Media Development Literature
January – October 2021

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Audiences & Media Use

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

1. Rong Chen, Michael Minges: Minimum data consumption: how much is needed to support online activities, and is it affordable? World Bank, 2021, 19 p.

"The primary payment method for mobile internet usage in most developing countries is prepaid, with the amount tied to a specific volume of data usage. Data volume is therefore a useful yardstick to determine how much is needed to carry out important welfare enhancing activities online. For foundational online activities, which include websites for public services, health information, shopping, learning, and news, we estimate using data from six developing countries that 660MB per month, per user are needed for these welfare-enhancing activities. For common recreational online activities – particularly social media use – we estimate that an additional 5.2GB per month, per user is needed, for a total of approximately 6GB per month, per user. While the cheapest 30-day data packages in most of the countries examined exceed this minimum estimate, the cost of these packages exceeds more than 2% of income for the bottom 40% of the population, which risks widening the digital divide. The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the demand for data by triggering widespread use of video conferencing for work, learning and health among other things. Increased demand, along with the continuous development of more data-heavy content, will continue to inflate the minimum data needed for welfare enhancing activities, which may further exacerbate the digital divide if more affordable packages or other alternatives mechanisms for facilitating connectivity are not provided for the most vulnerable populations." (Key findings)

http://hdl.handle.net/10986/35149


"Six years ago, about a third of the world’s population were using mobile internet. Today, it is more than half. Despite this progress, the pandemic has highlighted how big gaps in connectivity persist, even in high-income markets. 3.8 billion people still do not have access to the internet – due to a lack of mobile broadband coverage or because of other barriers, including a lack of awareness of the internet and its benefits, lack of literacy and the required skills, affordability, lack of perceived relevance, and safety and security concerns. The State of Mobile Internet Connectivity 2021 highlights trends in the coverage and usage of mobile internet over the last six years and the key barriers to mobile internet adoption. It also looks at the early impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest regional changes and the key challenges to address to ensure everyone can connect to the internet."


"This year’s report reveals new insights about digital news consumption based on a YouGov survey of over 92,000 online news consumers in 46 markets including India, Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria, Colombia and Peru for the first time. The report looks at the impact of coronavirus on news consumption and on the economic prospects for publishers. It looks at progress on new paid online business models, trust and misinformation, local news, impartiality and fairness in news coverage."

(Overview)
https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2021


"After a year of unprecedented disaster and turbulence – the Covid-19 pandemic and economic crisis, the global outcry over systemic racism and political instability – the 2021 Edelman Trust Barometer reveals an epidemic of misinformation and widespread mistrust of societal institutions and leaders around the world. Adding to this is a failing trust ecosystem unable to confront the rampant infodemic, leaving the four institutions – business, government, NGOs and media – in an environment of information bankruptcy and a mandate to rebuild trust and chart a new path forward."

(https://www.edelman.com/trust/2021-trust-barometer)

“In this paper, we share selected insights from our work across seven countries facing complex and often protracted preexisting humanitarian crises before the pandemic. Over the past nine months, with Internews Rooted in Trust project, we have worked to understand the role of rumors and misinformation in the pandemic and to support humanitarian and media communicators to listen, engage and respond to community information needs. Many of the insights we offer here are derived from our research to map the Information Ecosystems in seven geographies, drawing from extensive qualitative and quantitative data (more than 2,400 survey respondents, 230 qualitative interviews and 130 focus groups). We hope these will contribute to move the community of information, public health, humanitarian aid and government practitioners towards a more sophisticated understanding of what drives and solidifies trust and away from the all too frequent dismissive judgements that played a central role in the breakdown of trust.” (Introduction, p.2)


“In today’s global and digitalized world, the investigation of relational trust as part of social connections has remained a popular and interdisciplinary academic topic. This book explores the idea of trust as a basic type of information processing that might be as old as human existence but has gained new attention with the emergence of online communication channels. The result is a strategic reconsideration of the brain’s role in the formation of social relationships and a new look at how information might shape our confidence in others.” (Publisher)

https://www.peterlang.com/document/1143228


“In this review of the literature I have attempted to show how researchers in different areas of communication have conceptualized and operationalized trust and trust-related concepts. Trust has been associated most with the concept of credibility, but other words that have been used to operationalize it include believability, accuracy, honesty, truthfulness, trustworthiness, sincerity, competence, expertise, reliability, and goodwill, to name some. The concept of trust, just as credibility, is multi-dimensional, and it seems to depend on the context, the person, and the task that is evaluated, as one may not necessarily trust another with a personal secret but may trust that person to complete a work-related task well. As might have become evident to the reader, our discipline’s interest in measuring trust has been mostly utilitarian: trust as a means to an end (e.g., persuasion, credibility, and effectiveness of the communicator, to name some). While not all of the trust-related research in communication has been self-serving, it has focused mostly on the benefits that communicators can derive from growing others’ trust in them, and less on the benefit that the act of trusting may have on others beyond the communicator, or other possible outcomes stemming from trust. One of the few exceptions has been in the instructional communication literature, who measures of trust have been used to study levels of student satisfaction, development and learning; interpersonal communication, where measures of trust have been used to study satisfaction in relationships between friends and romantic partners; and health communication, where communicating trust in the patient-provider interaction can increase the patient’s self-awareness and sense of well-being. The mostly transactional and utilitarian view of trust that has dominated so far is perhaps a reflection of the increased professionalization of the discipline, the need for practical applications within the business setting and the cultures that sustain them and are in turn sustained by them. It would be interesting for future research to consider trust from the perspective of the person who is doing the trusting what impact does trust have on them beyond being persuaded and returning as consumers of information and products? It would be interesting for future research to approach the study of trust from that perspective as well as from non-traditional (read non-Western/Anglo-Saxon) socioeconomic and cultural perspectives.” (Conclusion, p.21)


“Siguiendo con la conexión entre tradición e innovación, la estructura del libro parte de una aproximación teórica al concepto de audiencia y su evolución histórica para, a continuación, explicar las principales metodologías de investigación en audiencias, tanto cuantitativas como cualitativas, y analizar los sistemas de medición de la audiencia en los diferentes medios: televisión, radio, prensa e Internet. La obra ofrece una reflexión sobre los retos de futuro, con abundantes enlaces y recursos audiovisuales extra que permitan ampliar cada uno de los capítulos.” (Editorial)


“This report examines how people in Brazil, India, the UK, and the US view news media in their countries, the factors they use when determining whether sources are trustworthy, and what ‘trust in news’ ultimately means to them ... While we note throughout the report areas of difference between the four countries, such as the role played by particular forms of news or individual media figures, mainly we focus on the similarities we found, which were often striking. In most cases, study participants tended to fall back on impressions of brand quality that many said were rooted in how familiar they were with a given source and its reputation established over time based on past use, perceived partisanship, or word-of-mouth. Although many spoke about the importance of accuracy and impartiality in their assessments of trust – with individual journalists typically playing a lesser or even negative role – such terms often meant different things to different people. While a minority raised concerns about representation and whether news aligned with their lived experiences, others focused on perceived political or commercial biases or their sense that all news sources were irrevocably beholden to elite agendas.” (Conclusion, p.40)

https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/Toff%20et%20al%20-%20Overcoming%20Indifference%20FINAL.pdf


“This report contains a range of findings about news audiences in each of the four countries [Brazil, India, United Kingdom, United States], focusing on audiences overall as well as different segments of the public categorised according to their degree of trust towards news brands in their country. We summarise several of the key results of our analysis here: People are more trusting of news they themselves use, including on social media, but less trusting of news they don’t use, especially news found on digital platforms ... Many hold highly negative views about basic journalistic practices ... The least trusting towards news tend to be older, less educated, less interested in politics, and less connected to urban centres ... The least trusting pay less attention to and are more indifferent towards specific characteristics about how journalism is practised ... Experience interacting with journalists is rare and familiarity with basic concepts concerning how news works is often low ... Gaps in trust in news align with deficits in social and interpersonal trust as well as dissatisfaction with democracy.” (Summary of key findings, p.8)

11. Paola Pascual-Ferrá: The measurement of trust in communication research, part 1. In: Communication Research Trends, vol. 39, nr. 4, 2020, p.4-34

“Professor Pascual-Ferrá provides a real service to researchers by assembling not only the story of research into trust but also the key scales with which people examined trust. Taking even a brief look at the tables and figures will give you a deep understanding. The result is an excellent resource for anyone working with or interested in trust.” (Conclusion, p.34)

https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/Toff%20et%20al%20-%20Overcoming%20Indifference%20FINAL.pdf
"Over half a billion people who are living in areas with a mobile broadband network are not using mobile internet, despite substantial increases in mobile broadband coverage since 2014. Significant gender and rural-urban gaps persist. Women are 37% less likely to use mobile internet than men. Significant gains have been made in both 3G and 4G coverage since 2014, yet in 2020 only half the population had access to a 4G network. Affordability has improved substantially but remains a key barrier, especially handset affordability. Smartphone adoption is increasing but smartphones still account for less than half of total connections." (p.1-3)

"Radio remains most popular media platform. Over half listen to the radio weekly. Internet is more accessed than TV. TV is watched mostly by young, urban, wealthier people. Men use all media platforms more than women ...
A nationally representative sample of 2,004 adults aged 18+ in Somalia were interviewed face-to-face in March and April 2021." (p.1)

"Conclusions and actionable recommendations to media stakeholders and Internews including: improving access to radio and television in Unity State would likely produce a substantial increase in overall media consumption in Unity State; improving access to smartphones in Warrap State would potentially produce a major increase in internet access/use in Warrap State; women have far more limited phone access and ownership than men; so for Internews access to information interventions, equipping more women with phones could shift women’s access to information and the internet, as well as potentially shifting gender power dynamics in important ways; radio stations across South Sudan can charge the most for advertisements from 4-8 pm in the evening. This is also prime time for television usage; depending on the region, the next most popular radio use time is in the early morning from 5-8 am, and most stations broadcasting in most states can also charge more to advertisers and sponsors for this timeslot than the others." (Publisher)

"From 2020 to 2021, Internews contracted Forcier Consulting to conduct a National Audience Survey in South Sudan to better understand the contemporary national media market with a focus on media consumption, habits, and preferences, as well as beliefs about the reliability of various media sources. The survey objective is to support radio partners to understand the value of their airtime and highlight any unrealized opportunities for deeper audience engagement. Forcier utilized a novel research design combining interactive voice response (IVR) and computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) data collection methods. This approach produced accurate measures of relevant research indicators, and minimized health risk of COVID-19 and security risk to both researchers and respondents. The combined IVR and CATI samples were constructed based on randomly selected phone numbers from across South Sudan and thus the results can be interpreted as representative of the opinions and preferences of mobile-phone-owning individuals (or individuals who have access to mobile phones) who live in South Sudan." (Publisher)

"Radio is the dominant news source in Liberia, tuned in "every day" or "a few times a week" by 87% of adults. Almost four in 10 citizens (38%) say they regularly get news from the Internet and social media, while only about one in five are regular consumers of news via television (21%) and newspapers (16%). Three-fourths (76%) of Liberians say the media should "constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption." Six in 10 citizens (61%) say the media should be free to publish without government interference. But only one in five (19%) see Liberia’s media as "somewhat" or "completely" free. Despite support for media freedom, majorities say the government should be able to restrict the sharing of false information (74%), information that criticizes or insults the president (69%), hate speech (68%), and information or opinions that the government disapproves of (59%). Politicians (76%) and government officials (74%) are most widely seen as knowingly spreading false information. Among Liberians who have heard of social media, most (80%) see its impact on society as positive, although majorities also think it makes people more susceptible to fake news (73%) and more intolerant of other viewpoints (66%). More than seven in 10 Liberians (72%) say access to social media and the Internet should not be regulated by the government." (Key findings, p.2)

16. Makamga Ronald Kakumba, Josephine Apiah-Nyamekye Sanny: Ugandans see social media as beneficial and want unrestricted access, but are wary of its use to spread fake news. Afrobatem, 2021, 11 p.
"Daily news consumption via social media (11%) and the Internet (9%) has doubled in Uganda since 2015, though these platforms still lag far behind television (27%) and radio (54%) as daily news sources. Six in 10 Ugandans (60%) say they are aware of social media. Awareness is less widespread among women, rural residents, and older and less educated citizens. Among Ugandans who have heard of social media, large majorities say it makes people more aware of current happenings (89%) and helps people impact political processes (74%). On the other hand, majorities also say it makes people more likely to believe false news (70%) and more intolerant of others with different political opinions (58%). Overall, 58% of citizens who are aware of social media rate its effects on society as positive, while only 13% see them as negative. A majority (56%) of Ugandans "agree" or "strongly agree" that access to the Internet and social media helps people to be more informed and active citizens, and should be unrestricted. A quarter (26%), however, say the government should be able to regulate access." (Key findings, p.2)
https://afrobarometer.org/publications/ad450-ugandans-see-social-media-beneficial-and-want-unrestricted-access-are-wary-its

"Eight in 10 adult Zimbabweans (80%) say they have heard about social media. More than four in 10 (42%) citizens say they get news from social media “every day” or “a few times a week.” Among those who have heard about social media the vast majority (91%) say social media helps keep people informed about current events. Half (49%) believe that social media helps people have more impact on political processes. But seven in 10 (71%) also see social media as making people more likely to believe false information, and 44% say it makes people more intolerant of opposing views. Overall, six in 10 (61%) say the effects of social media on society are “somewhat positive” or “very positive.” Two-thirds (65%) of Zimbabweans say social media and the Internet help make people more informed and active citizens, and hence unrestricted access to these platforms must be protected." (Key findings, p.2)

18. Mulu Tekla: Ethiopians support media’s watchdog role but want regulated access to Internet, social media. Afrobatem, 2021, 13 p.
"Six in 10 adult Ethiopians (59%) own a mobile phone. But only 16% own a phone with Internet access. One in three (34%) own a radio, while 14% have a television set and only 2 % have a computer. The most common source of regular news (“every day” or “a few times a week”) for Ethiopians is the radio (50%), followed by TV (24%), social media (12%), the Internet (9%), and newspapers (2%). A majority (59%) of Ethiopians assess the media as “somewhat” or “completely” free. Almost four in 10 (48%) consider the media “not very” or “not at all” free. But Ethiopians hold mixed views on just how free the media should be. While more than three-fourths (77%) want the media to report on government mistakes and corruption, almost half (48%) say the government should have the right to prevent the publication of things it disapproves of. And large majorities endorse the government’s right to prohibit the sharing of false information (79%) and hate speech (73%). Majorities say social media users (55%), politicians

“Radio remains overwhelmingly the most common source for news in Africa. On average across 18 surveyed countries, two-thirds (67%) of respondents turn in at least a few times a week. Digital media use for news is growing quickly. Between 2014/2015 and 2019/2020, the share of Africans who get news from social media or the Internet at least a few times a week almost doubled, from 22% to 38% across 16 countries included in both survey rounds. Urban residents, better-educated citizens, men, and youth are most likely to use digital media in Africa. While use has increased among other groups as well, demographic gaps in digital media use have remained roughly the same since 2014/2015, and even increased with regard to education. Africans express broad support for the media’s role in fostering government accountability, and majorities support media freedoms in every country except Tunisia. But most Africans support their government’s right to place limits on the dissemination of hate speech, false information, and messages that are insulting to their president.” (Key findings)


“La pandemia del Covid 19 generó notables cambios en los hábitos de consumo de las personas y su interacción con los medios. Como consecuencia del aislamiento social, las personas buscaron fuentes de información y entretenimiento confiables y de fácil acceso, por lo que la radio incrementó su audiencia, demostrando su alcance y adaptabilidad a múltiples situaciones, incluyendo la crisis social. El alcance de la radio es homogéneo en las diferentes zonas del país. La radio Metropolitana y el alcance semanal es de 92.8%, mientras que en el interior del Perú es de 94.3%. Las diversas emisoras y los distintos formatos de programación, permiten que el medio consolide su alcance en las distintas generaciones, destacando que la radio tiene muchos oyentes jóvenes evidenciado en un alcance semanal superior al 91% en todas las generaciones.” (p.2-3) https://www.cpi.pe/images/upload/paginaweb/archivo/26/cpi_market%20report%20marzo%202021%20(02).pdf


“En El Alto funcionan cerca de 60 medios impresos, de radio y televisivos, además de medios digitales y e-portales informativos. Los periodistas suman alrededor de 200, aunque la mayoría de ellos carecen de una relación laboral formal y desarrollar su trabajo en condiciones de productores independientes o co-productores, tienen ingresos de la publicidad que consiguen y que alquilan espacios en medios radiofónicos o de TV para difundir sus programas noticiosos. Tradicionalmente, los mayores anunciadores en esos noticieros son gubernamentales y suelen condicionar los contenidos de las informaciones. A ello se suma la fuerte presencia entre las audiencias de los medios informativos de La Paz u otras ciudades, la que influye visiblemente en el modelo de cubrimiento noticioso que se aplica en El Alto y en la definición de la agenda informativa. De esa forma, prevalecen las fuentes oficiales, los temas de orden político y de interés nacional en desmedro de los asuntos locales y las voces de la ciudad. A pesar de la raíz indígena ayamara que posee la población de mayor edad y de la identidad ayamara de que se precisa la urbe, el idioma ayamara es parcialmente utilizado en los programas de noticias y la mayoría de las personas consultadas para este estudio señaló su preferencia por el idioma castellano. De acuerdo con la encuesta realizada, los habitantes de El Alto dicen informarse primero por la TV (42%), luego por el Facebook (29%) y en tercer lugar por el radio (15%), aunque confían menos en el segundo (13%) y piensan que la última es la que refleja de mejor modo lo que sucede en la ciudad (28%). La población de El Alto suele preferir los medios periodísticos de otras ciudades que los de carácter local.”


“La encuesta se realizó entre el 10 y 20 de abril a través de un formulario de Google compartido por redes de contactos y en redes sociales (principalmente Twitter). Las 2.325 respuestas no representan al universo de oyentes de podcasts ya que no se realizó ningún trabajo estadístico sobre la muestra (que no es muestral) ... El 27.5% comenzó a escuchar podcast en 2019 y el 25% en 2018. El 96% de los encuestados escucha podcast a través de teléfonos móviles y el 46% lo hace desde computadoras personales o de escritorio. La plataforma preferida para escuchar es Spotify. La segunda plataforma es YouTube con el 23%. Los formatos preferidos de los participantes son: los de conversación/mesa redonda (51%) y los de entrevistas (22.7%). Especialmente si son sobre: Cine y series, Sociedad y Cultura, y Economía y política.” (p.2, Resumen, p.9)


ASIA & PACIFIC


“TV is the most popular media platform. Majority of TV viewers and radio listeners watch and listen to those media weekly. Urban, educated and younger people watch TV more than rural, less educated and older people. Men listen to radio and use internet more than women ... A nationally representative sample of 2,729 adults aged 18+ in Afghanistan were interviewed over the phone in February and March.” (p.1) http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/rmhhttp/mediaaction/pdf/research-infographic-covid-bbcc-media-landscape-afghanistan-2021.pdf


“The pandemic marks a new technological milestone in audiences’ media usage and habits, one that has thus far been both positive – through the interconnectedness and agency – and negative – because of a lack of access for some – for cultural diversity and intercultural relations. The adoption of mobile Internet skyrocketed in the region, and some countries, particularly Egypt and Saudi Arabia, have ranked among the countries with the highest penetration rates globally for platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.” (p.1) https://doi.org/10.17901/rakbp2.02.202120


“Syrians greatly desire news that is free from political partisanship and interference; Are reflective and capable of making conscious and informed decisions; Are resourceful, reflective and desire the full picture of news and events; Value variety in terms of sources, and are therefore often drawn to digital platforms that facilitate a diversity of choice as a way to check news and besides valuing pluralism; Are flexible and partial to changing their consumption habits if they begin to notice too much perceived bias in the outlets they use; Feel that the majority of content in the Syrian media landscape is not objective or credible enough; Believe that media, if and when truly independent, has an important role to play in society as a watchdog and a unifier; Prefer breaking news, accurate and exclusive news.” (Key findings, p.4) https://www.freepressunlimited.org/sites/default/files/documents/Syria%20audience%20research%20study%202020%20(English).pdf


“1. Social Media Users in MEA (Middle East and Africa) spend the most time on social networks, averaging over 3.5 hours per day. Internet users in the UAE, with an average of 8.4 social media accounts, research reveals. UAE, with an average of 10.5 accounts, has “the highest number of social media accounts per person globally. 2. Top TikTok influencers grew their fanbase by an average of 65%, between February and August 2020, with
the highest engagement rates in Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Few influencers have successfully crossed over from other platforms. 3. Egypt is the 9th largest national market for Facebook in the world, with 44 million users, by October 2020. Turkey is the only other MENA country in the Top 20, with 37 million users. 4. Four MENA Countries, Saudi Arabia (17.9 million users), Turkey (9.7m), Iraq (9.6m) and Egypt (8.9m) are in the 13 largest national markets for Snapchat worldwide. Audiences are continuing to grow, highlighting the importance of the app. 5. 79% of Arab Youth say they get their news from social media. That’s up from 25% in 2015 ...

(Executive summary)


Children & Media, Youth & Media, Media Literacy

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"The authors have updated, expanded and partly completely rewritten the texts. They attached particular importance to presenting the contents in a way that is as easy to understand as possible. For this purpose, they were able to draw on their experiences and observations in many Media and Information Literacy (MIL) workshops of the past years. The MIL Handbook is primarily intended for MIL trainers, but also for anyone interested in media and MIL. The book contains background information, suggestions for training plans and methods, hand-outs and worksheets for practical exercises. After an introductory chapter on media and the basics of MIL, the other chapters deal with information and news, photography, video and audio. The final chapter on the internet and social media has been completely revised and expanded by the authors." (Thorsten Karg, mail to the fore mailing list, 2021-05-20) https://www.dw.com/en/media-and-information-literacy-a-practical-guidebook-for-trainers-third-edition/a-42423367


"Este currículum sigue y actualiza la estela del currículum para profesores sobre alfabetización mediática e informacional de la Unesco (2011). Se trata de un compendio centrado en el profesorado y concretado para la integración en el sistema formal, llegando finalmente estas enseñanzas, de una manera contextualizadas, a los jóvenes. Esta publicación se divide en dos partes. En la primera se conceptualiza la competencia mediática y se establecen los fundamentos del currículum, mientras que en la segunda se especifican los distintos módulos sobre la competencia mediática. Este proyecto curricular ha sido producto de la colaboración y el diálogo entre expertos y profesores de distintos países de Europa y Latinoamérica. El currículum Alfamed (www.redalfamed.org) se ha realizado desde un enfoque integral y de manera sistemática. El proceso ha incluido la concreción de las líneas principales de estudio, el establecimiento de los módulos y sus unidades, la preparación de borradores, la revisión y la validación por expertos en diferentes áreas de la competencia mediática: informacional, medios de comunicación, tecnología y educación. El currículum Alfamed de formación de profesores en educación mediática se trata, en consecuencia, de un trabajo riguroso que pretende unificar los contenidos necesarios para la adquisición de la competencia mediática por parte de los docentes que, a su vez, pueda ser trasmitida a los estudiantes para conseguir una sociedad capacitada en el uso de los medios." (Prólogo, p.9-10)


"In the rapidly changing news ecosystems of emerging economies, news outlets are struggling to remain relevant and build loyal relationships with youth audiences (18 to 35 years old). As youth populations continue to grow in low-and-middle income countries, it is critical for independent media organizations to understand and respond to the changing news habits of younger generations. A snapshot of youth news consumption habits in Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Thailand highlights that the predominance of smartphones, and increasing access to the internet and social media, is fundamentally altering how youth access, interact with, and value independent news. Youth audiences tend to access news through their smartphone, relying more on social media algorithms and news aggregators than loyalty to particular news brands. Youth generally do not feel that the traditional, mainstream news media reports on issues that are important to them, preferring to access a wider variety of news alongside other kinds of information and entertainment. Despite relying on social media for news, youth are wary about whether the information they see on the internet is true. There is a tension between the convenience social media provides for accessing news and its propensity to amplify misinformation and increase political polarization." (Key findings)


"Featuring contributions from a diverse range of internationally-recognized experts and practitioners, this timely volume discusses recent developments in the field in the context of related scholarship, public policy, formal and non-formal teaching and learning, and DIY and community practice. Offering a truly global perspective, the Handbook focuses on empirical work from Media and Information Literacy (MIL) practitioners from around the world. The book’s five parts explore global youth cultures and the media, trans-media learning, media literacy and scientific controversies, varying national approaches to media research, media education policies, and much more." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.1007/9781119166800


"In this article, I discuss that quality TV for the specific children audience can be described with some new quality indicators afforded by child neuroscience and child epigenetic development; there is a reappraisal of the ludic and emotional genetic abilities of child brain to enjoy and comprehend ludic narrative fiction. But also, from a systemic view of the TV communication process; quality on children’s TV depends not only on the program content but on the broadcast and on the reception. A review of children’s TV channels, and a few dozen of the new programs broadcast, allows us to find several new criteria regarding the quality of children’s TV and audio-visual content." (Abstract)

https://doi.org/10.11648/j.elic.20210601.11


"This collection investigates and critiques the dynamism of children's lives online with contributions fielding both global and hyper-local issues, and bridging the wide spectrum of connected media created for and by children. From education to children's rights to cyberbullying and youth in challenging circumstances, the interdisciplinary approach ensures a careful, nuanced, multi-dimensional exploration of children's relationships with digital media. Featuring a highly international range of case studies, perspectives, and socio-cultural contexts, The Routledge Companion to Digital Media and Children is the perfect reference tool for students and researchers of media and communication, family and technology studies, psychology, education, anthropology, and sociology, as well as interested teachers, policy makers, and parents." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351004107


"Children can be targets and objects of mis/disinformation, spreaders or creators of it, and opponents of mis/disinformation in actively seeking to counter falsehoods. There is insufficient data available to researchers and

"Digital technologies have enabled the spread of all kinds of information, displacing traditional formats of usually more carefully curated information such as encyclopaedias and newspapers. The massive information flow of the digital era demands that readers be able to distinguish between fact and opinion. Readers must learn strategies to detect biased information and malicious content like fake news and phishing emails. What the PISA 21st-Century readers report reveals is that students' access to digital technologies and training on how to use them greatly vary between countries and students' socio-economic profiles. This report explores how 15-year-old students are developing reading skills to navigate the technology-rich 21st century. It sheds light on potential ways to strengthen students' capacity to navigate the new world of information. It highlights how countries need to redouble their efforts to combat emerging digital divides. It also explores what teachers can do to help students navigate ambiguity and manage complexity." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.1787/a83d84cb-en


"In September 2019, the End Violence Fund launched a $13 million open call for solutions focused on leveraging new and existing technologies. These technologies include artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, blockchain, virtual reality and other innovative solutions that have the potential to enhance detection and response to online violence, or those that can prevent known and emerging threats of online child sexual exploitation and abuse." (p.7)


"As the boundaries between the physical and digital worlds continue to blur, particularly for children growing up in the digital age, online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) will continue to evolve and new forms emerge. Encouragingly, work is underway at national and international levels to prevent and respond to this global threat, but innovative and substantial actions are needed to keep up with this evolving problem. Legal frameworks must improve and approximate global consistency and regulation must make tech companies and Internet Service Providers accountable for action. Law enforcement must collaborate across jurisdictions, adopt sophisticated techniques and be properly equipped and funded. There is an urgent need to further boost and sustain collective action against OCSE at this moment in time. ECPAT International has identified in this paper five areas where progress can and must be made. Again, as this problem is not confined by borders, strategic partnerships with the involvement of an increasing number of global actors will be instrumental in making this happen. As a society, we have a duty and a responsibility to stop the demand underpinning OCSE and ensure the rights of children online and offline are fulfilled." (Conclusion, p.23)


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"The literature on African youth narratives about Africa is sparse. Only one report in the literature review focussed on youth narratives, and it indicated that youth did not value their own stories, but relied on western tropes in storytelling. We came across nine recent reports based on attitudinal surveys (six of which were done by the British Council) but they did not explore youth narratives, and also mainly interviewed youth in higher education, even though the bulk of African youth are not in higher education. Nevertheless, we found 23 journal articles, book chapters and theses on African youth identity, which will be explored in more depth in this report." (Executive summary)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"As a young Fulbright scholar in Bogotá, determined to democratize the photographic gaze and bring new visions and voices to public debate about Colombia’s armed conflict, Alexander L. Fattal founded Disparando Cámaras para la Paz (Shooting Cameras for Peace). The project taught photography to young people in El Progreso, a neighborhood in the city’s outskirts that was home to families displaced by violence in the countryside. It offered the youth of that troubled region a chance to record and reimagine their daily lives. Shooting Cameras for Peace is an in-depth look into one of Latin America's most dynamic participatory media projects. The haunting and exuberant photographs testify to the young people’s will to play, to dream, and to survive, bearing witness to the resilience and creativity of lives marked by a war that refuses to die. With text in English and Spanish, Shooting Cameras for Peace / Disparando Cámaras para la Paz makes vital contributions to studies of collaborative media, photographic activism, and peace and conflict studies in Colombia. Fattal’s insightful text is both a celebration of the program he initiated and a critical reflection on the genre of participatory photography and the structural challenges faced by similar media projects." (Publisher)

EUROPE


"The material challenges of funding, commissioning and distribution that are well known to inhibit production of children’s factual content about other countries and cultures operate in parallel with challenges arising from the moral responsibilities inherent in what Roger Silverstone called “the problem of proper distance”. By that he signified a “moral category” requiring filmmakers to provide “context as well as imagination” and be willing to “recognise the other in her sameness and difference”. “Distance” and “difference” have become at once more significant but also more ambiguous at a time of mass forced migration, in which traditions, religions and cultures from distant places are brought together in physical proximity. Based on input from cross-cultural dialogues, screenings and interviews involving European producers of children’s documentaries, this article explores dilemmas and experiences faced in representing the backgrounds and stories of children who arrived in Europe from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the mid-2010s. It shows the resonance of Silverstone’s thinking by revealing that many practitioners themselves apply notions of closeness and distance, both physically and metaphorically, in their choices about combining the familiar and unfamiliar and co-creating content with child participants." (Abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/17482798.2021.1974502
Christian & Religious Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


