarrollo y el cambio social y tomando como referencia una nueva mirada a la Comunicología de la Liberación definida no sólo como una horizontal de radio, sino como una práctica, los modos en los que se está involucrando en el proceso de la comunicación a comunidades antes excluidas y silenciadas. Este artículo presenta los resultados de un estudio sobre la participación de la comunidad en las prácticas de comunicación participativa iniciadas por tres radios comunitarias en India. Este análisis recoge las diversas formas desde las que estas radios comunitarias en India afrontan el proceso de comunicación diaria con la población y comunidades a las que dan servicio.” (resumen)

http://revistas.uca.es/index.php/caya/article/download/3640/3805

EUROPE


“*This study examines the challenges of good governance for community radio stations. It does this by exploring how volunteers, managers and members of the Boards of

"Welche publizistischen Angebote können gemacht werden, damit das Interesse der Bürger am eigenen Umfeld (wieder) zündet? Wie kann die lokale, demokratische Öffentlichkeit gestärkt werden? Diese Fragen werden im vorliegenden Buch untersucht. Im Rahmen des Bundesprogrammes „Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe“ wurde das jeweilige Kommunikationsgürtel der Landkreise Ludwigsburg (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) und Vogtlandkreis (Sachsen) analysiert. Im Fokus standen acht Orte mit 2.100 bis 20.000 Einwohnern. Insgesamt zeigt die Untersuchung, dass Bürgerzeitungen – sowohl durch Nutzung als auch durch redaktionelle Mitarbeit – das örtliche Engagement der Bürger stärken können. Heimatgefühl und Engagement sind miteinander verzahnt, ein Modell zeigt diese wechselseitigen Einflussfaktoren auf." (Verlag)
table of contents: https://d-nb.info/1081001644/04
subjects: community newspapers / press; participatory communication - Germany


"This article draws on the first extensive study of community radio audiences in the Middle East to contribute new insights about documenting the impacts of community radio, and the evaluative mechanisms that should be in place for non-profit, community media to better fulfill their mission to serve the community. Building on critical ethnographic audience research, I argue for a storytelling approach that facilitates personal narratives and cooperative focus groups among community radio audiences." (summary)

Conflicts, Media & Peacebuilding


"Based on a bibliometric and scientific study of research conducted in Europe, North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Arab world, parts of Africa and Asia on the links between the use of social media and the phenomena of radicalization, the Report analyzes more than 550 studies published in scientific literature and “grey literature”, covering outputs in English (260), French (196) and Arabic (96). It shows that very little research has focused on the effective role of the use of social media in violent radicalization. Although many articles deal with electronic strategies and the use of the Internet and online social media for recruitment, there are very few empirical studies that describe and examine the real effects of these strategies on youth, and they rarely examine gender aspects. The Report examines the specificities of online prevention initiatives: counter/alternative narratives and media information literacy (MIL). Several formal and informal MIL initiatives have been implemented around the world according to needs: M.I.L as a pedagogical practice with a specific set of skills that can respond to narratives of anger and revenge." (executive summary, p.5)
http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002603/260382e.pdf


(also published in Arabic)
"This book, the first of its kind ever in Yemen, serves as a guide for Yemeni media professionals as well as a highly significant document that will go a long way in boosting their reporting skills in such a way that meets standards of conflict sensitive journalism. It is also a compendium on a number of workshops SEMC had conducted across Yemeni governorates over the past couple of years." (introduction, p.8)


The application of Communication for Development (C4D) in conflict prevention, conflict reduction and post-conflict reconstruction interventions is a relatively new field. International organisations that have begun to adopt new communication & media designs in their peace work are progressively offering a credible baseline to engage in the assessment of this practice. In this paper, I offer a short compendium of the evaluation frameworks I have developed through my empirical research on the impact of Communication for Development in Peacebuilding; this is presented alongside a number of reflections and followed by concluding considerations on the state of the field." (abstract)


"The article discusses the film ‘Last Station Before Hell’ by Pierre-Olivier François, United Nations’ Peacekeepers known as the Blue Helmets, are often the subject of criticism and negative press reports. Most notably they have been blamed for transmitting cholera to the victims of the earthquake that struck the island nation of Haiti in 2010. The UN reluctantly admitted its role in bringing the Peacekeepers who brought the disease to the island, and has finally agreed to compensate the people of Haiti. Based on his experience at the United Nations in New York as a press attaché in charge of the General Assembly and the Security Council, filmmaker Pierre-Olivier François was asked to make a film about the United Nations peacekeeping forces for the seventieth anniversary of the world body. In this chapter, François discusses the making of the documentary, and he details the challenges posed by the mostly negative media frames applied to UN Peacekeepers." (introduction to part 7, p.381)


"Menschfeindliche und rassistische Äußerungen (Hate Speech) gegenüber religiösen und ethnischen Gruppen im Internet haben sich weltweit massiv ausgedehnt. Das Internet ist ein Ort der multikulturellen Begegnung als des aggressiven Kulturkampfes mit weltbreiten Föderationen für gesellschaftliches Handeln von der Diskriminierung bis zur fremdenfeindlichen Gewalt. Der vorliegende Beitrag beschäftigt sich in konzentrierter Form mit unterschiedlichen politikwissenschaftlichen, soziologischen und kommunikationswissenschaftlichen Erklärungsversuchen für die Ursachen der Hasskommunikation. Abgerundet wird der Beitrag durch eine Reflexion über ethische und co-regulative Maßnahmen in einer wehrhaften liberalen Demokratie." (abstract)
subjects: hate speech; internet & social media extremism / terrorism - position papers / recommendations


"This paper assesses the role of social media and digital technologies (SMDT) in the reporting of violent events, and evaluates their relative strengths and weaknesses as compared to other means available. It seeks to understand how SMDT data are collated, how reliable the data are, and what practical and ethical issues are associated with their collection and use. We start by situating the application of these technologies within the wider discussion of the use of information and communication technologies for development (ICT4D) and the use of data to help us understand failures or successes (RTODD), before presenting the different types of SMDT data collection instruments and methods. We then assess the reliability of SMDT data for the reporting of violent events, identifying potential factors of biases in the data, such as geographical coverage, demographic and socioeconomic factors, or biases resulting from the nature and configuration of violent events. We also look at whether such data can accurately capture underlying dynamics of violent events. Finally, we look at the practical and ethical challenges associated with the collection of SMDT data on violent events." (summary)
https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/13161


"La comunicación para la transformación de conflictos es un área relativamente nueva dentro del vasto campo de prevención de conflictos y construcción de paz y por tanto ha sido sometida a escasos procesos evaluativos. Con el fin de comenzar a crear un modelo evaluativo que posibilite un análisis de las acciones emprendidas en el marco de la comunicación para la transformación de conflictos y una aproximación holística que permita que la evaluación se convierta en una verdadera herramienta de aprendizaje.

- 8 -

"By weaving the connections between the literatures on participatory communication and civic engagement with the reality of postconflict peace, this article demonstrates how a communication for development (C4D) approach to engaging citizens in peacebuilding contributes to strengthening the reconstruction process at the end of the violence, while engendering a bottom up process based on dialogue and inclusivity. After offering a brief overview of the peacebuilding contexts, this article presents a theoretical discussion that brings to the surface not only the role of C4D in facilitating participation in government decision making, but also its significance in creating an inclusive peacebuilding process that starts from the community. At the same time, this discussion begins to shed light on the relationship between communication for development and participatory governance." (abstract AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN)

61. Jennifer Bakody: Radio Okapi Kindu: the station that helped bring peace to the Congo. Vancouver; Berkeley: Figure, 2017, 304 p.

"When Jennifer Bakody steps off the plane in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2004, she walks right into the hardest and most inspiring job an idealistic young journalist from Nova Scotia could ever imagine. Six years of war involving eight countries and several million deaths have just ended in a ceasefire. A week later, Bakody finds herself two thousand kilometres up the Congo River in the heart of the jungle, managing a small UN-backed radio station. Welcome to Radio Okapi Kindu. Welcome, too, to its team of hard-working local reporters determined to cover the country's rapid march towards elections. One day rebel soldiers are walking out of the jungle and handing in their weapons; the next the station is airing comedy sketches and messages asking after Goma's persistence of them." (executive summary)


"Social media and digital technology offer immense potential for citizens, policymakers and practitioners to raise awareness of, monitor, and respond to violence. With Kenya's elections approaching, technology can help to raise awareness of insecurity, support early warning, combat incitement of violence and promote accountability. However, digital technology also carries a number of risks. To maximise effectiveness and inclusivity, 1) greater support must be given to locally legitimate peace messaging and social media; 2) government, media and civil society should collaborate to improve transparency and accountability in the regulation of online activity; and 3) social media monitoring of violence should be undertaken in conjunction with other reporting systems that seek to overcome inequalities in digital access and use." (abstract)

https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opensdocs/handle/123456789/13002


"Nigerian researcher Jacob Udo-Udo Jacob compares the impact on people in the Kivu provinces of eastern DR Congo of United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) communication operations encouraging militia to return to the country and Radio Okapi’s informative debate programme ‘Dialogue between Congolese’ at a time, between 2008 and 2010, when Fondation Hirondelle was co-managing that radio station with the UN. He concluded that the UN communication programmes provoked emotional reactions that were not very favourable, while ‘Dialogue between Congolese’ gave its listeners a better understanding of the political situation and a sense of collective responsibility to resolve the conflict.’ (Sacha Meuter, Legal adviser and research assistant at Fondation Hirondelle, in News from Fondation Hirondelle, N°54, Winter 2017-2018, p.2)


Contents: Situación actual de la industria extractiva en el Perú y en Latinoamérica -- Percepción negativa y violencia en los conflictos socios ambientales -- Gestión social y comunicación bidireccional -- Cronología y análisis de los conflictos socios ambientales más importantes de los últimos años -- Análisis documental de los conflictos sociales y sus protagonistas -- Inversión social y políticas de relacionamiento -- Conclusiones.

subjects: nonprofit public relations; extractive industries; environmental & land conflicts; conflict reporting - Peru - case studies


"The central objective of this volume has been to show that legislation against hate speech in the EU may be an effective first step towards combating the phenomenon, but it might not be adequate on its own to contain the present situation. This is because hate speech has many modes of being expressed. In this volume, we have identified several strategies of Othering that can be used to express such an unfavourable position towards members of a minority: categorisation and stereotyping, hate concealed as patriotism, metaphorical language, sarcasm, allusions and constructed dialogue can all be ‘subtle’ ways in which discrimination emerges in public discourse. And while we are not in a position, as linguists, to suggest that such strategies belong to the category of prosecutable hate speech, we think that it is safe to assume that they do form part of what we have dubbed soft hate speech." (concluding remarks, p.87)


"This report identifies eight basic types of harassment present in Hungary: rhetorical aggression; trolling; bullying; threats; public shaming; violation of personal privacy; cyber attacks and site hacking; and malicious social media activity. The study found that the most common types of online harassment are trolling and rhetorical aggression, which are experienced by Hungarian online journalists on a daily basis through both public and private channels. Overall, comments made through private channels are more severe. Facebook comments are generally the least aggressive in nature, followed by comment sections under individual articles. Abusive messages sent via private channels (email, Facebook messages) are the most aggressive and straightforward. Many journalists agreed that the most disturbing element of online harassment is not necessarily the harshness or explicit nature of comments but the frequency and overwhelming persistence of them." (executive summary)


MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


"This report identifies eight basic types of harassment present in Hungary: rhetorical aggression; trolling; bullying; threats; public shaming; violation of personal privacy; cyber attacks and site hacking; and malicious social media activity. The study found that the most common types of online harassment are trolling and rhetorical aggression, which are experienced by Hungarian online journalists on a daily basis through both public and private channels. Overall, comments made through private channels are more severe. Facebook comments are generally the least aggressive in nature, followed by comment sections under individual articles. Abusive messages sent via private channels (email, Facebook messages) are the most aggressive and straightforward. Many journalists agreed that the most disturbing element of online harassment is not necessarily the harshness or explicit nature of comments but the frequency and overwhelming persistence of them." (executive summary)

https://doi.org/10.1186/s13980-017-0052-8


"Many Computerspiele faszinieren durch die Verbindung von mittelalterlichem Ambiente und High-Tech. Genau hier liegt für viele Jihadisten auch die Faszination des IS, der eine "mittelalterliche" Ordnung mit Hilfe des Internets aufrechterhält. Das Steuersystem orientiert sich am Koran, wird aber digital organisiert. Das Finanzwesen beruht auf dem "mittelalterlichen" Ordnung mit Hilfe des Internets aufrechterhält. Das Steuersystem orientiert sich am Koran, wird aber digital organisiert. Das Finanzwesen beruht auf dem "mittelalterlichen" Ordnung mit Hilfe des Internets aufrechterhält. Das Steuersystem orientiert sich am Koran, wird aber digital organisiert. Das Finanzwesen beruht auf dem "mittelalterlichen" Ordnung mit Hilfe des Internets aufrechterhält. Das Steuersystem orientiert sich am Koran, wird aber digital organisiert. Das Finanzwesen beruht auf dem "mittelalterlichen" Ordnung mit Hilfe des Internets aufrechterhält. Das Steuersystem orientiert sich am Koran, wird aber digital organisiert. Das Finanzwesen beruht auf dem "middle of the jungle". Welcome, too, to its team of hard-working local reporters determined to cover the country's rapid march towards elections. One day rebel soldiers are walking out of the jungle and handing in their weapons; the next the station is airing comedy sketches and messages asking after Goma's persistence of them." (executive summary)

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Democracy, Governance & Media, Political Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"This article systematically investigates the relationship between internet use and protests in authoritarian states and democracies. It argues that unlike in democracies, internet use has facilitated the occurrence of protests in authoritarian regimes, developing a theoretical rationale for this claim and substantiating it with robust empirical evidence. The article argues that whereas information could already flow relatively freely in democracies, the use of the internet has increased access to information in authoritarian regimes despite authoritarian attempts to control cyberspace. The article suggests this increased access to information positively affects protesting in authoritarian states via four complementary causal pathways: (1) by reducing the communication costs for oppositional movements; (2) by instigating attitudinal change; (3) decreasing the informational uncertainty for potential protesters; and (4) through the mobilizing effect of the spread of dramatic videos and images. These causal pathways are illustrated using anecdotal evidence from the Tunisian revolution (2010–2011). The general claim that internet use has facilitated the occurrence of protests under authoritarian rule is systematically tested in a global quantitative study using country-year data from 1990 to 2013. Internet use increases the expected number of protests in authoritarian states as hypothesized. This effect remains robust across a number of model specifications." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2016.1223630

71. Anya Schiffrin (ed.): In the service of power: media capture and the threat to democracy. Washington, DC: Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), 2017, 162 p.

