

Abstracts

Christian Schicha: Norms, Constraints and Options for Impact. War Reporting: Challenges for Journalism and Recipients

The article addresses normative demands on journalism, identifies specific characteristics of war reporting and reflects upon possible media effects. Furthermore, the focus is on journalistic images from the war in Ukraine before potential image effects are presented. In conclusion, recommendations for a constructive approach towards potentially disturbing media content are made in order to avoid undesirable side effects upon users.

Markus Behmer: Images of Horror. Media Ethical Reflections on War Photography

Photos from wars make very special demands upon photographers, editors, and viewers. If they remain abstract and merely illustrative, without being elucidated, the horror of the events does not become clear. If they are too explicit, they can literally get too close to the people depicted. Gruesome details can hurt the feelings of the people who are confronted with them by shocking instead of enlightening. Using examples from the Ukraine war and other conflicts, the essay attempts to explore ethical problem areas that can arise when trying to be graphic and create empathy without snubbing.

Kinza Khan: Dependencies, Map, Framing. A Media Frame Analysis of Commentary Coverage Based on the 2014 Maidan/Crimea Crisis

Reporting on and from war-torn regions or escalating crisis situations is subject to strong dependencies. How quickly views believed to be well-founded can change has been demonstrated not least by the period since February 24, 2022, when Russia attacked its neighbor Ukraine. This article attempts an approach to the difficult work of crisis reporters and commentators, who are expected to explain such situations to their readership from as informed a standpoint as possible. It refers to the Maidan protests and the Crimean crisis in 2014, the reflection of which in German commentary coverage was examined by means of a media frame analysis.

Regina Elsner: Warmonger or Force for Peace? On the Role of Churches in Russia's War in Ukraine

Churches play an important role in Russia's war against Ukraine. Russia's war ideology has repeatedly shown religious references and the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) legitimizes the war with quasi-theological concepts. However, at the same time, the ROC claims pastoral jurisdiction over Orthodoxy in Ukraine and is thus effectively at war with its own faithful. The confessional situation in Ukraine is complex and for many years the churches have also been part of political strategies in that country. The article provides an overview of the different conditions and concepts of the churches acting as a force for peace or a warmonger in this war.

Gemma Pörzgen: PR and Propaganda in the Ukraine War. The differences in communication strategies are obvious

In the Ukraine war, the opposing parties rely on different media strategies. While Kiev is using modern PR methods to attract international support, the Kremlin leadership in Moscow is relying on propaganda, disinformation and fear-mongering. The driving force behind the Ukrainian media offensive is President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose video messages are cleverly adapted to national target groups. President Vladimir Putin's appearances, whether at the long white table or in front of a sea of Russian flags on Red Square, seem rather out of date - in comparison. Russia's image is completely ruined. Ukraine, on the other hand, is now attracting the worldwide attention that it struggled for in vain in earlier years. The different communication strategies are classified and evaluated from a journalistic and communication science perspective.

Julia Maas/Jörn Ratering: Of Computer Games and Doppelgängers. Verification as the Basis of Editorial Decisions in the Ukraine War

The Ukraine war provides an endless number of images and videos every day - the majority of them without clearly identifiable authorship. "True or fake?" and "To broadcast or not to broadcast?" have become central guiding questions in journalism. In this context, this essay looks at current examples from the Ukraine war and formulates five lessons for journalism and verification.

Henning Eichler: Guiding Questions for Guidelines: Reflections on the Strategy and Self-Image of Public Service Media on Platforms

In order to better reach younger people with journalistic offerings, Public Service Media (PSM) are increasingly producing and distributing journalism via commercial platforms. In order to achieve the highest possible reach and interaction with the audience, journalists must know and apply the rules of commercial algorithmic recommendation systems. This can lead to conflicts between journalistic quality and platformization of content. This article summarizes findings from a related study and makes suggestions for a digital media ethic of the Public Service Media. This aspect is to be integrated into the intensively conducted debate about the legitimacy, reform, and future of the PSM.

Volker Lilienthal: Respect, Folklore, Criticism. Church and Faith in the Tabloid Newspaper "Bild"

Church and religion are not first-choice topics for a tabloid like "Bild". But that doesn't mean that questions of faith don't come up at all between politics, sports, and celebrities. If one looks back, church and religion have experienced changing cycles in "Bild". One marriage occurred under editor-in-chief Kai Diekmann (2001-2017). He gave prominent clergymen space in the paper, revered Pope Benedict and published a "People's Bible". His successor as editor-in-chief, Julian Reichelt (2017-2021), was already more detached in his reporting, especially on scandals in the Catholic Church. Judaism always occupied a respected special position in the reporting of "Bild". The image of Islam tends to have negative connotations.