*This book offers a critical and systematic survey of the study of religion and digital media. It covers religious engagement with a wide range of digital media forms and highlights examples of new media engagement in all five of the major world religions. From mobile apps and video games to virtual reality and social media, the book provides a detailed review of major topics including ritual, identity, community, authority, and embodiment, includes a series of engaging case studies to illustrate and elucidate the thematic explorations, considers the theoretical, ethical, and theological issues raised ... Thoroughly updated throughout with new case studies and in-depth analysis of recent scholarship and developments, this new edition provides a comprehensive overview of this fast-paced, constantly developing, and fascinating field." (Publisher)
https://doi.org/10.4324/97804292995683


*"Die Beiträge des umfangreichen Handbuchs sondieren die verschiedenen Facetten und Bedeutungen der digitalen Revolution: die Kultur der Digitalität (Ethik, Ästhetik, öffentlicher Raum, Gesellschaftspolitik), die theologisch- anthropologysche Dimension (Personsein, Identität, Menschenbild, existenzielle Fragen), die ekklesiatische Dimension (Sozialförmigkeiten; Virtualität und Realität, religiöse Sozialisation, Predigt und Digitalität, digitale Kirchenentwicklung), die Gottesrede (Digitalität und Allmachtsphantasien, Leiblichkeit und Digitalität, Gottesrede und digitaler Kommunikation) sowie medienethische Einordnungen (Maschinennetik, Medienpolitik, Identität und Integrität.)." (Verlag)


*The content of the book is organized into four sections. The first three sections are essays recounting real-world experiences of pastoral agents. These essays are roughly divided into three sub-groups. The first group of essays focuses on the parish setting and the ministries that each parish attempted to implement in response to the crisis. The second group of essays highlight the education and formation ministry, which includes both catechism teaching and other educational settings such as theology schools and formation houses. The third group of essays primarily depict outreach ministries such as those with the poor, migrants, and other marginalized groups. The pastoral workers carrying out these ministries may do so in context of a parish/diocesan setting or as part of a nonparochial program

The final section, comprised of five essays, is responses to the experiences presented in the previous three sections. The aim of this section is to dialogue with the experiences recounted in the essays originating from a variety of countries around the world. Some of the issues that the writers of the responses were asked to consider include presenting theological insights gained from these experiences; lessons to be learned that the writers of the responses were asked to consider include presenting "This article is mainly aimed toward those responsible for communications in ecclesiastical organizations that are experiencing vulnerability. It integrates the perspective of organizational communication with ecclesiastical contributions. The first part notes that vulnerability is a common trait of civil and ecclesiastical organizations, both in the passive sense (potential to be hurt) and in the active sense (capacity to do harm). In the second part, a circular conceptual framework of the process of communication, devised by several academics from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, is developed and applied to the Church. In pursuing adherence to reality, this is a valid theoretical framework for inspiring the communication management that is required for dealing with errors and failures. In the description of the process, references are added to the issue of fragility in each of its phases: identity, culture, discourse, image, and reputation. A key word in this sequence is ‘consistency’ (between what an institution is, and how it considers itself, what it does, and what it says). In the third part, this ‘realistic’ conceptual universe is applied to the issue of the abuse of minors committed by ministers of the Catholic Church, guidelines for the communications team are suggested (investigate, listen, accompany, repair), and seven criteria for proper reporting are proposed." (Abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1080/23753234.2021.1880950


*subjects: Francis <Pope>; COVID-19 pandemic: economic, political and social effects; catechetical materials: Catholic Church


*Divided into two sections, the chapters included in the first section of the book present case studies from five major religions: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism and their engagement with digitalization. The second section of the volume explores the moral, ideological but also ontological implications of our increasingly digital lives." (Publisher)
https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367809225


*"Muslims in the Movies provides a series of essays that explore the portrayal and reception of Muslims in Euro-American film, transnational productions, and global national cinemas. The volume brings together a group of internationally recognized experts to introduce Muslims in the films of Europe, North America, Australia, Iran, Egypt, North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The interdisciplinary collection explores issues of identity, cultural production, and representation through the depiction of Muslims on screen and how audiences respond to these images. Together, the essays operate as an introduction to the subject of Muslims and film for new readers while also serving as new works of critical analysis for scholars of cinema." (Publisher)


*"The handbook is divided into five parts, each taking global developments in the field into account: Theoretical Reflections, Power and Authority Conflict, Radicalization and Populism, Dialogue and Peacebuilding. Trends. Within
these sections, central issues, debates and developments are examined, including: Religious and secular press; ethics; globalization; gender; datafication; differentiation; journalistic religious literacy; race, and religious extremism. (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203731420

49. Matthew S. Rindge: *Bible and film: the basics*. London; New York: Routledge, 2021, xiii, 207 p. "This book examines various types of interplay between film and the Bible. The theme of 'Bible on film' is explored through Hebrew Bible epics including The Prince of Egypt and Noah, and Jesus films such as The Last Temptation of Christ and Son of Man. The theme 'Bible in film' is analyzed through films including Mary Magdalene, Magnolia, and Pulp Fiction. Films that 'Reimagine the Bible' include Ex Machina and The Tree of Life, and unusual Jesus figures in Pan's Labyrinth, Dogville, and Donnie Darko are explored. 'Film as Bible' considers films such as To The Wonder, Silence, and Parasite. A conclusion explores television shows such as Dekalog and The Handmaid's Tale." (Publisher)

50. Christian Tauchner: *Remembering Franz-Josef Eilers SVD (1932–2021)*. In: *Verbum SVD*, vol. 62, nr. 1, 2021, p.116-138 "Divine Word Missionary and communication expert Franz-Josef Eilers passed away in Manila on January 13, 2021. He was a prominent SVD communication and media expert and had dedicated his life to social communication and the formation of missionaries in the SVD and beyond for an evangelisation in terms of communication. He was a member of the SVD Missiological Institute since 1984 and a diligent and trusted contributor to *Verbum SVD*." (p.116)

51. Marcus Moberg, Sofia Sjö (eds.): *Digital media, young adults, and religion: an international perspective*. London; New York: Routledge, 2020, xi, 179 p. "Utilising results of an unprecedented global study, this volume explores the ways in which young adults in seven different countries engage with digital and social media in religiously significant ways. Presenting and analysing the findings of the international research project Young Adults and Religion in a Global Perspective (YARG), an international panel of contributors shed new light on the impact of digital media and its associated technologies on young people’s religiousities, worldviews, and values. Case studies from China, Finland, Ghana, Israel, Peru, Poland, and Turkey are used to demonstrate how these developments are progressing, not just in the West, but across the world." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/97813551010610

52. **Carta de Belo Horizonte.** Belo Horizonte (Brazil): Mutirão de Comunicação, 2021, 3 p. "Depois de dois dias de reflexões, espiritualidade, encontro e arte, dias 23 e 24 de julho, num encontro que reuniu mais de 5.000 comunicadores católicos de todo o Brasil, a 12ª segunda edição do Mutirão de Comunicação divulgou a Carta de Belo Horizonte, um documento que sintetiza os principais temas, questões e compromissos em torno de uma perspectiva de comunicação católica e cristã no país. A carta foi firmada pelas organizações que promoveram o Mutirão: Comunicação Episcopal Pastoral para a Comunicação da Conferência Nacional dos Bispos do Brasil (CNBB), a Pascom Brasil, a Sígnis Brasil e a Rede Católica de Rádio. O documento reforça que os processos comunicacionais ganham cada vez mais relevância na vida social, “alçados velocemente às telas dos diversos tipos de dispositivos e plataformas”. O texto fala também dos atos de violência física e simbólica como tentativa de opressão e apagamento das diversidades e minorias. Para superar os problemas enfrentados pelo Brasil, sobretudo os do âmbito da comunicação, a Carta de Belo Horizonte propõe um conceito de comunicação mais amplo, que passa pela ‘verdadeira disposição em abrir-se ao outro como condição essencial para um mundo mais fraterno.’ (https://www.cnbb.org.br, 26.7.2021)


53. Andrés Cañizales: *Se hace camino al andar: la historia radial de Fe y Alegría en Venezuela. Hablemos con Gerardo Lombardi*. In: Comunicación <Centro Gumilla, Caracas>, nr. 192, 2020, p.217-222 "Fue una larga conversación con Gerardo Lombardi, comunicador por vocación y por formación, sobre la historia radiofónica de ‘Fe y Alegría’. Lombardi nos habla de los orígenes, del presente y del futuro. Al respecto dice que ‘Fe y Alegría’ está llamada a hacer puentes. Puentes para unos entendimientos que todavía están por hacerse. Y desde el punto de vista educativo, en una eventual reconstrucción del país que tendremos que hacer, como dice Gerardo Lombardi, la propuesta en el campo educativo es una propuesta de educación multimodal con esquemas mixtos, donde la educación a distancia y la radiofónica surgen como una gran posibilidad." (p.217)


54. Diego Mauricio Cortés: *Evangelical indigenous radio stations in Colombia: between the promotion of social change and religious indoctrination*. In: Global Media and Communication, vol. 16, nr. 3, 2020, p.313-328 "This article refutes dominant views that define evangelical indigenous media as intrinsic tools for religious indoctrination. The case of the Colombian Misak community shows that evangelical radio stations can contribute to community building. However, the degree of the positive or negative contribution of evangelical media depends on the dominance of evangelical presence at indigenous localities. The rapid expansion of indigenized evangelical groups via the provision of social services has radicalized Evangelicals against views different from their own. As a result, these evangelical media are progressively leaving their role as promoters of positive social change to become tools for religious indoctrination." (Abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1177/1742766520951973

55. Patricio Donoso Ibañez, Ignacio Sánchez Díaz: *La UC y Canal 13: de la televisión experimental a la era digital*. Santiago de Chile: Ediciones UC, 2020, 138 p. "La UC y Canal 13: de la televisión experimental a la era digital es un recorrido breve a través de la participación de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile en el inicio, institucionalización y evolución del Canal 13 de televisión. Este nace como una actividad experimental en un laboratorio de la Escuela de Ingeniería, sin mayores recursos ni pretensiones, y en menos de seis décadas transita a una industria de multimédios altamente competitiva. El presente libro da cuenta de los diferentes hitos en el desarrollo de esta señal televisiva, poniendo especial foco en lo que fue la década final de la presencia de la Universidad en el Canal, considerando su salida de la propiedad del mismo el año 2017 y lo que se está planteando para el futuro.”

56. María Neusa dos Santos: *Narrativas digitais nas redes sociais: a construção do imaginário religioso na visibilidade mediática*. Sao Paulo: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Sao Paulo, doctoral thesis, 2020, 226 p. "O escopo desta pesquisa abarcou algumas narrativas digitais do catolicismo no Facebook, buscando compreender a construção do imaginário religioso e a visibilidade mediática, a partir do contexto da pós-modernidade, pelos meios digitais. O corpus da pesquisa é composto por anályses de fanpages ligadas ao catolicismo no período de 2016 a 2020, com destaque para as mudanças ocorridas na Igreja Católica causadas pela pandemia de Covid-19 no mundo. A problemática central da pesquisa assenta-se nas seguintes perguntas: Em que medida e sob quais procedimentos de comunicação, mediados pelas tecnologias, há mudanças no imaginário e no comportamento da religião Católica em razão de sua inserção na cibercultura? Há deslocamento de espaço no acesso aos bens da fé do catolicismo? O diálogo estabelecido nas redes e/ou o consumo dos bens da fé sinalizam um novo cenário da Igreja? A hipótese inicial concentra-se na ideia de que as redes sociais estão formando um complexo esquema de transmutações rápidas no catolicismo, do local das manifestações de fé para o global das experiências de fé. Devido à natureza híbrida do objeto de análise, o referencial conceitual utiliza como alíceres a teoria do glocal e da visibilidade mediática desenvolvida por Eugênio Trivinho, sob inspiração na sociodromologia fenomenológica, e a teoria das narrativas digitais de Paul Ricoeur e Janet Murray. Para a compreensão das redes, a análise apoiou-se em Manuel Castells; e das redes sociais, em Raquel Recuero. Além disso, foram utilizadas as obras de teóricos como David Harvey e Fredric Jameson, no que tange à teoria e..."
à crítica da modernidade e pós-modernidade; e de Cornelius Castoriadis, Maffesoli e Juremir Machado Silva, para tratar da teoria do imaginário. Para a compreensão do fenômeno religioso e da religião mediadiática, a análise recorreu às contribuições de Mircea Eliade, Peter Berger, Pierre Bourdieu e Luís Mauro de Sá Martino. Para a compreensão de consumo religioso, apoiou-se em Dom Slater, Nestor Canclini e Luiz Peres-Neto. Os conceitos de narrativas digitais, redes sociais, catolicismo, sagrado, cibercultura, cyberspace, dromocracia, glocl, hibridação, compressão do espaço-tempo foram necessários para o entendimento das manifestações narrativas do catolicismo nas redes sociais. Os resultados da investigação apontam para dados novos, entre os quais de que há uma nova configuração da religião Católica mediada pelas redes sociais, com contornos renovados nos ambientes interativos, em que o “controle” religioso muda o locus da câmera para o fiel, que dita a mensagem a ser consumida.” (Resumo) https://repository.pucsp.br/jspui/handle/handle/23215

ASIA & PACIFIC


"... Faith communities in Malaysia seem to constantly find ways to reach out to each other and to Malaysians who may not necessarily share their backgrounds. This already contradicts the assumption that local religions are often intolerant towards each other. Rather, what is required is a platform for dialogue, representation, and to use a term that a 'Diverse Voices' panellist used, mediation. On the other hand, media practitioners and journalists have helped the fieldwork reflect on the material and political conditions in which local stories about religion are shaped. More importantly, going beyond the 'helicopter view', the project gradually learned what is actually going on from the ground. In fact, one of the journalists has described this constant anxiety over potential punishment, public backlash, and being dismissed as an "unspoken structure." The lesson is, journalists themselves called for empowering, training, and organising. Most journalists mentioned the lack of sustainable resources. While there are existing journalist groups and unions, including the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and Institute of Journalists (IOJ) in Malaysia, these are not focused on supporting the religious reporting process. Rather, they provide more general support for journalists.” (p.23) https://internews.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Moving-Mountains_FA-English.pdf


"This study finds that the Indonesian media ecosystem is not a safe space for marginalized religions. As explained in the conclusion to the content analysis, the space given by the media for news coverage of marginalized religious groups is still very small. Although non-Islamic official religions enjoy enough coverage space, they are only ceremonial in nature. Most of the coverage is given to things like religious holidays. Even if the news coverage of Sigi was quite extensive, this was made possible by the presentation of the issue as part of a national and global discourse: terrorism. In other words, issues related to the marginalized religious groups have no inherent news value unless they are placed in the context of a "big narrative" such as "against terrorism." This leads to the depiction of marginalized religious groups as "victims." They tend to be treated as objects rather than the subjects who can narrate their own point of view. When it comes to news consumption, the internet in Indonesia (as well as in the rest of the world) has become a crucial medium in obtaining news and information, while printed media and radio are gradually losing their relevance. Television, however, remains a popular choice for people’s news consumption. The data shows that this is common across all participants regardless of religion, gender and demography. Significant differences can be seen in the utilization of the internet for marginalized and nonmarginalized religious groups. Use of social media and chat applications to find and share religious information is dominantly carried out by marginalized religious groups. For non-marginalized religious groups, even if they use the internet for this purpose, they do not abandon television as a means to access religious information. Unfortunately, the increasing trend to consume information from the internet is not supported by basic media literacy skills and knowledge.” (Conclusion, p.60) https://www.mediasupport.org/publication/marginalized-religious-communities-in-indonesian-media/


"In Pakistan, religious talk shows emerged as a popular television genre following the 2002 media liberalization reforms. Since then, these shows have become important platforms where ideas about Islam and religious authority in Pakistan are developed and argued. In Religious Television and Pious Authority in Pakistan, Taha Kazi reveals how these talk shows mediate changes in power, belief, and practice. She also identifies the sacrifices and compromises that religious scholars feel compelled to make in order to ensure their presence on television. These scholars, of varying doctrinal and educational backgrounds—including madrassa-educated scholars and self-taught celebrity preachers—are given screen time to debate and issue religious edicts on the authenticity and contemporary application of Islamic concepts and practices. In response, viewers are sometimes allowed to call in live with questions. Kazi maintains that these features inspire viewers to reevaluate the status of scholarly edicts, thereby fragmenting religious authority. By exploring how programming decisions inadvertently affect viewer engagements with Islam, Religious Television and Pious Authority in Pakistan looks beyond the revivalist impact of religious media and highlights the prominence of religious talk shows in disrupting expectations about faith.” (Publisher)


"Religion has ‘returned’ to news discourses, since 9/11, with a focus on Muslims and Islam more recently on Catholicism (in the wake of paedophile priest scandals) and anti-Semitism (with the rise of the far-right movements). These news discourses, however, tend to adopt limited perspectives, and do not reflect the diversity of practices and viewpoints within these religious traditions. As Australia becomes increasingly ‘supercdiverse’, there is a greater need for the inclusivity of cultural perspectives of these religions. Current research findings show that religious literacy among media practitioners in Australia is not only limited to specific notions about a small number of religions, it is exacerbated by an Anglo-Celtic dominance in the media workforce. This article suggests that for news media to provide a more culturally and religiously inclusive public service to promote societal understanding, current and emerging journalists require a more reflexive understanding of religions, through journalism studies and humanities more broadly, and how they have historically shaped the world, and continue to do so.” (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.1386/ajr_00058_1

EUROPE


"El presente artículo empieza explicando, a partir de los documentos del Magisterio de la Iglesia, la vinculación ontológica entre sacerdocio ministerial y comunicación. Sigue mostrando lo resultados de una encuesta llevada a cabo en los seminarios españoles, sobre el estado actual de la formación académica de los seminaristas en dicho ámbito. El estudio subraya el contraste entre la sensibilidad positiva hacia el tema y la falta de aplicación de proyectos concretos, visto que son muy pocos los seminaristas que actualmente cuentan con un curso de comunicación. Tras sugerir las causas de tal desajuste, se proponen algunas líneas de actuación que permitan corregir las deficiencias formativas en este campo. Si bien la parte central del artículo está basada en el caso español, pensamos que la mayor parte de las reflexiones gozan de una aplicación universal." (Resumen)

https://doi.org/10.1080/23753234.2021.1968768


"In der öffentlichen Debatte wird Online-Videos aus dem Spektrum des radikalen Islam zugeschrieben, einen großen Einfluss auf junge Menschen auszuüben. Doch wie nehmen junge Muslim*innen und Nicht-Muslim*innen diese Videos tatsächlich wahr? Wie stark wird ihre Sicht auf die Inhalte von ihrem Religionsverständnis, ihrer sozialen Zugehörigkeit und aktuellen politischen und gesellschaftlichen Debatten in Deutschland beeinflusst? Diese qualitative Studie untersucht die Rezeption ausgewählter radikalislamischer Videos von Marcel Krass, Ahmad Armih (bekannt unter dem Pseudonym »Ahmad Abul Baraa«) sowie von Yasin Bala (»Yasin al-Hanafi«)." (Verlag)

https://www.transcript-verlag.de/978-3-8376-5648-0/radikalislamische-youtube-propaganda


"Can religious messages be transmitted through the media? If so, how and why? Taking these questions as its starting point, and focusing on the relationship between media and religion, this book presents an analysis of the relationship between religion and the media. It explores the inherent qualities of media communication channels and codes and the ways in which they affect the dissemination of religious messages, as well as the arguments over religion used in public discourse. The book also presents a critical analysis of church media in Slovakia, and shows that although the media do have the capacity to convey religious messages, they can only do so in a superficial manner and thus do not represent a suitable instrument for mediating deep spiritual content or serving as a vehicle for evangelization. Another key finding here is that the differences between the basic argumentation structures of the religious and secular worlds are irreconcilable, meaning that conservatives and progressives can expect little more than a basic sense of tolerance and decency from each other." (Publisher)


"Has Russia abandoned its atheist past and embraced Orthodox Christianity as its new moral guide? Reality is more complex and contradictory. Digital sources provide evidence of rising domestic criticism of the Russian Orthodox Church and its leadership. This book offers a nuanced understanding of contemporary Russian Orthodoxy and its changing role in the digital era. Topics covered within this book include: Mediatization theory; Church reforms under Patriarch Kirill; Church-state relations since 2009; Russian Orthodox Church's media policy; Anticlericalism vs. Church criticism; religious, secular and atheistic critiques of the Church in digital media." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367814380

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


"The article argues that the debate over the online prayer is not just an ordinary fatwa issued by religious scholars for the Muslim Ummah, but it rather goes through a complicated process of social, ideantarian, cultural, authoritative, and transnational caveats. The physicality entailed by this debate over the online prayer shows how the place of worship along with the physical presence in it while performing the prayer is considered as an identity marker, a tool for sustaining the social fiber and the culture of the Muslim community. The article concludes by situating the debate over the online prayer within a broader framework of online religion versus religion online and the impact of the virtualization of rituals on the perception of the religious experience." (Abstract)

https://cyberorient.net/2020/12/15/muslim-online-prayer-in-a-socio-cultural-context/

Cinema

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"For the first time, a complete mapping of the film and audiovisual industry in 54 States of the African continent is available, including quantitative and qualitative data and an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses at the continental and regional levels. The report proposes strategic recommendations for the development of the film and audiovisual sectors in Africa and invites policymakers, professional organizations, firms, filmmakers and artists to implement them in a concerted manner. The film and audiovisual industry in Africa has the potential to create over 20 million jobs and generate US$20 billion in revenues per year." (Short summary, p.2)

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379165
Community Media
GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"Citizen Media is a fast-evolving terrain that cuts across a variety of disciplines. It explores the physical artefacts, digital content, performative interventions, practices and discursive expressions of affective sociality that ordinary citizens produce as they participate in public life to effect aesthetic or socio-political change. The seventy-five entries featured in this pioneering resource provide a rigorous overview of extant scholarship, deliver a robust critique of key research themes and anticipate new directions for research on a variety of topics. Cross-references and recommended reading suggestions are included at the end of each entry to allow scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to identify relevant connections across diverse areas of citizen media scholarship and explore further avenues of research." (Publisher)
https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315619811

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN

70. Rose N. Kimani: Negotiating context as a survival strategy: the case of Mugambo Jwetu FM. In: Journal of Alternative and Community Media, vol. 5, nr. 1, 2020, p.87-102

"Kenyan community radio works between international and national media paradigms, while seeking to meet the expectations of its local communities. International funding and training organizations active in the sector focus on enhancing technology for development, freedom of expression, democracy and governance. At the national level, community stations are expected to act as development-oriented media. While development is a value embraced by most stations, freedom of expression is embraced more cautiously, given the political contexts in which they exist. Drawing on fieldwork conducted between 2014 and 2016, this article explores the operational choices that community broadcasters make in view of their funding and training partnerships, all the while negotiating their local, social and political contexts in order to survive. It focuses on Mugambo Jwetu FM, a community radio station in Kenya, as a case study." (Abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1386/oacmc_00076_1

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"El Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, desde su Oficina Regional para América del Sur, en conjunto con OBSERVACOM, una organización no gubernamental regional con sede en Montevideo, presentan este trabajo con un objetivo muy sencillo: recapitular los trabajos que se hicieron en relación con el ejercicio de la libertad de expresión a través de los medios comunitarios en los últimos casi 20 años. Se trata de una recopilación oportuna: desde que por primera vez en 2002 la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos a través de su Relatoría Especial para la Libertad de Expresión se ocupara de esta cuestión en un informe temático hace ya casi 20 años, nos encontramos en este 2021 con la oportunidad histórica que la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos emita una sentencia en un caso concreto, que es el primero enviado por la Comisión sobre esta temática a la Corte. En este trabajo se recopilan entonces no sólo distintas piezas del sistema interamericano de protección de derechos humanos que han venido destacando la importancia que adquieren los medios de comunicación comunitarios para el ejercicio de la libertad de expresión, sino que además se agregan unos trabajos realizados en el marco de la UNESCO y otros que provienen de la sociedad civil, que, a lo largo de estos años, han venido manteniendo el tema en la agenda de las discusiones sobre las reformas aún hoy vigentes, sobre legislación de comunicación audiovisual." (prólogo)


"This study investigates a battle over music and identity at Radio Zapotitlán, a community radio station in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. An analysis of over 20 interviews with station organizers, volunteers and listeners conducted in 2009 and 2010 indicates that while organizers and older listeners celebrated Ranchera music as the station’s predominant musical content, younger listeners fought to broadcast contemporary Banda music. An historical and theoretical analysis of Ranchera music explores its cultural role in mediating experiences of migration and nostalgia. This study finds that Radio Zapotitlán organizers promoted Ranchera music in order to engage the national and transnational nostalgia of Zapotitlán’s displaced migrants, and to meet the expectations of government regulators and transnational nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). It concludes that local, regional, national and transnational interests cannot be disentangled in musical articulations of identity at Radio Zapotitlán." (Abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1083/cccrb0004


"En tiempos de pandemia los medios de comunicación comunitarios profundizan sus prácticas históricas y ratifican los objetivos fundacionales. Entre las reflexiones bienintencionadas de la época es recurrente la idea de “salir mejores” del aislamiento social. En lo referente al vínculo, uso, consumo y participación ciudadana en y con los medios de comunicación hay una oportunidad de reconocer a las radios y televisoras comunitarias como espacios de construcción democrática donde ejercer el derecho a la comunicación puede ser una práctica cotidiana." (p.1)


"Los capítulos que integran [este] libro siguen líneas conductoras en torno al derecho humano a la comunicación, el señalamiento a la concentración de la propiedad mediática como limitante de la diversidad, la necesidad de medios alternativos, así como la articulación de objetivos políticos, sociales y culturales entre sociedad y medios sin fines de lucro. Esta obra emerge de un trabajo conjunto entre profesores y estudiantes de la Maestría en Comunicación y Política de la Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco. Los capítulos de Juan Daniel Montaño Rico y Carlos Eduardo Villalba Gómez, se derivan de sus trabajos de tesis, asesoradas por los otros dos autores del libro, Patricia Ortega Ramírez y Jerónimo Repoll, respectivamente." (Presentación, p.11)

ASIA & PACIFIC


"[This publication] is a manual aimed at enhancing women’s participation and reducing gender inequalities in all aspects of the operations of community radio stations in India. This gender-sensitivity manual is an outcome of a project granted by the International Programme for Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO, to the UNESCO Chair on Community Media at the University of Hyderabad. As the name suggests, the overarching objective of the manual is to foster and reinforce best practices, policies, and programmes concerning gender in community radio (CR). It also seeks to ensure that the editorial content of CR stations remains gender sensitive at all times. The impetus of the project is also that the use of this gender-sensitivity manual by CR stations will contribute directly to the achievement of the key targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the stand-alone Goal 5, which aims to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” (About the manual)
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379941

“The two objectives that this compilation set for itself were documenting community radio best practices and creating a robust sector through knowledge sharing and collaborative learning. The 96 stories [from Bangladesh, India and Nepal] included in the compilation capture the various ways in which the diverse sector is identifying, prioritizing, and addressing concerns in the community’s vis-a-vis the SDGs. These stories describe the creative ways in which content has been developed by using the folk format, engaging the community through discussions, games, and cultural events, and innovative outreach activities. Further, they also highlight collaborations with local institutions and civic administrations and the way in which CRS’ core strengths like youth power especially in educational institutions are harnessed to provide inclusive community programming that truly provides a voice to the voiceless. Finally, the stories also highlight how social media and internet have been co-opted for a wider and on-demand access. The stories embody within them elements worthy of replication and emulation. Several community radio stations are already networking and sharing content and ideas. If these stories are also shared across content aggregation platforms and through the community radio networks, they could reach much wider audiences and initiate new conversations and exchange of ideas building a robust community of practice.” (Way forward, p.34) https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000378245


“The book discusses the socio-historical contexts which allowed community radio to thrive in India. It highlights its potential to create alternative spaces of representation, and opportunity and its importance in preserving and disseminating local knowledge and traditions. The author weaves together ethnographic research and literature, as well as personal narratives and stories of those involved in the field. Further, the monograph critically examines the impact of development agendas on community projects and processes, discussing in detail the pervasiveness of the development discourse in every aspect of community radio and how it manifests on air. It also illustrates the limitations of community radio, within the context of its participation in the ‘spectacle of development’.” (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003191285

Conflicts, Media & Peacebuilding

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

78. Marta Pérez-Escolar, José Manuel Noguera-Vivo (eds.): Hate speech and polarization in participatory society. Abingdon; New York: Routledge, 2022, xxiv, 252 p.