Contents: Introduction / Anya Schiffrin -- Toward a taxonomy of media capture / Joseph E. Stiglitz -- Competing forms of media capture in developing democracies / Maha Rafi Atal -- Media capture in the digital age / Rasmus Nielson Nielsen -- Clientelism and media capture in Latin America / Mireya Márquez-Ramírez & Manuel Alejandro Guerrero -- The state, the military, and the market: Capture in the new Burmese media landscape / Jane Madlyn McElhone -- Unfinished business: Tanzania’s media capture challenge / Ryan Powell -- The gradual takeover of the Czech media system / Martina Vojtìchovská -- Managed liberalization: Commercial media in the People’s Republic of China / Yiling Pan - - Tunisia’s media barons wage war on independent media regulation / Kabir Labidi -- Exposing Eastern Europe’s shadowy media owners / Paul Radu -- What is to be done? Options for combating the menace of media capture / Mark M. Nelson.

http://www.cima.net.org/resource/service-power-media-capture-threat-democracy/


"This report provides a new framework for policy-makers, legislators, researchers, technologists and practitioners working on the theoretical and practical challenges related to misinformation and disinformation — the three elements of information disorder. While the historical impact of rumours and fabricated content have been well documented, the complexity and scale of information pollution in our digitally-connected, increasingly polarised world presents an unprecedented challenge. There is an immediate need to work collaboratively on workable solutions and this report provides a framework for the different stakeholders involved in research, policy discussions, and technical innovations connected to this phenomenon of information disorder." (back cover)


"Ce manuel a pour but d’accompagner les missions d’observation électorale dans leur mission de surveillance des contenus médiatiques et des discours politiques, la qualité du discours des acteurs politiques et le comportement des médias dans une période clé de la vie démocratique. Il donne également les outils nécessaires pour la surveillance d’accès équitable aux médias pour l’ensemble des candidats tant au niveau quantitatif qu’au niveau qualitatif. Au-delà du manuel et de l’observation électorale, l’objectif est de permettre aux médias de pouvoir mieux jouer leur rôle d’éducation civique et de servir d’espace public d’expression démocratique en République Démocratique du Congo." (site web Internews.org)

subjects: election reporting; media monitoring - Congo (Dem. Rep. -) - criteria / guidelines


"While there is strong continuity in the values that resisters perceive to be at stake, there are also important changes. One important change is that media resistance increasingly has moved from the political to the personal domain. Three explanations are offered for how media resistance is sustained as a strong cultural current: media resistance is flexible and adaptable, media resistance is connected with other great narratives of hope and decline, and media resisters keep a distance from (empirical) media research." (abstract chapter 7, p.119)

https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-3-319-46499-2.pdf


"There appears to be a research gap for in-depth comparative or meta-analysis examining how, where and why the media – or other infomediaries – has helped translate transparency initiatives into greater government accountability. Nevertheless, the small but growing body of single case studies does indicate the kinds of accountability impacts that infomediaries are helping to generate. Examples include: improving people’s knowledge of key governance issues and sometimes their political participation, and catalysing changes to service delivery such as increasing school budget allocations." (overview, p.2)


El Indicador de la Rentabilidad Social en Comunicación (IRSCOM); medir para transformar. In: CIC Cuadernos de Información y Comunicación, vol. 21, 2016, p.47-62

El presente artículo aborda la construcción del Índice de Rentabilidad Social en Comunicación (IRSCOM), que pretende recoger valores ligados al funcionamiento de los medios audiovisuales, eludiendo la visión mercantilista, potenciando la participación ciudadana y la transparencia en su gestión. Este indicador es una propuesta que persigue corregir las deficiencias en la rentabilidad social de los medios para consolidar modelos mediáticos que respondan a lógicas centradas en la construcción democrática, la fortaleza de la pluralidad y la diversidad.”


El presente artículo aborda la construcción del Índice de Rentabilidad Social en Comunicación (IRSCOM), que pretende recoger valores ligados al funcionamiento de los medios audiovisuales, eludiendo la visión mercantilista, potenciando la participación ciudadana y la transparencia en su gestión. Este indicador es una propuesta que persigue corregir las deficiencias en la rentabilidad social de los medios para consolidar modelos mediáticos que respondan a lógicas centradas en la construcción democrática, la fortaleza de la pluralidad y la diversidad.”


“Very few cross-national studies have examined the consequences of electoral manipulation, including the manipulation of election administration and the media, on citizens’ trust in elections. This paper addresses this gap by exploring how autonomy of election management bodies (EMBs) and media freedom individually and conjointly shape citizens’ trust in elections. Citizens are more likely to express confidence in elections when EMBs display de facto autonomy and less likely to do so when mass media disseminate information independent of government control. Additionally, we suggest that EMB autonomy may not have a positive effect on public trust in elections if media freedom is low. Empirical findings based on recent survey data on public trust in elections in 47 countries and expert data on de facto EMB autonomy and media freedom support our hypotheses.” (abstract)


“La question des « fakes news » ou de la désinformation – on ne peut plus actuel – se pose aussi et davantage et plus violemment qu’autrefois que les mass media et les réseaux sociaux sont devenus incontournables. Le champ d’action de cette théorie de la désinformation ne relève plus seulement de l’académie militaire comme alors. On la voit à l’oeuvre dans le domaine socio-politico-économique où elle peut accompagner et entremêler des conflits, surtout à travers les médias, aussi bien entre les individus qu’entre les sociétés, peuples et nations, pour des visées non seulement politiques, mais également économiques. Cet essai se veut une analyse critique-politologique de cette arme de guerre ou de conflits, et offre quelques techniques pour s’en préserver, surtout en Afrique où le pourcentage d’analphabètes est très élevé et le sens critique ou l’esprit de talmage des informations peut s’éprouver.” (couverture)

subjects: fake news & disinformation


“This paper explores the role that citizen journalism is playing in democratising the mainstream media in Rwanda. Through in-depth interviews with journalists from two radio stations and by using the public sphere theory as a theoretical framework, this research sought to answer the question as to whether citizen journalism in Rwanda propels media democratisation by enabling democratic deliberation through its ability to inform, filling in the gaps left by mainstream media and by encouraging critical thinking. The findings from this study show that citizens participate in the daily work of the media through commentaries and by serving as news sources. However, citizens have not yet had a tangible impact on the functioning of the two media where self-censorship and gatekeeping are widely practised. Democratisation of these radio stations appears to be more theoretical rather than an established practice.” (abstracts)


“This article aims at investigating the relationship between the concept of mediated citizenship and participation through radio talk deliberation. It intends to offer an analysis of the content mediated through public discourses by determining the way in which participants draw their identities through different topics articulated in radio talk shows. This article will focus on a breakfast radio talk show – Jambo Kenya, a programme broadcasted on Radio Citizen, the second largest radio station in Kenya. This highly interactive programme airs from 7-15 a.m. with thought-provoking dialogue, giving a voice to groups that would otherwise be unheard. The article focuses on how the call-in listeners gain access to this media space to contest their various ideas.” (abstract)


“Political blogging in Francophone Africa is quite a recent phenomenon. Most bloggers are journalists and use their blogs to practice writing and/or report affairs they can’t inform the users of developments in the political and social spheres of their country. A blog is therefore a tool for the publication of content to inform the users of developments in the political and social spheres of their country. It is a platform for freedom of expression. Blogging can be a way to earn a living, especially when combined with social media.” (p.1)


subjects: election campaigns; election reporting - Congo (Dem. Rep.) - content analysis (case studies)

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


“L’expérience radiophonique en Guinée a connu trois grandes périodes. Lors de la première, de 1950 à 1955, la radio était au service de la métropole, afin de servir les intérêts exclusifs des plantaeurs européens, franco-syriniens et franco-libanais. Elle donnait des informations sur le mouvement des navires-bananiers et d’autres transports de produits. La deuxième période, de 1956 à 1958, la radio a participé activement à l’éveil des consciences, à la lutte pour l’indépendance nationale, et à l’émancipation du continent. Elle a joué un rôle important dans la mise en place des structures de gestion en Afrique et singulièrement en Guinée. La loi-cadre du 23 juin 1956 a favorisé la participation des Africains à la gestion et à la prise de décisions importantes pour leur développement. Au cours de la troisième période, de 1958 à 1964, la radio a contribué à la consolidation des acquis de l’Indépendance nationale, à la lutte de libération des peuples africains encore sous le joug colonial, et à la valorisation de la culture nationale et africaine. Elle a joué un rôle de premier plan dans la propagande révolutionnaire et s’est illustrée comme porte-voix de l’Afrique combattante.” (couverture)

subjects: radio history; public radios; propaganda; revolution; political role & influence of radio, radio & democratization; political communication - Guinea


“It is often assumed that a robust, free and independent media will contribute to the deepening of democracy by keeping governments accountable and broadening citizen participation in deliberative democratic debates. But in new democracies such as South Africa, the deepening and broadening of democratic participation is often curtailed by challenges such as unequal access to the media, the orientation of mainstream media towards elite audiences and renewed attempts by sources of power to control the free flow of information. Despite the promise of a peaceful, equitable and democratic society after the end of apartheid, conflicts continue to erupt due to continued social polarisation, vast socio-economic inequalities and new struggles for power. In South Africa these conflicts include social protests on a daily basis, repeated outbreaks of xenophobic violence and disruptions to the parliamentary process. This paper probes the role of the media in these conflicts from the perspective of journalists who have reported on these issues. The paper explores ways in which journalists critically reflect on their abilities to perform the roles expected of them within a normative framework informed by the Habermasian ideal of deliberative democracy. The reasons they offer for not fulfilling these roles, and the conditions underpinning these failures, lead them to question the ability of the South African media to contribute to an emerging democracy.” (abstract)


“This research looks at the information needed by in-country development stakeholders with a focus on accountability actors including civil society organizations, charities, government workers, and the media. To collect this information, semi-structured interviews were conducted in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The majority of interviewees wanted information about financial resources and the channels they flowed through, and all respondents wanted information on the services provided and where the work was happening subnationally, suggesting that these two sets of information may be the most important. Unfortunately, information on subnational locations and services provided is infrequently available through open aid data portals, implying a need to update what aid information is shared.” (p.1)


subjects: election campaigns; election reporting - Congo (Dem. Rep.) - content analysis (case studies)

radios clandestines -- 10. Los volcanes de América: nuevas (y renovadas) erupciones (Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba) -- 11. Terremotos tras el telón de acero (Europa de Este).

subjects: clandestine radios - international scope

"Ce livre traite de l'évolution de la presse africaine francophone dans un contexte de mutations sociopolitiques récurrentes. S'appuyant sur le cas particulier du Congo-Brazzaville, l'analyse démontre comment les mutations sociopolitiques induisent des logiques sociales de la communication qui interfèrent dans la médiatisation de l'information publique. La communication publique et sociale qui se déploient dans la sphère publique des acteurs sociaux aux jeux et intérêts divergents, l'information de presse produite dans ce contexte apparaît comme une simple mise en visibilité des acteurs sociaux les plus nantis parce que détenteurs d'un double capital politique et financier." (couverture)

subjects: politics and media; vested political interests in the media; political economy of the media; media history - Congo-Brazzaville


"This study focuses on the unprecedented ways in which newspaper journalism helped the cause of democratisation at the height of the economic and political governance crisis, also known as the 'Zimbabwe Crisis', from 1997 to 2010. The research is designed as a qualitative case study of The Daily News, an independent private newspaper. It was based on semi-structured interviews with respondents, who were mainly journalists and politicians living in Zimbabwe. The analytical lens of alternative media facilitates a construction of how The Daily News and its journalists experienced, reported, confronted and navigated state authoritarianism in a historical moment of political turmoil. The study discusses the complex relationships between the independent and privately owned press, the political opposition and civil society organisations. The research provides an original analysis of the operations of The Daily News and its journalists in the context of a highly undemocratic political moment. Some journalists crossed the floor to join civic and opposition forces in order to confront the state. The state responded through arrests and physical attacks against the journalists; however, journalists continued to work with opposition forces while the government enacted repressive media and security law to curtail coverage of the crisis." (abstract)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


ASIA & PACIFIC


"This research explores the ways in which print and online news media create and control narratives on the Arab Spring in the public sphere in the Arab Gulf States, focusing on the role of social media. The study draws on an analysis of 100 online news articles from five news media outlets in the Arab Gulf States. The findings reveal that, while social media are being used as a source of news, they are not being used as a platform for public participation and debate. Instead, they are being used to control and shape the narrative on the Arab Spring." (abstract)

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17512786.2014.905007

EUROPE

92. Albertina Navas, Carlos Sabino, César Ricarute, Israel Márquez: Redes sociales, ciudadanía y política: claves de la nueva esfera pública. UWI St. Augustine Campus; Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business; Asociación de Estudios en Redes Sociales Digitales (ASREDES), 2017, 147 p.


