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Id: 12082

Title: Restrictions on media freedom during the 2016 elections in Uganda

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: The study investigates restrictions on media freedom leading up to the presidential and parliamentary elections in Uganda on 18 February 2016. Yoweri Museveni, who has reigned for 30 years, stands for re-election and has strong competition this time: his long-time fellow, and former Prime Minister, Amama Mbabazi, enters elections with his newly 'Go Forward' Movement. As anywhere in the world, the role the media play by accompanying the campaigns is essential. However, apart from taboos such as the president himself or national security, in Uganda economic constraints arising from critical reporting could restrict media freedom. The government, being the media's main ad client and using authorities such as the Uganda Communication Commission, may withdraw after unwelcome press. Based on multiple sources, the study investigates freedom and working conditions of Ugandan journalists during the campaign.

This is important for two reasons. First, Uganda is a prime example of so-called hybrid media systems. At first glance, in the matter of press freedom, Museveni has been one of the Western world's prize pupils for quite a long time. The constitution adopted in 1995 is praised by international observers as well as local journalists and activists. Today, besides officially public but state-controlled media, there are numerous privately owned radio stations, commercial television, two English language dailies operating independent from the state, and regulation authorities, which arguably ensure that the media are held accountable for their actions. However, literature is full of reports of interference in media freedom and journalists' autonomy. This leads to the second reason. It's well known that civil rights are at particular risk during election times in most post-authoritarian countries.

Using Schimank's approach of actor-structure-dynamics and Voltmer's notion of path dependency, the study works with three main categories: structures of constellation (political contestants, parties, journalists, media houses), structures of expectation (media laws, norms, informal societal expectations), and structures of interpretation (journalists' role perceptions, reputation of media and journalists). The research material has been collected and analysed by means of method triangulation (expert interviews, document analysis, and field observation). It includes data from more than 20 expert interviews (leading local journalists, politicians, academics, foreign correspondents, NGO workers, unionists, and entrepreneurs) and various documents (constitution, media/electoral laws, media regulations and historical accounts). There were two stages of research. First,

observing 'ordinary times', gaining a network of contacts and collecting expert interviews, I was in Uganda in October 2014. The second stage of field observation started at January 28, 2016. Therefore, when submitting this abstract, data collection and analyses has not been completed yet.

However, the study shows that the awareness of the importance of media freedom is rather weak among Ugandans (structures of expectations). Therefore, contesting parties and candidates can easily limit journalists' autonomy. This is even more so since media outlets often belong to politicians or high-ranking officials (structures of constellations). Both eligible voters and journalists are aware of this situation. Even though journalists have Western role perceptions, they know that they can't match them in their election reporting (structures of interpretations).

Id: 12374

Title: Journalism as a professional notion: why does it look unclear in today's Russia'

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: Journalism has long been an arena of sharp professional discussions among university scholars in Russia. Today, harsh debates on what it means and who exactly can call themselves journalists still continue. This confirms the ambiguity of the professional perception of journalism, which makes it difficult in dealing with these definitions in the teaching process.

The above disputes in Russia are caused by the fundamental transformation of Russian politics and the media environment since the early 1990s. These years have predetermined a transition of the country from one political system to another. The renewed political conditions and the modern information landscape generated new media theories concerning journalism. However, none of them have become influential, and this also creates the challenges for teaching and studying this field.

Some Russian scholars declare that journalism is rapidly developing whereas the others consider this activity as a phantom which has vanished into the past or completely 'coopted' into PR and advertising. In these conditions finding consensus about the development of the journalistic profession appears to be problematic.

The meaning and criteria of the journalism existence is becoming more actual, not only for Russia, but worldwide. This can be explained by the massive challenges facing the profession. Among them are the impact of information globalization, new information technologies, entertainment, advertising, and other large-scale trends that blur journalism. The unification of modern techniques in the process of development and circulation of information also affects the content of modern mass media. In these conditions there is a risk of journalism being steadily eroded.

Without the agreement of various actors involved in the media, what should be understood as journalism, it is therefore impossible to understand how the teaching process in this sphere is going to function. Solving this problem is not easy, given the interdisciplinary nature of journalism, which makes it difficult to create a universal terminology.

In the author's view, the basic concept of journalism has clear and unchanging frameworks. In practice this activity is guaranteed by the political evolution of society that would determine four factors: 1) the level of media independence from the state; 2) freedom of speech; 3) legislative support of journalistic rights and 4) journalistic responsibility. The combination of these criteria shapes the basis for the implementation of journalism in the modern information space.

