English Abstracts

Christoph Kuhlmann / Christina Schumann / Jens Wolling: "I Don't Want to See or Hear Anything More about That!" Exploring Issue Fatigue („Ich will davon nichts mehr sehen und hören!" Exploration des Phänomens Themenverdrossenheit), pp. 5-24

The present study scrutinizes the phenomenon of "issue fatigue". The hypothesis is that some recipients may react with resistance or even avoid topics that are presented intensively in the news over a long period. A review of studies on media avoidance suggests that issue fatigue has not been studied by communication scholars until now. Results derived from an exploratory mixed-method approach (qualitative interviews, N = 13, and quantitative survey, N = 366, quota sample) show three main findings for TV news: First, issue fatigue seems to be a common phenomenon in our society, as the majority of the participants were able to name a topic they "don't want to see or hear anything more about". Second, recipients apply different strategies for coping with those topics, ranging from reduced attention to conscious avoidance. Third, issue fatigue seems to be associated with both a certain evaluation of the topic itself (e. g., negative and complex) as well as with the related news coverage (e. g., subjectively experienced manipulation).

Keywords: issue fatigue, audience analysis, media avoidance, media non-use, news values, media quality

Corinna Oschatz / Marcus Maurer / Jörg Haßler: (R)Evolution of Political News Coverage in a Changing Media Environment? A Comparison of Journalistic News Content Online and Offline ([R]Evolution der Politikberichterstattung im Medienwandel? Die Inhalte von nachrichtenjournalistischen Online- und Offline-Angeboten im Vergleich), pp. 25-41

The Internet is increasingly becoming established as a source of political information. While optimists value the Internet for its mobilization and participation potential, pessimists fear an increasing fragmentation of the public and a digital divide in society. The two contrary perspectives have in common the implicit assumption that online media provide more or different information than offline media. The most important source of information on the Internet is journalistic news content. Therefore, this article compares the content of seven online news media (print and TV newscasts) with broad coverage with the content of their offline counterparts. The findings show that online and offline information is still very similar as regards the form and content of the information. Greater differences can be detected between print media (online and offline) and TV newscasts (online and offline). The implications of these findings for the present and future impact of journalistic online news coverage are discussed.

Keywords: content analysis, online media, diversity, hypertextuality, multimediality, interactivity

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Ines C. Vogel / Karin Stengel / Marion Rahnke: The Quality of TV News Coverage of International Crises and Conflicts. A Comparison between Public and Private TV News Broadcasters in Germany (Qualität der Fernsehberichterstattung über internationale Krisen und Konflikte. Ein Vergleich zwischen öffentlich-rechtlichen und privaten Nachrichtenanbietern), pp. 42-63

Wars, crises and conflicts are important topics for news media. As events that often occur unexpectedly, adversely influence many people's lives and arouse emotions, they generate prominent headlines and stories in news coverage. Considering that news not only informs the public about current events in the world but also influences public discussion and opinion formation, the journalistic quality of news on such topics is publicly and politically relevant. Hence, this content analysis investigated the conflict coverage of the four main newscasts of German TV broadcasters with the highest viewing rates (Das Erste, ZDF, RTL and Sat.1) over a three-month time period. 444 news items on international conflicts and wars from public and private TV newscasts were compared with regard to the frequency of reporting and to various criteria for evaluating journalistic quality. Overall, the dimensions of journalistic quality investigated (variety, relevance and professionalism) were fulfilled by both types of broadcasters' newscasts. However, public programs achieved somewhat better scores than private programs as regards balanced and critical reporting.

Keywords: news coverage on conflicts, news coverage on crises, dual TV programs, journalistic quality

Ines Engelmann / Katrin Etzrodt: Gender Construction in Online Media and Its Possible Causes. A Content Analysis of Online Newspaper Reporting on Female and Male Politicians (Mediale Geschlechterkonstruktion online und mögliche Ursachen. Eine Inhaltsanalyse der journalistischen Online-Berichterstattung über Politikerinnen und Politiker), pp. 64-82

In this article we examine how the online coverage of female and male politicians is constructed; the focus is on thematic contextualization and attribution. To this end, different determinants of gender construction in media are discussed, integrating the changing circumstances of online journalism. The five German online newspapers with the broadest coverage were analysed for one year and linked to possible determinants of gender construction. The results show that the online newspapers investigated hardly construct the gender of female and male politicians differently in terms of thematic contextualization and attribution. Insofar as such differences were shown to exist, they can tend to be attributed to the journalist's gender rather than online newspapers' editorial policy.

Keywords: gender, gender construction, news selection, online journalism, stereotypes

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Thomas Wiedemann: Pierre Bourdieu – An International Classic in Social Sciences Beneficial for Communication Studies (Pierre Bourdieu – ein internationaler Klassiker der Sozialwissenschaft mit Nutzen für die Kommunikationswissenschaft), pp. 83-101

The paper looks into the application of Pierre Bourdieu's theory in communication science. Over the past decades, Bourdieu has become one of the most cited social scientists around the world, sustainably influencing not only sociology (his own field) but also neighbouring disciplines. In contrast, communication studies in German have thus far only reluctantly absorbed his ideas. Therefore, after first giving an introduction to his person and oeuvre, the paper takes a look at four exemplary research fields in communication studies (journalism, PR and strategic communication, media use, history of the discipline) and shows with examples how research in the (international) scientific community is (or can be) based on Pierre Bourdieu's framework. The paper comes to the conclusion that Bourdieu's sociology is appropriate to many (or even all) research questions in the discipline. Bourdieu's concepts often provide a new way to examine traditional challenges and offer promising ways to penetrate the discipline's most important research desiderata.

Keywords: Bourdieu, social theory, field theory, habitus, capital, social sphere, journalism research, public relations, strategic communication, media use, history of the discipline

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