subjects: government communication strategies; cyber advocacy / digital activism; twitter / microblogs - Ecuador; Guatemala; Venezuela

http://decs.wixstatic.com/uqdp/371a27_621a9bc6be0d426b90b51c1f50fd135.pdf


subjects: communication & media research; online political communication; civil society; civic engagement, citizen participation & media; democracy / democratization and media - Latin America; Chile

"The EuroMaidan protests that shook Ukraine in late 2013 to early 2014 triggered a chain of events that brought numerous changes and challenges for the Ukrainian society. The Ukrainian media landscape has also been affected by the new challenges and impetus for democratization. The post-Maidan period saw both, improvements in the media environment and setbacks. While Ukrainian journalists can benefit from increased media democratization, the informal institutions of the media landscape in Ukraine. This paper provides an overview of developments in the Ukrainian media system since the declaration of independence with a special focus on the situation after the EuroMaidan and discusses four major challenges that will impact the transformation of the Ukrainian journalism and media sphere." (abstract)


"While other studies have shown that mass media can influence a person's attitudes and opinions in the region, none has explored what effect social media can have on orientations toward democracy in the region. In the following paper, I build several hypotheses based on previous studies of media effects and democratic survival. I then employ survey data to empirically test whether social media increases support for democracy. The study finds that not only does using social media increase support for democracy, but also simple usage rather than information seeking provides more consistent effects on a person's support for democracy in CEE." (abstract)


"In the period after the fall of communism, peculiar new obstacles to media independence have arisen. They include the tells tale structure of media ownership, with news reporting being concentrated in the hands of politically engaged business tycoons, the fuzzy and contradictory legislation of the media realm, and the informal institutions of political power and influence. The book analyses the relationship between the economy, politics, the economy, and media in Ukraine, especially their shadowy sides guided by private interests and informal institutions. Being embedded in comparative politics and post-communist media studies, it helps to understand the nature and workings of the Ukrainian media system situated in-between democracy and authoritarianism." (publisher)


"During the transition years, Albania saw the establishment of a relatively complete legal framework for the protection and development of media freedom and independence. However, in many cases, the legal framework was delayed or a mechanical transplant of western legislation. Enforcement of legislation remains a problem. In the framework of relations between the media and politics, both in the early transition phases and during recent years, there have been frequent efforts of political formations to ensure in a way control Relations between media and politics in Albania over the media through law as in the case of the Press Law or the case of legislation establishing the regulations for the election of the Steering Council of RTSH and AMA, which gives the opportunity to the political majority to decide on the composition of the steering bodies of these two institutions. In terms of transparency over media ownership, Albania has made progress, but the concern is raised regarding the possibility of hidden ownership. Besides the ownership factor, their funding also has played a considerable role in the degree of dependence or independence of the media. In this regard, for many decision makers or international rapporteurs, the situation remains alarming. The EU Progress Report on Albania notes that media financing remains very problematic. There is almost no transparency and funding sources are manipulated or hidden. Similar to countries of the polarized pluralistic media model, in Albania too, professional organizations and the trade unions of journalists are generally weak. An indicator of the lack of organization of the media and the journalists' community is also the fact that Albania, for a long period during the transition years, has not managed to have a Media Council, which exists in the majority of the region's countries. The inexistence or poor role of journalists' associations has led to a poor level of self-regulation of media in the country." (executive summary)


MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


"The Arab Spring is often viewed as a movement of peoples across the Middle East and North Africa that sought to mobilize against and topple autocratic regimes, particularly those from the Arab League. The post-2011 Middle East had indeed become a success story”. (conclusion)

Media freedom is still a fragile compromise in Tunisia and institutions and their rules are not as sustainable as one might wish for. The success of the transition process ultimately depends on the commitment of all elites to devote themselves to holding on to democracy. As could be observed in all stages of the transition process, it was often the willingness of the political elites to make democratization work, even at the expense of their own power shares, which was essential for mastering the ride on the bumpy road of transition. However, in comparison to all other countries in the region Tunisia has found a way to negotiate its future without militant means, and, as Roxane Farmanfarmaian (2014, p. 662) concludes, ‘a stage of no return is widely felt to have been achieved’. Thus I can conclude optimistically that Tunisia’s media transition might indeed become a success story." (conclusion)


"Based on the assumption that increased access to internet services boosts economic growth and improves the well-being of the poor, governments in both developed and emerging regions are heavily investing in internet connectivity projects. This article reviews the existing evidence as to the impact of internet technologies on various development dimensions, and articulates the empirical evidence into an analytical framework that seeks to elucidate the micro-linkages between internet adoption and poverty alleviation. The review suggests that the development pay-offs of internet technologies are ambiguous due to two interrelated effects. First, because effective appropriation requires a range of skills as well as complementary investment in human capital and organizational changes. This tends to favour well-educated workers and firms with more innovative capacity and access to finance. Second, because the positive effects of the technology on market coordination and political institutions grow exponentially with adoption levels. As a result, while the evidence indicates that advanced economies are reaping significant benefits from internet investments, the returns for less advanced economies, and in particular for the fight against poverty in these regions, remain uncertain." (abstract)


105. Paul Mundy, Benjamin Kwasi Addorn, Krishan Bheenick: Beyond the hype: mobile phones and the web to improve agricultural value chains. Wageningen: Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), 2017, 16 p. (CTA Technical Brief)

"CTA’s ICT4Ag project (2014–15) enabled seven organisations in Africa and the Caribbean to develop, test and promote information services for small-scale farmers and fishers, traders and lobbying groups. Key recommendations: Understanding users’ needs requires intensive interaction with potential clients before designing the app. Pilot testing can fine-tune the app and introduce it to the users. Simple or fancy? Many users still lack a smartphone needed to display graphics, but have a "feature phone" that can send and receive text messages. Offering a text-based service is cheaper and easier than developing and maintaining a graphical interface. Face-to-face promotion and training familiarises users with the app and help build a large client base. In the medium term, however, user fees are unlikely to sustain such services; they will still depend on other sources of income, especially donor funding. Partnerships are critical – both as a source of data to analyse and disseminate, and for support in promoting the app among clients." (p.1)


subjects: behavior change communication; behavior change campaigns - manuals & training materials


"In June 2017, a group of researchers from Australian universities and practitioners from different not-for-profit organisations came together to share knowledge and experience in the study and practice of Communication for Development (C4D). This Roundtable was organised as a side-event to the RDI (Research for Development Impact) Network Conference, held at the University of Sydney on 13th-14th June. The aim was to strengthen the value of C4D research and practice by facilitating connections between practitioners and researchers on C4D-related research projects. "(introduction)


"This chapter has outlined the philosophical motivations and strategic practices of philanthroponomics, interrogating the key place of communication technology and media storytelling within their humanitarian activities. It also explored the central critiques of philanthroponomics that have emerged in response, suggesting that oppositional narratives have played only a minor role in public sphere debates. Fundamentally, philanthroponomics have recognized the key role that advocacy plays in the agenda of media, policymakers, and the public, cultivating a number of powerful tools to ensure that the stories that get the most attention are those that reflect their own priorities and strategies for humanitarian action. Indeed, at a time when approximately 63 percent of Americans get their news from Facebook, the philanthroponomist agenda of the newly created Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative might have the best media platform yet to frame and measure the public’s thinking forward. It seems that some balance is needed between recognizing the good work that these philanthroponomists can achieve, on one hand, while having opportunities to hold them accountable and propose alternative solutions, on the other." (conclusion)


“What role does mass media play in the promotion of global norms? We address this question through an analysis of Human Development Reports (HDRs) produced by the United Nations Development Programme. Although HDRs have promoted human development ideology over the past twenty-five years, little is known about how and to what extent their messages have been disseminated to the public. Addressing this gap in the literature, we examine a critical intervening factor in the process of international norm diffusion: political communication via the mass media. Highlighting the importance of framing and agenda setting, we identify four communicative mechanisms that can facilitate norm diffusion: credibility, persistence, resonance, and decentralization. Through qualitative and quantitative content analysis, we assess how these mechanisms have enabled HDRs to attract favorable global media attention such that they are now cited much more frequently than their rival, the World Bank’s World Development Reports." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1093/isip/ekv018


“Building on the work of Robert Chambers and Arturo Escobar, ‘Communicating development with communities’ is an empirically grounded critical reflection on how the development industry defines, imagines and constructs development at the implementation level. Unpacking the dominant syntax in the theory and practice of development, the book advocates a move towards relational and indigenous models of living that celebrate local ontologies, spirituality, economies of solidarity and community. It investigates how subaltern voices are produced and appropriated, and how well-meaning experts can easily become oppressors. The book propounds a pedagogy of listening as a pathway that offers a space for interest groups to collaboratively curate meaningful development with and alongside communities." (back cover)


"The first International SBCC Summit 2016 brought together the global community of social and behavior change communication (SBCC) organizations, practitioners and researchers from February 8 - 10, 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The three-day event offered talks from SBCC field practitioners, a market fair of tools, skills-building workshops, and panels on methodologies, programs and research. Blue Sky sessions allowed participants to consider the way forward in elevating the science and art of SBCC. Twenty-four technology organizations and 10 preferential partners, as well as 205 Synergy Grant applicants, applied, and, from the more than 600 abstracts received. Topics ranged from HIV and Ebola to nutrition and sanitation." (introduction)


"Even though the cliché ‘theory is practice’ registers in most communication for development debates, available evidence seems to suggest there is a growing chasm..."
between the theory and practice of communication for development. This discussion argues that, with the increasing demand by governments and organisations for communication for development specialists, universities and training providers should rethink their graduate curricula. As course content, teaching methodologies and theoretical paradigms are revised, trainers need to grill students on how the comprehension of post-Apartheid models of political participation and political communication in development. This paper advances two arguments. The first is that communication for development training has to begin learning to the innovative thinking that is shaping practice on the ground if the curriculum is to stay relevant. The second is that such programmes have forge strong linkages with development studies departments to ensure that students are well-grounded in development theory and practice." (abstract)

https:// ids. de/ fileadmin/ media_ faa/ pdf/ RZ_FI_15_Programm_web_100. pdf


"Going to the cinema means going on a journey" reads one of the banners in the cultural programme. Film festivals have become an important issue for cultural and political change. The Afrika Film Festival Köln has addressed this topic with a special focus on migration on its film programme. The film "Landgrabbing and Migration" is one of the first ideas we came up with regarding the make-up of the festival programme was to present a retrospective with the highlights from the last 25 years. But this was soon scrapped due to the huge number of exciting new films that were submitted to Filminitiativ in 2017 and the many discoveries at major festivals, such as those in Tunis, Ouagadougou and Durban. Filminitiativ was ultimately again spoil for choice, with more than 400 new features, documentaries and short films. We therefore decided to keep the focus on contemporary African cinema for the anniversary festival, and to complement the films with a small selection of classics. (introduction)


"The paper summarizes evidence on food insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa and strategies to provide information on innovative agricultural practices to smallholder farmers. The research in this paper is then discussed within the context of research on information and communication technologies (ICTS) for development. Next, the paper presents the ICT interventions that have contributed to the development of innovative approaches of Farm Radio International, a Canadian nongovernmental organization. The paper analyzes two participatory radio campaigns that use both listing groups and ICTs to engage African farmers. Research on these radio campaigns in six African countries is reported to examine how the participatory approach impacted listenership, knowledge and initial adoption of technological practices and techniques presented in the radio campaigns. The authors conclude that the findings of research on these projects could be highly relevant for increasing awareness and adoption of agricultural practices in Sub-Saharan Africa." (abstract)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tepolic.2017.05.010


"While scholarly inquiries into the coverage of climate change in Africa are growing, there appears to be a dearth of studies focusing on how the political economy shapes the coverage. This qualitative study addresses this gap by exploring how vested interests, corruption and declining advertising revenue among other factors affect climate change news in Nigeria. The findings of this study - which draws on interviews with journalists and media owners, editors and even climate change reporters have different interests to protect, all of which influence climate change reporting. The study concludes that in order to get their stories published, African climate change reporters relied on interviews by researchers making their stories meaningful without hurting the interests that appear to frustrate the reporting of the phenomenon. The issues examined in this study provide a research-based framework for the analysis of the political economy of climate change reporting in Nigeria." (abstract)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tepolic.2017.05.010

118. Sylvestre Ouédraogo, Théophile Assane Sawadogo: Buy Burkinaâ€”! Yam Pukri’s Agripol advocacy platform in Burkina Faso. Wageningen: Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), 2017, 6 p. (CTA Technical Brief; 11)

"Agripol is a platform that facilitates lobbying and advocacy of government, decision makers and the public by farmers’ organisations and others interested in agricultural development. Yam Pukri, which maintains the site, runs workshops and training courses to help its clients gain lobbying skills and learn to use the information on the platform. Agripol lobbying via the website itself, as well as posters, flyers, newspapers and video. Activities to provide these services have included developing and maintaining the website, training the client organisations on information technology, and support on advocacy. The key resources have been staff skills and data. Major partners are the Ministry of Agriculture (which is itself a target of lobbying), research institutes, and civil society." (p.5)

https://publications.cta.int/media/publications/downloads/2092_PDF.pdf

119. Elizabeth Willmott-Harrop: Going to scale with ICTs for agriculture. Wageningen: Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), 2017, 31 p. (Stories for the field; 3)

Contents: Hand-held technology for surveying farms transforms the lives of Ghana’s farmers – Saving water and quadrupling crop yields in Sudan via an SMS subscription – Using ICTs to create new markets for farmers in Ethiopia – Saving water in central Africa – Supporting stakeholder cooperation with a smartphone app in Trinidad and Tobago’s small-scale fishing industry – Agripol web platform supports agricultural advocacy in Burkina Faso – Using technology to bring financial services to rural farmers in Uganda – Empowering women farmers in Ghana with access to information.