Journalism is also based on the implementation of socially oriented information. As a result, journalism focuses primarily on an individual: their way of thinking, motivation, behavior etc. Hence the public mission of journalism is extraordinary. It is treated as the attention to social values of the audience (as being the antithesis of politically oriented or commercial values), and the editorial support of freedom of the press. In modern Russia, due to political bias of the media, these priorities lose its value, which largely leads to the rejection of journalism itself.

Id: 12472

Title: From Radio Shariat to Afghan Star: Afghanistan's transitional media system

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: The history of Afghanistan has been colored by a variety of authoritarian regimes—monarchy, theocracy, and dictatorship. In 2001, the last authoritative regime—the Taliban—had fallen, and from it rose hope for a new democratic state. Importantly, the media systems of authoritative Afghanistan operated as an extension of the state that regularly served those in power. However, as Afghanistan continues to transition away from its authoritarian past, so too does the nation’s media system. In line with this year’s theme of Memory, Commemoration and Communication: Looking Back, Looking Forward, we examine Afghanistan’s media past, its current manifestations, and the implications for its future.

Seeking to add to the literature on post-authoritarian nations, this paper examines the current media industry in Afghanistan, paying close attention to the development and expansion of the country’s largest media company—Moby Group. Developed in 2003, by four Afghan-Australian siblings, Moby Group was started with financial assistance from the United States—with over \$2 million coming from USAID (Bowley, 2013). Beginning with just a single radio station in post-Taliban Afghanistan, Moby Group has since grown into the single most dominant media company in the country, with operations in both broadcast and cable television, FM Radio, television production, music recording, movie production, advertising, magazine publishing, and sports rights, formats, and league formation. As a result, Moby Group now controls over 80% of the in-country Afghan media market (Moby Group, 2011). Moreover, the success of Moby Group has made it attractive for inward investment from Western-based corporations, leading to an investment from media mogul Rupert Murdoch. As of 2014, 21st Century Fox has approximately 37% interest in Moby Group (Bowley, 2013).

In considering the case study of the Moby Group in the post-authoritarian media landscape of Afghanistan, this paper examines its evolving operations in this transitional landscape. Utilizing a political economic analysis (that considers its ownership ties and

the tenets governing its logics of cultural production) as well as a longitudinal textual analysis (considering the evolution of its content), this study seeks to illuminate how Moby Group's approach to producing media content (i.e. Afghan symbolic culture) is tied to its complex location as a translocal/transnational media entity serving a unique population navigating complex relationships locally (its authoritarian past) and globally (as an emerging democratic state negotiating neoliberal market imperatives).

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Id: 12485

Title: Professional and political values of journalists in Russia: metropolitan versus provincial communities

Session Type: Individual submission

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Professional and political values of journalists in Russia: metropolitan versus provincial communities

When dealing with values of journalists it is worth looking not only in the contemporary situation in the media sphere but also at historical frameworks under which these values evolved and got modified. In this regard, it is appropriate to tell about valuable traditions which cement the substance of society and make it a vivid mechanism of social transformation.

Historically Russian journalists stood up for the state interests and to ignore everything that was apart from this trend. It elaborated their specific style of thinking under which the entire world was narrowed by political limitations. All this clearly represented a certain type of journalistic thinking. Despite different social and political frameworks that occurred in Russia before 1917 and after, journalists inherited similar values. A main task for Soviet journalists was defined primarily by political expediency.

The situation started to thoroughly change only in the 1990s. The rapid transformation of political and economic realities in the country that occurred during the last two decades has been imprinted on journalistic values which became more plural and diverse.

In order to prove the above idea the author together with colleagues from the Urals State University resorted to the case studies carried out in the last two years in St. Petersburg and Ekaterinburg. Empirical data for the investigation of journalistic values in the both cities came from in-depth semi-structured interviews conducted with 49 journalists.

The whole research was divided in three dimensions: 1) conventional media and new internet-based media; 2) national media and regional media; 3) different types of media: newspaper, magazine, radio, television and the registered internet media. The authors also took into account media subcategories: quality (citizen-oriented) and popular, ownership: state/public, private and mix: state & private.