“The book brings together an international team of experts, enabling a broad, multidisciplinary approach that examines hate speech, dislike, polarization, and enclave deliberation as cross axes that influence offline and digital conversations. The diverse case studies herein offer insights into international news media, television drama and social media in a range of contexts, suggesting an academic frame of reference for examining this emerging phenomenon within the field of communication studies.” (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003109891


“The Online Regulation Series Handbook provides an analysis of global online regulation, analysing over 60 legislations and regulatory proposals in 17 countries, and their implications for countering terrorist and violent extremist content. The Handbook is based on analysis published throughout October and November 2020 for the first edition of our Online Regulation Series. All country analyses have been updated to reflect recent regulatory changes. For each country, we provide a summary of the regulatory framework and the key takeaways for tech platforms, as well as Tech Against Terrorism’s commentary. The Handbook also includes Tech Against Terrorism’s key recommendations for governments and an analysis of International Human Rights Law as a possible framework for content regulation and governance. With this Handbook we aim to provide a comprehensive and accessible resource for tech platforms to improve their understanding of legislative developments and key trends in online regulation.” (Publisher) https://bit.ly/30VMIhg


“Those working in media face plenty of challenges when it comes to handling issues around conflict more sensitively. In some countries, these difficulties could include forced or unsolicited loyalty, a lack of information, or physical and psychological threats. In others, challenges could arise from prejudice fostered by excessive homogeneity in newsrooms, or a lack of consciousness for the limits of certain views. In DW Akademie’s publication, authors from around the world approach the question of how media workers can cover conflict better. This includes reflections on how to cope with the deluge of hatred online and on how to deal with trauma. Rather than academic, analytical texts, the publication is made up of thoughtfully written, carefully illustrated and often personal pieces.” (Publisher) https://static.dw.com/downloads/58074508/dw-akademiemedia-and-conflict2021.pdf


“... Although the doctrine of information intervention initially evolved to address concerns around the role of mass media in conflict, it can provide inspiration for adjusting legal frameworks, and core foundational tenets such as the Responsibility to Protect, to address the risks coming from the spread of hate speech and disinformation to social media channels. Nevertheless, the peculiarities of social media require a different approach, and one that includes the responsibilities of social media companies and has at its core, accountable content moderation. Private companies like social media can be both tools of intervention and barriers to intervention. Therefore, Information Intervention Councils (IIC) could have a crucial role in increasing the degree of proceduralisation of information intervention and avoiding disproportionate interference with states’ sovereignty and human rights. There are some limits regarding the role of IIC with regard to participation of stakeholders, the complexity in dealing with escalation, and the effectiveness of its guidelines. However, the establishment of such a system, within regional or international bodies, would increase global awareness while providing a framework to address the spread of online hate and disinformation escalating offline harms including genocide and ethnic cleansing.” (Conclusion) https://doi.org/10.14763/2021.2.1567


“In a general climate where facts and misinformation blur, and are intentionally blurred, this book asks what determines whether people accept and share (mis)information, and what can be done to counter misinformation? All three of these aspects need to be understood in the context of online social networks, which have fundamentally changed the way information is produced, consumed, and transmitted. The contributions within this volume summarize the most up-to-date empirical findings, theories, and applications and discuss cutting-edge ideas and future directions of interventions to counter fake news.” (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429295379


"This case study examines social networks as the modern intersections of radical discourse and political extremism. But, as this research will show, extremist content in social networks, even that which has telegraphed violent hate crimes, is seldom communicated in textbook forms bigotry or provocations of violence. Today, the true challenge for social networks like Facebook and Twitter is addressing hate speech that reads more like fear
on narratives and storytelling. It discusses the importance of transportation, identification, and perceived realism for narrative persuasion as well as the possibility to use fictional utopian narratives in P/CVE campaigns." (Abstract)
https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/467

"Inclusion in peace processes is conventionally understood in "offline" terms, such as being physically present at the negotiation table. However, digital technology can support a mediator’s efforts to integrate a broad variety of perspectives, interests, and needs into a peace process. This report explores the current and future practice of digital inclusion, giving a framework for understanding the possibilities and risks, and providing examples of practical ways digital technologies can contribute to mediated peace processes." (www.usip.org)

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN

"Depuis 2014, PeaceTech Lab a entrepris des recherches et travaillé avec des partenaires locaux dans 13 pays pour comprendre la dynamique des discours de haine et le lien entre la prolifération des récits haineux en ligne et les événements violents hors ligne. Cette recherche et les lexiques qui en résultent cherchent à identifier et à contextualiser le type particulier de langage susceptible de provoquer la violence en exacerbant les tensions existantes et en approfondissant les crises en cours au sein des communautés en conflit. Plutôt que d’évaluer l’existence ou la prévalence générale des discours de haine, chaque lexique examine plutôt les termes particuliers dans le contexte de leurs origines et leur contexte, ainsi que leur utilisation dans le contexte d’un pays particulier. Pour réussir à surveiller et à contrer les discours haineux dans leurs degrés de gravité, nous devons d’abord identifier le vocabulaire le plus couramment utilisé et le contexte social et politique qui rend ces termes offensants, provocateurs ou potentiellement dangereux … Comme illustré tout au long de ce document, les discours de haine sont à la fois un symptôme et une cause de ces divisions. Dans le contexte de la réalité actuelle d’insécurité et de conflit en RCA, les discours incendiaires sont utilisés comme un outil pour atteindre des objectifs politiques et matériels. Cela a pour conséquence d’approfondir les divisions entre les communautés religieuses et ethniques, de polariser davantage les opinions et de déshumaniser les groupes ciblés, d’exacerber les sentiments de frustration et de grief et d’abaisser le seuil des actes de violence." (Introduction) sujets: hate speech - Central African Republic - encyclopedias, dictionaries, reference works

"After a recent contested election, the Central African Republic finds itself in a precarious situation. Violence around the election combined with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and destructive flooding have caused the humanitarian emergency to reach its worst state in five years. Meanwhile, the CAR government has been accused of engaging in Russian-backed disinformation campaigns targeting domestic civil society, French diplomats and the United Nations peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA), threatening key relationships. Even as the long-simmering issue of hate speech continues to draw fault lines through the country, efforts to combat these campaigns have focused primarily on challenging fake news rather than addressing the underlying fear and prejudice that spoilers use to stoke conflict." (Introduction)

"This book conceptually examines the role of communication in global jihad from multiple perspectives. The main premise is that communication is so vital to the global jihadist movement today that jihadists will use any communicative tool, tactic, or approach to impact or transform people and the public at large. The author explores how and why the benefits of communication are a huge boon to jihadist operations, with jihadis communicating their ideological programs to develop a strong base for undertaking terrorist violence. The use of various information and communication systems and platforms by jihadists exemplifies the most recent progress in the relationship between terrorism, media, and the new information environment. For jihadist organizations like ISIS and Al-Qaeda, recruiting new volunteers for the Caliphate who are willing to sacrifice their lives for the cause is a top priority. Based on various conceptual analyses, case studies, and theoretical applications, this book explores the communicative tools, tactics, and approaches used for this recruitment, including narratives, propaganda, mainstream media, social media, new information and communication technologies, the jihadi sphere, visual imagery, media framing, globalization, financing networks, crime - jihad nexus, group communication, radicalization, social movements, fatwas, martyrdom videos, pop-jihad, and jihadist nasheeds. " (Publisher)
https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003106142%20

"The role that the news media play in wartime has been an important topic in journalism scholarship. Peace journalism has become a popular concept in the study of the media’s role in conflicts in the early 21st century. This literature review seeks to determine whether peace journalism can be considered a tool for the field of media development, formulating some concrete recommendations for practitioners. Defining the core tenets of peace journalism, it discusses the ways in which journalists have been perceived as contributors to peace and the extents to which this notion has been both criticized and used in media development. In conclusion, the review points to future research to help deepen the understanding of this approach and the potential for its implementation." (Abstract)

86. Linda Schlegel: Storytelling against extremism: how fiction could increase the persuasive impact of counter- and alternative narratives in P/CVE. In: Journal for Deradicalization, nr. 27, 2021, p.193-236
"The past decade has seen an increase in research on narratives in extremist communication and their role in radicalization processes as well as on both counter- and alternative narratives as tools to prevent or counter radicalization processes. Conspicuously absent from the P/CVE literature so far, however, is a discussion on fictional narratives and the potential of stories not based on ‘realistic’ presentations of life. This article is an exploratory contribution to the discourse suggesting how fictional narratives, low in external realism but eliciting a high degree of transportation and identification in audiences, may be useful tools for P/CVE campaigns built..." (Read more)

“This book discusses the relationship between media, conflict and democratisation in Africa from the perspective of media ethics. Despite the commonly held view that conflict is a destructive political force that can destabilize democracies, the argument in this book is that while many conflicts can become violent and destructive, they can also be managed in a way that can render them productive and communicative to democratisation. Drawing on theoretical insights from the fields of journalism studies, political studies and cultural studies, the book discusses the ethics of conflict coverage and proposes a normative model for covering conflict and democratisation. The book argues for an ‘ethics of listening’ which would enable the media to de-escalate violent conflict and contribute to the deepening of an agonistic democratic culture in contexts of high inequality, ethnic and racial polarisation and uneven access to media. This argument is deepening of an agonistic democratic culture in contexts of high inequality, media, conflict and democracy in Africa.”


“PeaceTech Lab, in partnership with Andariya and the Sudan Development Initiative (SUDIA), intends this effort to contribute to understanding language and the context for potential conflict during the transition to civilian government and to eventual elections in Sudan. This project seeks to tackle the problem of identifying and contextualizing the particular type of language that’s likely to cause violence. Rather than assessing the existence or prevalence of hateful speech, this project instead examines the terms, their origins and context, and their use in a particular country context. To successfully monitor and counter hateful speech, we must first identify specific terms and the social and political context that makes them offensive, inflammatory, or even potentially dangerous. This research also seeks to identify alternative language that would mitigate or counter the impact of this speech and thereby contribute to building peace in the country. Finally, this resource intends to inform other individuals and organizations involved in monitoring and countering hateful speech in Sudan so that their work can be more effective.” (Introduction)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


objects: crime & violence reporting; human security reporting; television news - Argentina

https://www.editorialtseo.com/archivos/19747/atravesar-las-pantallas/

ASIA & PACIFIC


“In an effort to help prevent violent extremism in Central Asia, the Research Centre for Religious Studies of Kyrgyzstan conducted an analysis of values, narratives, and online messages created and distributed by banned extremist groups in five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The study included over 1.6 million messages containing religious rhetoric and provides insight into the meanings of the messages and the channels for dissemination, as well as the impact of the messages on the target audience. This was followed by a field study of 4,005 respondents in the 18-35 age range. In addition, the survey also sought to identify the media preferences of young people in the region. Using the findings, the Centre developed communication strategies for each country that recommended how media, NGOs, state authorities, and religious leaders could, with a focus on young people, contribute to promoting peace. Although less than 1% of the analyzed messages containing religious rhetoric had what would be considered dangerous content, those particular messages often resonated with users’ values and interests, especially young people. The messages promoting violence used specific, complex terms that were geared to people who were already followers of radical ideas rather than the average user. The intent of the message was to deepen the commitment of followers rather than recruit new followers. Administrators of violent extremist channels have developed multi-channel access strategies for potential recipients (through various platforms, chat rooms, personal messages, and reposts), thwarting the blocking measures used by Central Asian governments. The messaging by extremist groups promotes: purity of faith, mutual support to fellow believers, fighting against infidels and apostates, rejection of secular power and its decisions, ambition to create a caliphate, and anti-Semitism. The main target audience of distributors of extremist content is young people aged 18-30 who are dissatisfied with the current political environment and who share a strong sense of injustice. Those aged 18-21 showing the strongest support for the influence of religion on politics. Level of education is also a risk factor: young people with less education tend to engage more with the content.” (Publisher)

94. Marie Lamensch: The fall of Kabul: when platforms enable propaganda. Centre for International Governance Innovation, August 27, 2021

“Social media companies face an increasingly urgent ethical dilemma about the use of their platforms by Taliban officials and supporters.”

https://www.cigionline.org/articles/the-fall-of-kabul-when-platforms-enable-propaganda/


“This report ties together young Pakistani people’s experiences of hate and extremism – with contextual research and questions put to young people in Pakistan, centred around their views on identity, media consumption patterns and perceptions of the state and national news media. This research has resulted in a series of ten lessons for creating more effective counter-narrative campaigns that will help practitioners better understand the perceptions, media habits and experiences of Pakistani youth in relation to hate speech and extremism. The lessons have been modelled according to the methodology for creating counter-narratives, as developed by ISD’s YouthCAN project in 2016.” (p.7)


EUROPE

96. From “memory wars” to a common future: overcoming polarisation in Ukraine. Arena; London School of Economics; Johns Hopkins University, SNF Agora Institute, 2021, 95 p.

“This project has explored the ways in which an independent, public service-spiritual media could create content about historical issues that avoids playing into propaganda-driven divides, fosters a more constructive discourse around history and brings Ukrainians into a common national conversation. The results of our project will also be of use to public diplomats, civic actors and educators, as well as to media outlets that share our aim of reducing polarisation in Ukraine and other countries, and building resilient societies with a full, free and evidenced-driven public debate. Arena began the project with polling and segmentation analysis that investigated Ukrainians’ attitudes to history, political beliefs, identity and social values. We then held focus groups designed to identify the common concerns that unite Ukrainians. Using various insights from that analysis and the advice of prominent historians, we worked with Hromadske, an independent Ukrainian online media outlet, to create 16 pieces of video content. Finally, we explored polarised audiences’ reactions to these videos by measuring levels of online engagement and carrying out opinion polls, focusing in particular

"Social media increasingly shapes the way in which we perceive conflicts and conflict parties abroad. Conflict parties, therefore, have started using social media strategically to influence public opinion abroad. This book explores the phenomenon by examining, (1) which strategies of external communication conflict parties use during asymmetric conflicts and (2) what shapes the selection of these communication strategies. In a comprehensive case study of the conflict in Israel and Palestine, Bernd Hirschberger shows that the selection of strategies of external communication is shaped by the (asymmetric) conflict structure." (Publisher) https://www.transcript-verlag.de/978-3-8376-5509-4/external-communication-in-social-media-during-asymmetric-conflicts/


"In this study, Yael Warshel assesses Israeli and Palestinian versions of Sesame Street, which targeted negative inter-group attitudes and stereotypes. Merging communication, peace and conflict studies, social psychology, anthropology, political science, education, Middle Eastern and childhood studies, this book provides a template to think about how audiences receive, interpret, use and are influenced by peace communication. By picking apart the text and subtext of the kind of media these specific audiences of children consume, Warshel examines how they interpret peace communication interventions, are socialized into Palestinians, Jewish Israelis and Arab/Palestinian Israelis, the political opinions they express and the violence they reproduce. She questions whether peace communication practices have any relevant structural impact on their audiences, critiques such interventions and offers recommendations for improving future communication interventions into political conflict worldwide." (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108622714


https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/47099

Democracy, Governance & Media, Political Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"This resource combines the collective wisdom of organizations on the front lines of combatting disinformation globally. This living project provides an outline of what’s being done to address the challenge in key areas and provides a searchable database of the organizations around the world engaged in making the digital landscape safe for democracy. Effective democracies require that citizens have access to accurate and impartial electoral and political information. Disinformation campaigns spread cynicism, distort political processes and hinder citizens’ ability to make sound political decisions. Together we seek to identify what works, and expand the community engaged in this effort." (Publisher) https://counteringdisinformation.org


"This primer presents an overview of disinformation culture to give readers a sense of key concepts, terminology, select case studies, and programmatic design options. Disinformation is by no means new. Although social media platforms have emerged as the most efficient spreaders of false information, disinformation is also spread through analog media such as radio, television, and newspapers. It is, however, the combination of traditional analog media, in concert with new digital technologies, that allows information to spread faster and more broadly (even across borders) in unprecedented ways. Experts have described this phenomenon as “information disorder,” a condition in which truth and facts coexist in a milieu of misinformation and disinformation—conspiracy theories, lies, propaganda, and half-truths. They have labeled its ability to undermine democracy and individual autonomy “a wicked problem,” i.e., a problem that is difficult and complex, such as poverty or climate change. Despite the immensity of the challenge, there are promising ways that journalists, civil society organizations, technology specialists, and governments are finding to prevent and counter misinformation and disinformation. This primer presents several programmatic ideas to consider for stand-alone or integrative approaches as part of democracy and governance-related programming." (p.1) https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00XFKF.pdf


"Our 2020 report highlights the recent trends of computational propaganda across 81 countries and the evolving tools, capacities, strategies, and resources used to manipulate public opinion around the globe. We identify three key trends in this year’s inventory of disinformation activity: 1. Cyber troop activities continues to increase around the world. This year, we found evidence of 81 countries using social media to spread computational propaganda and disinformation about politics. This has increased from last years’ report, in which we identified 70 countries with cyber troop activity. 2. Over the last year, social media firms have taken important steps to combat the misuse of their platforms by cyber troops. Public announcements by Facebook and Twitter between January 2019 and November 2020 reveal that more than 317,000 accounts and pages have been removed by the platforms. Nonetheless, almost US $10 million has still been spent on political advertisements by cyber troops operating around the world. 3. Private firms increasingly provide manipulation campaigns. In our 2020 report, we found firms operating in forty-eight countries, deploying computational propaganda on behalf of a political actor. Since 2018 there have been more than 65 firms offering computational propaganda as a service. In total, we have found almost US $60 million was spent on hiring these firms since 2009." (Executive summary) https://comprop.oii.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/127/2021/10/CyberTroop-Report-2020-v.2.pdf


“A thematic meta-analysis – of recent literature on online propaganda in the context of the Global South, and 20 Facebook-funded research projects in 2018 – shows that research is overwhelmingly focused on the psychological and behavioral impacts of propaganda. This research advocates for promoting “media literacy” and helping citizens “inoculate” themselves against propaganda. This approach has limited use in tackling propaganda in the Global South. It not only oversimplifies “media literacy,” but also fails to examine, quite crucially, how the state, corporations, and media institutions interact – the political economy of propaganda. Further, scholars need to reflect on how entities such as Facebook fund such research to deflect scrutiny of their institutional role in propaganda-related violence in the Global South.” (Essay summary) https://misinfonews.hks.harvard.edu/article/overlooking-the-political-economy-in-the-research-on-propaganda/

Surveyed CSOs often held simultaneously skeptical and positive opinions about their relationships with social media companies. Some receive preferential access to data and even funding for their work (raising concerns about independence), while others report a lack of responsiveness from company representatives. In the Global South and Eastern Europe, many organizations with smaller or growing ones, or pool efforts, skill sets, and expertise to encourage diverse research by design rather than by prejudicial impact on human rights and democracy. COVID-19 compounds the perspectives of specific, under-analyzed communities. “(Executive summary, p.3-4) https://www.ned.org/mapping-civil-society-responses-to-disinformation-international-forum/ 105. Matthew Cebul, Jonathan Pinckney: Digital authoritarianism and nonviolent action: challenging the digital counterrevolution. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), 2021, 23 p.


“Disinformation undermines human rights and many elements of good quality democracy; but counter-disinformation measures can also have a prejudicial impact on human rights and democracy. COVID-19 compounds both these dynamics and has unleashed more intense waves of disinformation, allied to human rights and democracy setbacks. Effective responses to disinformation are needed at multiple levels, including formal laws and regulations, corporate measures and civil society action. While the EU has begun to tackle disinformation in its external actions, it has scope to place greater stress on the human rights dimension of this challenge. In doing so, the EU can draw upon best practice examples from around the world that tackle disinformation through a human rights lens. This study proposes steps the EU can take to build counter-disinformation more seamlessly into its global human rights and democracy policies.” (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.2861/59161 107. Shashi Jayakumar, Benjamin Ang, Nur Diyanah Anwar (eds.): Disinformation and fake news. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, xii, 158 p.

1 Introduction
2 How news audiences think about misinformation across the world
3 Tools of Disinformation: How fake news gets to deceive
4 Disinformation as a threat to national security
5 Building digital resilience ahead of elections and beyond
6 Hate speech in Myanmar: The perfect storm
7 Fighting information manipulation: The French experience
8 Disinformation and cultural practice in Southeast Asia
9 NATO amidst hybrid warfare threats: effective strategic communications as a tool against disinformation and propaganda
10 Lithuanian Elves and countermeasures

“Visual imagery is at the heart of humanitarian and human rights activism, and video has become a key tool in these efforts. The Saffron Revolution in Myanmar, the Green Movement in Iran, and Black Lives Matter in the United States have all used video to expose injustice. In Seeing Human Rights, Sandra Ristovska examines how human rights organizations are seeking to professionalize video activism through video production, verification standards, and training. The result, she argues, is a proxy profession that uses human rights videos to tap into journalism, the law, and political advocacy.” (publisher) https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/12244.001.0001 109. Bermet Talant: How journalists can address misinformation on Telegram. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 2021, 35 p.

“As of July 2021, Telegram had 550 million active users worldwide – more than the individual user bases of Twitter, Snapchat and Discord. It is the fifth most-popular messaging app after Facebook-owned WhatsApp and Messenger, and WeChat and QQ which dominate the Chinese market. For this paper, I looked at Telegram’s policies and functionalities to help understand what made it so attractive to disinformation actors both in the Ukraine, which has a long history of Telegram engagement, and Brazil, Spain and Germany where it has had more of an impact in recent years. According to the journalists and digital researchers I interviewed about investigating misinformation and disinformation on Telegram, there are ways to address the issue, both on and off the platform: by investigating movements and their political or financial interest, by producing more responsible journalism, through clearer communication from governments, and through the continued moderation efforts on other social media platforms.” (p.7-8) https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-10/RI%20paper%20_Bermet_FINAL.pdf 110. Howard Tumber, Silvio R. Waisbord: The Routledge companion to media disinformation and populism. London; New York: Routledge, 2021, 582 p.

“This companion brings together various concepts used to analyse dimensions of media disinformation and populism. The companion is theoretically and methodologically comprehensive and features various historical and critical approaches providing a full and incisive understanding of media, misinformation and populism. It is both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary consisting of contributions from scholars analysing aspects of misinformation, disinformation and populism across countries, political systems and media systems. A global, comparative approach to the study of misinformation and populism is important in identifying common elements and particular characteristics, and these individual essays cover a wide range of topics and themes, with contributions from both leading and young scholars. The distinctiveness of the companion is its encompassing of a variety of subject areas: Political Communication, Journalism, Law, Sociology, Cultural studies, International Politics, and International Relations.” (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003004431%20

"Concerns surrounding the threats that digital platforms pose to the functioning of Western liberal democracies have grown since the 2016 U.S. election. Yet despite a preponderance of academic work in this area, the precise nature of these threats, empirical solutions for their redress, and their relationship to the wider digital political economy remain undertheorized. This article addresses these gaps with a semisystematic literature review that identifies and defines four prominent threats—fake news, filter bubbles/echo chambers, online hate speech, and surveillance—and constructs a typology of "workable solutions" for combating these threats that highlights the tendency to silo technical, regulatory, or culturally embedded approaches." (Abstract) https://ioc.org/index.php/ioc/article/viewFile/12959/3082


"This document presents a vision for a grand, civil societal response to online manipulation: developing the capability to detect it; the coalitions to confront it, the strategies to prevent it, and the structures of cooperation and funding that are needed to do both across all the causes and issues that it now threatens to undermine. It is a response that must combine the specialisation and sophistication that comes with scale with those particular strengths that civil society always has: its diversity, transparency, capacity to connect with marginalised voices, and its bedrock of humane and humanising values." (Vision, p.1) https://www.isdglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/isd_201.pdf


"Disinformation tactics and the responses in place to try to mitigate them online are changing rapidly. Organisations witnessing or targeted by disinformation therefore require a baseline understanding of the threats posed by disinformation and how to spot them while conducting their work. This toolkit sets out simple steps to do so. The toolkit lays out an approach that organisations can undertake to begin to track online disinformation on subjects that they care about. The process is intended to have a very low barrier to entry, with each stage achievable using either over-the-counter or free-to-use social listening tools." (Publisher) https://www.isdglobal.org/isd-publications/the-101-of-disinformation-detection/


"The Hewlett Foundation’s decision to add a focus on disinformation to its 2017 US Democracy strategy was motivated by a desire to figure out how best to encourage social media platforms to reduce polarization exacerbated by disinformation. The foundation invested in two major efforts to support this ambition: a multi-funder partnership with Facebook to create data access for independent researchers to study the impact of social media on democracy and elections; and a grant making portfolio conceived to build an academic field to deepen the understanding of disinformation and identify policy solutions that mitigate its spread and impact on society. This is the second evaluation in a two-part series to investigate the effectiveness of both of these important efforts.2 The data we collected indicate that the key Program Officer at the time, Kelly Born, used her voice, networking skills and foresight to create momentum in the philanthropic funding of disinformation research. Among all the tactics at the foundation’s disposal, this program officer’s own personal skillset was critical to the foundation’s ability to execute on its strategic goals. The peer funders and grantees who know the foundation well cite the program officer’s role as integral to the foundation’s contributions. In a similar vein, foundation president Larry Kramer’s decision to create a multi-funder partnership with Facebook is also perceived as evidence of the philanthropy’s ability to take risks, innovate and act decisively to respond to external events. Although the Facebook experiment did not achieve its stated goals, several stakeholders in our interviews noted that it tested essential assumptions about the obstacles preventing social media companies from sharing user data with independent academic researchers in order to contribute to the public good." (Executive summary) https://hewlett.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Final-Hewlett-evaluation-report-on-disinformation-.pdf


"Esta [publicación] investiga y reflexiona sobre las complejidades, ambigüedades y vacíos del activismo digital. Partiendo de un trabajo de campo sobre movimientos sociales, colectivos y partidos políticos en España, Italia y México, Emiliano Treré desentraña la naturaleza híbrida del activismo contemporáneo que combina lo físico y lo digital, lo humano y lo no humano, lo viejo y lo nuevo, lo interno y lo externo, lo corporativo y lo alternativo. Esta obra demuestra que el activismo digital es ambivalente y que el poder algorítmico tiene dos caras: ocultar el autoritarismo o repensar la democracia; servir a la represión y el proselitismo o practicar la apropiación y la resistencia." (Capa posterior) https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/la-comunicacion/17279.pdf


"The aim of this paper is to investigate the phenomena of misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation, as well as their impact on the political sphere. In addition, the paper attempts to explain the harmful influence of misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation on public debates, democratic processes, and civil society engagement." (Introduction) https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/2020-08/200825_E-Paper3_ENG.pdf

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"The volume first examines the teaching of media literacy in state-run schools in seven Sub-Saharan African countries as of mid-2020, as relates to misinformation. It explains the limited elements of broad media and information literacy (MLI) included in the curriculum in the seven countries studied and the elements of media literacy related specifically to
misinformation taught in one province of South Africa since January 2020. The authors propose a theory of 'misinformation literacy'—six fields of specific knowledge and skills required to reduce students' susceptibility to false and misleading claims. Identifying obstacles to the introduction and effective teaching of misinformation literacy, the authors make five recommendations for the promotion of misinformation literacy in schools, to reduce the harm misinformation causes. The second report in the volume examines changes made to laws and regulations related to 'false information' in eleven countries across Sub-Saharan Africa 2016-2020 from Ethiopia to South Africa. By examining the terms of such laws against what is known of misinformation types, drivers and effects, it assesses the effects of punitive policies and those of more positive approaches that provide accountability in political debate by promoting access to accurate information and corrective speech. In contrast to the effects described for most recent regulations relating to misinformation, the report identifies ways in which legal and regulatory frameworks can be used to promote a healthier information environment.” (Back cover)

https://doi.org/10.18997/book53

120. Lynda Chinene Iroulo: A weapon of the weak: fighting police brutality through social media. Hamburg: German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), 2021, 12 p. “The 20 October 2021 marks the first anniversary of the shooting of unarmed protesters by the Nigerian military. The movement pushing to abolish the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) has proved how social media can make the voices of the weak heard. However, recent developments surrounding social media regulations in the aftermath of the shooting show that the right to freedom of expression is at risk of regression.” (Abstract)

https://pure.giga-hamburg.de/ws/files/28573208/web_Africa_2021_06.pdf

121. Terje Skjerdal, Mulatur Alemayehu Moges: The ethnification of the Ethiopian media. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University; Fojo Media Institute; International Media Support (IMS), 2021, 59 p. “... The press situation in the country is deeply disconcerting. The reason for this is that the media landscape is as polarized as never before, and that parts of the media are being blamed for playing a pivotal role in the turbulence which have erupted in various parts of the country since 2019. The suspicion of many people is that the media are being exploited to propagate an ethnic agenda. Towards this backdrop, the intention of the study is to examine the role of the media in ethnic tensions in contemporary Ethiopia. The methodology is twofold, combining in-depth interviews with framing analysis. For the interview part, we have met approximately 25 persons with key positions in all major parts of the media in the country. For the framing analysis, we have scrutinized the media coverage of eight crucial incidents of 2019 in ten different media outlets. We argue that the tendencies we’re observing in the media can be described as an intensified ethnification process. By this we mean that ethnic belonging and identity politics are gaining significance as central frames of reference in the current Ethiopian media discourse. Ethnicity is being employed as a key to interpret media messages, and it outlines a frame for classifying media channels and personalities. We identify two major frames, annihilation and othering, which are indicative of the tendency of journalists to align with their ethnic background...” (Executive summary)

https://www.mediassupport.org/publication/the-ethnification-of-ethiopian-media/


123. Grace Brenda W. Okoth: How Kenyans on Twitter use visuals as a form of political protest. In: kommunikation.medien, nr. 12, 2020, 27 p. “The growth of the Internet in the last two decades has helped increase political and civic en-gagement and scrutiny. The growth of a digital economy in Kenya has led to the emergence of a vibrant online community with 89.7 % of the population having access to the Internet. This paper examines how Kenyans on Twitter (KOT) use visuals as a form of political protest. Using an open source data tool, the paper provides results from a qualitative analysis of 200 tweets that drove three political hashtags with a special focus on the most prominent memes, cartoons and pictures. This research finds that #KOT uses visuals to highlight government corruption and incompetence through mockery, condemnation and humour.” (Abstract)

https://doi.org/10.25598/JKM/2020-12.4

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


126. Kevin Pallister: Digital caudillos: the use of social media in Guatemalan presidential campaigns. In: Journal of Politics in Latin America (JPLA), vol. 13, nr. 2, 2021, p.269-283 “This article contributes to the scholarship on Latin American campaigning by presenting data on the use of social media by presidential candidates in Guatemala’s 2019 election, including a content analysis of more than 2,000 Facebook posts along fifteen variables. The data show that Facebook use by presidential campaigns is ubiquitous and allows campaigns to disseminate messages in non-traditional formats. Candidates use their Facebook accounts to mention issues of concern to voters and to make promises to fix the country’s problems, but offer far more slogans and vague promises than detailed policy proposals. They also rarely attack other candidates or tout their own qualifications for the presidency. The data also reveal systematic differences in campaign messaging between frontrunner and long-shot candidates.” (Abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1177/1866802X211010319

127. Ana Cristina Suzina (ed.): The evolution of popular communication in Latin America. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, xv, 234 p. “This book brings together twelve contributions that trace the empirical-conceptual evolution of Popular Communication, associating it mainly with the context of inequalities in Latin America and with the creative and collective appropriation of communication and knowledge technologies as a strategy of resistance and hope for marginalized social groups. In this way, even while emphasizing the Latin American and even ancestral identity of this current of thought, this book positions it as an epistemology of the South capable of inspiring relevant reflections in an increasingly unequal and mediatized world. The volume’s contributors include both early-career and established professionals and natives of seven countries in Latin America.” (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-62557-3

128. Luiz Fernando Toledo: Unlocking the investigative potential of Freedom of Information Acts. Oxford: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 2021, 27 p. “Experts say having a law for access to public information is important to enhance public transparency, but it’s only the starting point in the battle against state secrecy. How can journalists harness such laws and why should the news media care about it? This paper is divided into four parts: the first chapter gives a brief summary of what FOI is and some practical examples of stories that have been published with it. The second chapter explores the data from a national survey about how journalists are using the law. The survey was conducted with the help of Maria Esperidião at the
The Philippines is one of the first countries where the potential for online disinformation.