"Mass distribution campaigns of insecticide-treated nets for malaria prevention are usually accompanied by intensive behaviour change communication (BCC) to encourage hanging and use of nets. However, data on the effectiveness of these communication efforts are scarce. In preparation for the next round of mass campaigns in Nigeria, a secondary analysis of existing data from post-campaign surveys was undertaken to investigate the influence of BCC on net hanging and use. Surveys were undertaken between October 2009 and April 2010 in 20 states in Nigeria using standardized questionnaires. Two-stage cluster sampling was used to select households in each study site. Outcomes were defined as the effects of BCC message exposure and recall on knowledge, attitudes, perception as well as intentions and actual use. From the univariable analysis, potential confounders and explanatory variables were identified and key effects explored in multivariable linear or logistic regression models; terms in the models were kept if they had a marginal significance with p<0.2. To quantify the effects from BCC, a treatment effect model was used with an inverse-probability weight regression adjustment. More than half of the respondents (58.4%; 95% CI 56.0, 60.7) had heard a message about net use or hanging during or after the distribution campaign, with media cited as the most common source of information. Attitude towards net use was positively linked to the number of messages recalled and was overall better in the northern study sites. The number of messages recalled was also the strongest predictor of knowledge (p<0.001). All BCC outcomes showed a significant increase in net use, which was strongest for the confidence to take action regarding nets with an overall effect of 17%-point increase of net use comparing poor and excellent confidence levels. Intention to use every night increased net use by 15%-points and discussing net use in the family by 8% points. All these effects were statistically significant (p<0.001). Multichannel BCC campaigns as well as other media were effective in contributing to an increase in net culture, hanging and use, particularly by vulnerable groups." (abstract)


"This guide illustrates a step-by-step process of how to develop your own Humanitarian Radio station. Every crisis is different and the needs of the people affected are unique; therefore the information included here is meant as a guide, flexible enough to adapt to the individual needs of your community. This manual does not insist that you follow a set of rules to start and operate your station. However it does offer important guidelines about the options you should consider, why they are important and how you can learn from the experiences of other communities. It includes practical tips, resources, and examples, as well as sample surveys, forms, job descriptions, and other tools for easy adaptation." (p.7)

https://www.internews.org/resource/humanitarianradio


"To meet the growing needs of disaster-affected communities around the world, we must do more to truly listen to them and tailor our responses accordingly." (abstract)

https://www.internews.org/resource/communication-communities-walking-talk


The Listening Groups Module contains the collective knowledge of the Internews South Sudan team gained over three years’ experience managing more than 700 Listening Groups across the country... "Part I: Context" describes the information and media landscape in South Sudan, and the value of Listening Groups as a tool for communicating with communities, accountability, and adaptive programming. "Part II: Case Study" discusses the implementation of Listening Groups to gather feedback on HIS programs in Juba and Malakal, as well as the stenting Group organized in Ayet to support Internews’ news and information project in the area. The case studies also cover challenges and lessons learned in order to offer recommendations for future Listening Group activities." (p.3)

https://www.internews.org/resource/importance-listening


"[This] guide provides a detailed, step-by-step methodology for conducting a radio distribution, based on Internews’ experience in four HIS project locations: Malakal, Juba (UN House), Bentiu and Bor. The practical application of the guide will be particularly relevant for NGOs, UN agencies, CSOs, local authorities and any other organization seeking to carry out a radio operation. This guide is organized step-by-step, with clear and potential challenges that may arise. It will provide information and advice on the entire process, including how to choose the right radio to suit your conditions, how to select beneficiaries, how to recruit staff, and how to monitor and evaluate the impact of the distribution." (introduction)

https://www.internews.org/resource/radio-distrib_3


"This article examines the diverse factors shaping the involvement of non-governmental organization (NGO) with humanitarian photography, paying particular attention to cooperative relationships with photojournalists intended to facilitate the generation of visual coverage of crises otherwise marginalised, or ignored altogether, in mainstream media news. The analysis is primarily based on a case study drawing upon 26 semi-structured interviews with NGO personnel (International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, Oxfam and Save the Children) and photojournalists conducted over 2014-2016, securing original insights into the epistemic terms upon which NGOs have sought to produce, frame and distribute imagery from recurrently disregarded crisis zones. In this way, the article pinpoints how the uses of digital imagery being negotiated by NGOs elucidate the changing, stratified geopolitics of visibility demarcating the visual boundaries of newsworthiness."


"This chapter aims to introduce the concept of an information intervention as an example of humanitarian action. Typically associated negatively with government efforts to incite conflict and tension, two case studies are explored-Haiti and Syria-to better understand how state-led information interventions can contribute to the restoration of normalcy (Haiti) and the development of community-led civil society (Syria). Of course, both Haiti and Syria remain in flux, making it difficult to draw firm conclusions on the efficacy of these efforts. That said, in both cases, there is evidence of effectiveness. Reports from Haiti indicate that the information intervention provided a crucial backbone for additional humanitarian relief, without which Haitians would have faced far worse devastation. In Syria, the emergence of a robust civil society sector, despite the fact that nearly half of Syrians are now internally or externally displaced, speaks to the capacity for open communications mediums and technologies to facilitate productive storytelling and information sharing." (conclusion)

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


“Part I: Context” describes the information and media landscape in South Sudan and the value of Humanitarian Radio as a tool for communicating with communities in a broad range of humanitarian scenarios. It also discusses how Humanitarian Radio promotes accountability and transparency for humanitarian agencies responding to crises. “Part II. Case Study” focuses on two Humanitarian Radio stations: Nile FM in the UN PoC in Malakal, and Jamjang FM in the Ajoung Thok refugee camp. The case studies also cover challenges and lessons learned in order to offer recommendations for future Humanitarian Radio projects."

https://www.internews.org/resource/humanitarianradio

134. Information needs and access to media among Sudanese refugees in Northern Unity State, South Sudan: findings from a survey of the refugee and humanitarian communities. Arcata, Calif.: Internews, 2017, 43 p.

"In April 2017, Internews conducted a field assessment that investigated access to media and information needs among Sudanese refugees in Yida, Ajoung Thok, and Pamir, a settlement and two refugee camps in the northern part of Unity State, South Sudan. The assessment followed the February 2017 launch of Jamjang 89.4 FM, a community radio station and humanitarian information service, based in Ajoung Thok and covering a 70-km radius. The team was especially interested to examine the extent to which beneficiaries believed that a humanitarian information service was critical to the refugee response. Additional objectives of the research included measuring the level of access to media among Sudanese refugees, identifying their media consumption habits, understanding their information needs, and measuring the demographics of listeners and reach of Jamjang FM’s broadcast."


“This Radio Distribution Module contains the collective knowledge of the Internews South Sudan team gained over three years’ experience conducting radio distributions within the United Nations Protection of Civilians sites (PoCs) and surrounding communities. “Part I. Context” describes the information and media landscape in South Sudan and the continued prominence of radio in people’s lives. It summarizes research on the importance of information access for health, education, and peacebuilding outcomes, and highlights Internews’ radio distribution activities in service of these aims. “Part II. Case Study” details radio distributions conducted in the Bentu PoC and Malakal to expand information access and listenership for Boda Boda Talk Talk and Nile FM programs. The case studies also include lessons learned, particularly the adaptive programming over time, in order to offer recommendations for future radio distributions.”

https://www.internews.org/resource/radio-distrib_3


"Heather Bourbeau finds that in a crisis, media professionals and humanitarian aid providers negotiate a delicate balance between truthful and consistent coverage, and coverage that sensationalizes a crisis and leads to hysteria, misery, and fatality. In “Front pages and frontlines: how the news cycle impacted humanitarian assistance in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo,” Bourbeau compares the media coverage of the Ebola crisis in Liberia to reporting on the Second Congo War in the DRC. She finds that when the topic is a contagious disease outbreak, media themes can swing the international community into action, but can also create unnecessary fear in countries far from the affected areas. By contrast, ongoing conflicts such as the war in the DRC often become background noise relegated to the back pages of major newspapers, if covered at all by the international press. She concludes that without continued media interest and informed coverage the international community’s response becomes dulled or muted and atrocities can be overlooked despite a continuous need for assistance and diplomatic efforts.” (introduction to part 4, p.186)


"Suzanne Franks discusses how the visually dominated storytelling of famine in Africa distorted the causes of famine and therefore obscured the most effective solutions. As journalists struggled to document the depths of human suffering, humanitarian communicators in these early stages raised compassion, concern, and actions of all sorts, but also helped to extend the conflicts and misled global publics by offering simple explanations for complex circumstances. In addition, it left in its wake a legacy, and a visual convention of stereotypic imagery, of The Starving African; anonymous, vulnerable, powerless, and forever waiting for food from the West.” (introduction to part 4, p.186)

ASIA & PACIFIC


"This inventory was developed by FHI 360, with grant funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, to support resilience practitioners and the broader development community to identify digital technologies that have the potential to enhance resilience outcomes, particularly in Asia. It was primarily populated through a crowdsourced call for submissions that took place in March 2017. Given the crowdsourced nature of this inventory, responsibility for the accuracy of the content rests solely with the individuals who made submissions.”


“There is no accessible media in the Rohingya language, leaving the Rohingya population well over a million, now spread between Myanmar and Bangladesh, reliant on information only available in languages other than their own ... This assessment, conducted in the Cox’s Bazar region of Bangladesh in late October 2017, examines the information ecosystem facing the area’s crisis affected population (introduction). According to the executive summary (p.10), "mobile phones were one of the main sources to send and receive information prior to arrival in the camps, which indicates a high household’s ownership of mobile phone sets (64%). Within newly arrived families, smart phones are mainly used by adult men between age 15 to 24; many of them have taken an active role to mingle with others, access to Facebook and YouTube, and bring information back to the households. Some of the young boys with smart phones have said to spend major amount of credit on data rather than voice connectivity. Also, young men find places to gather, such as shops, where they can charge phones and share information with others of the same age. The lack of access to information and communication channels should perhaps not be surprising, given the enormous challenges presented by the information landscape. 71% of the affected population has had no formal education of any kind, and 77% of the refugee population is illiterate in any language. The Rohingya dialect, the main language spoken by 96% of the refugee population, has no handed written script. It is technically illegal for refugees to purchase SIM cards. Access to radio sets is limited, and the signal is weak in many areas. What mass media that is available, is in Bangla or Chittigonian. 81% of refugees do not currently listen to the radio."  


"In this essay, a different way to approach reporting on natural disasters has been suggested. It requires news reporters and their editors to recognize that there are progressive unions and allied organizations that exist, and because of their rootedness in their various communities across the country, that they can help provide more honest and accurate accounts of natural disasters than can be gained from government officials and outside NGO staff-members. It has been argued that gaining access through these local organizations can provide approaches to news reporting that actually help the affected community heal, by portraying survivors as active protagonists to overcoming the death and destruction instead of helpless victims." (conclusion)

Economics & Management of Media

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

141. Radio managers guide to mentoring. BBC Media Action, [ca. 2017]

"Mentoring is one of the most effective ways to strengthen capacity in the radio stations we work with. Through our mentoring they develop skills that make them more dynamic and able to meet their audience's needs. It is more than a way to deliver training to partner stations and their staff. It is a technique based on interpersonal relationships to enhance people skills, knowledge and work performance through ongoing, on-the-job support. This guide is designed to give you the knowledge to incorporate mentoring into your projects. It is split into eight sections which do not need to be looked at in order: Introduction (mentoring and radio partnership basics) -- Audiences (understanding and serving audiences better) -- Mentoring models (examples, case studies and project design) -- Station partnerships (finding and working with radio stations) -- Finding mentors (recruiting, supporting and managing mentors) -- Evaluation (tools for evaluation) -- Next steps (how to bring mentoring into your project) -- Resources (useful documents and downloads)." (https://www.bbcmediaactionilearn.com/course)

https://www.bbcmediaactionilearn.com/course/view.php?id=185


"To thrive in a marketplace that is increasingly competitive, slower-growing, and abysmally dependent on personal recommendations, companies must develop strategies that engage, grow, and monetize their most valuable customers — i.e., their fans. To do so, they must combine excellent content with breadth and depth of distribution, and then bring it all together in an innovative user experience, in which the content is discoverable easily on an array of screens and at an attractive price. Simply capturing the natural growth in consumers and their uptake of services and content with existing approaches is no longer sufficient. Across the industry, the resulting quest to create the most compelling, engaging, and intuitive user experiences is now the primary objective for growth and investment strategies — and technology and data lie at their center."