The investigation showed that the journalism values in Russia have tremendously changed in the last years when compared with the previous periods of the native history. One of the most important stratifying factors is the geographical one. Our research has

fixed remarkable disparities between journalists' interpretation of values in metropolitan/global and provincial cities. How metropolitan and provincial journalists feel now about their professional involvement and priorities were investigated during the empirical research.

Today's journalists in Russia became more independent in their thinking on pivotal issues of the day. On the one hand it witnesses about a renewed role played by journalists in Russian society. On the other hand, journalists themselves in megapolises and in province seem to be different from each other in their perceptions on the specifics of the journalism profession. At the same time this situation as such seems to be very contradictory because it confirms inconsistency of the media development in Russia and uncertainties that live in mindsets of Russian journalists.

Id: 12576

Title: Challenged by the state and the Internet: Struggles for professionalism in Southeast Asian journalism

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: It is no news that journalism as a profession is under pressure in most parts of the world. That is not least true in Southeast Asia where journalists in many of the region's emerging markets have to develop their profession while struggling with constantly changing market conditions, increasingly more demanding audiences and different degrees of authoritative states that hold the media in a tight grip in pursuance of peace, stability and continuing economic development. But that is only part of the picture. As this paper will show, the massive expansion of the Internet in the region poses even further challenges for the profession as new online actors are invading on the traditional journalistic field and blurring the lines between amateurs and professionals.

Through a comparative study of the journalistic fields in Singapore and Vietnam, this paper looks into the journalistic profession in Southeast Asia with the underlying argument that the countries in the region share media systemic similarities and have a unique approach to journalism despite their obvious differences in size, developmental stage and governmental form. By combining role theory (Thomas & Biddle 1966, Aubert 1979, Biddle 1979, Biddle 1986) with Pierre Bourdieu's field theory (Bourdieu 1984, Bourdieu 1993, Benson 1998, Benson & Neveu 2005), the paper furthermore attempts at developing a theoretical framework to understand the fields, or more specifically, to understand how daily struggles within the journalistic field(s) on a micro-level affect the structure and position of the field(s) in social space.

Qualitative interviews with journalists and editors in the two case countries are used to understand the daily struggles in the journalistic fields and to map out the different expectations journalists in the region face from the state as well as the public, their peers and their online competitors. Through an evaluation of the expectations, the paper finds that even though journalists in Singapore and Vietnam continue to feel most conflicted about conforming with the state's expectations to their profession, online actors such as bloggers, self-labelled citizen journalists and highly active social media users are beginning to have a progressively bigger impact on the journalistic field. The online actors impose on the journalistic field by taking on tasks previously reserved for the professionals – without necessarily knowing or playing by the “rules of the game” or adhering to the journalistic values and ethics of the professionals. Though journalists

appreciate their help in pushing the boundaries on sensitive issues and setting the media agenda, at the same time they fear what consequences it will have for the professionalization of journalism in the region in the long run. The journalistic field might be pushed in a more autonomous direction away from the state yet possibly also be altered in its entirety in the process – with the journalistic habitus changed, the journalistic capital devalued and years' worth of professionalization progress erased.

Id: 12658

Title: Media matters in the desert of post-socialism: the view of local experts looking back and looking forward

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: The question of whether international media assistance to the successor states to the former Yugoslavia between 1996 and 2006 facilitated or complicated efforts to democratize state broadcasting systems in order to render them public, strengthen the news media's capacity to engage in quality investigative reporting and overall contribute to media pluralism lingered on for more than ten years (Kurspahic, 2003; Rhodes, 2007). Most recently, the question was examined from within the region (see e.g. Jusić and Nidžara Ahmetašević, 2013; Irion and Jusić, 2014). While these studies may appear at first sight as an exercise in 'looking back', they are relevant in light of the fact that the successor states to the former Yugoslavia that are still awaiting entry into the European Union continue to grapple with the consequences of a lack of democratically-sound, professional and sustainable media sectors supportive of the needs of post-socialist citizens (Horvat and Stiks, 2014) affected by e.g. pressing socioeconomic conditions –in Bosnia and Herzegovina- and the persistence of political nationalisms –in Serbia. Attentive to calls to go beyond the usual story about the post-socialist Balkans and its recurring tropes (Horvat and Stiks, 2014), this paper describes and analyzes the viewpoints of local experts in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the past, present and future of media matters, including, but not limited to, a discussion of the role of the European Union and the US in assisting local efforts.