This article brings the results of an investigation into the role of WhatsApp audio messages in the 2018 Brazilian presidential elections, proposing that instant voice messaging borrows elements from radio language. We started from a broader research, conducted by the Brazilian National Institute of Science and Technology in Digital Democracy (INCT.DD, in its Portuguese acronym), which identified a network composed of 220 WhatsApp groups – all of them with open-entry links – supporting different candidates. Those groups put together thousands of anonymized profiles linked through connections to similar groups, configuring an extensive network. More than 1 million messages, including 98,000 audios, were gathered and downloaded during 2018 Brazilian electoral period (from June to October). We focused on eighteen audios with major circulation (totaling 3622 appearances) among the ones shared at least 100 times, which were extracted and analysed. The use of radio content analysis techniques pointed out strong evidence that audio messaging remediate radiophonic elements such as intimacy and colloquial language to accelerate disinformation campaigns. (Abstract)


"This article analyses how the political right in parts of the Global South has appropriated social media platforms to communicate narratives of anti-modernity and anti-globalisation, which have been popular amongst the political left and presented them instead as their own. It does so by engaging in a comprehensive analysis of Brazilian presidential election online discourses and the role of WhatsApp audio messages in the campaign. The article shows how WhatsApp audio messages have become a popular medium for political communication in the Global South, and how they have been used to spread narratives of anti-modernity and anti-globalisation. The article contributes to the understanding of how social media platforms are being used to spread narratives of anti-modernity and anti-globalisation, and how these narratives are being used to influence public opinion."


"The Philippines is one of the first countries where the potential for online disinformation threats to undermine democratic processes, especially during elections, was noticed... This report takes a deep look at an online survey that Internews conducted, explores the cultural and emotional dimensions of disinformation and how they form part of the broader political transformations taking place in the Philippines, examines how the Philippine disinformation ecosystem fits into the regional landscape, looks into financial incentives and legislation, and formulates a set of strategic and programmatic recommendations to better tackle the issue of disinformation in the Philippines." (https://internews.org)


"The current report illuminates the scope, means, and reach of Russia’s soft-power influence through the phenomenon of media capture. It traces the regime’s malign impact on good governance and democratic development in eight Southeast European countries (EU members: Bulgaria and Croatia, as well as EU aspirants: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo). An understanding of the Kremlin’s media influence has been developed based on the assessment of: (1) the instruments that Russia deploys to expand its influence over public discourses; (2) the channels and narratives of Russian disinformation utilized to sway views of the West and its key institutions, the EU and NATO; (3) the impact of Kremlin narratives on societal perceptions; (4) the amplification of Russian media influence through a convergence with the disinformation activities of other authoritarian states, particularly China. The cross-country regional comparison reveals several key similarities in Russia’s media capture tactics. The Kremlin typically deploys informal instruments of influence. These are manifested in the cultivation of opaque local oligarchic networks, rather than through traceable ownership of SEE media companies. To amplify the impact of these informal tools, Russia has also leveraged the dependence of media outlets in the region on advertising revenue from Russian-owned or dependent companies to exert pressure on their editorial policy. In addition, Russian state-owned propaganda outlets make their content freely available for republishing in local languages, which facilitates the uptake of pro-Russian media content." (Executive summary)

133. Why conspiratorial propaganda works and what we can do about it: audience vulnerability and resistance to anti-Western, pro-Kremlin disinformation in Ukraine. London School of Economics and Political Science; Internews Ukraine; Cardiff University, Crime and Security Research Institute, 2021, 45 p.

"The most effective propaganda resonates with audiences’ underlying worldviews and personal experiences. In order to fight it, one has to understand the mindsets that it prey on. This paper sets out to do exactly that. We first track a set of Kremlin-aligned propaganda narratives across Ukrainian media, then measure their overall traction through a representative national survey conducted by the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zurich, and finally use focus groups to understand their deeper appeal and impact. This gives us a uniquely holistic view of contemporary propaganda: from its sources, dissemination, and impact on society right through to how it is received and perceived from the point of view of audiences. The narratives in question include accusations that George Soros’ minions run Ukrainian politics, that the US is building secret bioweapons in Ukraine, and that shadowy “Western curators” secretly control the government. CSS survey data shows that approximately 40% of Ukrainians believe these narratives. They are in turn part of a larger message that sees Ukraine as perpetually under attack from nefarious Western forces. While individual narratives can change over time, this meta-narrative remains. Consistent disinformation, conspiratorial thinking, and anti-Western messages combine in a toxic mix. The overall aim is to undermine refo refs, strengthen vested economic interests, alienate Ukraine from its Western partners, and push the country back into Russia’s orbit. While explicitly pro-Russian narratives have become a harder sell in Ukraine since the Kremlin opted to invade the country in 2014, these narratives don’t so much boost Russia as try to make the rest of the world look just as malign. They resonate outside of the usual “pro-Russian” bubble in Ukraine and spread among audiences that are often vicerally opposed to the Kremlin." (Executive summary)


https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003037385

“The agenda for transition after the demise of communism in the Western Balkans made the conversion of state radio and television into public service broadcasters a priority, converting mouthpieces of the regime into public forums in which various interests and standpoints could be shared and deliberated. There is general agreement that this endeavor has not been a success. Formally, the countries adopted the legal and institutional requirements of public service media according to European standards. The ruling political elites, however, retained their control over the public media by various means. Can this trend be reversed? Instead of being marginalized or totally manipulated, can public service media become vehicles of genuine democratization? A comparison of public service media in seven countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) addresses these important questions.” (Publisher)


“There is a pervasive fear that information technology enhances the effectiveness of destabilizing disinformation campaigns. Yet evidence from Ukraine, the paradigmatic case of "hybrid war", indicates this threat is overstated. Rather, traditional media remain far more influential. The prevailing focus on technology hampers both analysis and the development of effective counterstrategies.” (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.3922/ethz-b-000463741


“Following months of mass antigovernment demonstrations in Belarus, this report widens the focus beyond the protesters and takes stock of the views and preferences of Belarusian citizens at a critical moment. A new ZOSI survey conducted in December 2020 among Belarusians aged between 16 and 64 reveals rare insights into the political and social mood across the country, trust in its institutions, the dynamics of the recent political mobilisation, and the domestic and foreign policy preferences of Belarusian citizens ... The survey confirms the extent to which the protests were carried by private citizens, rather than organised civil society, trade unions, or churches, which played only peripheral roles. Social and online media dominate society’s news consumption, with over 70 per cent of respondents using these media as their main source of information. Belarusian state television, Russian media, and international media are used as well but are significantly less prominent as primary information sources. Trust in Belarus’s political institutions in general remains weak. Confidence has not eroded completely, but trust in all institutions is on balance negative, with very similar scores for the executive, the legislative, the judiciary, and the security apparatus. In absolute numbers, the opposition Coordination Council and the Orthodox Church are the most trusted institutions.” (Executive summary)
https://www.zois-berlin.de/publikationen/belarus-at-a-crossroads-attitudes-on-social-and-political-change


“This case study examines two websites and two blogging accounts which appear to be linked to News Front, a Crimean-based news organisation previously accused of being a source of pro-Kremlin disinformation and influence operations. The sites and accounts shared stories and images in many cases identical to those published by News Front without attribution. While the impact of the site’s activity is low, the case study provides a glimpse into the inner workings of the broader disinformation ecosystem, highlighting how particular pieces of content and narratives linked to pro-Kremlin influence can spread across the internet using multiple domains. Moreover broadly, it sheds light on the long tail of state-linked online assets. The report shows how disinformation purveyors can use tactics like domain cloaking to avoid platform removals, suggesting a need for renewed thinking about effective forms of policy response for complex disinformation networks.” (Publisher) https://www.isglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/20210202-ISP-US-Crimean-Connection-V3.pdf


“Disinformation is an endemic and ubiquitous part of politics throughout the Western Balkans, without exception. A mapping of the disinformation and counter-dis in for mation landscapes in the region in the period from 2018 through 2020 reveals three key disinformation challenges: external challenges to EU credibility; disinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and the impact of disinformation on elections and referenda. While foreign actors feature prominently – chiefly Russia, but also China, Turkey, and other countries in and near the region – the bulk of disinformation in the Western Balkans is produced and disseminated by domestic actors for domestic purposes. Further, disinformation (and information disorder more broadly) is a symptom of social and political disorder, rather than the cause. As a result, the European Union should focus on the role that it can play in bolstering the quality of democracy and governance in the Western Balkans, as the most powerful potential bulwark against disinformation.” (Abstract) https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/653621/EXPO_STU(2020)653621_EN.pdf


“Democratic nations around the globe are facing increasing levels of false and misleading information circulating on social media and news websites, propagating alternative sociopolitical realities. One of the most innovative actors in this process has been the Russian state, whose disinformation campaigns have influenced elections and shaped political discourse globally. A key element of these campaigns is the content produced by state-funded outlets like RT and Sputnik, whose articles are republished by underfunded or sympathetic local media, as well as coordinated groups that attempt to shape mainstream political narratives. Using a tailored text-as-data approach, we examine the thematic and linguistic differences in articles produced by U.S. and Russian state-funded and mainstream outlets in Serbia. We use 11 features (frames and in-text characteristics) to construct an article country-source classifier with a high degree of accuracy. The article contributes toward an understanding of the structural characteristics of Russian state-funded news in the Western Balkans, enhances the application of computational text analysis in Serbian, and provides suggestions for the application of text-as-data methods to the study of online disinformation.” (Abstract) https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/13925

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


“This paper examines the key narratives of disinformation that are prevalent in Iraqi media. It provides an analysis of the messages, agents, intentions and impact of the spread of disinformation. Focusing particularly on the period during which planned national elections were postponed, it identifies narratives of disinformation which emerged during that time. I argue that, due to the overriding partisan and unprofessional conditions for the media and the challenging political context of Iraq, the lines between partisan information and disinformation have become blurred.” (Abstract) http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/112476/1/MEC_paper_55_disinformation_in_the_iraq_media.pdf


“On October 17, 2019, following the announcement of a tax to be placed on calls made via the mobile communication application WhatsApp, thousands of Lebanese citizens took to the streets to protest against this arbitrary
Development Communication, Environmental Communication

**GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL**


"This book lays out the history of entertainment-education and discusses the boundaries of what counts as entertainment-education and narrative persuasion, includes both authors who work within academia and authors who are practitioners, and chapters focusing on developed and developing countries; draws upon communication principles and theory but prioritizes actionable lessons for how entertainment-education actually works." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-63614-2


"Digital storytelling has been in use since the early 1990s, yet remains a little-known and underutilized method, particularly in social work field education by field educators and students, both in the classroom and field placement settings. As a practice resource, this Digital Storytelling Guidebook can assist educators and students in the creation of their own digital stories. The introduction of the Digital Storytelling Guidebook in social work field education will expose educators and students to intentionally use the platform as an integral component in articulating and achieving learning outcomes." (Conclusion, p.18)


"An international line-up of authors first discuss communication practices, strategies, and media uses by NGOs, providing insights into the specifics of NGO programs for social change goals and reveal particular sets of tactics NGOs commonly employ. The book then presents a set of case studies of NGO organizing from all over the world—ranging from Sudan via Brazil to China—to illustrate the particular contexts that make NGO advocacy necessary, while also highlighting successful initiatives to illuminate the important spaces NGOs occupy in civil society." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003188636


"This incisive Handbook critically examines the role and place of media and communication in development and social change, reflecting a vision for change anchored in values of social justice. Outlining the genealogy and history of the field, it then investigates the possible new directions and objectives in the area. Key conclusions include an enhanced role for development communication in participatory development, active agency of stakeholders of development programs, and the operationalization of social justice in development." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4337/9781789906356


"Global news on anthropogenic climate change is shaped by international politics, scientific reports and voices from transnational protest movements. This timely volume asks how local communities engage with these transnational discourses. The chapters in this volume present a range of compelling case studies drawn from a broad cross-section of local communities around the world, reflecting diverse cultural and geographical contexts. From Greenland to northern Tanzania, it illuminates how different understandings evolve in diverse cultural and geographical contexts while also revealing some common patterns of how people make sense of climate change. Global Warming in Local Discourses constitutes a significant, new contribution to understanding the multi-perspective of our debates on climate change, further highlighting the need for interdisciplinary study within this area. It will be a valuable resource to those studying climate and science communication; those interested in understanding the various roles played by journalism, NGOs, politics and science in shaping public understandings of climate change, as well as those exploring the intersections of the global and the local in debates on the sustainable transformation of societies." (Publisher)

https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/1177

**AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN**


"Storytelling is the most powerful way for donor and non-governmental organisations to convey their work because stories allow audiences to connect on both intellectual and emotional levels. However, much of the storytelling about development work in Africa is unethical and perpetuates harmful and stereotypical narratives about the continent. Stories that reinforce stereotypes about Africa often arise from the power dynamics between those who are telling the stories and those about whom stories are being told. This practical guide aims to address some of these issues by providing practical, ethical guidelines for storytellers to share their work on the continent. This handbook considers the challenges of ethical storytelling and provides practical examples of how difficulties might be overcome. It looks at all the stages of the storytelling process: conceptualising a project, planning, gathering material, producing a draft, gathering feedback on it, and producing a final version before disseminating it. As part of the process of developing this handbook, we reviewed 36 academic papers and books chapters covering the subject. We also interviewed eight African storytellers, including film makers, photographers, radio producers and writers who were researching and producing material about Africa for an international audience or for donor agencies." (About this handbook, p.1)


"This study interrogates the conventional understanding of and practice within mediated climate change communication (CCC) as a forum where transformative ideas on sustainability practices are shaped. Besides the dominance of non-African contexts and epistemologies in literature analyzing the media-climate change and public nexus, there is little attention given to problematizing public engagement. Common assumption pitches “the public” on the one side and “the communicator” on the other side. This bifurcated model of “communicating” climate change has import for the forms of subjectivity in climate (in)action, including a weakened citizenship representation in climate discourse and the de-pluralization of ideas. This study argues that for people to be actually engaged in climate campaigns, it is important to draw attention to what understanding of “person” and “community” undergird current CCC practice. The work draws insights from African political theories and communication studies to position CCC toward inclusive public engagement." (Abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1080/23736992.2020.1856666

"This article reflects experiences and results from an environmental education and communication strategy (EECS) as part of a Lao-German development project of Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) over a 10-year period from 2011 to 2021. The article is divided into four parts. First, an overview of the project context and the media landscape in Laos is provided. Next, the conceptual framework of the communication strategy at the GIZ policy and project management level is presented. Subsequently, major features of the wide variety of environmental education and communication media productions and educational materials are highlighted. Another chapter summarizes the results of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys related to environmental awareness. Finally, cooperation is represented. This article examines how the subject gets in media. Narratives and third sector communications


https://doi.org/10.18573/book4


"Recent high-profile scandals raise concerns about how development cooperation is represented. This article examines how the subject gets in the media, examining the tone of voice and framing in newspaper articles and NGO advertisements in the Netherlands. It reveals a remarkable difference between newspaper articles and opinion pieces. Regular reports are characterised by, a neutral to slightly positive tone. In contrast, opinion pieces are predominantly negative. The article identifies possible explanations for the critical tone of opinion pieces. It finds that NGOs' own advertisements may contribute to negative opinion pieces, by problematising the situation in developing countries while rarely demonstrating their impacts achieved." (Abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2020.1801592

Digitalisation & ICT for Development


"This report aims to answer two fundamental questions. First, how can data better advance development objectives? Second, what kind of data governance arrangements are needed to support the generation and use of data in a safe, ethical, and secure way while also delivering value equitably? One important message of this report is that simply gathering more data is not the answer. Significant data shortfalls, particularly in poor countries, do exist, but the aim of this report is to shift the focus toward using data more effectively to improve development outcomes, particularly for poor people in poor countries." (Overview, p.3)
http://hdl.handle.net/10866/35218


"The world is facing an unprecedented climate and environmental emergency. Scientists have identified human activity as primarily responsible for the climate crisis, which together with rampant environmental pollution, and the unbridled activities of the extractive and agricultural industries, pose a direct threat to the sustainability of life on this planet. This edition of Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) seeks to understand the constructive role that technology can play in confronting the crises. It disrupts the normative understanding of technology being an easy panacea to the planet's environmental challenges and suggests that a nuanced and contextual use of technology is necessary for real sustainability to be achieved. A series of thematic reports frame different aspects of the relationship between digital technology and environmental sustainability from a human rights and social justice perspective, while 46 country and regional reports explore the diverse frontiers where technology meets the needs of both the environment and communities and where technology itself becomes a challenge to a sustainable future." (Back cover) https://giswatch.org/sites/default/files/giswatch_2020_english_0.pdf


"The Digital Ecosystem Framework is organized around three separate, overlapping pillars: Digital Infrastructure and Adoption: the resources that make digital systems possible and how individuals and organizations access and use these resources; Digital Society, Rights, and Governance: how digital technology intersects with government, civil society, and the media; Digital Economy: the role digital technology plays in increasing economic opportunity and efficiency. USAID’s Digital Ecosystem framework encompasses four cross-cutting topics: Inclusion: reducing disparities in access and the “digital divide”; Cybersecurity: protecting information against damage, unauthorized use or modification, or exploitation; Emerging Technologies: encompassing artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, blockchain, 5G and other new technologies; Geopolitical Positioning: the influence of authoritarian states that are actively working to shape the global digital space.” (https://www.ictworks.org/usaid-digital-ecosystem-framework)

"20 years after its foundation in 1996, IICD, the International Institute for Communication and Development, definitely closed. Over the years, IICD proved that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can accelerate socio-economic development and that a methodology based on principles such as multi-stakeholder engagement, demand-driven approach and local ownership, is key to integrate and sustain ICT-enabled activities. IICD investments in enabling individuals, organisations and networks to adequately serve the ICT needs of local stakeholders resulted in conducive environments with experienced partners well suited to offer cost-effective and locally relevant ICT-enabled solutions. Based on the experience of the writer this paper explores the impact of the organization, after five years in a fast changing environment. It also expresses her opinions and shares ideas related to the importance of knowledge sharing for preparedness in a post-pandemic world." (Abstract)

https://www.km4djournal.org/index.php/km4djournal/article/view/507


https://www.transcript-verlag.de/media/pdf/3d/91/9e/o9783839456590.pdf

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"This report provides an overview of trends and developments in ICT infrastructure, access and use in Africa, which includes 44 Member States and is home to a population of 1.04 billion people. The report highlights changes in ICT adoption since the last World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17) and during the COVID-19 pandemic, tracks the evolution of regulation, and reviews progress and challenges in implementing the ITU regional initiatives for Africa. Its objective is to serve as a reference for the ITU membership in reviewing progress and identifying ICT development priorities in Africa." (Abstract)

https://www.itu.int/pub/B-IND-DIG_TRENDS_AFR.01-2021


"In this book, Leah Komen explores the impact of mobile telephony on the lives of people in rural Kenya. The book analyses the outcomes of complex intersections and interactions between mobile phones, individuals, and the broader society as distinct from the traditional cause-effect relationships in the discourse of development in the changing world. It subverts the traditional notion of synchronic development that ignores target populations’ involvement in decision-making and sees development from the lens of developed economies where information and communication technologies like mobile telephones have originated. Komen’s analysis advances a diachronic type of development that focuses on human technology’s interrelationships instead of the synchronic model that privileges technology as engendering social transformations and development. The diachronic model is fundamentally Maendeleo, a Swahili term denoting process, participation, progress, and growth, and views social transformations and development as an interaction between mobile telephony users and their specific contexts. The book argues that the mobile phone has become an increasingly personalised device. It encourages a sense of community through the sharing of the device by multiple users, promotes co-presence and interpersonal communication, enhances kinship ties and social connectedness, and creates new ways of organising and conducting everyday socioeconomic activities. However, it also can disintegrate relationships and remold some." (Publisher)

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"This white paper discusses how digital technologies are building COVID resilience, shaping and accelerating the recovery, and diffusing within Asia Pacific region (APAC) in ways that are likely to persist in a post-COVID world. Section 1 presents the role of digital technologies in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), examines the digital divide during COVID-19, and how APAC economies have been affected by the crisis. Section 2 presents six cases of resilience, providing examples of how digital technologies can help solve immediate, pressing problems. Hien, a business owner in Vietnam, demonstrates how MSMEs can go digital when entrepreneurs have the appropriate training. Miss Thananchan Kamwinit, a teacher in Thailand, describes her work educating a new generation of digital citizens about online risks. Infani recalls her journey to becoming a data scientist in Jakarta, where digital skills are at high demand. Sokneang, a co-founder and CEO of a fair trade startup in Cambodia, describes how digital platforms have been used in the agri-food sector during the pandemic. Gulshan, a Google Research Scientist, performs clinical trials in India to apply AI-based technologies in healthcare. Finally, Teh, a Malaysian citizen, volunteers in a vaccination center thanks to a digital platform that facilitates his civic engagement. Section 3 describes how digital technologies can drive the near future - the "new normal," including the future of work as impacted by automation, and the need to transition to a low carbon economy. Section 4 discusses lessons and guidelines for a policy response." (Executive summary, p.5)


Disaster & Humanitarian Crisis Communication


"Recent years have seen the expansion of critical scholarship on humanitarian communication across a range of academic fields, sharing recognition of the centrality of media and communications to our understanding of humanitarianism as an agent of transnational power, global governance and cosmopolitan solidarity. The Handbook brings into dialogue these diverse fields, their theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches as well as the public debates that lie at the heart of the contemporary politics of humanitarianism. It consolidates existing knowledge and maps out this emerging field as an important site of interdisciplinary knowledge production on media, communication and humanitarianism." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315363493


"The analysis is based on online media coverage in five languages throughout the year. CARE sees a concerning trend of crises being neglected year after year. Six out of the ten crises are located on the African continent. The Central African Republic has appeared in the ranking for five consecutive years. Both Madagascar and Burundi – the latter this year’s number 1 with the least media coverage – have made CARE’s list four times so far. This lack of attention adds to burdens such as the severe effects of COVID-19 restrictions and the growing impact of climate change in these countries." (https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Ten_most_underreport ed_humanitarian_crisis_2020.pdf

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN

165. Involve us: information & participation dynamics, desires and challenges in Sudan’s Tigray refugee response. Internews; Insight Strategy Partners (ISP); Cisco, 2021, 87 p.

"Through a combination of interviews, surveys, desk research, and focus group discussions this Information Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) explores..."
trends of information demand and supply within refugee and host communities. The report analyzes their information access, needs, use, flows, and identifies means of trust and influence within host and refugee communities in eastern Sudan. The report thus offers a deep understanding of information dynamics and demands of refugees from Tigray and Sudanese host communities. It also identifies entry points for the design and enhancement of humanitarian information, and communication and community engagement (CCE) services for Ethiopian refugees and host communities in Eastern Sudan. The findings reveal that refugees and host communities’ humanitarian information needs are only partially met. It details why refugees and host communities desire to be more involved in decision-making processes of humanitarian agencies, and demand active involvement in humanitarian interventions.” (Publisher)


“A number of issues have been raised in this report that will help the media to improve on service delivery in disaster-related issues and to be prepared in disaster management. Not only the media has vowed to improve but also government institutions, humanitarian response organizations and media stakeholders have also pledged to play a part in supporting the media to carry out its role effectively in terms of accurate and timely reporting. Some of the important points raised in the consultation process were: National and district structures that are set by both government and non-government organizations have to involve the media in the planning, processing and implementing of national mechanisms that would help the media in carrying out their duties; the media need to be well-equipped with training and resources that would strengthen their professional capacity; there has to be a good rapport between the media and all government and non-government entities for efficient and effective reporting; there should be proper planning in disaster management amongst all stakeholders involved in this process to enhance coordination at all levels.” (Conclusion, p.27)
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377166


“Cette évaluation de l’écosystème de l’information vise à établir une compréhension des dynamiques de l’information dans le contexte des populations déplacées dans plusieurs localités du pays : Bangui, Paoua, Bozoum, Berberati, Sibut, Bambari, Ndélé, Kaga-Bandoro et RAFÉ. Cette recherche est basée sur des entretiens approfondis et des discussions de groupes focaux avec des membres de la communauté des populations déplacées internes vivant dans des camps, des organisations humanitaires et de la société civile, des fonctionnaires et des professionnels, ainsi que des données quantitatives issues de deux enquêtes (face-à-face à Bangui et par téléphone à travers le pays).” (Éditeur)
https://internews.org/resource/la-confiance-en-berne/

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


“Barbadians are not sufficiently prepared for natural disasters. In addition to being heavily reliant on electricity and the internet for communicating during times of crises and disasters, Barbados is in need of a mandatory building code, more resilient housing and building infrastructures, and greater uptake of insurance among property owners. Moreover, some Barbadians continue to be delayed in their response to emergency warnings. Their tendency to procrastinate on preparing for emergencies and disasters is largely attributed to the fact that, unlike other Caribbean territories, Barbados has not been significantly impacted by a disaster event for over sixty (60) years. As the telecommunication penetration continues to rise in the island, and the Barbados Government continues to be increasingly communicative, the past few years have seen the emergence of a healthier information ecosystem in Barbados, which in turn has made it easier for Barbadians to access the information that they need to effectively participate in society. This progress is however being undermined by the presence of the following undesirable properties: citizens’ and media professionals’ lack of access to information from local authorities caused by inaccessibility of authorities, unavailability of information, and bureaucratic structures and processes of; some citizens’ lack of access to the key information channels; the disabled community’s inability to access information from credible news and information sources; government’s increasing control over information flow; delays in dissemination of crisis and disaster communication to the media by the government; the use of jargons in crisis and disaster communications by local authorities; the proliferation of fake news and propaganda shared on social media and other online platforms; the inability of some Barbadians to identify malicious/inaccurate information; the deterioration of trust among Barbadians in their main information sources.” (Overview of key findings, p.7)


“Generally, Dominicans have access to the information that they need to make informed decisions, especially as it relates to disaster preparation and response. Despite having timely access to disaster-related information, however, some persons continue to act complacent and either fail or refuse to prepare for impending disasters.” (Back cover)


“Esta Evaluación del Ecosistema de Información (IEA) aborda, desde la demanda, el flujo de información para el acceso a servicios en protección de derechos de la comunidad migrante y retornada en Bogotá, el área metropolitana de Cúcuta y los municipios de Maicao y Riohacha en La Guajira. La información para las fases del IEA se recogió utilizando metodologías cualitativas y cualitativas de recolección de datos remotos adaptadas para garantizar la seguridad de los participantes y los investigadores durante la cuarentena nacional obligatoria en Colombia en respuesta a la pandemia por COVID-19. En el marco del programa Conectando Caminos por los Derechos de USAID/Colombia, el IEA aborda algunos temas claves que incentiván defemer hacia el acceso a la información en derechos y rutas para la protección de derechos entre la comunidad migrante/retornada: la relación entre estar indocumentado y la explotación laboral; la necesidad de una mejor articulación entre las instituciones para direccionar o redireccionar a las personas hacia rutas efectivas de servicios de protección de derechos; las barreras físicas y discriminación que limitan el acceso a la información; la importancia del sentido de comunidad en la diáspora y la experiencia de pares como factor clave de influencia en la toma de decisiones.” (Conclusion, p.24)
https://internews.org/resource/conectando-caminos-por-los-derechos/

ASIA & PACIFIC


“This guide is a living document that is meant to be used as a starting point when planning and undertaking a campaign prior to (if possible) and during a disaster. It is intended to support the work of the Fiji government and the Fiji Communication and Community Engagement Working Group (CCEWG) in terms of messaging including tone, language and frequency as well as use of media outlets and other communication initiatives, while engaging and communicating with affected populations.” (Conclusion, p.24)
http://www.cdacnetwork.org/contentAsset/raw-data/7cc20d10-567a-4743-85c5-652bd93c3ed0/attachedFile

172. Nicola Bailey, Sally Gowland, Nushrat Mehjabin, Farha Rahman, Fuad Ur Rabbi: Supporting humanitarian communication: what role does a dedicated ‘common service’ play in community engagement
Economics & Management of Media


*The intersection between media and politics remains very strong in several countries under study. In these conditions, there is often little transparency on media ownership and a lack of transparency on local funding sources of media. Relatedly, in some cases, a change in government policies was raised as an important precondition to possibly change the negative discourse towards the (public) media. A different political climate may benefit the financial conditions of a media outlet, for instance by lifting discourse towards the (public) media; being better equipped to communicate with communities and in turn community members having access to key, useful information which has prompted them to take action." (Conclusions, p.50)


*This study provides encouraging evidence that digital audience revenue programmes – donation drives, crowdfunding, membership schemes or subscriptions – may be a viable option for independent media outlets operating in challenging political environments. Responses from 19 outlets operating in Central and Eastern Europe and the Global South show that, while there is plenty of interference with independent media by state and political actors, there is little interference aimed at audience revenue programmes of independent newsrooms. Examination of the ownership structures and business setups of the outlets participating in the study shows how independent media is not necessarily just profit-driven in CEE and the Global South. Only half of the outlets in the cohort were fully for-profit and many of them had newsroom members as majority owners. While paywalls are a foregone conclusion in developed countries, for the media outlets in challenging environments included in this study, paywalls are very much up for debate. While all newsrooms in the project collect some form of audience revenue, only 37% had paywalls in place. Most outlets without paywalls worry about limiting the impact of their journalism, and this is why they are reluctant to charge for exclusive content. While their reservations may be perfectly legitimate, financially speaking paywalls work well for those who implement them. Outlets with active paywalls reported a higher share of audience revenue on average than those who do not have them." (Conclusions, p.56)


175. Koreel Lahiri: Business truths that matter ... or "questions we should constantly ask to arrive at the truth". Media Development Investment Fund (MDIF), 2021, 27 p.