(executive summary)


subjects: print media industries; digital media & communication; advertising markets; press & print media financing; digital / online media financing - international scope


AFRICA, SUD-SAHARAN


subjects: entertainment media markets - Ghana; Kenya; Nigeria; South Africa; Tanzania


145. Media ownership monitor Ghana. Reporters Without Borders; Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), 2017

“The Media Ownership Monitor (MOM) reveals a high level of audience concentration in various media sectors. An almost maximum concentration was found among the printed press, where the top four media companies (Graphic Communications Group Limited, New Times Corporation, Western Publications Limited, Business and Financial Times Limited) together reach 95.9% of the readership. Three out of four readers (72.1%) choose a state-run newspaper for information or entertainment. Private companies on the other hand dominate the broadcasting sector. A high concentration exists in the TV segment, where the top four owners (Multimedia Group, Ueli Kwaeme with U2 Company Ltd., [Desporte Group of Companies, TV3 Network/ Media General Ghana Limited, state-owned Ghana Broadcasting Corporation) represent an audience share of 77.4%. The radio market is more diverse and ‘market leaders’ differ from region to region. Again the Multimedia Group and the Desporte Group of Companies have a considerable market position by operating several nationwide outlets. All in all, radio shows a medium level of audience concentration around the four market leaders that together deliver news to 44.8% of the listenership." (http://www.mom-rsf.org)


"Local radio stations have mushroomed in Africa, including Tanzania, partly due to increased support from international donors. However, research results show that the local radio stations have a major constraint for local radio stations. They can hardly generate sufficient revenues from advertisers to sustain the station. This leads to high turnover of staff due to low pay, low quality of content, and lack of capacity in serious programming. Based on a market model, the goal of this paper is to identify these problems from both a business and a journalism perspective and to find possible solutions. The results of this analysis show that a viable economic model in Africa requires simultaneous support for three different fields, (a) development of good content, (b) development of media management capacities, and (c) media research covering the extent and satisfaction of local audiences in order to develop local advertising markets that serve local media." (abstract)

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


also published in Spanish

This study is the first comprehensive examination of the impact these entrepreneurs are having, the risks they face, and what a viable business model has emerged for quality, independent digital journalism. To conduct this research, SembraMedia, with the support of Omidyar Network, commissioned a team to study 100 digital news startups, 25 each in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. Many of the researchers were entrepreneurial journalists themselves, and they brought personal connections and a deep understanding of the media in their countries. In 2-hour interviews with founders or directors, they asked more than 130 questions about management and innovation, challenges and opportunities, audience size and engagement, income and expenses. This report is aimed at helping the founders of digital media startups better understand the threats, trends, and best practices that affect them. It is also designed to help investors, foundations, and journalism organizations to appreciate the value, vulnerability, and impact of this fast-growing media ecosystem. Although we cannot share their proprietary data, we’ve included our top-level findings in this report." (executive summary)


"Hasta 2014, eran cinco los principales grupos que operaban en la región con capacidad de liderazgo y expansión más allá de las fronteras geográficas y de sectorización industrial: en orden de importancia a partir de su facturación, se trataba de Telefónica, América Móvil, Globo, Televisa y Clarín. Por último, se mencionan dos minorías de empresas: las que no tienen una presencia geográfica global, pero sí tienen una presencia regional importante, como es el caso de América Móvil, Televisa y Clarín. Estas empresas tienen una presencia en varios países de la región, pero no se limitan a operar en un solo país. Por lo tanto, aunque no son los mayores productores de contenido, sí tienen una presencia significativa en la región."

Subject: media concentration; media convergence - Argentina; Brazil; Colombia; Chile; Mexico

http://www.una.edu.ar/adf/directorio/5a2000e93ac2.pdf

149. Media ownership monitor Brazil. Reporters Without Borders, Intervozes, 2017

"Power in Brazil means family business, both traditionally and to this very day. Dynasties of owners known as “Cariocas” extend their tentacles to the various spheres of power, combining economic and political interests with tight control of public opinion. Neither digital technology and the rise of the internet nor occasional regulatory efforts seem to pose a serious challenge to these oligopolies. A joint investigation by the Brazilian NGO Intervozes and Reporters Without Borders between July and October 2017 now shows who are the key players and what are their respective other interests. The investigation comprises the 50 most important media outlets in Brazil and the 26 corporate groups owning them. Transparency about ownership of media companies remains low as there is no legal obligation for companies to disclose their shareholder structure."

http://www.mom-rsf.org/

http://www.mom-rsf.org/en/countries/brazil


"Este artículo expone los principales rasgos del mercado de la radio y la televisión de señal abierta en el Perú, y hace hincapié en los niveles de concentración de la inversión publicitaria, el control de las frecuencias y el marco regulatorio hecho a la medida de los grupos mediáticos más poderosos del país. También analiza las posibilidades de sostenibilidad económica, crecimiento y modernización de buena parte de los medios locales y regionales en un contexto mundial caracterizado por acelerados cambios tecnológicos y transformaciones de los hábitos de consumo de las audiencias. Asimismo, describe algunas fortalezas y estrategias desplegadas por las radios y televisoras locales, comerciales y con objetivos de desarrollo social (educativas y comunitarias), orientadas a posibilitar su permanencia en el mercado y sentar las bases para el complejo tránsito hacia la digitalización de la producción y distribución de contenidos multimedia."

Subjects: community radio sustainability; media concentration; local television - Peru


EUROPE


"This edited collection focuses on successful small and medium-sized film and television companies in Norway, Denmark and the United Kingdom. It presents case histories of companies that have made successful productions, both in terms of popularity and critical acclaim, for at least five years. The book gives an overview of the film and television sector in each of the four featured countries, followed by chapters that investigate particular companies and their relationship to a wider industrial context. The introduction provides a theoretical and methodological discussion and the conclusion draws together the common elements that may explain how these companies have been able to survive and thrive."

Publisher


"This article analyses three crowdfunding media organizations in three different countries – Krautreporter (Germany), Direkt36 (Hungary), and Colta (Russia). Using qualitative in-depth interviews, it demonstrates that journalism practices in a crowdfunding newsroom are very different from those in other media. The study concludes that direct funding from the audience is financially unattractive; it affects journalists’ professional self-perception, changes their relationship with the audience and generally increases the amount of work that journalists have to do. At the same time, participants claim to be more satisfied with their work now than they ever were before."

https://tdskschrift.de/medienkultur/article/view/2476/23224


Abstract subjects: media markets; financial sustainability of media; media ownership; freedom of the press; media concentration - Czech Republic

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


"Nine of the 36 media companies involved in Morocco’s most influential media are directly linked to the state, the government or the royal family. Four of them – SORDER, SNRT, EcoMedias and Horizon Press – are among the most important media companies in terms of turnover and show the potential influence of politically linked media owners. The royal family itself is a leading media owner. Its holding company, the Société Nationale d’Investissement (SNI), has shares in four media companies, three of which are among the top five media companies (SORDER, EcoMedias and Radio Méditerranée Internationale). One of the key questions raised by the MOM’s findings is why leading figures from the business and financial world invest in newspapers that make no profit. Some of Morocco’s richest businessmen have stakes in five of the nine French-language publications examined by the MOM: Aujourd’hui Le Maroc, La Vie Eco, Les Inspirations Eco, La Nouvelle Tribuna and L’Economiste. Two of these businessmen, Aziz Akhannouch and Moulay Hafid Elalamy, are also government ministers."

http://www.mom-rsf.org/

http://www.mom-rsf.org/en/countries/morocco

Freedom of Expression, Media Policies, Media Legislation


"In this article, media coverage of the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP) in Malawi as was reported in the Weekend Nation newspaper between 2005 and 2012 is examined from a critical political economy perspective. The FISP aimed at subsidising inputs for low income rural farmers. The Weekend Nation, a political weekly, was established by a key politician during the advent of democracy in 1995. Through institutional in-depth interviews and qualitative content analysis of editorial pages, this paper finds that overall, the political ownership of the newspaper had no bearing on editorial content on the issue of the FISP policy. This suggests that the coverage of a critical agricultural policy concern, to a great extent, rural livelihoods of Malawi, was presented independently without political ownership influence."

http://www.mom-rsf.org/
"We have noted profound transformations in the field of media freedom, which is making progress in certain areas, but losing ground in others. Media freedom is limited in particular by many legal restrictions on the right to impart information and ideas, although progress is being made with regard to legal guarantees to seek and receive information. With regard to media pluralism, the last five years have seen a considerable increase in the number of sources of information. Yet the concentration of ownership of media companies and Internet services raises major concerns. The filtering effects of social media, which create "bubbles" in which people do not access the truth or "points of view" they consider "irritating" or "inappropriate" is one example. Another is the manipulation and dissemination of false information by propaganda mouthpieces. There has also been a hiatus in the progress of gender equality in content and staffing. Trends show that media independence is weakening and the professional standards of journalism are being eroded by economic forces on the one hand and lack of recognition by political actors on the other. Media and Internet companies are increasingly aware of the need for self-regulation. Finally, with regard to the physical, psychological and digital safety of journalists, trends remain extremely alarming, although implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity offers hope. There is new momentum for mechanisms to monitor, prevent, protect and strengthen justice for the journalists." (forward, p.10-11)


"Governments around the world have dramatically increased their efforts to manipulate information in the number of sources of information. Yet the concentration of ownership of media companies and Internet services raises major concerns. The filtering effects of social media, which create "bubbles" in which people do not access the truth or "points of view" they consider "irritating" or "inappropriate" is one example. Another is the manipulation and dissemination of false information by propaganda mouthpieces. There has also been a hiatus in the progress of gender equality in content and staffing. Trends show that media independence is weakening and the professional standards of journalism are being eroded by economic forces on the one hand and lack of recognition by political actors on the other. Media and Internet companies are increasingly aware of the need for self-regulation. Finally, with regard to the physical, psychological and digital safety of journalists, trends remain extremely alarming, although implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity offers hope. There is new momentum for mechanisms to monitor, prevent, protect and strengthen justice for the journalists." (forward, p.10-11)


"More than 20 years into democracy, the South African media landscape, although free and moderately pluralistic, still does not represent fairly the diversity of viewpoints held in the country. Yet, the South African media debate on transformation has been dominated by the ANC's continued focus on media accountability. This has silenced a more constructive debate on how to foster media diversity. In the wake of a review of the MDDA (Media Development and Diversity Agency) Act, this paper seeks to re-ignite this debate by investigating different types of print media regulation and support in Scandinavia, Latin America and West Africa. It argues, firstly, that print media regulation and support is crucial for the maintenance and development of democratic debate, which is endangered if the media market is left to its own devices. Secondly, government support to print media has been much more common around the globe than often assumed, especially in the Scandinavian countries, which have invested heavily and successfully in the sector. Thirdly, an analysis of national contexts of print media support highlights the perpetual danger of governments exerting censorship or control. However, as is demonstrated in the paper's final section, a multiplicity of mechanisms of support exist that could be adapted to the South African context, whilst seeking to minimise state control." (abstract)


"The research documents how, despite immense ongoing challenges, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nepal and Pakistan, some important advances have been made to develop joint structures and innovative approaches to defend the practice of journalism. It examines the long road Colombia has followed in the establishment of its protection programme, and looks at what organisations and bodies working on the ground in Indonesia and the Philippines struggle against, and what they have achieved using the resources available to them." (back cover)


"This report reviews the current state of the right of access to information (RTI) across the world to provide a baseline for future assessments over the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda. It finds that there has been significant incorporation of the right in well over half of UN Member States. The right has now been adopted into law or policy in 118 countries around the world (61 percent of UN Member States) from the largest countries (China, India, USA, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria and Mexico) to some of the smallest (St Vincent and the Grenadines, Vanuatu) covering 89 percent of the world’s population. In addition, 90 countries have adopted explicit constitutional guarantees … This report aims to provide a better understanding of RTI and its concrete implications on the daily life of citizens and the application of SDGs. It also aims to inform stakeholders on various experiences developed in this field, and the means at their disposal to exercise this right and advocate for its effective and measurable realization." (executive summary)


also published in Somali

"The overall approach to advocacy in this toolkit is generic, but the toolkit focuses on increasing safety for journalists in Somalia/Somaliland. The order of the different steps follows a logical sequence. However, do keep in mind that advocacy is not necessarily a linear process. Advocacy rarely follows the same process twice, and there is always an element of unpredictability. This toolkit will give you an insight into: Main advocacy concepts and an advocacy vocabulary; How to develop a strategy to achieve your advocacy goals; How to analyse policies and political context with a focus on stakeholders; How to develop your approach to the target groups and audiences; and finally how to identify and acquire essential skills needed to prepare a strong advocacy strategy." (introduction)


subjects: freedom of the press - international scope

https://www.ekd.de/ekd_de/ds_doc/menschenrechte_pressefreiheit.pdf


also published in French and Spanish

This report takes a look at a selection of the innovative, successful ways media companies, individuals journalists and civil society organizations are coming together to improve journalist safety. These are cases of people taking the initiative, of acting on behalf of the profession, of not sitting back as disempowered victims. The report is not an overview of all the work that is being done in this domain. It is not full of statistics and data. It is, instead, a collection of stories, told in the words of the motivated people who are dedicated to protecting courageous journalists with pro-active measures to make them safer." (introduction, p.9)


http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002504/250430e.pdf

164. Kate Musgrave: In repressive countries, citizens go 'dark' to share independent news. Washington, DC: Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), 2017 (CIMA Digital Report)

"CIMA’s analysis of audience data from nearly 40 countries yields a statistically significant correlation between freedom of the press and reliance on dark social sharing: the more repressive the media environment, the more likely the audience is to access news through dark social sharing. Even more illustrative of this trend, however, are some of the data illustrating where that correlation seems the strongest, as in Turkey and Russia. In these cases, delving into incidents over the timeframe of the dataset, 2016, strongly suggests causation. Where independent news coverage is under attack, there are inevitably reverberations in how that news is accessed and shared." (introduction)

165. Sarah Oh: Advocating for openness: nine ways civil society groups have mobilized to defend internet freedom. Washington, DC: Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), 2017 (CIMA Digital Report)

“Civil society groups from the Global South are leading the charge to advocate for an Internet that remains open, pluralistic, and democratic. The nine case studies highlighted in this report demonstrate various ways groups in different countries have successfully fought for policies and norms that strengthen Internet freedom and digital rights. These strategies include awareness-raising, nonviolent direct action, regional and international coalition-building, and strategic litigation.” (key findings) https://www.cima ned.org/publication/advocating-opacity-nine-ways-civil-society-groups-mobilized-defend-internet-freedom/


subjects: safety of journalists; female journalists - manuals & training materials