Based on semi-structured interviews conducted in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2015, the purpose of the paper project is twofold: 1) to render visible local views (of media expert consultants, professional journalists and staff from NGOs and academic units devoted to media matters) regarding what type of international media assistance is needed at present, and how it should be implemented in order to redress not only the limited or negative consequences of earlier interventions, but also the changed circumstances at national and regional level; and 2) to analyze the avenues currently available for local actors to communicate with EU bilateral and supranational entities in order to solicit and/or negotiate the assistance required in their view for BiH and Serbia meet the accession requirements for a democratic media sector (following Balibar 2004; Stiks, 2014). The paper presents initial findings of a research project ultimately concerned with informing the incorporation of dialogue with local actors as a necessary and steady feature of the EU's approach to the non-state, non-commercial media sector in

Western Balkans countries awaiting accession to the European Union.

Id: 12828

Title: The Reflexive Mediation of the Past: Reshaping Memory in Romanian Cinema about Communism

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to investigate the processes of memory mediation through cinematic technologies and practices, in the context of a dialectical relationship between mediation and mediatization, as is defined, among others, by Andreas Hepp, Stig Hjarvard, Knut Lundby, Nic Couldry and Andrew Hoskins. In this approach, "mediation" refers to processes of communication as symbolic interaction, the production and circulation of meaning through technologically-based infrastructures of transmission and distribution ('media'), while "mediatization" explains specifically the role of particular media in emergent processes of sociocultural change (Couldry & Hepp, 2013). In a historical perspective, mediation can be understood as a process of permanent remediation – i.e. permanently refashioning cultural forms by means of various technologies of communication (Bolter & Grusin, 2000), while mediatization is a metaprocess (of the same type as globalization or commercialization), which describes "the nature of the interrelationship between historical changes in media communication and other transformational processes" (Hepp, 2013). Thus defined, mediation is a logical step of mediatization and consequently most research tends to focus on the track from mediation to mediatization. Our paper is interested in the opposite route, where mediatization itself becomes a source of meaning, i. e. mediatization is the object of a new mediation.

In relation to memory, this route is particularly appealing since contemporary memory is already mediatized: TV, cinema, and cultural industries are part of history, resources of memory, and even lieux de mémoire. Looking back at images that were used to make history (for instance, propaganda images in communist Romania), and how these images are rediscovered and their workings scrutinized by the new generation, we can understand how mediation mechanisms work to incorporate reflexively the processes of a mediatized history – a process that we label "reflexive mediation."

Recent Romanian cinema often returns to the Communist period, selectively recollecting the period and negotiating its various meanings. In this paper we analyse several recent

Romanian cinematic productions, belonging to various genres, which make abundant use of archival images, scrutinizing these images both as symbolic resources of remembrance and as actors of history. More specifically, we illustrate the process of reflexive mediation of the past through an analysis of several movies: *The second match*, an art movie by Corneliu Porumboiu (2014), *The Great Communist Bank Robbery*, a documentary by Alexandru Solomon (2012) deconstructing a propaganda movie of the '50s about a heist in Communist Romania, the feature film *Closer to the Moon*, directed by Nae Caramfil (2014) relying on the same story, and Andrei Ujică's documentary *Autobiography of Nicolae Ceaușescu* (2010). Methodologically, the analysis adopts insights from multimodal semiotics, film studies and rhetorical genre studies in order to highlight the dynamics of practices of mediation of the past through cinema, and their impact on memory. We thus make a case for a dialectical understanding between mediation and mediatization in the particular case of cinema, and explore the consequences of such an approach when investigating the role of cinema as a medium in reshaping memory in post-socialist countries.

Id: 12860

Title: "(Re-) building collective memory and commemoration in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Analysis of Media Coverage of the "Urkun" Uprising"

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: The aim of the research is to analyze the role of media in (re-) building collective memory and commemoration in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan, particularly on (re-) building/shaping collective memory and commemoration about "Urkun" Uprising. "Urkun" (in English: "Exodus") is the Kyrgyz name for a 1916 revolt against Russian Tsarist forces and a mass flight to escape to China. The events occurred at the Bedel Pass border post near the Kyrgyz-Chinese border on July 30, 1916. Some claim that nearly half the Kyrgyz from the northern part of the country died during Urkun. Bruce Pannier put the death toll at more than 100,000 people. Russian sources admit that the revolt claimed the lives of up to 3,000 people.

This year is a centennial anniversary of "Urkun" Uprising and a series of activities such as international academic conferences, documentary films and a series of TV and radio programmes about Urkun are being broadcast in Kyrgyzstan for the commemoration of this important historical event.