*Media is a business, and just like any business, the fundamental skills one needs remain pretty much the same – these range from the reason you became an entrepreneur to critically analyzing your market to knowing your audience and knowing how to make the business sustainable. The best way to arrive at these fundamental truths is to not have a set of prescriptive instructions, but rather asking the right questions because the right answer will always be contextual." (https://www.mdif.org/25-questions-media-entrepreneurs-must-ask-themselves)


*Just as in the global context, new tools are being used by the media in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The use of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) is not limited to large, corporate media. But the reality of different news organisations with a variety of budgets and markets can vary deeply. In Latin America, only a handful of media organisations are embracing AI or machine learning in house, most notably in Argentina, Perú and Mexico and none as part of a long term effort to embrace the technology. While most of the news organisations consulted are using some sort of AI implementation through vendors or third party solutions and there is strong appetite for more it is rarely part of a strategic vision. In CEE, digital natives are embracing AI/ML solutions and the region has been produced a few AI/ML based third party solution providers with global reach or ambitions. Competition for talent is a major bottleneck, as media have to compete with the global outsourcing of IT jobs to the region. The other challenge is state pressure on media, especially in such markets as Russia or Belarus, which makes long-term planning and investment impractical." (Key findings, p.5)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


*This study uses surveys with readers of entrepreneurial news startups in seven Latin American countries to examine their motivations for donating to journalism. Using the donor–organization relationship from public relations

*En el Perú al igual que en muchos otros países, la principal medida para mitigar el avance de la pandemia de Covid-19 fue el confinamiento social y la inmovilización obligatoria, acciones que llevaron al cierre temporal de diversos sectores, causando una crisis económica cuan cada en una caída aproximada de 11.5% del PBI respecto al año 2019. En concordancia con esto, las empresas postergaron el lanzamiento de sus campañas y re raron gran parte de los presupuestos asignados a la publicidad, como resultado de esto, la inversión publicitaria para el 2020 llegó a los US$ 442 millones, 24.2% menos que año anterior, en el cual la inversión alcanzó los US$ 583 millones.” (p.1)


*El análisis de la información disponible sobre ocho indicadores de concentración en Internet en México muestra que en casi todas ellas unas pocas empresas tienen una posición dominante en el mercado o servicio relevado: 1. Acceso a Internet fija: Con un índice CR4 de 98.7%, en México se observa un mercado oligopólico consolidado de cuatro empresas mexicanas: América Móvil, Grupo Televisa (24.8%), Megacable (15.9) y Total Play (9.6%). 2. Acceso Internet móvil: El sector de Internet móvil es un mercado consolidado en sólo tres empresas (CR3 97.5%). Dos son extranjeras: el gigante estadounidense AT&T y la empresa española Telefónica/Movistar, pero la mexicana América Móvil supera el 70% del mercado ...” (Conclusiones, p.15)


*El análisis de la información disponible sobre ocho indicadores de concentración en Internet en Colombia muestra que en casi todas ellas unas pocas empresas tienen una posición dominante en el mercado o servicio relevado: 1. Acceso a Internet fija: Las cuatro empresas de telecomunicaciones más importantes acúmulan un 82% del mercado de acceso a Internet fija en Colombia. Los operadores son Claro (América Móvil), UNE Tigo (Millicom y EPM), Movistar (Telefónica) y ETB. 2. Acceso Internet móvil: Los cuatro primeros operadores acúmulan el 96% del total (CR4). Estas empresas son Claro (América Móvil), Movistar (Telefónica), UNE Tigo (Millicom y EPM) y Avantel ...” (Conclusiones)

181. Laura Oliver: How mission-driven news sites are betting on reader revenue in Latin America: news outlets in Colombia, Brazil and Mexico share what they’ve learned from building their membership models in the midst of a pandemic. Oxford: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, 2021

“For digital-first news outlets in Latin America, lessons learned from reader-funding experiments are being transformed into highly tailored membership programmes that offer a chance at a more sustainable future. Independent, mission-driven or subject-specific news sites, in particular, are leading the way, converting close relationships with audiences into funding through editorially-linked, labour-intensive initiatives. While membership is having a moment in the Global North too, building an audience-funded organisation has been on the agenda for some time for several outlets in Latin America. Colombian politics news site La Silla Vacia and Brazilian investigative journalism agency Agência Pública launched membership programmes after running crowdfunding campaigns since 2012 and 2013. Tiempo Argentino’s rebirth as a member-funded title in 2016 saved journalists’ jobs at a time of mass layoffs and secured a loyal audience in the face of declining print circulation. Elsewhere, Peru’s Ojo Público, El Salvador’s El Faro, Chile’s investigative journalism outlet CIPER and La No Ficción in Colombia have all built different membership or reader donation programmes. This piece looks into some of the things these news organisations have learned along the way.” (Introduction)
https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/rsis-review/how-mission-driven-news-sites-are-betting-reader-revenue-latin-america


*El análisis de la información disponible para identificar si existe concentración en Internet en manos de pocas empresas en Chile muestra evidencias contundentes que pueden resumirse de la siguiente manera: 1. Acceso a Internet fija: Cuatro empresas concentran el acceso a servicios de Internet fijo en 85.8% (CR4), si se suma la participación de Movistar, VTR, Claro y GTD. Pero sólo dos de estas empresas (CR2) acumulan el 64.7% de los contratos (Movistar y VTR). 2. Acceso Internet móvil: Cuatro empresas concentran el 97.3% del mercado de acceso a servicios de Internet móvil en Chile (Entel, Movistar, Claro y Wom) ...” (Conclusiones)


*El análisis de la información parece confirmar de manera contundente la existencia de concentración en Internet en Argentina, en manos de pocas empresas en cada una de sus categorías: 1. Acceso a Internet fija: El Grupo Clarín concentra casi la mitad del mercado de acceso a servicios de Internet fijo (46%). Un índice CR2 contando a sus empresas y Telefónica ya mostraría un elevado nivel de concentración del 61%. El CR4 se encuentra en torno al 80% incluyendo a los grupos Teletelcro y SuperCanal. 2. Acceso Internet móvil: Tres empresas concentran casi el 100% del mercado de acceso a servicios móviles. Este mercado se organiza en torno a tres grandes operadores: Claro (América Móvil), Movistar (Telefónica) y Personal (Telecom, del Grupo Clarín), que se reparten en aproximadamente tres partes: 36.8% para la mexicana Claro, 33.9% para Personal/Clarín y el 29,4% para la española Movistar ...” (Conclusiones)


“Durante la pandemia de COVID-19, el 57% de los lectores de medios digitales en Argentina, Brazil, Colombia y Mexico ha aumentado su consumo de noticias. El 90% de los consumidores está accediendo a las noticias digitales por lo menos dos veces a la semana y el 78% por lo menos una vez al día. Las plataformas digitales ahora representan más del 61% de los contenidos de noticias que son accedidos en Argentina, Brazil, Colombia y Mexico. Un índice CR4 contando a sus empresas y Telefónica ya mostraría un elevado nivel de concentración del 61%. El CR4 se encuentra en torno al 80% incluyendo a los grupos Teletelcro y SuperCanal. 2. Acceso Internet móvil: Tres empresas concentran casi el 100% del mercado de acceso a servicios móviles. Este mercado se organiza en torno a tres grandes operadores: Claro (América Móvil), Movistar (Telefónica) y Personal (Telecom, del Grupo Clarín), que se reparten en aproximadamente tres partes: 36.8% para la mexicana Claro, 33.9% para Personal/Clarín y el 29,4% para la española Movistar ...”


ASIA & PACIFIC


A four appendix, a summary of notable implementation examples with implementation. The four appendices include a video introduction to this propitious development context in terms of partnerships for successful IAI. A decision tree is presented to illustrate the available options, guide situation. The handbook also considers how to plan for the implementation for production, and partnership opportunities, and offering a detailed suitable in a particular context, describing common challenges, conditions contribute to its sustainability. It examines how to assess whether IAI is achieved over 7 years of existence the organization was struggling motivation was low, staff turnover was high, previously set goals seemed irrelevant or unrealistic. The path forward was unclear. From March to September 2020 hromadske embarked on a journey to recreate its organizational structure, operations, planning and team management, the revenue model… basically everything related to setting and realizing goals. Such transformations are rare in the media industry. Big changes in how things are done can be perceived as an admission of past mistakes or failures something that doesn’t sit well for many managers in our image conscious industry. More importantly, media transformations over focus on the visible part the journalism. But problems in editorial are often a symptom of deeper issues. hromadske decided to “pop the hood” and dig into the organization’s engine starting from the basics. The present document aims to provide a preliminary template for other media contemplating radical change, that we hope will be further developed by other media organizations going through similar issues. It lays out the challenges we faced, what we did to resolve them, and the lessons we learned along the way. We hope it will provide some insights and guidance.” (p.1)


EUROPE


"In early 2020 hromadske reached a crisis point. Despite many successes achieved over 7 years of existence the organization was struggling. The motivation was low, staff turnover was high, previously set goals seemed irrelevant or unrealistic. The path forward was unclear. From March to September 2020 hromadske embarked on a journey to recreate its organizational structure, operations, planning and team management, the revenue model… basically everything related to setting and realizing goals. Such transformations are rare in the media industry. Big changes in how things are done can be perceived as an admission of past mistakes or failures something that doesn’t sit well for many managers in our image conscious industry. More importantly, media transformations often focus on the visible part the journalism. But problems in editorial are often a symptom of deeper issues. Hromadske decided to “pop the hood” and dig into the organization’s engine starting from the basics. The present document aims to provide a preliminary template for other media organizations going through similar issues. It lays out the challenges we faced, what we did to resolve them, and the lessons we learned along the way. We hope it will provide some insights and guidance.” (p.1)


Educational Media & ICTs

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"This document is organized into eight chapters that review the history and uses of interactive audio instruction (IAI) as an educational resource, including its methodology, achieved results, and potential to support provision in emergency or crisis situations. Intended as a practical tool for policy-makers, the handbook discusses the cost of IAI and the elements that contribute to its sustainability. It examines how to assess whether IAI is suitable in a particular context, describing common challenges, conditions for production, and partnership opportunities, and offering a detailed checklist with which to evaluate IAI’s potential for success in a given situation. The handbook also considers how to plan for the implementation of IAI. A decision tree is presented to illustrate the available options, guide the programme planning and development timelines, and advise on the propitious development context in terms of partnerships for successful implementation. The four appendices include a video introduction to this report (appendix A), a summary of notable implementation examples with links to key documentation (appendix B), a complete catalogue worldwide programming (appendix C) and case studies outlining the programming created in the Southern African Development Community (appendix D).”

(Introduction, p.8)

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375530


"The purpose of this review is to support education practitioners, host country government representatives, donors, implementers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in applying best practices to monitor and evaluate distance learning initiatives designed for diverse learners and implemented both within and outside of learning institutions. This review covers the four key distance learning modalities: radio/audio, television/video, mobile phone, and online learning. Printed texts, which are often developed to accompany these first four modalities, can also be a fifth modality in contexts where technology is not used. Most of the data sources were drawn from work in the primary education sub-sector. However, much of the guidance can be applied to secondary and tertiary-level distance learning. This review is also applicable to data collection in both crisis and non-crisis contexts. This review presents a roadmap that guides users through four steps of planning and designing how distance learning delivered through any of these modalities can be monitored and evaluated. Step 1: Determine the Objectives of Monitoring and Evaluating Distance Learning; Step 2: Determine What Will Be Measured (Reach, Engagement, and Outcomes); Step 3: Determine How Data Will Be Collected (In-Person or Remotely); Step 4: Determine the Methods and Approaches for Measurement. Based on emerging global evidence, this review guides users through the process of measuring the reach, engagement, and outcomes of distance learning initiatives. In addition to providing step-by-step guidance, this review provides three overarching recommendations for developing and implementing evidence-based monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plans for distance learning initiatives." (Executive summary)


"The DRM ebook makes a strong case for using DRM for distance learning. TV, online, mobiles (WhatsApp) have been used patchily for elearning, but radio brings something unique to the table. Being a “one-to-many” platform, digital radio can deliver audio and text over vast areas and, therefore, to all the schools and students in villages far away or in busy cities, with the same content and quality and without any discrimination.”

(Executive summary)


"The aim of this Instruction – the result of a wide-ranging consultation of all Ecclesiastical Faculties and Universities (q.v. Circular Letter n. 1, of 8 December 2018), expert contributions from international specialists in the field, as well as proposals from the Members of this Congregation and from various administrations of the Roman Curia – is to offer guidelines and rules for using distance learning in Ecclesiastical Faculties and Universities.”


"High-quality digital learning offers potential economic and social advantages but also could easily lead to a widening gap between economically advanced and low-income countries. Within countries without suitable policy, it could also generate increasing inequity between the rich, who can afford the technology, and the poor, who will not be able to access it. The main purpose of this paper is to look at what policies are needed to maintain high-quality and equitable access to digital learning, especially in light of experience from responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper addresses technological, social and age factors influencing access to and uses of digital learning and makes several different policy recommendations for governments, institutions and teachers.”

(Abstract)


"This report, and the survey findings behind it, provides a unique insight into the perspectives of EdTech experts regarding the impact of the Covid-19..."
pandemic on education in Africa. It is based on the findings of a survey of the eLearning Africa network, which attracted approximately 1650 responses from respondents in 52 countries in Africa. 15 countries (29%) provide 1217 (73%) of the responses. 52% of the respondents are directly involved in the education sector and 9% are in the ICT sector. 71% work for government or not-for-profit organisations, and 21% for for-profit businesses. 40% are teachers / lecturers / professors, and 13% are ICT / EdTech specialists or entrepreneurs. The sample represents a group of experts rather than a cross-section of the population, yet the findings of the survey are undoubtedly significant. ... Survey respondents were clear in highlighting the three main obstacles for learners in the midst of school shutdown: a lack of access to technology, an unsuitable home learning environment, and a lack of access to learning materials. For teachers, the main impediment was the lack of appropriate training to design and manage distance learning programmes. This was compounded by a lack of infrastructure: electricity, connectivity, devices; and a lack of appropriate learning materials: books, television and internet-enabled devices. ... The findings are clear: poorer students and those most geographically dispersed are most at risk of missing out on education if there is no conventional school to attend. In addition to these difficulties, respondents noted that most teachers were as inadequately prepared and ill-equipped to deal with this new situation as their students were. And similarly, parents were also ill-equipped to support their children’s education at home. While some governments provided ‘sensitisation’ for teachers and parents, many did not. And 83% of respondents thought that their current school curriculum did not lend itself to distance delivery.” (Executive summary)


"The Global Expression Report is a global, data-informed, annual look at freedom of expression worldwide. With the benefit of data and hindsight, we take a look at 2020 – how this fundamental right fared, what the key trends were, and how global events affected its exercise. The Global Expression Report’s metric (the GxR Metric) tracks freedom of expression across the world. In 161 countries, 25 indicators were used to create an overall..." (Publisher)


Freedom of Expression, Media Policies, Media Legislation

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"The Global Drive to Control Big Tech -- The Continued Assault on Internet Freedom -- The Promise and Peril of State Regulation -- New laws put free expression online at risk -- Forcing companies to hand over user data -- Fostering competition to improve digital rights -- Recommendations..." (Publisher)


"The Global Expression Report is a global, data-informed, annual look at freedom of expression worldwide. With the benefit of data and hindsight, we take a look at 2020 – how this fundamental right fared, what the key trends were, and how global events affected its exercise. The Global Expression Report’s metric (the GxR Metric) tracks freedom of expression across the world. In 161 countries, 25 indicators were used to create an overall..." (Publisher)


"La Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC) tiene la misión de defender los derechos fundamentales mediante la contribución al diseño de políticas por parte del sector público y privado. Las respuestas de los gobiernos deben promover un espacio público amplio y robusto en internet. Este deber implica asegurar la libertad de expresión de los usuarios, garantizar condiciones favorables para la creación de grupos online (libertad de asociación) y permitir el ejercicio del derecho de protesta en plataformas (libertad de reunión). Al mismo tiempo, las empresas privadas también tienen la obligación de contribuir a dicha finalidad. Las grandes plataformas poseen un amplio poder para determinar las condiciones en que el discurso puede circular a través de internet. La influencia de estas entidades es incluso mayor que la de muchos países y, por lo tanto, su accionar puede impedir seriamente la circulación de ideas y opiniones. De este modo, el sector privado también se encuentra sujeto al deber de respetar los derechos humanos. La crisis sanitaria producida por el Covid-19 y la intensificación de la polarización política alrededor del mundo -con la situación de los Estados Unidos como ejemplo central- ha atraído la atención de la ciudadanía acerca del rol de los Estados y las plataformas para abordar fenómenos como la desinformación y el discurso de odio. Las acciones adoptadas por gobiernos y compañías deben ser sometidas a la más estricta evaluación, ya que ellas influenciarán la forma en que el debate público se llevará a cabo en el futuro." (Resumen ejecutivo) https://adc.org.ar/informes/la-proteccion-del-espacio-civico-en-linea/


The OPTIMA workflow is a compilation of new and existing resources, guides, methodologies, and more to assist individuals and activists before, during and after an Internet shutdown. The following repository is organized into four categories: ADVOCACY RESOURCES. Designing effective advocacy campaigns around Internet shutdowns can be challenging. This section provides guidance and examples to support you in building impactful messaging and getting the word out even during a crisis. CIRCUMVENTION RESOURCES. Understanding how to continue your work and maintain communications can be a daunting task. This section outlines some of the tools that you can use, and guides to help you determine which is best for your specific needs. LITIGATION RESOURCES. Sometimes the most effective way to challenge or prevent a shutdown is to do so through the courts. This section includes resources, strategies, and legal landscape reviews to help you build and argue strong litigation. NETWORK MEASUREMENT RESOURCES. A key element to fighting against shutdowns is understanding when and how they happen in your country. Network Measurement is a critical tool to reinforce advocacy with data." (Publisher) https://internews.org/resource/optimshuffledownworkflow/


"Access Now and the #KeepItOn Coalition documented at least 155 internet shutdown 1 incidents around the world in 29 countries. When compared to 2018 and 2019, this is a lower number of shutdowns. However, the smaller number of shutdowns is not an indication of the lessened impact of a shutdown or an overall increase in digital rights. For a world that was and continues to be under lockdown or at least some forms of movement restriction, 155 intentional communication disruptions came at a high cost to the fundamental human rights of people around the world. Countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, Yemen, Ethiopia, and others entrenched the use of shutdowns even during the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, Ethiopia’s national internet blackout affected more than 100 million people for more than two weeks during the height of the pandemic in the country. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh implored the government of Bangladesh to turn on the internet as COVID-19 spread through the refugee camps, but they were ignored. In 2019 and 2020, Myanmar perpetrated one of the world’s longest internet shutdowns, affecting some of the world’s most vulnerable people. The Burmese government proceeded to expand mobile internet throttling across the nine townships in Rakhine and Chin states even as the pandemic spread, restricting residents of these townships from access to critical and life-saving information." (p.2-3) https://www.accessnow.org/cms/assets/uploads/2021/03/KeepItOn-report-on-the-2020-data_Mar-2021_3.pdf


"There are three imperatives for advancing whistleblower protection: (1) to draft and enact comprehensive antitresistration laws that reflect global best practices by learning from and acting on mistakes or omissions in less sophisticated pioneer laws; (2) to turn paper rights into reality by ensuring laws are used and implemented as intended; and (3) to improve the development of and access to technologies that facilitate confidential reporting of misconduct to protect the privacy of whistleblowers and their families. In this report, we examine the strength of national whistleblower laws on paper, comparing their provisions to global best practices. We then review their track records to assess whether they are in fact making a difference. To test the effectiveness of whistleblower laws, we explored whether whistleblowers utilised the laws and the win-loss rates. The results, as detailed in the findings section, suggest that in many of the 37 countries we examined, the effectiveness of national whistleblower laws appears questionable due to a lack of public access to case decisions and data on settlement agreements, a lack of utilisation of the laws for disputes, a poor success rate for whistleblowers and meagre compensation for the few whistleblowers who prevail." (Abstract) https://whistleblower.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Are-Whistleblower-laws-working-REPORT_02March21.pdf


"The interviews and the analyses by the experts show that: — Quality content increases safety. The editors interviewed for this publication confirm that high-quality and balanced journalism clearly distinguishes between facts and opinion and treats the people at the center of the story with respect tends to lead to increased respect from the audience and makes the

"The majority of people now live under illiberal regimes or some form of autocracy as a consequence of democratic declines occurring globally since 2010. Understanding the driving forces behind this historic setback to democratic progress will be essential for turning the tide. An analysis of media indicators in the Varieties of Democracy Institute’s global index illustrates a common pattern in countries experiencing democratic setbacks, with important implications for action. Time and again, would-be autocrats seek to methodically dismantle press freedom and independence as an early step towards consolidating power. Analysis of this trend bolsters a growing international effort to support and safeguard independent media as a strategy for revitalizing democratic progress." (Key findings)


"This book features pathbreaking analysis from journalists and academics of the changing nature and peril of media capture—how formerly independent institutions fall under the sway of governments, plutocrats, and corporations. Contributors including Emily Bell, Felix Salmon, Joshua Marshall, Joel Simon, and Nikki Usher analyze diverse cases of media capture worldwide, many drawn from firsthand experience. They examine the role played by new media companies and funders, showing how the confluence of the growth of big tech and falling revenues for legacy media has led to new models of control. Contributions also shed light on how the rise of right-wing populists has catalyzed the crisis of global media. They also chart a way forward, exploring the growing need for a policy response and sustainable models for public-interest investigative journalism." (Publisher)


"The module aims to: 1. Clarify the concept of information security, privacy and related concepts; 2. Describe threats to information security and how they can be addressed; 3. Discuss the requirements for the establishment and implementation of policy on information security, as well as the life cycle of information security policy; and 4. Provide an overview of standards of information security and privacy protection that are used by some countries and international information security organizations." (p.iv)

https://cup.columbia.edu/sampler/9780231548021/google-preview


https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839456057


"Spyware is increasingly used by governments around the world to silence independent media. The use of spyware poses safety risks to journalists and their sources, encourages self-censorship, and creates new financial and operational strains for news outlets. Media advocates, news outlets, and policymakers must articulate the irreparable harm spyware poses to independent media in order to develop a robust response." (Key findings)


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Media Laws on the African continent have been amended, revised and rewritten since the first edition of the SADC Media Law Handbook was first published nearly a decade ago. The reasons for new media laws range from the advent of social media to the realisation of the powers—that-be that, with new technologies, they cannot control the narrative and discussion in the way they used to do. How does one balance the need to prevent hate speech with the necessity to question and control those in power publicly as well as those opposing them? Our legal expert, Justine Limpitlaw, has taken up the challenge of analysing and scrutinising the media laws of 13 southern African countries over the past four years. We present the results to you in this three-volume-edition. The work will, in the next few years, make its way into legal offices, newsrooms and courtrooms on the continent, just as the first edition did." (Foreword)

https://www.kas.de/documents/285576/285625/MLHSA%20%202021%20%20Volun e%20%201%20%20EBOOK.pdf


"The majority of people now live under illiberal regimes or some form of autocracy as a consequence of democratic declines occurring globally since 2010. Understanding the driving forces behind this historic setback to democratic progress will be essential for turning the tide. An analysis of media indicators in the Varieties of Democracy Institute’s global index illustrates a common pattern in countries experiencing democratic setbacks, with important implications for action. Time and again, would-be autocrats seek to methodically dismantle press freedom and independence as an early step towards consolidating power. Analysis of this trend bolsters a growing international effort to support and safeguard independent media as a strategy for revitalizing democratic progress." (Key findings)

https://www.kas.de/documents/285576/285625/MLHSA%20%202021%20%20Volum e%20%202%20%20EBOOK.pdf


"This handbook enables media educators throughout Africa to raise awareness and impact the media ecology on a national and regional basis. National, regional and international media environments are crucial for the development of journalists less of a target for potential attackers. It also increases trust on the part of audiences as well as with advertisers willing to pay for content. – – Audience engagement plays a crucial role in terms of safety. No matter whether through a membership model, regular informal exchanges or listener clubs — an audience that values a certain media outlet will be less likely to accept any attacks against it. – – Flexible and resilient business models are a must-have. They help organizations to react to new threats, to adapt strategies, and to maintain high quality and independent reporting in times of crisis. – – No viability without digital security. A media outlet that loses all its data or whose data gets hacked and its sensitive sources revealed, loses everything: content and credibility. Online attacks are more likely and easier to carry out than physical attacks. Digital security is an essential part of any safety concept. – – Diversity pays off. During the COVID-19 crisis, women and minority groups came under particular attack all around the world, online and offline. To include their stories and perspectives is not only a moral obligation but also makes business sense as they make up an essential part of audiences anywhere on the globe." (Synopsis, p.39)

https://www.kas.de/documents/285576/285625/MLHSA%20%202021%20%20Volun e%20%203%20%20EBOOK.pdf


"This handbook enables media educators throughout Africa to raise awareness and impact the media ecology on a national and regional basis. National, regional and international media environments are crucial for the attainment of the sustainable development and the protection of human rights. This is because transparency and accountability are central to democracy and development. Educators in journalism, media studies, development studies, sociology, political science and similar disciplines will be able to create a new curriculum. Learners will gain a holistic understanding of the ecosystem in which democracy can thrive. The handbook will help participants understand and advocate for better media policy environments." (Short summary, p.9)

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379923


"Burundi’s scrutiny and control of media and nongovernmental organizations, and the conviction after deeply flawed proceedings of 12 journalists and activists in exile have a continued chilling effect on their work, Human Rights Watch said today. Almost one year after President Evariste Ndayishimiye’s inauguration, the authorities have sent contradictory signals. They have lifted some restrictions imposed on civil society and media since the country’s 2015 political crisis. But they have also doubled down on human rights defenders and journalists who are..."
perceived to be critical of the government. A human rights activist and a former member of parliament convicted of abusive charges remain in detention. “The government should go beyond symbolic gestures of good faith to address the entrenched system of repression under the late President Pierre Nkurunziza,” said Lewis Mudge, Central Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “Substantive reforms are needed to address the lack of judicial independence, politicized prosecutions, and the absence of accountability for abuses committed since 2015.” (Introduction) https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/26/burundii-entrenched-repression-civil-society-media


“Of the eight countries surveyed here, only four have comprehensive data protection privacy acts in place: Kenya, South Africa, Togo and Uganda. But as these research reports suggest, this is not necessarily a strong indicator of whether a country is committed to privacy rights, or of the efficacy of a country’s legislative environment in ensuring the right to privacy and data protection. Instead, reading across the reports, what can be described as an asymmetry between legislation and practice is evident at different levels. This asymmetry can be political – for example, Togo, an effective constitutional dictatorship marked by fierce government crackdowns on opposition and recent reports of surveillance of religious and political leaders, enacted a data protection law in 2019, and is one of the few countries in Africa to have ratified the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention). Yet, as the country’s author suggests, “This interest [by policy makers in digital rights] is not necessarily to protect the citizens but rather out of concern to adapt state policies to the global digital situation.” This asymmetry also concerns the regulatory framework for the implementation of a data protection act. Amongst the countries surveyed here, South Africa was the first to pass a protection of personal information act (in 2013), but still has not implemented the necessary regulations to give practical force to the law. In contrast, while Nigeria’s privacy law is still in draft form, it already has what the country author describes as “watershed” privacy regulations.” (p.5) https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/privacy-and-personal-data-protection-africa-rights-based-survey-legislation-eight-countries


“Among the various forms of online censorship, internet shutdowns are some of the most invasive and blunt. Unlike traditional forms of censorship like blocking internet pages or certain content, these disruptions to digital communications are architectural and affect a preliminary condition in the information society: access to the internet. While many conversations on the impact of network disruptions on human rights tend to centre around civil and political rights, the disruptions also have a profound impact on socioeconomic rights, such as the right to education, housing, health, and even social security ... The best experience that can be replicated elsewhere is the legal action that was backed by civil society organisations and lawyers against mobile operators and governments over internet shutdown in January 2019 in Zimbabwe. The shutdown caused loss of business and prolonged internet outages are likely while it struggles to consolidate the military, known as the Tatmadaw, to control the virtual battlefield. Brussels: International Crisis Group, 2021, 43 p.

“Since the 1 February coup d’état in Myanmar, the online space has become a parallel battlefield on which the country’s military and its opponents try to rally supporters, share information and control the narrative around events unfolding in the country. This virtual struggle has been vitally important to both sides. The scale of popular anger at the military, the regime’s lack of technological capacity and the policies of social media companies have made it difficult for the military, known as the Tatmadaw, to gain the upper hand. At first, the junta resorted to temporary internet cuts and filtering websites, but when these had little impact, it moved to broader social media measures, to go after the vast majority of people in Myanmar disconnected. It appears to have no viable long-term strategy for controlling online space, and prolonged internet outages are likely while it struggles to consolidate power. Foreign governments and technology companies should endeavour...