“The Companion is the first collection to bring together two distinct ways of thinking about human rights and media, including scholarship that examines media as a human right alongside that which looks at media coverage of human rights issues. This international collection of 49 newly written pieces thus provides a unique overview of current research in the field, while also providing historical context to help students and scholars appreciate how such developments differ from past practices. The volume examines the universal principles of freedom of expression, legal instruments, the right to know, media as a human right, and the role of media organisations and journalistic work. It is organised thematically in five parts: Communication, Expression and Human Rights; Media Performance and Human Rights; Political Processes, Media Performance and Human Rights: News and Journalism; Digital Activism, Witnessing and Human Rights; Media Representation of Human Rights: Cultural, Social and Political.” (website Routledge.com)

table of contents: http://www.gbv.de/dms/weimar/toc/873933850toc.pdf


“The research in these pages covers the theory around multistakeholder participation in Internet governance through a review of relevant literature. It also analyses case studies from Kenya to Brazil, South Korea, and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which illustrate how multistakeholder approaches to Internet governance are applied in practice in diverse places and on different issues. In two of these cases, the outcome had legal repercussions that advanced the role of the Internet in terms of respect for rights; in the other two, the impact was positive for wider norms and processes.” (foreword, p. 6) http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002597/259717e.pdf


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AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


“To ensure that African media organizations remain viable players in this changing political and economic landscape, new coalitions need to be built and existing ones strengthened. The existing coalitions in the region display certain weaknesses: they tend to be unevenly spread across the region and they tend to focus on a narrow band of concerns. While the existing organizations do important work pertaining to legal protections, constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression, and the safety of journalists, they are weaker in the areas of digital access, infrastructure, and ICT policy. More capacity should be built to enable research into fast-evolving areas of the media such as digital, mobile, and social media, and the questions concerning freedom, independence, and sustainability that arise from this new and rapidly shifting arena. Instead of merely adding more networks and linking existing ones together across the region in a show of solidarity, there is a need for strategic thought around the type of coalitions needed in the region.” (recommendations, p.23) https://www.cima ned.org/publication/pathways-to-media-reform-in-sub-saharan-africa/


“This study assesses the Cybercrime Act 2015 and its implications for online press freedom in the liberal authoritarian state of Nigeria. Specifically, the study examines how the character of political leadership in Nigeria leads to wrongful application of the act to undermine the independence of the press. The study shows that Nigeria’s online press freedom index has consistently worsened since the introduction of the Cybercrime Act in 2015, and it recommends the promotion of a holistic democratic project that recognises economic and political freedom as being inextricably linked.” (abstract) https://journals.uns uni-hamburg.de/gija/afsp/article/view/1052/1059


“As different governments have assumed power in Zambia since the democratic tide that swept across Africa in the early 1990s, the conundrum of a free press continues to complicate governance and journalistic practices. This study investigated how members of Parliament (Mps) felt about press freedom. A survey administered to current MPs, which had a response rate of 52%, revealed that almost 95% (94.6, n=70) agreed or strongly agreed that press freedom in Zambia should be increased. A parallel measure of questionnaire reliability asked Parliamentarians to respond to the statement, Press freedom in Zambia should be decreased. The majority 81.1% (n=60) disagreed or strongly disagreed. The study’s overall results indicate that there is an awareness of the importance of press freedom among the MPs, but there appears to be a reluctance – rather than resilience – to implement changes that would provide for a freer press system.” (abstract)

174. Angela Quintal: Journalists not terrorists: in Cameroon, anti-terror legislation is used to silence critics and suppress dissent. New York: Committee to Protect Journalists (cpj), 2017, 17 p.

also published in French

“In 2014, Cameroon enacted a broad anti-terror law as part of its effort to counter the extremist group Boko Haram, but authorities are using it to arrest and threaten local journalists who report on the militants or unrest in the country’s English-speaking region. A presidential decree in August 2017 ended legal proceedings against at least four journalists, but the laws that were used against them are still in place. RFI broadcaster Ahmed Abba remains in jail. With elections due to take place next year, many of Cameroon’s journalists say they are too scared to cover politics or sensitive issues.” (p.2) https://cpj.org/reports/Cameroon-English-Web.pdf


“This report focuses on abuses by state and non-state actors against journalists and other media workers since 2014. It is based on over 50 interviews with journalists working throughout south-central Somalia and Puntland, the semi-autonomous state in northeastern Somalia. Beyond killings, attempted killings, and a range of threats, the report also documents how journalists in the new interim regional states and in Puntland face unique obstacles that undermine their reporting.” (p.2) https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/somalia0516web_1.pdf


“This publication] documents harassment and intimidation by government and ruling parties against journalists and media professionals in Uganda. The report, based on over 20 interviews with journalists and other media workers, covers the period leading up to the 2016 elections, in which President Yoweri Museveni sought to secure his third term in office after 31 years in power. In total, the report documents 17 cases of harassment and intimidation and 5 attacks on media freedom.” (abstract) https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/05/19/keep-people-uninformed/pre-election-threats-free-expression-and
party officials against the media and civil society, particularly outside the capital, Kampala. The police, district officials, internal security officials, and the country’s broadcasting regulator visited and called stations to silence critical or independent voices. Journalists have been suspended and radio stations threatened with closure for hosting opposition members as guests. Likewise, state agents visited nongovernmental organizations working on governance, human rights, and oil sector transparency, threatened them with deregistration and closure, and in some cases, physically assaulted and arrested NGO activists. A pending law threatens to create broad and vaguely worded crimes for legitimate civil society work. The government and all other relevant authorities should respect and protect the freedoms of expression and association and cease intimidating and harassing journalists and civil society members. The government of Uganda should respect and uphold its obligations under international human rights law and Uganda’s own constitution to protect freedom of speech and voters’ right to receive and obtain information at this critical time. Unless remedied, violations of these basic rights will impede Uganda’s ability to hold free and fair elections.” (abstract)


“Voters need and deserve to hear a full range of voices as they decide their future and The Post has played a vital role in providing an alternative to government-dominated mass media in Zambia. Unshackling that voice is critical if Zambians are to vote in an atmosphere that can be deemed free and fair. The ZRA has refused to work with The Post to reconcile its disruptive debt and allow payment, making the seizure expenses an effort by President Lungu to silence a persistent critic in order to hold on to power. IFI and the AMI are concerned that, if allowed to stand, the effort could have an extremely negative impact on democracy in the region, insofar as other leaders might take note and seek to misuse state power to similar ends.” (conclusion)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


“Frente a la tendencia regional y global que lleva a gobiernos y a proveedores de servicio a acumular una cantidad cada vez mayor de información sobre sus usuarios, este estudio intenta una aproximación comparada a la manera en que las legislaciones de México, Brasil, Colombia, Perú, Argentina y Chile abordan la retención de datos y el registro de teléfonos móviles, de cara a sus obligaciones y compromisos internacionales en el marco interamericano, y en particular en relación a los proyectos legislativos que en Chile buscan realizar cambios al actual marco regulatorio de las telecomunicaciones.” (resumen)

subjects: mobile phones; electronic / internet surveillance; internet / social media legislation & regulation - Argentina; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Mexico; Peru https://www.derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/forme-marianne-retencion-de-datos.pdf


ASIA & PACIFIC


The information and media environment in North Korea continues to evolve quickly. This report demonstrates that the depth and diversity of information and media access channels have grown markedly since the release of A Quiet Opening in 2012. More North Koreans have greater access to a larger variety of media content and communication devices. However, it is also clear that the North Korean state is determined to regain control of how and what information its citizens access. Rather than attempting to recreate the information blockade and national sequestration of the Kim Il Sung era, the state’s recent technological innovations strongly suggest it is moving toward a new, but no less heavily controlled information environment. This is apparent when we examine current and emerging techniques for censorship, surveillance and integrity preservation across the network, device and human levels.” (conclusion)


EUROPE


The Monitor assesses the risks to media pluralism based on a set of twenty indicators covering a broad notion of media pluralism that encompasses political, cultural, geographical, structural and content related dimensions. All types of media are covered: public service, commercial, community media, new media and online platforms. The risks for media pluralism are measured in four different areas: Basic Protection, Market Plurality, Political Independence and Social Inclusiveness. The indicators cover legal, economic and socio-political questions. National experts, composing the MMP network of local teams, provided the data to assess the levels of risk at country level, drafted the country reports, while the CMPF supervised and guaranteed quality and consistency of the data collection and assessed the levels of risk.” (executive summary)

http://cmpf.eu/mediapluralism-monitor/mmp-2016-results

183. Journalism and media privilege. Strasbourg: European Audiovisual Observatory; Council of Europe, 2017, 106 p. (IRIS Special; 2017-2)

“The report provides an overview of the most recent rules, case law and policies across Europe with regard to the privileges that are given to journalists when exercising their activities. As a rule, when identifying the relevant legal aspects, three features are taken into account: the corresponding provisions shall a) be aimed at guaranteeing through special information rights that media are able to fulfil their opinion-shaping function, b) ensure through special procedural mechanisms that freedom of the media is safe from state interference, and/or c) prevent people affected by media reporting from being in a position to suppress it under civil or criminal law without taking into account the freedom of the media.” (foreword)

https://rm.coe.int/journalism-and-media-privilege-pdf/1680787381


“The present study examines current legislation and court practice in Hungary regarding civil law violations of reputation, privacy and likeness, with a particular focus on trends in terms of awarding non-pecuniary damages/restitution. Through an analysis of relevant legislation and a presentation of cases connected with the press, it critiques the current situation in terms of limitations on freedom of expression. Personality rights in this context is a difficult area of jurisprudence, as it involves the consideration and balancing of two important values and constitutional rights: freedom of expression on the one hand and the rights to reputation, privacy and likeness on the other. This balancing act requires the interpretation of very succinctly worded legislative texts and rulings by the Constitutional Court with the help of the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court (also known as the Kúria). Another difficulty for the judiciary is the recent increase in Hungary of cases in which politicians turn to the courts to seek relief for injuries they allege to have suffered, hoping to obtain a judgment that will put an end to political and societal controversies in which they are involved.” (introduction)


“Recent media policy developments in Poland attract wide media coverage and the attention of governmental and non-governmental international and national organisations and bodies. This article aims at putting the debated regulatory changes into a relevant context through policy analysis. The normative concept against which the change will be tested, is media pluralism. Why? The concept of media pluralism is often viewed as an important condition for a well-functioning and democratic public sphere and media, and also incorporating political, economic and cultural value dimensions.” (p.197) https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs11616-017-0337-5.pdf


“Incidents of physical violence and – worse still – impunity for those who commit such acts are high in Croatia, a member state. On the other hand, legal provisions such as the country’s criminal defamation and shameful laws have been abused to punish investigative journalists for doing their jobs. Such trends can and must be reversed. But it is also clear that “informal” limits to free expression, which can be more easily disguised and hence denied, are at work in Croatia. These limits include excessive political influence in the media as well as politically motivated discourse that seeks to undercut critical journalism by singling out its practitioners as “activists” or even “traitors.” These patterns have an impact both on the production of content, and on the reception of content by the public. The most glaring example of recent political influence is the recent government’s obvious interference at the public broadcaster HRT.” (conclusion, p.15) https://ipi.media/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Croatia-Report-Intl-Mission-2016.pdf

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


The prospect of a new Libyan constitution offers an opportunity for consolidated, clear and robust legal protections for freedom of expression. However, the current Constitutional Draft contains significant legal loopholes and establishes institutions of uncertain power. The failure of the Constitutional Draft to adhere to international minimum standards, let alone seek to ensure best practices, means that it may ultimately reinforce this power, including freedom of expression.” (executive summary) https://www.mediasupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/eng-guidetofreedom-of-expression-libya.pdf


Contents: “In its first section, the study examines the legal framework regarding personal data in Lebanon. Even though Lebanon participated in developing the directives on data protection legislation issued by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in 2012, the country still lacks specific legislation on personal data ... In its second section, the study defines biometric data, explains the technology employed in collecting it, and summarizes the most important methods used to encrypt and protect it from breaches. The study highlights the use of biometrics given recent technological advances and discusses the importance of using sophisticated protections to ensure that data is protected from leaks and breaches ... In the third section, the study reviews data leaks originating from different sectors, underscoring the extent to which Lebanese citizens and residents’ personal data is being misused. The study reveals that personal data collected in the country is susceptible to infiltration and to leaks due to weak protection systems and the absence of specialized legislation. ... In the fourth section, the study reviews the “Electronic Transactions and Personal Data Protection” draft law, which a subcommittee formed by the joint parliamentary committees is currently discussing.” (executive summary) https://smex.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SMEX-Building-Trust.pdf

Gender & Media


“Campaigns are likely to be more successful when they include messages about legal penalties for non-compliant behaviour and fresh information, and when they reach a large proportion of the intended audience. Campaigns must therefore work alongside laws and policies. Legislation can be a key tool in changing behaviour and perceptions of cultural and social norms. Laws and policies that make violent behaviour an offence send a message to society that it is not acceptable. Success is more likely if messages are tailored to audiences using social marketing principles and create a supportive environment that enables the intended audience to make changes – e.g. by mobilising social norms.” (p.197) http://www.gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/GSDRC-HDR-Digital-Tools-and-Behaviour-Change1.pdf


“This rapid literature review collates findings from recently published papers on digital development and gender, highlighting some of the most commonly discussed discussions related to economic, social and political development. As the scope of this query is very large, this review provides an illustration of some of the commonly identified issues in the literature. The digital inclusion agenda seeks to close the gaps in access, use, and adoption of, fast evolving information and communication technology (ICT) services, particularly mobile phones and the internet. It is an important aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as both an end and a means to the cross-cutting policy aim of ‘leaving no one behind’. The potential gains from digital technologies are high, however they often remain unrealised, especially for women and girls (World Bank, 2016)” (overview, p.2) http://www.gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/249-Digital-development-and-the-digital-gender-gap.pdf


“Half the Sky’ is an ambitious humanitarian documentary about the global crises in gender discrimination. Based on Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn’s book (Kristof and WuDunn, 2010), the nearly four-hour documentary visits six countries to explore six issues: gender-based violence in Sierra Leone, sex trafficking in Cambodia, education in Vietnam, female genital mutilation in Somalia, intergenerational prostitution in India, and economic empowerment in Kenya. Heather McIntosh explores the role of celebrity in telling these stories. Six American actresses, each of whom visits a country, meet local activists and survivors, and learn about the situation. Drawing on scholarship about documentary representation and celebrity, McIntosh engages critical perspectives that charge that the appearance of notable personalities simplifies complex issues, and overshadows survivors’ voices. She evaluates the success of ‘Half the Sky’ and the film’s attempt to cast celebrities as moral agents helping viewers emotionally connect to the issues and the people involved. Ultimately, she questions the film’s ability to overcome the tensions between suffering and poverty, and glamour and Western privilege.” (introduction to part 7, p.380-381) AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN
media freedom and journalistic autonomy. Findings show that over half (59%) of examiners job autonomy in news selection decisions, media freedom and predictors of demographics and work-related variables, male journalists reported higher autonomy though moderate is statistically significant. While four in 10 Kenyan journalists have "National in scope, this survey of Kenyan journalists conducted in 2012–2013 (n = 504) perceive their journalistic latitudes.