“Throughout Africa, the right to publish — like political power — has to be grabbed; it cannot be exercised solely on politicians’ goodwill or the strength of argument. Thus, good journalism demands more than an ability to cultivate news sources and generate content. It requires courage. In this lies one of the continent’s gravest tragedies — the growing army of talented men and women driven from their homelands for thinking critically and daring to speak out. Their absence may give politicians synthetic comfort, but in reality it leaves their nations intellectually the poorer. Hounded is both a tribute and a record of history. It’s an acknowledgement of the commitment to truth and justice in little-known corners of the continent — the cluttered desk of a lone blogger in Ethiopia, bustling newsroom in Burundi and the dimly-lit studio of a Lagos pirate radio — which has kept the flame of hope burning under the most stifling of political rules. The stories are from 16 jurisdictions, including Madagascar, Chad, Rwanda, Uganda and Togo, and cover different calendar periods.” (p.3) https://www.kas.de/documents/285576/29625/Hounded-%20African%20Journalists%20in%20Exile%20ONLINE.pdf


“*This publication is a compilation of 19 articles by African researchers, academics, journalists and human and digital rights activists on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on digital rights in Africa. The articles were commissioned by the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms (AfDec) Coalition as part of its project on “Securing human rights online in Africa through a strong and active ‘African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms’ network” is a pan-African initiative which promotes human rights standards and principles of openness in internet policy formulation and implementation on the continent, guided by the 13 principles established in the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms. At the time that the papers were commissioned, in June 2020, African states had either invoked existing policies or adopted new policies for prevention of spread, containment and treatment of the virus that had an impact on the enjoyment of digital rights. For example, most governments employed the use of contact tracing applications to track and trace citizens’ movements and put in place measures criminalising free speech when it contained false information about the pandemic. These two examples had the potential to be abused, particularly the latter, which was used to silence journalists and government critics. The pandemic also moved most citizens’ communication, education, work, trade and access to basic services from physical interactions to priimarily online interactions. However, the continent is still largely made up of informal economies, has a low internet penetration rate of 28.2% (far below the global average of around 53%), and has seen an increase in reports of digital rights violations resulting from repressive cyberlaws, making the efforts to address the pandemic inadequate and inequitable. These articles offer reflective analyses on government efforts to curb the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of the AfDec principles, with a focus on a number of the principles including privacy and personal data protection, gender equality, freedom of expression, internet access and affordability, and the right to development and access to knowledge.” (Introduction) https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/impact-covid-19-digital-rights-africa

ASIA & PACIFIC


“*Since the 1 February coup d’état in Myanmar, the online space has become a parallel battlefield on which the country’s military and its opponents try to rally supporters, share information and control the narrative around events unfolding in the country. This virtual struggle has been vitally important to both sides. The scale of popular anger at the military, the regime’s lack of technological capacity and the policies of social media companies have made it difficult for the military, known as the Tatmadaw, to gain the upper hand. At first, the junta resorted to temporary internet cuts and filtering websites, but when these had little impact, it moved to broader social media measures, to go after the vast majority of people in Myanmar disconnected. It appears to have no viable long-term strategy for controlling online space, and prolonged internet outages are likely while it struggles to consolidate power. Foreign governments and technology companies should endeavour...
to keep what is left of Myanmar’s internet as open and its users as safe as possible, while restricting sales of equipment and software that the military could use to oppress opponents.” (Executive summary)
https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/314-myanmar-virtual-battlefield_0.pdf


“We structured the report by beginning with an overview of the digital environment in the Philippines in 2020 before delving into the impact of technology on human rights: the key events, challenges and accomplishments, then a forecast for 2021 and 2022. These are divided into the following key thematic areas: Internet Access; Gender and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs); Privacy and Data Protection; Freedom of Expression. This report is based on the Foundation for Media Alternatives’ (FMA) monitoring of situations where technology impacted human rights in the country. It covers the months of January to December 2020, and the analysis and scoping is conducted using secondary resources such as news articles, press releases and reports.” (About this report, p.2)


“The situation of freedom of expression online in Indonesia affirms that Indonesia is shifting further from human rights and democracy. This is not much different from the situation in other countries in Southeast Asia which seem to be competing to be the worst in human rights and democracy. The shrinking space for democracy for civil society has the potential to make conditions worse because the state is difficult to be monitored and be reminded in protecting human rights, especially freedom of expression. Indonesia actually has quite a number of regulations that protect freedom of expression online or offline from laws to the constitution. However, there are still laws that restrict freedom of expression online, such as the Criminal Code, the ITE Law, the State Flag and Symbol Law and the Pornography Law. There is also a threat in the future if the Criminal Code Bill is passed because not only it will maintain articles that are often used to criminalise freedom of expression but it will also revive articles that have been revoked by the Constitutional Court. Apart from the legal substance that limits freedom of expression online, there are also problems in the application of the law. The application of treason and the ITE Law against Papuan activists and the application hate speech against human rights activists are some examples. The article on hate speech, which should be a tool to protect minority and vulnerable groups, is instead used to attack activists because law enforcement officials interpret all kinds of criticism or dislike as hate speech. Attacks on freedom of expression in Indonesia are increasingly diverse. Initially, attacks on freedom of expression online were generally related to slander, defamation and blasphemy but now it has expanded to treason articles, hate speech and spreading fake news. It is made worse by the presence of doxing, buzzing, bullying, hacking, blocking and shutting down the internet in a certain area.” (Summary and conclusion, p.25-26)

EUROPE

225. United by challenge: regional opportunities to drive media reform in Southeast Europe. Washington, DC: Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), 2021

“Southeast Europe’s strong tradition of regional cooperation for media reform can be leveraged to address the renewed threats independent media face. Countries in the region have shared cultural and trade ties, common media markets, and face similar threats to a free and independent press. They also benefit from numerous existing regional coalitions and networks that have worked for decades to develop shared norms and standards and promote cross-border knowledge sharing and solidarity. Southeast Europe’s regional media coalitions, organizations, and networks are a significant force for promoting media freedom, independence, and pluralism. Regional coalitions are important drivers of national reform efforts. They need to be equipped to take advantage of new windows of opportunity and tap into the power and influence of the numerous multilateral organizations that serve the region. The support of international donors and multinational institutions is critical to advancing media reform agendas in Southeast Europe. However, more needs to be done to broaden and deepen support, and to tap into the collective capacities and assets of local media organizations and regional media coalitions.” (Key findings)


“... The MPM2021 covers, on this occasion, 32 countries, 27 EU and 5 non-EU (Candidate countries) ... The results of the MPM2021 show an increase in the risk level for all the areas that the Media Pluralism Monitor analyses: Fundamental protection, Market Plurality, Political Independence and Social Inclusiveness. The increase is higher in the Social Inclusiveness and in the Market area; in the last case, causing the shift from the medium to the high risk level for the average of EU + 5.” (Conclusions and recommendations, p.145)
https://doi.org/10.2870/251987


“In this study, we explore the challenges and strategies of independent media outlets in contexts of shrinking civic space. To this end, we present five case studies on a specific media outlets. These describe the overall political context for the media, the specific challenges that the respective media outlet has faced, as well as the different strategies that they have used to meet these challenges. The overall problem is situated within a set of concepts introduced in the first chapter, while the conclusions chapter brings together the lessons which can be learned from the case studies in one framework. The five case studies each have a distinct focus, namely: the efforts of Átlátszo in Hungary to reach groups in society who are currently not exposed to independent media content; the lessons KRIK in Serbia learned on how to anticipate and counter attempts by powerholders to repress their story, including through cross-border collaboration; the thin line between activism and journalism that Liber in Teleorman in Romania treaded, while investigating power abuse by national politicians at the local level; the focus on professional standards and community engagement by Oštro, in their attempt to build credibility towards an audience used to partisan media; the position of Átlátszo Erdély, a Hungarian-language media outlet in Romania stuck between pressures from multiple sides, who as a city-based media outlet managed to embed themselves in a rural audience.” (Executive summary)
https://www.freepressunlimited.org/sites/default/files/documents/Independen t%20journalism%20in%20contexts%20of%20shrinking%2 0civic%20space.pdf

Gender & Media

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


“At the global average level, mainstream news media are currently at the midway point to gender parity in subjects and sources. Between 2015 and 2020, the needle edged one point forward to 25% in the proportion of subjects and sources who are women. The single point improvement is the first since 2010 and is most visible in broadcast news media. Despite their three-point decline in the proportion of women subjects and sources since 2015, North American news media remain the best performers worldwide.
European news media have made the most significant progress on this indicator since 1995 and Pacific region media in the past five years. Only Africa’s media have stagnated as the rest of the regions have improved by three to 12 points across the quarter century. The proportion of women as subjects and sources in digital news stories also incr eased one point overall from 2015 to 2020, with a three-point improvement on news websites and a three-point decline in news media tweets. The overwhelming majority of science/health news was related to Covid-19, the limelight story of 2020. The meteoric climb in this major topic’s news value due to the pandemic has been accompanied by a fall in women’s voice and visibility in the stories. While the news share of science/health stories was significantly higher in 2020 compared to earlier periods (from 10% in 2005 to 17% currently), women’s presence in this topic declined by five points after a steady rise between 2000 and 2015.” (Executive summary, p.4)


"Gender remains an under-researched topic in the literature on media and development. A brief evaluation of seven books on media development and media for development shows that only 2% of pages are devoted to gender and feminist issues and that ‘gender’ and ‘women’ are often framed in narrow, binary ways. It is the field of Gender Media Studies and development communication that contributes most significantly to the narrow, binary ways. It is the field of Gender Media Studies and feminist issues and that 'gender' and 'women' are often framed in media for development shows that only 2% of pages are devoted to gender and development, particularly on the African continent.” (Abstract)


"The strategy presented in this document is the result of a year-long process of literature review and consultation with staff, partners, journalists and experts. A number of webinars for seminars and debates were organised, and several drafts were distributed and discussed. Consequently, this strategy constitutes a common construction of the larger IMS community. Much of it describes what IMS is already doing, and staff and partners alike will recognise elements of the current gender approach. The new perspective added – that of intersectional feminism – is not a miraculous and single solution to the challenges of media development. We believe, however, that it will allow us – the people who are the soul of IMS – to further express our commitment to gender equality.” (Publisher)

https://www.mediasupport.org/publication/ims-strategy-on-gender-equality-2021-2023/


"Journalism can be a dangerous profession, but it is often doubly dangerous for women because of the risk of sexist and sexual violence to which they are exposed. Of the 112 countries where journalists were polled for this report, 40 were identified as dangerous or very dangerous for women journalists. The dangers are not just to be found doing traditional reporting in the field. Women journalists also encounter danger in the new virtual reporting domains, on the Internet and social media, and even in places where they should be protected, including their own newsrooms. Three years after RSF produced a report on the difficulties for journalists – male and female – covering women’s rights, its new investigation is based on an analysis of responses to a questionnaire that was sent to all of its correspondents throughout the world, and to journalists specialising in gender issues. The results confirm the trends already detected by RSF’s staff, including the fact that the Internet has now become the most dangerous place for women journalists (reported by 73% of the respondents). Rana Ayyub, a well-known Indian columnist and investigative reporter is an authority on this problem as she receives constant rape threats and death threats on social media. Following the Internet, it is the workplace that the most respondents (58%) identified as the location "where sexist violence has been perpetrated." This perception has been reinforced by the #MeToo movement’s spread throughout the world and the fact that women journalists are now daring to denounce sexual attacks or sexual harassment in such countries as the United States, Japan and India.”


https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839452813


“1. Women’s access to mobile internet continues to increase across low- and middle-income countries, while mobile ownership remains relatively flat: 83 per cent of women own a mobile phone and 58 per cent use mobile internet. Women are also more likely than men to access the internet exclusively on a mobile handset in most of the countries surveyed, which highlights the importance of both increasing mobile access for women, as well as reducing the mobile gender gap. 2. The gender gap in mobile internet use continues to reduce, with women in low- and middle-income countries 15 per cent less likely to use it than men. This reduction has been driven primarily by South Asia where it decreased significantly from 50 per cent in 2019 to 36 per cent in 2020. For the first time, the gender gap in mobile internet use in South Asia is now on par with Sub-Saharan Africa, where the gender gap remains largely unchanged. Across low- and middle-income countries there are still 234 million fewer women than men accessing mobile internet. 3. While the overall gender gap in mobile ownership remains largely unchanged since 2017, the gender gap in smartphone ownership has reduced for the first time since then, driven by South Asia where these gaps have consistently been widest. Across low- and middle-income countries, women are now seven per cent less likely to own a smartphone than men, which translates into 143 million fewer women mobile owners than men. Women are also 15 per cent less likely to own a smartphone than men, down from 20 per cent in 2019.” (Key findings, p.7)


"Comprising 39 chapters by a team of international contributors, the Handbook is divided into six general themes: Gendered identities; Visualizing gender; The politics of gender; Gendered contexts and strategies; Gendered violence and communication; Gendered advocacy in action These sections examine central issues, debates, and problems including: the ethics and politics of gender as identity, impacts of media and technology, legal and legislative battlegrounds over gender inequality and LGBTQ+ human rights, changing institutional contexts, and recent research into communication and gendered violence. The final section links academic research on communication and gender to activism and advocacy beyond the academy.” (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/978042929448317

235. Ana Maria Rodriguez Pulgarin, Teddy Woodhouse: The costs of exclusion: economic

“Governments are missing out on hundreds of billions of dollars because of the digital gender gap. Closing this gap in the next five years gives policy makers a $524 billion USD opportunity. Across the world, millions of people are still unable to access the internet and participate online — and women are disproportionately excluded. Men are 21% more likely to be online than women globally, rising to 52% in Least Developed Countries. Various barriers prevent women and girls from accessing the internet and participating online, including unaffordable devices and data tariffs, inequalities in education and digital skills, social norms that discourage women and girls from being online, and fears around privacy, safety, and security. While digital exclusion limits the opportunities for those women and girls unable to connect, it also has broader societal and economic impacts that affect everyone.” (Executive summary)


“This briefing note is designed to give readers a basic understanding of the role of media regulatory and self-regulatory systems in promoting gender equality and inclusion. It highlights the main self- and regulatory systems that reflect or affect the role of media – from the perspective of gender – and will offer a basic understanding to inspire the reader to take action and initiate change in the field. The final goal is to help inspire the introduction of a co-regulatory system wherein both regulation and self-regulation models combine to improve women’s human rights and gender equality in and through media, telecommunications, and digital platforms. The note is aimed at media practitioners who do not necessarily have a deep understanding of the field of gender in media development; it also aims to be of interest to and relevance for women’s rights organisations, other civil society organisations, and those who want to push for gender equality and inclusion in and through the media.” (Publisher)


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


“Based on the needs assessment, a high proportion of women in Cameroon face online violence and are increasingly concerned about their safety in digital spaces. However, many of these respondents are unaware of any legal protections offered to them. Additionally, they believe that they lack the appropriate knowledge to protect themselves in these digital spaces. Results from the needs assessment show that there is a significant need for training programs aimed at building digital security awareness and digital hygiene skills.” (Conclusion)


“The purpose of this ex-post evaluation is for Internews to understand the impact that Safe Sisters has had on women in East Africa by documenting and publicly sharing their stories and evaluating the training approach itself. As women and girls come online for the first time, they disproportionately face violence, which creates risks to their physical safety and stifles their ability to capture the Internet’s transformative economic and social potential. Internews, together with partner DefendDefenders — a Uganda-based non-governmental organization (NGO) — developed the Safe Sisters program, a year-long fellowship that provides women human rights defenders and journalists with the techniques and tools they need to navigate online spaces safely, assume informed risks, and take control of their lives in an increasingly digital world.” (Publisher)


Helene Doubidi (togotopnews.com, Togo) -- Mouhamadou Toure (Studio Tamani, Mali) -- Mariam Ouedraogo (Sidwaya, Burkina Faso) -- Marthe Akissi (Radio Côte D’Ivoire)


AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


ASIA & PACIFIC


“The participants of the survey were limited to working women journalists in Kathmandu valley. Out of 87 journalists that participated in the survey two-thirds of journalists are young, the work force comprises between age group 20 to 40 years. Majority of journalists work in the private news media, where near about majority of them enrolled in the media through open competition. Similarly, over half of the journalists have experience of over 10 years but still at large, one-third of the journalists work as reporters and 18 per cent as sub-editors. With respect to the education background, more than two-third of the journalists are graduates with 68 per cent of women journalists have master’s degree and 26 per cent have bachelor’s degree. Female journalists come from the background of Humanities and Social sciences where majority of journalists have academic degree in journalism. The survey showed that that women journalists have diversified their field of news reporting. They report on different sectors such as human rights issues, education, health, art and culture, international relations, laws/ courts, politics apart from gender issues. Despite some changes over the years, the study points out challenges with respect to sustainability, working environment among women journalists. The study has also pointed out that the number of women journalists joining the field has increased but retaining human resource is a challenge which has adversely affected participation of female journalists’ participation in the leadership position.” (Summary)


“This report, based on research conducted with women’s empowerment collectives (self help groups, co-operatives, rights-based groups, trade unions) in India in late 2019, explores the relationship between the expansion of women’s social networks in collectives, their growing empowerment, and their adoption and meaningful use of digital technologies.” (https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediation)


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“The results of this review clarify that increasing women’s digital literacy depends not just on digital skills training, but on increasing their digital access and use. This is not a simple, linear process, and not just a case of distributing devices and data plans to women. There are several conditions that need to be in place, and they need to be in place in tandem. Creating women-led environments and peer networks, for example, are key ingredients of success. But these approaches can only go so far to drive women’s digital adoption if the digital literacy training fails to use appropriate technology, or does not overcome women’s time constraints. In a way, creating the perfect conditions for success is akin to a jigsaw puzzle: while some parts of the puzzle may be in place, it seems all the puzzle pieces are required to make an effective whole.” (Conclusions) https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/pdf/india-research-study-women%3E8%3D0%3D9-digital-literacy-2021.pdf

MIDDLE EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


“In this study, 30 women journalists from local media organizations based in various cities in Turkey described the problems they experienced in local media and the obstacles standing in the way of women who want to perform better in their career. Interviews with these journalists reveal that, in certain aspects, women in local media have similar experiences of working conditions; however, in other issues, their stories are rather different from each other. According to an overall evaluation of the research findings, one of the main conclusions is that women journalists in local news outlets are subjected to gender-based obstacles and discrimination in their work, and the specific working conditions in these organizations effectively result in gender inequality.” (Conclusion and recommendations, p.38) https://medarder.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Medar_ENG_Women-Journalists-in-Local-Media.pdf

Health Communication

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


“The book evaluates unique civic challenges, responsibilities, and opportunities for media worldwide, exploring pandemic social norms that media promote or discourage, and how media serve as instruments of social control and resistance, or of cooperation and representation. These chapters raise significant questions about the roles mainstream or citizen journalists or netizens play or ought to play, enlightening audiences successfully about scientific information on COVID-19 in a pandemic that magnifies social inequality and unequal access to health care, challenging popular beliefs about health and disease prevention and the role of government while the entire world pays close attention.” (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.4324/97810030181705


“How we report on vaccines and vaccination programmes can affect public perceptions of vaccines and vaccine acceptance. In this field, our choice of words, narrative decisions, presentation of data and selection of sources are all crucial - not just journalistically, but from a public health perspective to ensure accurate information reaches the right audiences.” (p.1) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GII-0I5wCc4FD_Ee74QkJ-Ue3t3vXDV/view


“We review 100 articles published from 2000 to early 2020 that research aspects of vaccine hesitancy in online communication spaces and identify several gaps in the literature prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. These gaps relate to five areas: disciplinary focus; specific vaccine, condition, or disease focus; stakeholders and implications; research methodology; and geographical coverage. Our findings show that we entered the global pandemic vaccination effort without a thorough understanding of how levels of confidence and hesitancy might differ across conditions and vaccines, geographical areas, and platforms, or how they might change over time. In addition, little was known about the role of platforms, platforms’ politics, and specific sociotechnical affordances in the spread of vaccine hesitancy and the associated issue of misinformation online.” (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-82


“This conference was a constructive opportunity to respond and shape the science of managing the infodemic in an extremely practical way. We all connected, listened, and collaborated in new ways that we couldn’t have imagined seven months ago. Holding an entirely ‘virtual’ WHO scientific conference over three weeks with more than 100 participants was a first for many of us. It was a necessary response, though; never before has there been a more urgent need for a coordinated, evidence-based approach to mitigating the harm caused by an infodemic and the spread of health misinformation. COVID-19 misinformation is harming communities and individuals. Thanks to the diversity of perspectives, disciplines and geography we were able to draw upon through this innovative sprint format, we have begun to build a global research agenda in this area, and to promote further opportunities for collaboration. Experiencing this conference has highlighted for me that we all have a stake in infodemic management; this isn’t just a responsibility for WHO or health authorities, but also for academics, researchers, the media and civil society and others.” (Foreword) https://apps.who.intiris/handle/10665/339192


“A global COVID-19 vaccine rollout must be coupled with funding and strategies to support trusted local media worldwide. The experience of communities in countries across the world demonstrates an urgent need to support groups at the local level if misinformation and mistrust is to be tackled effectively.” (Summary) https://internews.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/COVIDReport_20210416.pdf


“In the first pandemic of the datafied society, the disempowered were denied a voice in the heavily quantified mainstream narrative. Featuring stories of invisibility, injustice, hope and resistance, this book gives voice to communities at the margins in the Global South and beyond. The multilingual, polycentric and pluriversal narration invites the reader to enact and experience “Big Data from the South(s)” as a decolonial lens to read the pandemic.” (Back cover) https://networkcultures.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19FromTheMargins.pdf


“In almost all countries, news organisations are the single most widely used source of information about coronavirus. Furthermore, news organisations have become even more central to how people stay informed about coronavirus in the last year because, while overall reach has declined compared to earlier in the pandemic, the reach of other sources has declined more. While important and widely used, news organisations in most countries reach significantly fewer of the younger 18–24-year-olds, and in most countries reach significantly fewer people with low or medium levels of education than those with a university degree, underlining
challenges around information inequality. Some of the ‘rally around the flag’ effect seen earlier in the crisis is dissipating, but not equally so for all institutions. Trust in news organisations has declined by an average of eight percentage points (pp), but trust in national government has declined by an average of 13pp. In most countries covered, national health authorities, global health authorities, and scientists, doctors, or other health experts, remain highly and broadly trusted, though this trust has declined somewhat too, especially in Argentina and the United States. The trust gap between coronavirus information from news organisations and information on different kinds of platforms remains pronounced. On average, the gap between news organisations and social media is 21pp, between news and video sites 22pp, and between news and messaging applications 28pp. The gap is six points on average between news and search engines, but in Japan the gap is not statistically significant, and in Argentina and Brazil search engines are trusted more for news and information about COVID-19.” (Executive summary, p.7) **https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/ongoing-infodemic-how-people-eight-countries-access-news-and-information-about-coronavirus-rus-year**


“The purpose of this guide is to highlight research, theories, models, and research-driven recommendations that will help ensure effective communication strategies for organizations worldwide. The Institute for Public Relations has reviewed more than 100 research articles to assemble this guide. Below are 17 Key Findings, which are all backed by research discussed in more detail within the guide.” (Executive summary and key findings, p.1) **https://instituteforpr.org/a-communicators-guide-to-vaccines/**


"In this large and up-to-date systematic review and meta-analysis, we looked at the impact of suicide reports in news and information media on subsequent numbers of suicides. Our results support the continued use and promotion of guidelines on responsible media reporting of suicide, which are the best available interventions to address and prevent imitation effects in the population. Collaboration between suicide prevention experts and media professionals in implementing these guidelines is an essential part of any suicide prevention strategy. Caution should be exercised in reporting suicides by celebrities in particular. The media will continue to report on news-worthy suicides but have a social responsibility to mitigate the likelihood of the Werther effect.” (Conclusions, p.7) **https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m578**


"This research demonstrates the complexity of the vaccine information ecosystem, where a cacophony of voices and narratives have coalesced to create an environment of extreme uncertainty. Two topics are driving a large proportion of the current global vaccine discourse, especially around a Covid-19 vaccine: the "political and economic motives" of actors and institutions involved in vaccine development and the "safety, efficacy and data deficits" on vaccine narratives. An important finding of this study is the role of misinformation in undermining vaccine confidence, especially in low-income countries. The study found that: 58% of the respondents believed that vaccines are a solution to the pandemic, 51% believed that vaccines are effective, and 45% believed that vaccines are a safe and effective solution. However, 35% of the respondents believed that vaccines are not effective, and 22% believed that vaccines are not safe. The study also found that the most common sources of vaccine misinformation were social media, news media, and government websites. The study concluded that: The spread of misinformation on vaccines is a global challenge, and efforts to address it must be comprehensive and sustained. Communicators working in the field of vaccine communication must be equipped to counter misinformation, and should work closely with partners and stakeholders to ensure that accurate and timely information reaches the public. **https://firstdraftnews.org/long-form-article/under-the-surface-covid-19-vaccine-narratives-misinformation-and-data-deficits-on-social-media/**


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"BBC Media Action is helping to reduce the transmission of the coronavirus in Somalia by using a media campaign ‘hello hope: bye bye COVID’ to encourage uptake of preventative behaviours. Informed by research we are challenging attitudes and beliefs around coronavirus transmission and encouraging behaviour change through presenting preventative behaviours as: Being a responsible member of your community; showing you care and respect others; the right thing to do as a Somali. The campaign features: Ten audio PSAs broadcast on national and local radio featuring a witty character called Captain Suleiman, a radio disc jockey who encourages uptake of preventative behaviours while responding to listeners troubles in an ‘agony aunt’ style format. Eight stand-alone video PSAs distributed on TV and social media, produced in a variety of styles and featuring different characters including a caring grandaon, a poet, an imam and a visually challenged TV anchor ... PSAs have reached approximately 4.8 million adults (57% of the Somali adult population), 46% directly and 11% indirectly (see more information on the following pages). Audiences reported that the PSAs had improved their knowledge around COVID-19 preventative measures, with 65% of the PSAs audience reported to have learned ‘a lot’ after watching/listening to the PSAs. 58% reported to have learned something about ‘handwashing/hands hygiene’, and 44% reported to have learned something about the importance of wearing a mask. 61% of the audience reported to have discussed the PSAs with other people. This is also a very positive outcome, since discussion within the family/community is a key driver of behaviour change.” (p.1) **http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mhttp/mediaaction/pdf/research-briefing-covid-hbbc-reach-engagement-somalia-2021.pdf**


"Internews in South Sudan has now been on the ground for 7 months, providing lifesaving information about the COVID-19 pandemic to at risk and affected populations including to refugees, IDPs and those living in PoCs. With the publication of our 10th Lugara newsletter we would like to first say thank you for reading our bulletins! Even though our project is coming to an end, Internews will continue to mainstream COVID-19 in to existing programs and interventions as part of the national COVID-19 response transition plan. We are eager to hear from you on how any future Internews newsletters could best serve communities and partners – please send us your feedback on what you gained from Lugara and other topics of interest we could consider. Through the publication of the Lugara COVID-19 Media bulletins (you can find an overview of all our published resources below), we have sought to strengthen the quality of communications around COVID-19 and response mechanisms. We have collaborated with local media by building their capacity to gather, analyze, assess, and report accurate and timely COVID-19 related information.” (p.1) **https://internews.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Internews_Lugara_COVID19_Media_Bulletin_SouthSudan_010.pdf**


"This Information Ecosystem Assessment documents how information around the COVID-19 pandemic is produced, consumed, and shared in Sudan contributing to the existence of multiple and overlapping information sub-systems within the supply side of the broader ecosystem. The findings show how the centralization of news production, as well as power and resources, leads to the development of these sometimes-competing subsystems. This is evident through data collected from marginalized groups, such as displaced communities (refugees, IDPs, migrants) and those in communities that host them, who are not targeted by official supply mechanisms of information." (Executive summary)


https://www.intellectbooks.com/journal-of-african-media-studies


https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-2546-6


"This article presents new empirical insights into what people do with conspiracy theories during crises. By suppressing the impulse to distinguish between truth and falsehood, which has characterized most scholarship on the COVID-19 "infodemic," and engaging with claims surrounding two popular COVID-19 conspiracies—on 5G and on Bill Gates—in South Africa and Nigeria, we illustrate how conspiracies morph as they interact with different socio-political contexts. Drawing on a mixed-method analysis of more than 6 million tweets, we examine how, in each country, conspiracies have uniquely intersected with longer-term discourses and political projects. In Nigeria, the two conspiracies were both seized as opportunities to extend criticism to the ruling party. In South Africa, they produced distinctive responses: while the 5G conspiracy had limited buy-in, the Gates conspiracy resonated with deep-rooted resentment toward the West, corporate interests, and what is seen as a paternalistic attitude of some external actors toward Africa. These findings stress the importance of taking conspiracy theories seriously, rather than dismissing them simply as negative externalities of digital ecosystems. Situating conspiracies in specific dynamics of trust and mistrust can make an important difference when designing responses that are not limited to broadcasting truthful information, but can also enable interventions that account for deeply rooted sentiments of suspicion toward specific issues and actors, which can vary significantly across communities." (abstract)

https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051211044233

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"Las 13 experiencias de radios de salud mental que se exponen aquí, han sido un medio terapéutico que a la fecha no ha logrado ser reconocida de manera relevante por las formas hegemónicas establecidas encaminadas al tratamiento de padecimientos mentales, pero la buena noticia es que este texto hace evidente el efecto positivo que genera la comunicación en las personas, y que inevitablemente también debe denunciar, aunque sea de forma muy somera, que el encierro no es la respuesta al tratamiento del sufrimiento mental. Si las 13 “radios locas” que se dan a conocer en las páginas de esta aventura fueran personas, podríamos darnos cuenta que siempre existirá una pluralidad o diversidad que es intrínseca a la vida y que, dentro de esa variedad de características, la comunicación, la empatía y el amor son elementos que no faltan en ninguna de esas personas, las cuales tienen mucho que contar y que afortunadamente en su mayoría son buenos noticias y vivencias." (prólogo, p.10)

https://www.teseopress.com/radio/

ASIA & PACIFIC


"BBC Media Action is helping to reduce the transmission of the coronavirus in Afghanistan by using a media campaign to encourage uptake of preventive behaviours. Informed by research the project’s media outputs aim to help reduce the transmission of the coronavirus by encouraging take up of the following behaviours: Handwashing with soap and water more frequently; Disinfecting high touch surfaces; Catching coughs and sneezes; Maintaining a physical distance from people that you don’t live with. The campaign features: Seventeen (17) video and 18 audio PSAs distributed on TV, social media and radio featuring a little girl and her family who urges everyone to follow preventive behaviours to reduce the chance of getting the Coronavirus and escape the fate of losing loved ones, like she had, losing her father. Six different PSAs produced in Dari, Pashto and Uzbek languages, and distributed across national and local radio and TV stations as well as on Facebook. Forty (40) five minute episodes of a fast fiction radio drama targeting the nomadic Kuchi population were also produced and distributed on radio, interactive voice response (IVR) and Facebook. A Reach and Engagement survey was conducted in February and March 2021 of a nationally representative sample with 2,729 men and women aged 18 years and above, from settled urban and rural areas of 16 provinces of all eight geographic regions. In addition, 273 interviews were conducted with Kuchis (nomads). The survey’s primary goals were to gauge how successful the PSAs were in terms of reaching their intended targets and what the impact of the PSAs were, in terms of audiences’ knowledge and take up of preventative measures. The survey has shown that approximately 7.6 million have listened to or watched at least one of the PSAs or drama episodes (46% of the Afghanistan’s adult population). About three quarters of the audience (74%) reported to have discussed the PSAs with other people. (p.1)


INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION, FOREIGN NEWS, PUBLIC DIPLOMACY


"This report sets out a new methodology for assessing cyber power, and then applies it to 15 states: Four members of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance – the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia; Three cyber-capable allies of the Five Eyes states – France, Israel and Japan; Four countries viewed by the Five Eyes and their allies as cyber threats – China, Russia, Iran and North Korea; Four states at earlier stages in their cyber-power development – India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. The methodology is broad and principally qualitative, assessing each state’s capabilities in seven different categories. The cyber ecosystem of each

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state is analysed, including how it intersects with international security, economic competition and military affairs. On that basis the 15 states are divided into three tiers: Tier One is for states with world-leading strengths across all the categories in the methodology, Tier Two is for those with world-leading strengths in some of the categories, and Tier Three is for those with strengths or potential strengths in some of the categories but significant weaknesses in others. The conclusion is that only one state currently merits inclusion in Tier One. Seven are placed in Tier Two, and seven in Tier Three. (Back cover)

https://www.tss.org/blogs/research-paper/2021/06/cyber-capabilities-national-power


"Interestingly, traditional sources of power, such as military and economic strength, are not a prerequisite for success in cyberspace. It is true that the premier league of cyber powers also includes many traditional major powers in its ranks. But states need very few resources to build their cyber capabilities and exploit them to project influence, as the examples of international outsiders like Iran and Venezuela demonstrate. In some ways, cyber capabilities even seem ideally suited to allowing small and medium-sized countries to increase their influence because they represent an effective tool of asymmetric warfare. Even though they require relatively few resources and low-threshold technology, they have the potential to inflict considerable damage when deployed against other countries. Attacks on poorly protected public authorities, businesses, or even infrastructure can cause serious damage to other countries. The risks for the attacker are relatively low because it is usually difficult to trace and time-consuming. On top of this, the evidence is seldom clear, and consistent denial of any involvement is part and parcel of cyber warfare. This is also one of the key differences from previous power struggles at the international level. While the global battle for power and influence has always been accompanied by visible demonstrations of power and the accumulation of status symbols, the struggle in cyberspace takes place under the radar. This makes it especially difficult to identify shifts of power occurring today. Particularly in the field of information warfare, an area of growing importance in both national and international conflicts, states that were never previously on the radar as global players are now increasing their importance in both national and international conflicts, states that were never previously on the radar as global players are now increasing their influence. Yet, these countries recognised the potential of digital technologies at an early stage and are exploiting them with great success. Many of them have a wealth of experience in this respect due to having deployed the tools of information warfare against their own citizens and political opponents for many years. They can now direct this expertise towards other countries to wield global influence. " (Conclusion, p.103)


"[This book] provides an overview of the key issues in global journalism today and traces how media systems have evolved over time in different world regions. Taking into account local context as well as technological change across media industries, the book offers an up-to-date, thorough overview of media developments in all world regions embedded in their unique political, cultural and economic context. Covering theoretical foundations of global journalism, from the classic Four Theories of the Press to more nuanced media models, this text proposes a framework for studying world media systems. Contributed chapters cover a wide range of topics, including media freedom, global news cultures, professional ethics and responsibilities, and education of global journalists, as well as the role of technology and issues such as fake news, soft power and public diplomacy, foreign news reporting and international news flow." (Publisher)


"Das Handbuch bietet die erste Gesamtsicht aller wesentlichen Felder der globalen Kommunikation in organisierten Sozialsystemen (Massenmedien, Politik, Wirtschaft, Zivilgesellschaft) und Lebenswelten (Netzgemeinschaften, Kleingruppen, Individuum) auf einer einheitlichen und interdisziplinären bereichsbezogenen Basis." (Verlag)

Table of contents: https://www.gbv.de/dms/ilmenau/toc/1738521540.PDF


"How do journalists working for different state-funded international news organizations legitimize their relationship to the governments which support them? In what circumstances might such journalists resist the diplomatic strategies of their funding states? We address these questions through a comparative study of journalists working for international news organizations funded by the Chinese US, UK and Qatari governments. Using 52 interviews with journalists covering humanitarian issues, we explain how they minimized tensions between their diplomatic role and dominant norms of journalistic autonomy by drawing on three – broadly shared – legitimizing narratives, involving different kinds of boundary-work. In the first ‘exclusory’ narrative, journalists differentiated their ‘truthful’ news reporting from the ‘false’ state ‘propaganda’ of a common Other, the Russian-funded network, RT. In the second ‘fuzzifying’ narrative, journalists deployed the ambiguous notion of ‘soft power’ as an ambivalent ‘boundary concept’, to defuse conflicts between journalistic and diplomatic agendas. In the final ‘inversion’ narrative, journalists argued that, paradoxically, their dependence on funding states gave them greater ‘operational autonomy’. Even when journalists did resist their funding states, this was hidden or partial, and came less by journalistic concerns about the political effects of their work, than by serious threats to their personal cultural capital." (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.1177/1940161220922832

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARIAN


"Looking at media involvement in Africa, one can only state that the continent is more important than ever. Next to traditional actors like the BBC or Radio France International, and to a smaller extent of Deutsche Welle or Radio Swiss International, there are new players. They do not seem to have the same agendas as the older ones, but they bring about new qualifications of journalism, of attempted influence and propaganda. What differentiates them is, in the case of China, that funds do not seem to matter much. In the case of Turkey, that more and more scholarships are being offered and when it comes to Russia, that old alliances of the USSR in the Cold War are being reactivated. What separates them even further from the old players are the values that they stand for and try to propagate. They are offering a journalism that praises their own autocratic models of rule and, in the case of China in particular, they promote a positive journalism, that does not ask uneasy questions, a journalism that does not offend or hurt, but that usually pleases the powers-that-be." (foreword)

https://www.kas.de/en/web/medien-afrika/einzeltitel/detail-/content/it-is-about-their-story


"One-third of all African stories in news outlets on the continent are sourced from foreign news services. As a result, stories about Africa continue to be told through the same persistent and negative stereotypes and frames of poverty, disease, conflict, poor leadership and corruption. To understand how the media in Africa covers Africa, we surveyed 38 African editors and analyzed content from 60 African news outlets in 15 countries (Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, DRC, Egypt, Tunisia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal) between September and October 2020. In addition, four facilitated focus groups were held with African editors of Pan African outlets and international correspondents. The results confirm challenges and experiences that are common knowledge within the industry: advertising revenue and newsrooms are shrinking, influencing the kind of news that Africans read and that news is largely negative and conflict-filled. Key findings from the report show that the sources for news gathering on African countries are problematic, the resulting content continues to feed old stereotypes, and often the quality of local journalism doesn't allow for nuanced and contextualized storytelling that is critical for telling stories about the 54 countries in Africa." https://africanofilter.org/uploads/files/How-African-Media-Covers-Africa_Report.pdf

273. Herman Wasserman: *The untapped potential of regional cooperation for media reform in Southern Africa.* Washington, DC. Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), 2021, 32 p. The 1991 adoption of the Windhoek Declaration in Namibia ushered in a continent-wide commitment to supporting independent media in Africa. Despite initial progress, including the establishment of the regional Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA), independent media in the region continues to suffer. Increasing attacks on independent journalism, the co-optation of media outlets by political and economic interests, and the growing problem of disinformation is compromising the viability of independent media in the region. The strong foundation of regional cooperation in Southern Africa that began at Windhoek has also suffered. However, there remains strong enthusiasm among media actors in Southern Africa to reignite a regional network to promote solidarity, address the myriad challenges independent media in the region face, and articulate an African vision and agenda for media development. A regional coalition can help set norms and standards for democratic media by tapping into the leverage points and frameworks of regional institutions and amplifying national-level priorities in regional and global debates. Countries with stronger environments for independent media can support the reform agendas of restrictive countries through knowledge sharing and joint advocacy. For a coalition to be effective, it needs clear goals and a decentralized structure that avoids imposing hierarchy or encouraging unhealthy competition over funding. (Key findings) https://www.cima.ned.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CIMA_Southern-Africa-Report_web_150ppi.pdf

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"This article focuses on international news channels in the Global South and the perceptions by audiences in Latin America. Designed with the intention of re-shaping global narratives, international broadcasting is considered instrumental to public diplomacy and improving the image of particular countries. While many studies focus on global media policies of specific countries or the messages broadcast by international media outlets, less attention has been paid to the impact on audiences. Based on a series of focus groups conducted in Mexico and Argentina, this article discusses how Latin American audiences perceive public diplomacy efforts as channelled by international news media and their effect on audience perception, by focusing on China’s CCTV-E, Russia’s RT and Iran’s HispanTV. The findings show that preconceived images contribute to undermine the acceptance of international broadcasters. In addition, participants were optimistic about RT’s prospects of success in Latin America, hesitant about HispanTV and pessimistic about China Central Television." (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.1177/2059436420960882

ASIA & PACIFIC


"In its 2020 presidential and legislative elections, Taiwan combatted and defeated Chinese propaganda and disinformation through a whole-of-society approach, one in which the government became better at debunking fake news and raising awareness of these attacks; civil society became more alert and created non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to detect, debunk, and block fake news online; and companies such as Facebook and LINE (similar to WhatsApp) became faster at finding and removing fake accounts and disinformation. Using Taiwan’s most recent elections as an example to elucidate the nature of Chinese propaganda and disinformation, this report identifies China’s motives, tactics, and actors in its foreign information warfare. Similar to Russia’s, China’s motives are to destabilize democracy and weaken governance in a target country by sowing doubts and chaos in its society, undermining its self-confidence, and increasing polarization and disunity. Its tactics include the following: 1) worsen existing social, political, economic, and generational divisions; 2) exploit weaknesses in the informational system; 3) financially control and absorb traditional media; 4) employ its cyber army; 5) obfuscate the attack source through technological, commercial, and legal means; and 6) make the attacks partisan so that one side will at worst not condemn it and at best magnify the effects of its attacks. Its actors are the Chinese Cyberspace Administration, Central Propaganda Department, United Front Department, People’s Liberation Army Strategic Support Force, State Council’s Taiwan Affairs Office, 50-Cent Party (cyber army) and its content farms, and provinces, as well as agents from the target country employed by the Chinese government." (Executive summary, p.5) https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/files/publication/Combating%20Chinese%20Propaganda%20and%20Disinformation%20-%20Huang.pdf

EUROPE


"Based on a literature review through January 2021, evaluated at an expert seminar, this policy brief provides a baseline analysis of changing tactics, narratives, and distribution strategies in Russian and Chinese information operations (IOs) relating to the covid-19 pandemic. Key findings: China copied Russia’s tactics, spreading disinformation globally for the first time, particularly on the virus’s origins. But it lacks Russia’s skillset. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) turned to destructive and conspiratorial narratives in an attempt to blunt criticism of its initial failure to contain Covid-19. China’s previous approach built economic ties and influence with political elites, whereas Russia’s lies and disruption targeted broader public opinion. Russia’s approach evolved little; it recycled previous narratives, spreading a broad range of covid-19 disinformation. Evidence supports the theory that Russia seeks to strengthen itself in relative terms by weakening the West, while China seeks to strengthen itself in absolute terms. Collaboration agreements between state media and circular amplification of narratives during the pandemic do not (yet) amount to evidence of strategic Sino-Russian coordination." (Executive summary) https://cepa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CEPA-Russia-China-9.14.21.pdf

Journalism & Journalism Education

GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL


"As you might expect, there were regional differences among the digital news media in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, which we include in this report. But what struck us most as we reviewed the data were the similarities that emerged among these news organizations as they strive to cover their communities and build sustainable business models. Although most operate with relatively small budgets, they have an impact that punches above their weight when compared to the size of their teams and resources. Many specialize in investigative and data journalism, and more than 50% have won national or international awards for their work. Inflection
Point International represents the deepest and broadest research ever done into the state of digital native media in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. As with so many things in our not-quite-post-pandemic world, what we discovered was a mix of alarming threats and inspiring breakthroughs. (Executive summary, p.7) https://data2021.sembramedia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/infection-point-ENG-Nov-2021-2.pdf


"In terms of quality of media coverage, there are various outcomes: In Asia, for example, small and independent outlets, able to provide reliable information, gained momentum, whereas citizens in the MENA-region turned to social media in search of trustworthy facts on the coronavirus. In South-Eastern Europe, pseudo-journalism and fake news spread mainly via the Internet, while in sub-Saharan Africa innovative formats emerged, which also enhanced the quality of reporting. In many regions and countries, not least in Germany, demand for factbased, reliable reporting increased, offering an opportunity for quality-oriented media to regain audiences' trust. The economic situation is difficult for almost all media outlets worldwide, although there are some differences. In Central and Eastern Europe, for example, pro-government media continued to benefit from state-sponsored advertising, while other media suffered even more acute drops in revenue. In many regions, media outlets expanded their online presence to partly compensate these losses by introducing additional paywalls, as was the case in the US, for example. In Latin America, many news outlets had to reduce their staff shortly after the outbreak of COVID-19 due to a shortfall in revenues. Small, independent outlets in Asia and Central Eastern Europe could raise their income through an increase in memberships or subscriptions. In Central Eastern Europe, especially younger generations acknowledged that quality journalism requires financing, while in Southeast Europe, it is still uncommon to pay for online media consumption, which is a setback for independent online journalism." (At a glance, p.2-3) https://www.kas.de/en/single-title/-/content/catalyst-or-destabiliser-1


"In Moldova, a series of hackathons led to the development of tech-based solutions to misinformation. In Ecuador, indigenous groups wrote their own stories on Wikipedia to strengthen their culture's representation and publicly correct misinformation. In Uganda, citizen journalists established a network to report on underrepresented issues and groups. And in the Middle East, innovative concepts in journalism training are helping the next generation of journalists to become fit for the challenges of the future. These four case studies illustrate the approaches that DW Akademie and its partners are pursuing worldwide to strengthen the public dialogue. The goal is to foster innovation and increase the visibility of underrepresented topics, and to bring together innovators and experts to pool their knowledge and skills." (Publisher) https://www.dw.com/en/media-development-in-practice-innovation-for-dialogue/a-57829766


"Despite the looming crisis in journalism, scholarly research on the topic is often disconnected from the research that the news industry and journalists need and want, but do not have the time or expertise to do. This book provides valuable insights for journalists and scholars about news business models, audience research, misinformation, diversity and inclusivity, and news philanthropy, offering journalists a guide to what they need to know and a call to action for what kind of research journalism scholars can do to best help the news industry reckon with disruption." (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192753847.001.0001


"Alfredo Casares aporta una imagen esperanzadora del futuro del periodismo como motor de la transformación social con un texto muy documentado, que se apoya en estudios y numerosos ejemplos de todo el mundo para ilustrar los efectos beneficiosos de un periodismo más constructivo en la sociedad, los periodistas, los estudiantes de periodismo y los editores de medios. La obra se descubre como un urgente alegato en favor de un periodismo hoy más necesario que nunca, que practique la escucha paciente y estimule una conversación social en la que participen todas las voces. El autor plantea, además, una invitación para que profesionales y ciudadanos reflexionemos juntos sobre qué periodismo necesita hoy la sociedad." (Tapa posterior)


"Academic activity surrounding constructive and solutions journalism has surged in recent years; thus, it is important to pause and reflect on this growing body of work in order to understand where the field can and should go in the future. We conducted a systematic review of existing literature on solutions and constructive journalism (N = 94), in an effort to (1) describe the state of this field by identifying the patterns and trends in the methodological and conceptual approaches, topics, institutions, countries and practices involved in this research, and (2) illuminate potentially important gaps in the field and suggest recommendations for future research." (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849211044559


"One of the main challenges for fact-checkers seems to be to better and more effectively reach their audience. That means, on the one hand, improved skills and capacity to reach out to a specific group of followers, but also techniques to more efficiently use social media as an audience generation tool. Effective use of social media turns out to be a challenge of high importance for African fact-checking organizations in our sample in particular, which have thus far been slow in building a strong follower base on social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Credibility has also been mentioned as a major challenge for factchecking groups, with 22 out of 30 groups that responded in our poll saying that the challenge of gaining or maintaining credibility is "very important" or "fairly important." Achieving a higher impact is an important challenge for many factchecking organizations as they seek methods that would help them to both measure and increase their impact. All African fact-checking groups included in our research indicated the challenge of impact to be "very important." Impact of fact-checking remains a research gap as there is no solid evidence to understand how effective fact-checking is." (Key findings) https://cmdcceu.files.wordpress.com/2021/06/whatskeptfact-checkingorganizationsupatnight.pdf


"With the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic came a flood of novel misinformation. Ranging from harmless false cures to dangerous rhetoric targeting minorities, coronavirus-related misinformation spread quickly wherever the virus itself did. Fact-checking organizations around the world took up the charge against misinformation, essentially crowdsourcing the task of debunking false narratives. In many places, engagement with coronavirus-related content drove a large percentage of overall user engagement with fact-checking content, and the capacity organizations developed to address coronavirus-related misinformation was later deployed to debunk misinformation on other topics." (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.3716/mr-2020-49


"This collections of case-studies, best practices and learnings provided by cross-border practitioners of Europe wants to help everyone who is
interested in the cross-border method, who wants to start cross-border projects or wants to gain more cross-border skills.” (Publisher) https://playbook.n-ost.org/


AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"Self regulation through peer review is a system whereby journalists hold each other accountable for the quality and accuracy of their content. If the Kenyan experience is anything to go by, this measure can provide an additional layer of scrutiny – additional to a state ombudsman or media houses’ internal quality controls – that is both quick and less prone to political interference. Having edited the the ‘Media Observer’ and contributed several reviews, I offer the following seven measures to take to ensure your own peer review programme is an effective tool in the fight to restore audience trust: Guard goodwill ... Make it part of a routine ... Consider hiring a public editor ... Regularly review editorial policies ... Communicate openly about external forces ... More carrots, fewer sticks ... Supplement with a mentorship programme.” (Making peer review work for you, p.20-22) https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/how-kenyan-news-media-are-using-peer-review-promote-accountability

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN


"#el mejor periodismo está por venir… fue el mantra que nos llevó a construir una serie de 13 conversaciones en línea de una hora - que se resumieron en 13 videos de 4 minutos y también en 13 podcast de 15 minutos - que acaban ahora transcritas y reunidas aquí en forma de libro. Para desarrollar esta herejía periodística charlamos con 13 periodistas con los que compartimos cariños, admiraciones y respetos por que, desde sus variadas concepciones del mismo periodismo, nos compartieran ideas y experiencias con las que reinventar este oficio de contar historias de la vida real. Fueron, por orden alfabético, Abello, Alarcón, Caparrós, Espinosa de los Monteros, Godoy, González, Guerriero, León, Ortín, Rea, Ronderos, Santos, Turati, Villores. (p.191) https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/buenos/la-comunicacion/17718.pdf

ASIA & PACIFIC


"The importance of journalism’s role in society is beyond debate. Particularly in so-called fragile states, the social responsibility of media and journalism cannot be denied. Journalism education must account for the high level of skills required by journalists, and the ‘mediation’ function of journalists in fragile states should be conceptualised. Responding to dynamic developments in the Afghan media landscape and the resulting need for high-quality journalism education, this article proposes a reform model for journalism education on a tertiary level in Afghanistan. Based on research as well as a needs and feasibility assessment following the participatory action research (PAR) approach, target models and an implementation plan for educational reform were developed. This provides a potential blueprint for reforms in journalism education in fragile states, which considers social and cultural values and interests in the local context while drawing on the perspective of the outsider. This article presents the results of a project entitled ‘Professionalisation of Journalism Education on a Tertiary Level in Afghanistan’, which resulted in a manual.” (Abstract) https://doi.org/10.22032/dbt.47741

EUROPE


"The book examines 13 years of journalists’ struggles for independence and meaning as they weigh their professional goals and community obligations against their growing dependence on local elite. Russia’s sub-national levels - its provinces and communities -- remain understudied but important. Local newspapers are the only means by which news reaches many rural Russians, and Russia’s “heartland” regions are a significant source of support for the current national regime.” (Publisher) https://doi.org/10.3726/b15828

Media Assistance

293. MediaDev fundraising guide. Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), 2021

"If your organisation is planning to apply for media development or journalism support funding, the GFMD MediaDev Fundraising Guide is for you. We hope that the Guide will provide insight into a variety of application models, take you through the project design process, and help you submit better - and ultimately more successful - funding proposals.” (Welcome) https://fundraising-guide.gfmd.info/


"This paper aims to trace the social construct of sustainability in the context of media development and define what is to be sustained, at the level of the intervention (the process of change) or its outcome (the impact on the medium itself). It is intended for all those who are concerned, closely or remotely, with ‘media action’ – and this expression is used here to mean an intervention (inside or outside a given media system) that promotes either communication for social change (the use of media for development purposes) or media development (the targeted development of independent outlets). This literature review focuses on the evolution of the concept of sustainability and the way it has been endorsed by the media, media action implementers and donors over time, as funds dedicated to media assistance have increased and the digital revolution has questioned most of the foundations of the media industry, with regard to production, distribution and information usage.” (Abstract) https://fome.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Media-Dev-Research-Reviews-3-Sustainability_1-1.pdf


"The report presents a plan to guarantee up to 0.1% of GDP a year into journalism to safeguard its social function for the future. The New Deal would be a massive commitment both at the national and the international scale to ensure the social function of journalism. Christophe Deloire, chair of the Forum, explains: “The New Deal for Journalism consists of linking together various points that up to now have been separate, i.e. how the market is organised, the technological environment, and the work of journalists, with its working practices and ethics. This amounts to rebuilding journalism, not as the ‘media sector’, but as an essential element of freedom of opinion and expression, predicated on the right to information.” The report is structured around four fields of action: media freedom, the independence of journalism, a favourable economic climate and support for a sustainable digital model. Among the recommendations are: Ensure full transparency of media ownership as part of broader measures on transparency, anti-corruption and financial integrity; Implement initiatives allowing quality journalism to be singled out and given a comparative advantage again, such as the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI), to restore confidence among all stakeholders; Support and adopt international measures for taxing digital platforms, such as the global minimum corporate tax rate proposed by the OECD; Develop hybrid funding for the media, combining philanthropy and public support by establishing private-public blended financial instruments for commercial and non-profit media; Secure from governments a commitment to spending 1% of official development assistance on support for independent media and their enabling environment; Establish support mechanisms allowing citizens to support media organizations of their choice (such as media vouchers, tax relief on subscriptions, or income tax
designations); Structure the reflection on the impact of AI on journalism by including journalism and media as strategic sectors in national Artificial Intelligence strategies and roadmaps. *(IAMCR email, 2021/6/16)*


"The Internews Partnership Survey was distributed to all organizations that have received funding through Internews between January 2019 and March 2020. Our goal is to better understand their experience working with Internews and how we can best serve their needs and strengthen these relationships. moving forward. It was distributed to a list of 750 individuals in each region Internews works who are listed as primary contacts for Internews subawards. A total of 209 people responded to the full survey ... Respondents lived and worked in more than 55 different countries around the world. Overall, respondents said collaboration with Internews is a positive experience and would like to continue working with us in future projects. On a rating from 1-5 with 5 being the best, Internews received an average score of 4.54. More than half of respondents said their experience working with Internews is better than other organizations from which they receive funding, while 41% said it was equal, and 0.5% (five people) said it was worse. Partners would like more support in several areas, including budgets and financial reports; documenting activities, successes, and challenges of projects; and institutional support, such as trainings, capacity building, and technical support. Specifically, partners would like more training in human rights and journalism, as well as technical training, such as leadership, project implementation, fundraising, and IT. We also noted that about half of respondents said Internews assisted them with strategic planning, and all of those (81 of 81) said it was useful." *(Summary)*

https://internews.org/resource/spring-2020-partnership-survey-findings-analysis/


"This report presents the protocol for a systematic search to identify and map the evidence base of impact evaluations and systematic reviews of interventions that aim to promote an independent media as a democratic institution in low- and middle-income countries. The EGM was developed by 3ie, made possible with generous support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)’s Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG Center), via a partnership with NORC at the University of Chicago." *(About 3ie)*


298. James Deane: Pathways to media sustainability in a broken market: is independent media a public good and is public subsidy to support it realistic? Protecting Independent Media for Effective Development (PRIMED), 2021, 27 p.

"This working paper argues that business models capable of supporting independent media are increasingly available, that market media are increasingly fertile territory for government co-option and that alternative sources of revenue for independent media are scarce." *(p.3)*


"This report aims to progress the media development sector’s work towards the financial sustainability of independent news media. It proposes a new ecosystem-level framework for categorising media outlets, measuring their performance and making them more resilient to their obstacles in reaching and generating income from audiences and businesses. The proposed framework is intended for use by media development implementers (such as Internews), media outlets, donors, technologists and research partners."


https://www.bmj.de/resource/blob/87914/65c1e879e17990ed432ee9899538a28c/DWA%20Studie%20Medien%20Krisenbewaeltigung_WEB_final.pdf


"Going more specific into members’ engagement with GFMD, the survey found that the top three reasons organisations participate in GFMD were for information and knowledge exchange (n = 10), policy and decision making support (n = 8), and to build networks (n = 7). Members also indicated that the resources form GFMD they use the most include the #MediaDev Insider Newsletter (n = 67), GFMD website (n = 66), and mailing lists (n = 60). To a lesser extent, members engage with GFMD’s social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) (n = 43), conference sessions organised by GFMD (n = 43), and GFMD working groups and joint initiatives (n = 41). Notably, respondents did not indicate using the policy related resources even though it was selected as one of the top three reasons for participating in GFMD." *(Summary of results, p.3)*

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RkvbCBnipATLxFcDqX0332RevZ8e2OHs1O1w0E-A-Y/edit


"In recent years, Internews’ Earth Journalism Network (EJN) has invested time and resources to better understand the results of the support it provides to journalists and media outlets. EJN already uses a suite of methods to gauge the impact of its efforts to improve environmental media, such as evaluating individual training and capacity development activities. In 2020, it commissioned a study that aimed to go a step further and support deeper learning on whether, how and why EJN’s work contributes to changes in the policies and practices of different actors. This report summarizes the study’s main findings, insights and recommendations ... Key findings within EJN’s control: EJN’s financial and mentoring support enables journalists with varied levels of experience to undertake reporting that they would otherwise find difficult. As a result, they can produce newsworthy stories on environmental issues. Research challenges mentioned earlier resulted in incomplete data, but it appears that stories supported by EJN are likely to achieve higher levels of engagement when published in local languages. Many stories published with EJN’s support are republished and shared through other news outlets and social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Levels of engagement appear to vary considerably across countries and distribution channels, however data

“This report brings together disparate terminology, findings and recommendations from the private and public sectors and academia to synthesise a set of five general steps for practitioners when performing impact assessments. Impact assessment (IA) compares a variable of interest after an intervention (e.g. a communication campaign) to what it would be if that intervention had never happened. Accompanying each of the five steps are examples of how migration communicators can assess the impact of campaigns to, first, change attitudes and, second, change behaviour. Step 1: Set objectives for the intervention that define what the desired effect is. Ideally, this should (1) meet the SMART criteria of specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound; (2) focus on ultimate outcomes, rather than only outputs; (3) avoid a number of common mistakes in setting objectives and (4) carefully consider what the—as specific as possible—target audience is. Step 2: Identify a measure of the impact that the intervention has as its objective. These should be (1) clearly defined and unambiguous; (2) externally valid (they act reliably if used for other interventions) and (3) internally valid (they measure what they claim to measure). There already exist long-lists of measures (also known as indicators) to choose from. Step 3: Estimate what would have happened had there been no intervention, known as a ‘counterfactual’. Ideally, but not necessarily, this requires performing a pre-intervention measurement, also known as baseline assessment. However, this is not always possible. This should not dissuade practitioners but instead assumptions about the counterfactual should be considered. Step 4: Perform the intervention. This may involve separating a randomised sample into a treatment group(s)—that receives the intervention(s)—and a control group—that does not. If this is not feasible, other forms of counterfactual are possible that ‘construct’ a control group. This section also overviews: (1) types of communication campaigns; (2) the MINDSPACE checklist of behavioural influences for interventions; (3) key recommendations on persuasive interventions from ICMPD’s previous work; (4) recommendations on campaigns dertering irregular migration. Step 5: Post-intervention measurement and analysis: (1) those receiving the intervention should be measured post-intervention (ideally, as well as, either a genuine or constructed control group); (2) the impact must be calculated: usually the difference in the variable of interest pre- and post-intervention and/or between the treatment and control group; (3) theoretical consideration of why and what aspect of the campaign caused an impact; are the findings likely to be universalizable?; (4) creation (and, in some cases, incorporation) of recommendations based on combination of impact and theoretical considerations.” (Executive summary)


“The aim of this study is to analyse one of the leading development aid projects in the field of the media: Lausanne-based Fondation Hirondelle (FH), from a communication perspective. It will first be conceptualized in a broader socio-cultural and political sense, in relation to the paradigm of sustainable development and its dedicated goal. It will then be placed in relation to the problematic aspects of the concept of sustainability in the field of media development, from a critical perspective. Finally, the potentials and challenges of the collaboration within the organization will be discussed, especially through a cross-sector communicative dimension.” (p.2-3)

https://www.medias21.net/app/download/6269716066/Assignment%20Michel%20LEROY.pdf?t=1626426729

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARIAN

305. Media development and sustainability in West Africa: a study on media audience mapping and targeting techniques, capacity building models & ownership patterns in West Africa. Accra: Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA); Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), 2020, ii, 70 p.

*Media Audience Mapping & Targeting Techniques in West Africa: 1. Audience measurement and ratings culture: The culture of audience measurement and ratings is still very rudimentary in much of West Africa. Within the current media milieu, where new technologies are yielding new forms of content and channels, and given the trends towards multi-media, cross-media and trans-media models, audience insights need to be mainstreamed into the routines of media work by removing the skills deficits and logistics barriers to such effort. Media Capacity Building & Institutional Sustainability in West Africa: 1. Journalism professional training: Current journalism training activities have often not been informed by prior diagnosis of particular need, and are not designed to respond to the peculiar realities of the media in West Africa. Training models need to be more customised, coherent and comprehensive by ensuring that beneficiaries go beyond field reporters to include all actors along the value chain; combining a mix of models that are bespoke to particular circumstances; by training and renewing the skills and competences of media practitioners to respond to both independent journalism and the aid sector’s credibility.” (Introduction)

https://p.dw.com/p/3oBjY

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

306. Prue Clarke: How development actors can help, not hurt, information ecosystems. Deutsche Welle, 2021, January 27

“Development actors tend to pay media to publish content that often is just their PR material in disguise. It’s time to rethink a practice that undermines both independent journalism and the aid sector’s credibility.” (Introduction)

https://p.dw.com/p/3oBjY
Even so, the independent media in the region is still dependent on external funding and will be, until the political situation in the region will improve. To be more effective and to improve the effectiveness of the Regional Independent Media Support Programme in the future, VIKES should increase the number of the partners and independent media representatives (also those currently exited) to receive support from the programme. The main problem of independent public media remains the lack of financing and security.