"Drawing on a survey of 2598 journalists from eight South Asian, Southeast Asian, and sub-Saharan African countries, which was conducted as part of the Worlds of Journalism Study, this study assesses the importance journalists ascribe to three key development journalism roles—social intervention, national development, and educating people. It also compares these perceptions across the countries, between government- and privately owned news media in these countries, and between these countries and 19 Worlds of Journalism Study countries in Western Europe and North America, which profess to adhere to an objective and democratic press function. Findings suggest that journalists from the eight countries, across government- and privately owned media, considered development journalism important, and detached, adversarial journalism as less important. The relative importance of the different roles differed considerably from those of journalists from the 19 comparison countries. Results suggest that journalists were more likely socialized into their roles rather than being forced into the same by the heavy hand of government." (abstract)


"National in scope, this survey of Kenyan journalists conducted in 2012–2013 (n = 504) examines job autonomy in news selection decisions, media freedom and predictors of journalistic autonomy. The research also investigates the relationship between Kenya’s media freedom and journalistic autonomy. Findings show that over half (59%) of respondents believe that there is enough media freedom in Kenya. Similarly, there is a positive correlation between media freedom and journalistic autonomy—a relationship though moderate is statistically significant. While four in 10 Kenyan journalists have "some freedom" in deciding what to include in news, only 15.5 per cent enjoy "almost complete freedom," and 31.7 per cent have "a great deal of freedom." When analysed by demographics and work-related variables, male journalists reported higher autonomy than their female colleagues. Older and more experienced journalists have more freedoms than those who are younger and limited in work experience. Journalists with advanced education (doctorate and MA degree holders), those employed on full-time basis, and high monthly earners enjoy more job autonomy. Kenyan journalists working for international media organisations reported far higher autonomy than those in the local media. "Job satisfaction and job autonomy emerged as the strongest predictors of journalistic autonomy in the Kenyan media." (abstract)


"As in other regions, journalism in Southeast Asia is under pressure. Journalists in many of the region’s emerging markets have to develop their profession while struggling with changing market conditions, increasingly more demanding audiences, different degrees of authoritative states and growing competition from the Internet. Based on qualitative interviews and drawing on a combination of role theory and Pierre Bourdieu’s field theory, this article compares the role performances of journalists in Singapore and Vietnam by looking into the different expectations journalists in the two countries meet. The article illustrates how journalists continue to feel most conflicted about conforming with the states’ expectations to their profession. However, online actors imposing on the journalistic field are beginning to have a progressively bigger impact. Though they push the boundaries and set the media agenda, journalists fear they are changing the journalistic habitus, devaluing the journalistic capital and eroding years’ worth of professionalization progress.” (abstract)

https://tidsskrift.dk/mediekultur/article/view/24316/23220


"While the Kanaks’ pro-independence protests against French settlers have been extensively documented in the global media and academic literature, another protest – more subtle and diffused, but deeply embedded – is now taking place in New Caledonia (South Pacific) to decide whether to remain in the French Republic or become independent in a referendum between 2014 and 2019. This article suggests that there is a polarization in the New Caledonian media sphere that deeply affects journalistic practices. Drawing on data collected from archival research, participant observation and interviews conducted at both the metropolitan daily newspaper, Les Nouvelles Calédoniennes, and the pro-independence radio station, Radio Djido, this article demonstrates how local journalists problematically navigate and, on the contrary, contest diverse sociocultural values, practices and principles prevailing at different times and spaces/places, creating a deep division in the New Caledonian media sphere." (abstract)

https://tidsskrift.dk/mediekultur/article/view/24431/23222


"This article examines the dynamic evolution of China’s ideology work through the prism of journalism education. Official sensitivity about both student activism and the media makes journalism education a critical sector for observing how the Party attempts to instil ideology. The article interrogates the process of negotiation of official ideology among authorities, educators and students at elite journalism schools. It demonstrates that alongside state-sanctioned media commercialization and globalization, official influence still looms large in journalism training. Ideological teachings continue to occupy a core place in the curricula, and the authorities deploy a mix of structural oversight, ad hoc surveillance and coercion to keep the educators in check. The effects of the official ideology work, however, are ambivalent, as educators and students engage in the active reinterpretation of the Party’s media principles. While these practices do not directly undermine the Party’s legitimacy, they demonstrate that official ideology has merely constructed what Yurchak terms a “hegemony of form,” highlighting a degree of vulnerability in China’s mode of adaptive authoritarianism.” (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741017000563

since the industrial revolution and produces a historical account of how these media discourses came into play. The main thesis is that there have been different historical cycles that reflect particular hegemonic ideas of each period. Consequently, the role of mainstream journalism has been a subservient one for existing elites when it comes to the propagation of dominant ideas. (publisher)


subjects: investigative journalism; digital journalism; nonprofit media - Germany - case studies


subjects: fake news & disinformation; Stop.Fake.org – Internet Portal, Kiev
- countermeasures to hate speech, disinformation & propaganda; journalistic quality - Russia; Ukraine

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


“...The survey aims to measure how much Arab data journalists use data in their stories and how easy or difficult it is for them to get data from official sources, and to be conducted again in the future for a deeper and wider look at the situation.” (p.3)

https://www.internews.org/resource/data-journalism-arab-world


also published in Arabic

"...Journalists’ unions are key media supporting organisations and this report covers the pivotal role they play in countries of the Southern Mediterranean region. This report aspires to be a light reading, not only for union activists and media professionals, but also for journalists and citizens, as it covers issues of public interest in relation to media, in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.” (med-media.eu website)


EUROPE


“Poor News examines the way discourses of poverty are articulated in the news media by incorporating specific narratives and definitions that bring about certain ideological worldviews. This happens, the authors claim, because journalists and news editors make use of a set of information strategies while accessing certain sources within specific social and political dynamics. The book looks at the case of the news media in Britain


According to the executive summary ‘Facebook’s Free Basics program aims to help bridge the digital divide through a mobile-based platform that allows users to connect to a handful of online services free of charge … This paper highlights the following findings: Language: Free Basics does not meet the linguistic needs of target users ... Content and usability: Free Basics features an imbalance of sites and services ... Net neutrality: Free Basics violates net neutrality principles ... Privacy: Facebook is accessing unique streams of user metadata from all user activities on Free Basics, not just the activities of users who are logged into Facebook.' The Free Basics app was tested in six countries, with programs from five different operators: Colombia (Tigo), Ghana (Tigo), Kenya (Airtel), Mexico (Virgin Mobile), Pakistan (Telenor), and the Philippines (Globe).


"The main purpose of the evaluation is to assess the relevance, efficiency and results of the IPDC and to generate recommendations for the future. The evaluation findings and recommendations will be useful inputs to the CI sector management, the IPDC Intergovernmental Bureau and Council, as well as to the Working Group on governance, processes and working methods of the governance bodies of UNESCO (established at the 38th UNESCO General Conference Resolution 101) with regard to governance-related issues. The evaluation will also be useful for follow-up to the recommendation of the External Auditors for there to be an assessment of the costs and benefits of the specific form of governance of IPDC activities. The evaluation will examine the role of the IPDC and its governing bodies between 2011 and 2016, also noting any major developments since the previous evaluation in 2006 that were taken into account by the IPDC Council." (aim and scope of the evaluation, p.1-2)


"Anne Skjelmerud and Ivar Evensmo, both senior advisers at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, present a tour d’horizon of Norway’s pioneering engagement "Anne Skjelmerud and Ivar Evensmo, both senior advisers at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, present a tour d’horizon of Norway’s pioneering engagement "The IDEAS Guide is for organisations and people who are doing small media and communication projects. It is designed to cater for a range of different skill levels in evaluation. It is ideal for project managers and team members responsible for reporting and evaluation, as well as any other participants who are interested in evaluation. The IDEAS Guide leads you through the process of designing a project, and thinking about the project’s evaluation. The guide is focused on how to do useful evaluation for learning and continual project improvement. To achieve this, it is important to think about the evaluation of the project as you design it, and to learn from evaluation during the implementation of the project. Focusing on what you can learn by carrying out a project is especially important when the project idea is new and innovative." (introduction, p.5)


"The IDEAS Facilitators' Guide provides briefings on how you, as a facilitator, can support small-grant recipients to use the IDEAS Guide to clarify their project design, and to plan and manage their evaluation. The Facilitators' Guide is best used in conjunction with the IDEAS Guide. These guides are designed to be used together in the planning and implementation of a workshop. Facilitators can also adapt the steps to the mode and length of delivery. The Facilitators' Guide was developed to accompany the IDEAS Guide to help facilitators to effectively support capacity development for individuals working in grassroots and community organisations who might have little or no experience of evaluation. It may also be useful for more experienced practitioners. The approach integrates evaluation into the design of projects." (p.4)


"The IDEAS Guide is for organisations and people who are doing small media and communication projects. It is designed to cater for a range of different skill levels in evaluation. It is ideal for project managers and team members responsible for reporting and evaluation, as well as any other participants who are interested in evaluation. The IDEAS Guide leads you through the process of designing a project, and thinking about the project’s evaluation. The guide is focused on how to do useful evaluation for learning and continual project improvement. To achieve this, it is important to think about the evaluation of the project as you design it, and to learn from evaluation during the implementation of the project. Focusing on what you can learn by carrying out a project is especially important when the project idea is new and innovative." (introduction, p.5)


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"More than US $441 million was spent on media development worldwide in 2012, with African countries receiving 28% of that amount. This funding came from a variety of sources, including both established Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries and emerging donors such as China. These countries and their funds represent a pluriplano of governmental systems as well as media systems, such as public service broadcasting, privatised media, community media and, in the case of China, state-run media. This paper looks at the divergent approaches to media and development promoted by both DAC countries and China, and how ideologies have led these actors to pursue similar styles of public diplomacy and political intervention through the front of media development aid." (abstract)


The basis of this research is "a rhetorical analysis of literature concerning journalism training programs conducted by international development organizations in South Sudan since the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in order to determine the values and priorities of these organizations and understand how they view the role of media and how this impacts their approach to training. A rhetorical analysis is based on the idea of rhetoric being "writing and language with intent" (McCloskey 1994)—in this case, the intent being to persuade donors, taxpayers, even participants that the trainings are necessary and beneficial to the recipient country’s wellbeing." (methodology, p.81-2). The author concludes that "the ethical questions facing media development are not very different from those faced by the larger international development sector as a whole. Though media development superficially appears to be more value-neutral than other sectors, in reality it is just as steeped in the modernization paradigm and promotion of one culture’s values over another’s." (p.90)


"The Union of Tanzania Press Clubs, UTCP, is an umbrella organisation, which supports a total of 28 local Press Clubs all over the country. The organisation describes its vision as:
MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTHERN AFRICA


This article intends to provide responses to some of the many unanswered questions about the making and the transformation of the uprising in Syria by exploring a new avenue of research: media development aid. Most academic interest has been oriented towards the role that the new media played at the time of the uprising; insufficient interest, by contrast, has been directed to the development of the sector in the years predating it. What emerges from this article is that the Syrian media landscape was strongly supported by international development aid during the years prior to the outbreak of the uprising in 2011. By looking at the complex structure of media aid architecture and investigating the practices and programmes implemented by some representative organisations, this article reflects on the field of media development as a new modus operandi of the West (the EU and US especially), to promote democracy through alternative and non-collateral, bottom-up support.” (abstract)

http://doi.org/10.1080/01438597.2017.1333420

ASIA & PACIFIC


“In 2012 the opportunity for ordinary Afghans to communicate with political authorities or hold them to account was extremely limited. To help address this the BBC Media Action worked with state broadcaster Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) and the BBC Afghan Service to co-produce the TV and radio national debate programme Open Jirga (Open Assembly). It also supported the Afghan Education Production Organization (AEPO) to incorporate governance issues into its longstanding radio drama New Home, New Life. The project aimed to provide a platform for people to question their leaders and which built the profile and participation of women in public dialogue and debate. It also sought to produce the knowledge and skills of journalists and thus tuned into Open Jirga and/or New Home, New Life reported that the programmes had increased their knowledge of key governance issues. However, research revealed that satisfaction with panellists’ responses was mixed. Some audiences and experts felt that Open Jirga could have done more to follow up to ensure that action was taken and demonstrate where power holders were failing in their duties. Encouragingly however it was found that both programmes did have a positive impact on attitudes regarding women’s right to participate and their confidence to take action.” (BBC Media Action website)

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/pdf/afghanistan-country-report.pdf


“The United States Agency for International Development/Burma launched the Civil Society and Media (CSM) Activity in 2014 to improve engagement between the public and the Government of Burma by supporting local civil society and media organizations. This mixed-methods, mid-term performance evaluation focused on the CSM Activity’s programmatic effectiveness and contributions to democratic processes as well as how it affected inclusivity of vulnerable groups. Overall, the CSM Activity worked effectively to influence laws, policies, processes, practices, and services affecting the people of Burma. While some civil society grantees offered recommendations to the government about laws and policies on a national scale, others contributed to action on the local level. All media grantees produced content to raise awareness about priorities of public interest. Some contributed to action by State/Region and local governments, but government entities do not openly recognize media as influencing their decisions and actions. The Activity increased the quantity of content produced by media grantees, particularly in periphery areas, and it had success in increasing exchange of information between urban and rural areas; however, most examples are not related to Union-level democratic reform issues. The Activity’s influence on an improved media enabling environment has been limited, given the restrictive operating environment and construction in Burma’s press freedoms.” (abstract)