In a meeting with independent journalists in Nicaragua, where the government has threatened to continue to imprison journalists and publicly insults media professionals, they underlined the importance of solidarity networks among international organizations and press associations.

According to them, VIKES has done bold work, and its efforts have supported the professionals who remain to practice "survival journalism" and need all the backing to continue to inform the population." (Executive summary, p.7-8)


EUROPE


https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-09632-8_71-3

AFRICA, SUB-SAHARAN


"To gain a comprehensive understanding of both urban and peri/urban/rural locations, the assessment was conducted in two locations in Ethiopia: Gambella Region and Addis Ababa City Administration. A total of 240 respondents participated in the assessment, of which about one-third are female. The findings of the study indicate that while there is a more open space for the media to operate and share with the community since 2018, there are still major gaps in the areas of access to timely information by the media, infrastructure for mainstream media operations in the regions, technical capacity of media practitioners, and information verification mechanisms." (Publisher)


"With over 309 licensed radio stations, numerous public and private TV stations, and rapid growth in internet accessibility and usage, the media landscape in Uganda is dynamic, diverse, and rapidly evolving. Ugandans across the country from rural villages to urban centers are presented increasingly with more channels to meet their wide-ranging information needs. While radio remains the dominant medium of information for both women and men across Uganda, there remains enormous divides across the country that fuel unequal access to information and media consumption behaviors. The media sector is further challenged by poorly skilled media professionals, low quality journalism, a complex regulatory environment that is often not understood by media professionals and broadcasters, and high levels of self-censorship. The COVID-19 pandemic has both cemented the media’s position as an essential service provider, as well as challenged the sector, affecting advertising revenue, employment, the quality and quantity of content production, and the ability to meet the information needs of their audiences.” (Publisher)


"African Communication Systems and the Digital Age contextualizes communication by bringing to the table African contributions to the field, examining the importance of African indigenous forms of communication and the intersection of African communication systems and the digital age. The book covers various concepts, models, theories and classifications of African communication systems, including instrumental communication, types of African music and their communication properties, indigenous writing systems, non-verbal communication, and mythological communication. Through careful analysis of communication in Africa, this book provides insights into the various modes of communication in use prior to the advent of traditional and new media as well as their continued relevance in the digital age.” (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429288395

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316. Chaacha Mwita et al.: The Kenya media assessment 2021. Internews, 2021, 47 p. *There are stark lessons to be learnt from this assessment: Social media has become the main source of news and information for majority of Kenyans, even though it suffers the greatest trust deficit. Radio remains highly important, while television is the most trusted source of information and newspaper circulation and readership continue to decline — even though newspapers have the highest quality content. The study also found that self-censorship is rife; media sustainability remains a key concern and media freedom has been deteriorating since 2017. To improve media performance in Kenya, three key gaps were identified for plugging. These are skills gaps (the knowledge media personnel need to perform their work effectively); resource shortages (the resources media entities need to execute their mandate); and policy gaps (an enabling environment for the media to thrive).* (Publisher) https://internews.org/resource/kenya-media-assessment-2021/

317. Daniel Ominde Okoth: Media and the pandemic. Adapting to survive: radio and digital media in Eastern Africa. Johannesburg: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Media Programme Sub-Sahara Africa, 2021, 22 p. *"Radio is still the region’s most popular medium, especially in rural parts of the region where the majority of the population still live. The little advertisement revenue that still goes to media houses in the region lies in the hands of very few media outlets with a national reach. Most of these are entertainment-focused commercial radio stations. Most of the digital media revenue from advertisers goes straight into the hands of big-tech corporations like Google, Facebook and Twitter. The little that remains is shared among social media influencers and fad bloggers. Smaller radio stations and digital publications in the region have been forced to find alternative models to finance their operations. These include partnerships with development agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and religious institutions. There are numerous opportunities in the digital space than those in legacy media – or traditional media (such as print and analogue publications in the region) have been forced to find alternative models to thrive.* (Publisher) https://internews.org/resource/kenya-media-assessment-2021/

318. 70 años de la televisión argentina. In: Revista Argentina de Comunicación, vol. 9, nr. 12, 2021, 339 p. *"La elección de la temática de esta convocatoria fue incitada por la conmemoración de los 70 años de la primera transmisión televisiva en el país realizada el 17 de octubre de 1951 por Canal 7 de Buenos Aires que era dependiente de LR3 Radio Belgrano, de propiedad del Estado nacional y que estaba a cargo del presidente Juan Domingo Perón. Pero el acontecimiento resulta una excusa para recoger las reflexiones que se están dando en el campo académico en torno a un objeto de estudio que había hegemonizado la producción intelectual durante las últimas décadas del siglo XX en las que la televisión asumía un papel relevante como articulador de la vida social, cultural y política de nuestro país. Partimos de la presunción que en el presente ese rol hegemónico se diluida en un ecossistema medial más diverso y que los estudios de los medios de comunicación habían reconducido gran parte de su atención para comprender las dinámicas, afectaciones y apropiaciones de los medios digitales, y la televisión (como forma tecnológica y cultural) parecería transitar un proceso de envejecimiento y disolución que no la hacía merecedora de los esfuerzos intelectuales. Sin embargo lo que se advierte es que el abordaje del medio televisivo se ha reinventado ampliando sus límites, instalando la problematización en la diversidad de dispositivos y formas narrativas que configuran lo audiovisual transmedia.* (p.7) https://fadeccos.ar/revista/index.php/rac/issue/view/3/4

319. Connected: information dynamics in BARM during the COVID-19 pandemic. Internews, 2021, 66 p. *"This Information Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) aims to study the information environment in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARM) of the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Its main objective is to explore the dynamics of information in the region. The first section of the report discusses the media landscape in BARM and its implication on the supply of information in the region during the pandemic. The second section covers the information demands and experiences of communities, particularly those from vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons (IDP) and remote populations. It also tackles the access to as well as the use and influence of information, along with identifying its trusted sources for the locals. The third section explains the dynamics between the information supply and demand from the community along with their effects on trust, influence, and behaviors. The fourth section outlines the humanitarian response to COVID-19 and the challenges faced by different organizations in their efforts to inform the public at large.* https://internews.org/resource/disconnected-information-dynamics-barmm-during-covid-19-pandemic/
323. Anna Keshelashvili, Maia Mikashavidze, Ekaterine Basiliaia, Teo Kavtaradze, Mariam Menabde: **Georgia: an information ecosystem assessment.** Internews, 2021, 3 parts

"Internews’ Global Tech and Europe & Eurasia teams conducted an extensive information ecosystem assessment (IEA) study in Georgia with a team of local researchers and experts. This IEA examines every region in Georgia, including minority language communities, and adopts a specific focus on social media and digital channels of communications in the analysis. The data collected in the study came from a national survey of 1310 individuals, 60 in-depth interviews and eight focus groups, as well as from ethnographic observations and the content analysis of over 12,000 social media posts. Findings in the report are published in three parts: Context, Infrastructure, Regulation, and Revenue; Production, Distribution, and Consumption of Information; Engagement, Trust and Behavior."

(https://internews.org)

https://internews.org/resource/georgia-information-ecosystem-assessment/

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"This policy report provides an overview of the challenges and opportunities that the media are facing in Slovakia. Based on a number of interviews that took place with key Slovak media stakeholders, it finds that the Slovak media landscape is currently the freest of the Visegrad countries, despite an increase in both government and oligarch control of media. These findings are in line with its RSF Press Freedom Ranking of 33rd place in 2020, up two places on the previous year. The murder of investigative reporter, Ján Kuciak, in 2018 was a turning point which established sense of solidarity amongst the media profession which is coupled with an apparent desire amongst some of the public to investigative journalism, demonstrated through their financial support of a number of influential independent media titles. There are some concerns in relation to mainstream media ownership which appears to remain firmly in the grip of a select number of financial groups and oligarchs with strong business and economic interests although a recent sale of shares in leading publication the Dennik SME to the Media Development Investment Fund (MDIF), a non-for-profit investment fund for independent media raises some hope. The government also continues to control the public media through politicised appointment processes and public advertising spend. The popularity of websites, which are typified by health disinformation and anti-European Union narratives, is a further cause for concern as similar narratives are now being disseminated by some of the online media. The tradition for investigative journalism is strong in Slovakia, however, and it is having some impact on policy and tackling corruption."

(Executive summary)


"The article provides an overview of the Croatian media landscape and its transformation that has been driven by the processes of democratization, commercialization and digitalization. The main media-related concerns from 1990 to 2000 were freedom of the press, autonomy of journalism and censorship. The liberalization of the media market that started in 2000, led to proliferation of media outlets and galloping commercialization of media ownership and content. The next big change came with digitalization that fundamentally altered media habits of Croatian audiences. Television was preceded by online media as the main source of news while the press registers constant decline in readership, trust and advertising revenues. Radio remains the most trusted medium, as opposed to social media that are the least trusted source of information. Nevertheless, the level of trust in social networks in Croatia is considerably higher than the EU average. The data on media freedom and journalistic autonomy indicate that Croatia has made significant progress in this respect in the past thirty years. Although problems related to freedom, autonomy and political pressure persist, the biggest threat to journalism nowadays seems to come from within the profession. Commercialization, coupled with digitalization and merciless struggle for survival, eventually led news media to succumb to tabloid-style journalism and to radically downplay their professional standards."

(Executive summary, p.6)

https://doi.org/10.1007/s11616-021-00683-y?0D%0AP


"This book explains divergent media system trajectories in the countries in southeast Europe, and challenges the presumption that the common socialist experience critically influences a common outcome in media development after democratic transformations, by showing different remote and proximate configuration of conditions that influence their contemporary state. Applying an innovative longitudinal set-theoretical methodology approach, the book contributes to the theory of media systems with a novel theoretical framework for the comparative analysis of post-socialist media systems. This theory builds on the theory of historical institutionalism and the notion of critical junctures and path dependency in searching for an explanation for similarities or differences among media systems in the Eastern European region." (Publisher)

https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367226787

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"This volume provides a comparative analysis of media systems in the Arab world, based on criteria informed by the historical, political, social, and economic factors influencing a country’s media. Reaching beyond classical western media system typologies, Arab Media Systems brings together contributions from experts in the field of media in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to provide valuable insights into the heterogeneity of this region’s media systems. It focuses on trends in government stances towards media, media ownership models, technological innovation, and the role of transnational mobility in shaping media structure and practices. - Each chapter in the volume traces a specific country’s media - from its historical roots, its media systems’ transformation in the wake of colonial and post-colonial power shifts, to its current configuration in the interplay of historical roots, political and legal frameworks, media economy and ownership patterns, technology and infrastructure, and social factors (including diversity and equality in gender, age, ethnicities, religions, and languages)."

(Publisher)

https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/1281


"Through a combination of qualitative in-depth interviews with alternative media outlets, quantitative audience surveys involving over 1500 respondents, and focus-group discussions with women and youth civil society actors, this media and information landscape (MILA) evaluates the level of trust towards different information sources and explores the information flow, dynamics, gaps, and needs experienced by vulnerable groups in marginalized areas. The findings detail gaps between alternative media outlets’ objectives and its organizational structure or capacity needed to achieve its vision, legal and regulatory constraints that limit the accurate sharing of information with audiences, and the detrimental impact of Lebanon’s economic hardships on media financing. The report thus analyzes the information needs of women and youth in marginalized areas, explores linkages between alternative media outlets and civil society actors, and offers recommendations to strengthen media outlet’s capacity to delivery quality news and scale up their reach." (Publisher)


"The biggest determinants to news media viability in Lebanon include: The political partisanship of the media; A lack of sustainable business models for the media; An oversaturated and hypercompetitive media market resulting in lowered quality of content; Too little competition in the advertisement market, which is dominated by one advertising agency and big digital companies such as Google; Non-transparent media ownership and funding (including foreign direct funding); Problematic audience behaviours including the creation of “ideological bubbles” based on political or religious interests. The results lead to the conclusion that news media viability in Lebanon can best be improved by working towards a less overcrowded media market, reducing foreign direct funding, establishing sustainable business models and more independent and free conditions for the production of quality news content."

(Executive summary, p.6)

https://doi.org/10.5117/9789462989092

Migrants, Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, Disadvantaged Groups & Media
GENERAL & INTERNATIONAL

“...This handbook enables journalism educators worldwide to address one of the challenges of the 21st century – migration and refugee matters. In a set of thirteen modules, journalism educators are provided with a comprehensive curriculum. It covers all aspects needed to train analysis, research, presentation, marketing, and ethics of migration coverage. The handbook is unique as it comprises results of communication studies as well as political and social sciences. It has been developed by an international and cross-cultural group of media researchers, media educators and media practitioners. Journalism educators will be enabled to jump-start a new curriculum. Journalism students will learn that matters of migration and forced displacement are concerned about human beings and therefore require knowledge and awareness of accurate facts, reliable sources, ethical reporting and good practices. Experienced journalists will benefit from using the volume as a self-learning tool, and media development organizations may adapt the curriculum to their training plans.” (Short summary, p.iii)
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377890

“As you have seen in this handbook, the media can have a huge influence on the overall image of migrants and on migration itself, contributing strongly to the formation of a public discourse and opinion-making on this topic and highlighting the most pressing migration challenges or the various benefits of migration. As the public tends to inform itself through the media, the impact of the latter on determining the national migration policy of a country has become ever more crucial. The attitude and treatment of migrants by the majority population thus greatly depends on how the media presents them, what issues the media chooses to report on and which ones it omits. The media may either replicate and reinforce existing widespread stereotypes or contribute to a more differentiated and fact-based perception of migrants.” (Conclusion)

http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526476982

“The book is divided into five sections that examine philosophical principles for reporting on poverty, the history and nature of poverty coverage, problematic representations of people experiencing poverty, poverty coverage as part of reporting on public policy, and positive possibilities for poverty coverage. Each section provides an introduction to the topic, as well as a broad selection of essays illuminating key issues and a Q&A with a relevant journalist. Topics covered include news coverage of corporate philanthropy, structural bias in reporting, representations of the working poor, the moral demands of vulnerability and agency, community empowerment, and citizen media. The book’s broad focus considers media and poverty at both the local and global levels with contributors from sixteen countries.” (Publisher)
https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429291333

“...In this manual, we discuss key disability issues, key messages and principles for journalists wanting to support the human rights of Aficanrs with disabilities. The manual also deals with terminology – it is about using words and that puts the person rather than the disability first. Journalists will learn how to create disability programs that resonate with their audiences and encourage wider PwDs (Persons with Disability) participation at every level of the society despite the barriers they must deal with ... This manual has been developed for handling the workshops based on the contents of the guide. It provides guidelines and tools for a three-day workshop on the guide.” (p.3-4)

“This book focuses on ethnic journalism in the Global South, approaching it from two angles: as a professional area and as a social mission. The book discusses journalistic practices and ethnic media in the Global South, managerial and editorial strategies of ethnic media outlets, their content specifics, target audience, distribution channels, main challenges and trends of development in the digital age.” (Publisher)
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-76163-9

FUTURE TERRAINS OF TRANSFORMATION
https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351516008

“...Indigenous Peoples have been excluded from accessing media for many reasons, including their geographic location, languages, and legal barriers. Indigenous Peoples living in isolated areas have little physical access to urban-centred media. Similarly, a lack of awareness of human rights, freedoms, and the right to access information on State and municipal services contributes to obstacles. Indigenous journalists work in difficult conditions in remote areas, and are often the only mediums informing their communities on rights violations and cultural, environmental, and social issues, which would otherwise be ignored by other media sources. Although all journalists face similar threats, it is often indigenous journalists and communicators who are most impacted, as in most cases they work in informal settings in rural areas that are inaccessible to the mainstream media and even to government officials. They often lack access to protection mechanisms and justice. Indigenous journalists are generally not formally recognized as journalists because they do not have formal university training or they are not affiliated with a major press or news agency. This additional safety risk often goes unreported and is overlooked by both government and international agencies.
In this regard, the Indigenous Media and Communication Caucus conducted and published this study in order to better understand the status of indigenous media globally, and to bring the problems faced by indigenous community media broadcasts to a larger audience. The aim is for this study to be the basis of international advocacy in international forums, including the United Nations. This report will also be helpful in advocating for the right to freedom of expression within legal frameworks, as well as in advocating for better laws and policies to access community or non-commercial radio frequencies.” (About this report, p.5)

"This manual brings together principles of conflict-sensitive journalism with practical strategies for reporting on migration. It explores how media workers can play a role in protecting and promoting rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. It provides guidelines that both editors and their journalists can follow as they strategise around ways of reporting on the migration issue, what to do during conflict and how to cover the post-conflict period. This fieldwork was developed for the Southern African media after an eight-month project that explored the role journalists can play in reporting on migration in the region. It is based on presentations delivered at a series of workshops organised by Internews in South Africa on the theme 'Changing the Narrative on Migrants in Southern Africa'."

(Forward)


"When DW Akademie started a new media development project on Refugees and Migration in Africa in 2019, we knew our objective: We wanted to find ways to improve access to information for people affected by displacement, to provide channels for these people to express themselves and to improve the dialogue between displaced communities and host communities. However, we didn’t know how people in and around our project areas in Kakuma (Kenya), Gambella (Ethiopia), Kagera, and Kigoma (Tanzania) communicated. In the absence of studies specific to these three locations in East Africa, we conducted information needs assessments. We had many questions: What languages do people speak in these communities? Do they have access to broadcast, print and digital media? Which sources of information do they trust? What kind of information is lacking? To find out, we commissioned a Kenyan research consultancy company to do a quantitative survey of more than 1,700 people in and around refugee camps, organize 32 focus group discussions and interview 25 key informants. We found that information seeking and communication habits were radically different in the three locations. While 54 percent of refugee respondents in the Tanzania study listened to radio, the rate was much lower among refugee respondents in Kenya (25 percent) and Ethiopia (20 percent), where local or international organizations and other people were the most frequently used sources of information. Internet usage varied between 9 percent and 39 percent and tends to be higher in urban areas and among host communities than in rural areas and among refugees."

(Foreward)

AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

343. La situación del derecho a la comunicación con énfasis en las y los comunicadores indígenas y afrodescendientes de América Latina. San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas: Proyecto Videoastas Indígenas de la Frontera Sur (PVIFS); Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Cine y Comunicación de los Pueblos Indígenas (CLACPI); alternativa; Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas (UNICACH), Centro de Estudios Superiores de México y Centroamérica (CESMECA); Cooperativa Editorial Retos; Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), 2020, 260 p.

"El libro busca visibilizar la preocupante situación que atraviesan las y los comunicadores indígenas y afrodescendientes particularmente en Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua y Venezuela. En el marco de la defensa por sus derechos, tierras, territorios y cultura, los trabajadores se encuentran expuestos a múltiples situaciones de violencia cotidiana ... En un primer momento, el libro analiza la forma en que los pueblos comprenden la comunicación y en especial la comunicación ancestral indígena frente a las concepciones modernas de comunicación y un sistema de medios latinoamericano cada vez más concentrado. A su vez, plantea que la comunicación todavía es un derecho emergente, en disputa y en construcción. Si bien en muchos de los países analizados el derecho a la comunicación está reconocido explícitamente en sus constituciones, todavía falta para un pleno respeto de su ejercicio. En este marco, releva y sistematiza los instrumentos legales tanto nacionales como internacionales disponibles. Por otra parte, el trabajo demuestra la falta de información sistematizada en relación al tema y plantea que la carencia de reportes panorámicos claros es parte de la discriminación y marginación de los y las comunicadoras y sus pueblos. Finalmente, proporciona una serie de recomendaciones para el fortalecimiento de una comunicación democrática y plural."

( Editorial)

"Para contribuir a que las sociedades entiendan de una mejor manera los problemas a los que se enfrentan los migrantes y busquen en conjunto soluciones que mejoren la convivencia, nació Puentes de Comunicación. El proyecto está impulsado por el medio digital venezolano Efecto Cocuyo y la organización alemana DW Akademie y ha sido posible gracias al apoyo financiero del Ministerio Federal de Asuntos Exteriores de Alemania. Una de las primeras acciones fue el curso virtual "Cobertura periodística de la migración y el refugio venezolano", dirigido a periodistas de Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú. Durante tres meses, 62 profesionales se formaron en nuevas tendencias del periodismo de investigación y en el uso de herramientas digitales aplicadas a la cobertura de los procesos migratorios con una perspectiva de derechos humanos. La presente guía reúne los contenidos elaborados por los docentes de este curso a los que se suma un completo glosario de términos imprescindibles para poder contar los procesos migratorios con calidad y precisión." (Prólogo, p.7-8) https://puentesdecomunicacion.org/guiapdf


"1. Los proveedores de información no han atendido suficientemente las necesidades de los refugiados y migrantes en la región, especialmente aquellos en situaciones más vulnerables como los refugiados y migrantes LGBTIQ+ y aquellos con estatus migratorio irregular. Los líderes comunitarios para las asociaciones venezolanas no se han involucrado directamente en la reproducción del contenido de los medios, pero juegan un papel importante en la producción y distribución de información para las comunidades. 2. Los periodistas y las plataformas de medios carecen de información específica sobre los derechos de los refugiados y migrantes, con brechas de información sobre el estatus migratorio y los derechos legales. Asimismo, la falta de financiamiento de las plataformas y organizaciones de medios resulta en el retraso de la difusión de información y no asegura que la comunidad tenga acceso oportuno a información legal importante ..." (Conclusiones claves, p.3)


"The mainstream media in Brazil portrays favelas (unregulated low-income neighbourhoods) in a negative light. This has been the case since their emergence over a century ago. Voices from the Favelas navigates through the contemporary representation of the favelas in the established media, discussing how this partial representation impacts issues of identity and social segregation, the legitimation of structural violence in those sites, and providing an account of the recent emergence of digital social networks as "counterpublics". In order to understand the struggle against the characterisation of the favela as a site dominated by violence (a framework which has been disseminated on a global scale and accepted as the norm), this book will take its readers inside the mindset of the favela media activists, examining the production of information and the organisation of the residents as they resist and challenge the status quo." (Publisher)


"La primera parte invita a reflexionar sobre los criterios de noticiabilidad y el uso de emociones en los contenidos comunicacionales, explora formas discursivas, propone una estructura de construcción de héroes y plantea algunas interrogantes para identificar estereotipos y falsos paradigmas en las comunicaciones. La segunda parte está orientada hacia el lenguaje, la evolución del concepto de discapacidad y sus diferentes modelos. Asimismo, se sugieren ejemplos para reflexionar respecto al contenido y abanica algunas pinceladas del discurso y representaciones de lingüística. En la tercera parte se expone un análisis crítico sobre el tratamiento de informaciones relativas a personas con discapacidad en el contexto dominicano, se presentan los resultados de un levantamiento hecho por nuestro equipo en los periódicos El Nuevo Diario, Hoy, Listín Diario, El Caribe y Diario Libre sobre el caso de La Lotería. El abordaje del estudio es propositivo, analiza conceptos y las interpretaciones narrativas que estos sugieren, invita a reflexionar respecto a cómo se construyen los relatos sociales a través de los canales de comunicación utilizados en los espacios periodísticos y organizacionales." (p.7) https://fundacionfrancina.org/del-mutante-a-la-persona-como-comunicar-sobre-discapacidad-desde-un-enfoque-de-derechos/


"Este volumen tiene como objetivo crear un espacio transdisciplinario y abrir un diálogo crítico en torno a las posibilidades de la representación del subalterno en la edición cartonera. El fenómeno de las editoriales cartoneras surge en el contexto de la poscrisis en Argentina, cuando un grupo de artistas decide producir libros por su propia cuenta, con tapas de cartón reciclado, involucrar a los cartoneros —personas que colectan cartón en las calles para venderlo—, y así dar vida al proyecto "Eloísa Cartonera". Este modelo de editorial alternativa y artesanal proliferó de manera impresionante en América Latina y fue incluso asociado —desde la academia— con una democratización y desjerarquización cultural. En un formato híbrido que reúne tanto contribuciones académicas como testimonios directos de los editores de cartoneras, esta colección invita a conocer a algunos de estos proyectos y reflexionar sobre su papel en el discurso dominante de la academia." (Editorial)


"En Barranquilla y Soledad se destacan tres categorías de necesidades de información entre la población migrante y retornada: Información legal/asuntos migratorios (76%); Medios de subsistencia (63%, incluye información laboral); Nivel de aislamiento (55%, esta categoría incluye los temas de salud). Las redes sociales son los canales más usados por su bajo costo. La radio, la gran derrotada de los medios tradicionales. Los migrantes precisan la atención presencial en las entidades, pero no saben cómo acceder a ellas." (Principales hallazgos, p.3)
https://internews.org/resource/evaluacion-del-ecosistema-de-informacion-barranquilla-y-soledad-colombia/


"El hallazgo más importante de este estudio no tiene que ver con el uso del lenguaje cuando se habla de la migración, sino con la representación del venezolano en los medios nacionales. Se trata, pues, de un estudio pionero que prueba la criminalización de las personas venezolanas en los medios de comunicación, ya que la delincuencia es el tema principal con el que se los asocia: el 70% (televisión) y el 80% (diarios populares) de todas las notas que se referían a venezolanos venezolanas trataban de temas policiales y de crimen. En estas notas, los ciudadanos venezolanos cumplían el rol victimario en un 65% y en un 15%, el de infractor de la ley. Esto significa que en cuatro de cinco notas o reportajes en las que un lector o televidente puede encontrar a un venezolano, la migración y las personas migrantes están asociadas con un supuesto incremento de la inseguridad ciudadana. Así el 86.3% de los encuestados opinó que la migración venezolana había contribuido a la inseguridad ciudadana en el Perú. La asociación de la persona migrante con la delincuencia produce, además, distancia, temor o hasta rechazo para con los migrantes. Por su parte, en las personas venezolanas genera un estigma que les dificulta la inserción en la sociedad." (Conclusiones, p.97)
ASIA & PACIFIC


(Executive summary, p.2)


"Caste discrimination remains one of the world’s most serious human rights issues. It is intrinsically linked with hate speech, but as this report has demonstrated, insufficient attention has been paid to the caste-based aspects of hate speech. All too often, caste-hate speech is allowed to continue unchecked, not least on social media platforms. Campaigners against caste discrimination rightly argue that unless caste is specifically mentioned in the human rights discourse instead of being "hidden" under other headlines, there is a huge risk that the issue will be ignored. This warning also applies to caste-hate speech. Consequently, it is essential that caste-hate speech is recognised as a protected characteristic in international covenants – and as a distinctive form of hate speech – and that Dalits are included in actions to mitigate caste-hate speech online and offline, at every level. Anything less will enable abusers to continue practising this form of hate speech – and condemn Dalits and other groups to even more abuse and violence." (Conclusion)
https://www.academia.edu/45607005/Caste_hate_speech_Addressing_hate_speech_based_on_work_and_descent

MIDDLING EAST / WESTERN ASIA & NORTH AFRICA


"DW Akademie commissioned field studies in the following six Middle Eastern and Northern African countries in 2019/20: Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The initiative to carry out these studies stems from DW Akademie’s long-standing experience in the MENA region and the identified need to understand the singularities regarding the communication challenges posed by migration and displacement. The following research questions underpinned the study: 1. How does the national media represent and its impact on trust for Syrians in Lebanon. 2. What are the communication tools and strategies of important stakeholders in the field of migration and displacement in each of the six countries? 3. How do migrants and refugees access information and how do they communicate with their communities and the host societies? 4. Are migrant and refugee communities able to access information necessary to making informed decisions? What information do they seek? 5. What are the existing media development initiatives in each country?" (Introduction, p.7)


"Internews focuses primarily on the information ecosystem for Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon to acknowledge and unpack the unique experiences for Syrians at a time when information is heavily impacted by Lebanon’s various compounding crises. The ecosystem for Syrians is assessed here as an ecosystem within Lebanon’s larger information environment which largely caters to Lebanese communities." (https://internews.org)

“This article summarizes the development of education and research in Communication Studies in Brazil. It is argued that different factors contributed to the development of the particular features that Brazilian Communication Studies present nowadays. They include: the late development of Brazilian universities, in comparison to the western societies, but also to other Latin American countries; the relatively early development of Communication programs, beginning from the late 1940s, following the example of the United States; state interventionism in the universities’ curricula, and the influence exerted by other non-academic social actors, such as journalists’ unions. As the result of the influence of these factors, Communication Studies organized according to two entirely different logics: undergraduate studies focus on specialized professional fields (such as Journalism, Advertising, Public Relations, Cinema) and adopt a practical approach with respect to them; otherwise, graduate studies employ a much more general and academic approach focusing on Communication as a whole. The article also discusses the challenges faced by Communication Studies at present, resulting both from the changes in the media landscape and a hostile political scenario, associated with the rise of Jair Bolsonaro, an ultra-rightist politician who openly disdains science (and human sciences in particular).” (Abstract)
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11616-020-00622-3


“Este libro tiene por objetivo visibilizar y reconocer las contribuciones de las mujeres pioneras en los estudios de comunicación en América Latina, y lo hace con un doble propósito. Por un lado, como aporte a la historia del campo de la comunicación, a la que pretende completar con estas otras historias de investigadoras. Por el otro, como aporte a la enseñanza de los estudios latinoamericanos en el ámbito universitario. Recogemos aquí el desafío de diversos colectivos de estudiantes que comenzaron en los últimos años a advertir sobre la ausencia de autoras en los (nuestros) programas de estudio. Entendimos que tal cuestión —al mismo tiempo, cuestionamiento— no podía ser despachada con la inclusión de algún cupo bibliográfico, sino que más bien debía ser abordada a partir del examen atento de las contribuciones de aquellas primeras investigadoras que abrieron un camino: Regina Gibaja, Lisa Block de Behar, Mabel Piccini, Michèlle Mattelart, Beatriz Sarlo, Margarita Graziano, Paula Wajsman, Elizabeth Fox, Margarita Zires Roldán, Fátima Fernández Christlieb, entre otras.” (Editora)
https://www.teseopress.com/pionerasenlosestudioslatinoamericanosdecomunicacion/
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