“This article has provided a benchmark for further detailed examination of the issue of foreign aid and media education in Solomon Islands. It acknowledges that aid funding comes with a political agenda and that there are difficulties in evaluating the effectiveness of media education where recipient countries did not start as empty vessels to be filled with Australian values and behaviour. Drawing on the thinking of Kincheloe (2008), this article acknowledges that students (of journalism, or of anything else), need to be aware that power comes through attempts to win people’s consent, by social and psychological means. Despite some early political mistakes in the way media assistance was conducted by Australian staff, the later SOLMAS project performed some important work, especially around the 2010 election, with staff acutely aware of the limitations of the project and of the work of expatriate trainers. This article also raises concern about ABC International’s lack of transparency over the SOLMAS project (in fighting access to documentation about the project). It is ironic that the ABC International managers in Australia clearly saw their role firstly as part of Australian foreign policy, rather than journalism trainees/supporters of the Fourth Estate in the Pacific.” (conclusion, p.46)

https://pj.saut.ac.nz/pacific-journalism-review/article/view/68/70

“The Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) was established as Malawi’s first national broadcaster when the country gained independence from Britain in 1964, partly with an ideological function of mobilising Malawians for the task of nation building. Since its inception, the broadcaster has been accused of serving the ideological interests of the ruling elite at the expense of the public good. Content-based evidence supporting this assertion has, however, been lacking. Against this background, a content study of one of MBC’s leading television public affairs programmes, Speak Out, was conducted to investigate a widely-held perception that the broadcaster’s staff interacts with dominant ideology passively at the expense of promoting public good. The study was situated in debates between the dominant ideology thesis and the pluralist paradigm of news. Its results show that, contrary to the widely-held claim, the pursuit of the ideological project of nation building at the broadcaster generally conforms to the pluralist paradigm, especially Shoemaker and Vos’ gatekeeper thesis which conceptualises journalists who actively engage with programme content as they mediate it. Presenters and producers of the programme use strategies which, to a considerable extent, connote their effort to pursue impartially politically sensitive aspects of the ideological project of nation building.” (abstract)


“Les médias d’État au Gabon seront pendant longtemps l’objet de querelles politiques et de discussions publiques qui ont convaincu le pouvoir de les inclure dans son domaine réservé, contrôlé stratégiquement par le ministère de l’Information. Depuis l’accession du pays à l’indépendance, le 17 août 1960, la radio et la télévision ont été considérées comme les voix du pays et de ses dirigeants, constamment soumises à la propagande gouvernementale de façon à faciliter les méfaits all n’ont pas bâti l’unité nationale, impératif indispensable pour « atteindre le développement ». Avec le processus gouvernemental de façon à mobiliser les masses afin de bâtir l’unité nationale, de discussions publiques qui ont convaincu le pouvoir de les inclure dans son domaine réservé, contrôlé stratégiquement par le ministère de l’Information. Depuis l’accession du pays à l’indépendance, le 17 août 1960, la radio et la télévision ont été considérées comme les voix du pays et de ses dirigeants, constamment soumises à la propagande gouvernementale de façon à faciliter les méfaits all n’ont pas bâti l’unité nationale, impératif indispensable pour « atteindre le développement ». Avec le processus gouvernemental de façon à mobiliser les masses. Cette structure déficitaire et ce manque de définition des rôles des médias publics ont connu de nombreux défis et combats pour se maintenir dans le paysage médiatique gabonais.” (ouverture)


“Plus d’un demi-siècle après sa création sous Félix Houphouët-Boigny, la RTI a-t-elle atteint l’objectif fixé au départ, renforcer la cohésion sociale, positionner le pays sur la scène internationale et promouvoir le développement ? A-t-elle été un organe de développement souhaité, où comme presque partout en Afrique, elle n’a été qu’un ordinaire instrument des pouvoirs politiques de Côte d’Ivoire ? La RTI par certaines émissions a pu être un révélateur de l’histoire cinquantenaire et le développement du pays, mais en tant que monopole de l’Etat elle a souvent eu du mal à se soustraire de l’engrenage des médias publics.” (publisher)

table of contents: http://scans.hebis.de/40/20/91/4209198toc.pdf


“Countries in the regions despite extreme diversity share many of the same challenges with their media environments – particularly when it comes to quality content production and distribution, journalists safety and impunity, the enabling legal environment, gender and social inequality as well as media and information illiteracy. With shrinking spaces for human rights in general and freedom of expression and press freedom in particular, populist politicians on the rise in most countries, “fake news” narratives eating away at trust in the media and audiences that increasingly gravitate online for information and show indifference towards paying for quality content, the media environment faces an overwhelming amount of challenges. At the same time the need for quality public interest journalism founded on ethical principles and rigorous techniques is ever more vital to secure the public’s access to reliable information so they can contribute to social and human development in line with the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals.” (executive summary, p.5)


Migrants, Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, Disadvantaged Groups & Media

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


“This chapter has focussed attention on recognising the specific category of diaspora journalism as one of the key dimensions of diaspora formations and their ability to intervene in international politics in general and in conflicts relating to their countries of origin in particular. We contend that diaspora journalism should be understood both as the more formal forms of news activities that replicate the structure, practices and professional ethos of mainstream journalism as well as the less formalised but no less potent journalistic practices of individual or collective diasporans across the world.” (conclusion, p.33)

http://www.springer.com/cda/content/document/cda_downloaddocument?7983319568412-c2.pdf


“In Australia in the 1980s, large numbers of remote Indigenous radio stations were established due to a perception that the introduction of ‘mainstream’ satellite programming in remote areas would act as a form of cultural ‘nerve gas’ (Remedio, 2012: 295) that would threaten ‘the very isolation that had helped to preserve what remained of traditional language and culture’ (Guster, 2010: 9). There are parallels here with the development of remote media in Mexico and Canada, where local radio networks focusing on cultural content production were established in response to impending development and imposed sources of mass media. In each country, broadcasters in remote communities have, in recent years, been producing increasing amounts of hyper-local cultural and language-based content. This article examines the role played by Indigenous media in remote areas of Australia, Canada and Mexico in creating an alternative cultural voice for traditional communities and maintaining language and culture.” (abstract)

https://joacm.org/index.php/joacm/article/download/936/821

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


subjects: migration; information needs of refugees; image abroad - Sub-Saharan Africa; Europe - focus group discussions


“This article offers a critique of widely disseminated portrayals of northern Malian Tuareg by outside media, which tends to portray all Tuareg as warriors and criminals and to project pseudo-scientific concepts of “race” onto relationships between Tuareg and other Malians, recalling the now discredited colonial “Hamitic Myth” in Rwanda. It also analyses local oral historical accounts that present themes of Mali as both a protected fortress and welcoming crossroads, a country that both resists and absorbs intruders, and that also express concepts of identity based on language, culture, and flexible social affiliation. The article is based partly on interviews with internationally known local musicians who function as mediating “third voices,” and concludes with a discussion of wider implications of these findings for notions of voice, authority, and the mutual construction of ideas of Africa.” (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2017.7

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


ASIA & PACIFIC


“This article outlines the findings from the first stage of a 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. The research found that empowerment manifested itself in a number of distinct ways, through both processes and the products of the project. Through the production of radio, women of prison experience recognised their own expertise and took ownership of their stories, while the radio products educated the wider public and validated the participants’ experiences.” (abstract)

https://pajcm.org/index.php/pajcm/article/download/937/822


“This study examines the role of alternative media in the socio-environmental movement for justice for the Lumad, the indigenous peoples of the southern Philippines, and the factors that contributed to the environment in the Philippines from extrene environmentalism to the corporate monopolies and monocrop plantations. Using thematic textual analysis and framing analysis, the study analysed selected news articles, press releases and advocacy articles from bulatlat.com and civil society group websites posted online from September to December 2015. Anchored on Downing’s theory of alternative media as social movement media and Fuchs’ theory of alternative media as critical media, the study reveals four categories of alternative media: (1) as giver of voice to the oppressed Lumad; (2) as social movement media used for social mobilisation; (3) as an alternative media outfit fulfilling a complementary role with the socioenvironmental movement; and (4) as making social movements’ offline activism visible. It concluded that alternative media play a vital role in socio-environmental movements and the continuing challenge to mitigate the climate crisis.” (abstract)

https://pajcm.org/index.php/pajcm/article/download/954/841


“This article argues that New Zealand’s Pacific news media are key sites where
243. Francesca Pierigh: Changing the narrative: media representation of refugees and migrants in Europe. World Association for Christian Communication – Europe Region (WACC Europe); Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), 2017, p. 50. Also published in Arabic, French, German and Spanish

"Key findings: Only 21% of news items on asylum and migration reference a refugee or migrant... Of the 21% of articles that mentioned a refugee or migrant, only in about one-quarter (27%) was that person a woman... Of the 21% of the news items that reference migrants or refugees, less than half (40%) of the articles quote them directly... Refugees and migrants are most often only identified by their displacement... Terminology and impartiality may be positive signs." (p.5-6) http://www.refugeesreporting.eu/report


"Die hier vorgestellte Untersuchung hatte zum Ziel, unterschiedliche Informationsnutzungsarten im Kontext der Flüchtlingsdebatte in der Bevölkerung Deutschlands zu identifizieren und anhand ihrer persönlichen Merkmale, ihrer Einstellungen gegenüber Geflüchteten und der Flüchtlingspolitik sowie bezüglich ihrer Erwartungen an die Medien und Bewertungen der Berichterstattung zu beschreiben. Die quantierte Befragung ist bevölkerungsrepräsentativ für die deutschsprachigen Onliner über 18 Jahre. Die Datenerhebung fand in zwei Wellen im Februar 2016 und Februar 2017 statt. Von den 1.579 Teilnehmenden aus dem Jahr 2016 nahm etwas mehr als die Hälfte (53 %) auch an der zweiten Befragung teil. Für das Jahr 2016 ergab die Clusteranalyse vier Nutzgruppen, die Themen-Vielnutzer (29 % der Befragten), die Themen-Vermeider (19 %), die Journalismus-Orientierten (33 %) sowie die Social-Media-Orientierten (20 %). Im Jahr 2017 konnte das Cluster der Social-Media-Orientierten nicht wieder identifiziert werden. Die Veränderungen der Struktur, Größen und Charakteristika der Cluster verdeutlichen, dass parallel zur nachlassenden Berichterstattung intensität auch die Suche der Bürger nach Informationen zum Thema geringer geworden ist. Die Erwartungen der Befragten an die Berichterstattung haben sich im Jahresverlauf nur wenig verändert. Vor allem die Gruppe der Journalismus-Orientierten weicht deutlicher von den anderen Gruppen ab, die Mitglieder dieser Gruppe erwarten eher eine ausgewogene Berichterstattung, erkennen aber auch gleichzeitig weniger Probleme mit einer angeblich verzerrten Berichterstattung in den Medien zum Flüchtlingsthema. Negative Emotionen, die mit der Berichterstattung verbunden sind, treten verstärkt bei denen auf, die sich (auch) stark auf soziale Medien als Informationsquelle verlassen, oder die sich der themenbezogenen Berichterstattung gar nicht oder nur ganz am Rande widmen. Im Umkehrschluss bedeutet dies, dass diejenigen, vor allem journalistische Medienangebote nutzen, sich weniger um ihre Familien sorgen, weniger Angst vor Flüchtlingen haben und auch weniger Themenverdrossenheit zeigen." (Zusammenfassung, S.133)


246. Siobhan Warrington, Jess Crombie: The people in the pictures: vital perspectives on Save the Children’s image making. A research project to understand how contributors and their communities experience and perceive Save the Children’s communications and its image-making process. Save the Children, 2017, 81 p.

‘Debates about the visual representations of global poverty have been going on for many years, yet the experiences and views of those featured have been notably absent. ‘The People in the Pictures’ addresses that gap. Save the Children commissioned research in the UK, Jordan, Bangladesh and Niger, to listen to and learn from those who contribute their images and stories, as well as members of their communities. The research explored: what motivated people to agree to Save the Children filming or photographing them or their children; how people experienced and perceived the image-making process; how people felt about their portrayal in the resulting Save the Children communications. The research highlighted many areas of good practice, as well as some concerns and challenges. It has resulted in a set of recommendations to embed greater agency and accountability for contributors into Save the Children’s image making.” (back cover) https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/12425/pdf/the_people_in_the_pictures.pdf


‘There is a story at the heart of every nonprofit. Telling our stories makes our work real and tangible. They embody the spirit of our work, and get to the heart of why we do what we do. We hope this guide has helped you get started with telling your stories.” (conclusion, p.32) http://www.nonprofit-network.org/ebooks/Stories_for_Good.pdf

“The survey shows that the vast majority of South African nonprofit organisations are seeing positive benefits through using social media. This is despite the fact that more than 80% of NPOs do not allocate a budget for social media, close to 50% said that staff lacked the expertise to manage social media, and almost one-third said they have no communications plan to guide their social media work. NPOs reported that they primarily use social media to promote events, communicate with clients and stakeholders, curate news, build communities, and improve their marketing and branding. Facebook and Twitter remain the social networks of choice for NPOs, followed by YouTube, LinkedIn and Google+. However, few LinkedIn and Google+ accounts were found to be active.”

(executive summary)


table of contents: http://www.gbv.de/dms/zbw/839846622.pdf

subjects: social marketing; development communication; corporate social responsibility; media advocacy / media activism; community media; nonprofit public relations - India
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