Urkun was not covered by Soviet textbooks, and monographs on the subject were removed from Soviet printing houses. As the Soviet Union was disintegrating in 1991, interest in Urkun grew. Some survivors have begun to label the events a "massacre" or "genocide" (Pannier, 2006).

Research Questions:

What is the role of media in (re-) building collective memory and commemoration in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan?

What is the media's agency in memory shaping processes in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan?

How media is (re-) building/shaping collective memory and commemoration about "Urkun" Uprising in Kyrgyzstan?

What discourses do the media use in building collective memory and commemoration about Urkun uprising.

Theoretical contribution of the research

The role of media in (re-) building collective memory and commemoration in Kyrgyzstan has never been studied before nor the media coverage of Urkun Uprising. Our research will be the first descriptive research on this topic and will contribute to the literature and scholarly work on this issue. The importance of the research is that it will try to analyze what discourses do the media use in building collective memory and commemoration about Urkun uprising.

Research methodology

Discourse analysis of print, online media, TV programs and Radio Programs, Documentary Films about Urkun Uprising. Articles, interviews, news about Urkun published in two Kyrgyz language (one of which is government newspaper and one is independent private newspaper) and two Russian language (one of which is government newspaper and one is independent private newspaper) newspapers, four TV channels' (two public TV stations and two private TV stations) TV programmes about Urkun, radio programmes about Urkun broadcast on two radio stations (Kyrgyz language, one government radio station, one private independent) articles, interviews, news about Urkun published on three online news agencies' websites (one government owned news agency and the other two independent news agencies) and documentary films about Urkun broadcast on TV channels will be analyzed using discourse analysis. The timeframe for analysis is between 1991-2016.

Id: 12979

Title: "Turbulent Democracy" Digital Memories of the 1990s in Russia

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: Key words: digital memories, 1990s, social media, Vkontakte, Facebook, Odnoklassniki, memory wars

Russia in the 1990s was a time when freedom and opportunity went hand in hand with a dramatic rise in violence and a sharp economic decline. Though “the past is a foreign country” (Lowenthal 1999), the Russian authorities seek to use the 1990s, just as other historical periods and events (consider, for instance, Dubin 2013; Kuposov 2011; Gudkov 2005), to stabilise the regime. With this in mind, Ilya Kalinin talks about Vladimir Putin’s “resource-centered politics of memory” aimed at “naturalising the past” (Blacker, Etkind & Fedor 2013: 255, 260). The 1990s became a touchstone of the official narrative of Putin’s regime: during the 2007 Duma election campaign the authorities started to use the term “the turbulent ‘90s” extensively in order to emphasise the contrasting stability of the 2000s. Today, according to a WCIOM survey (2015), 53% of Russians have negative feelings about the 1990s. This period is associated primarily with criminality (50%), collapse (39%), and poverty (34%). Only 7% of the respondents think it was a time of democracy, 5% associate the period with freedom and unrestricted mobility, and only 4% call it a time of unlimited opportunity.

How are these heterogeneous memories reflected online? Digital space does not simply “recreate” offline memories, for “digital memory practices both build on and modify the memory practices associated with ‘old’ technologies” (Garde-Hansen, Hoskins, Reading 2009: 18). In post-socialist and (semi) authoritarian contexts these processes take on specific characteristics, of which the most crucial one is “a heightened proclivity to... memory wars” (Rutten, Fedor, Zvereva 2013: 239). I argue, however, that the present digital memory landscape of Russia in the 1990s is more complex than simply two or more opposing sides competing over particular memorial narratives. Building on a content analysis of the digital memories of the 1990s that are mediated through the ten largest communities dedicated to this period on the three most popular social networks in Russia (Vkontakte, Odnoklassniki, and Facebook), I show that with regard to this period of Russian history, “memory wars” often take place within, rather than between, “prosumers”, i.e. those who at once produce and consume digital memories (Garde-Hansen 2011: 28). While there are some clear differences between the social networks, all three of them offer conditions for multi-layered, “palimpsestic remembering” (Harvey

2015) of the 1990s, rather than simply provide their users with opportunities to create memories that correspond with or are alternative to those mediated within the official memory politics. When it comes to memories of relatively recent events, that are remembered well and in all their complexity, I contend that the digital space offers tools that allow people to structure personal memories in a more inclusive and intricate way than is possible offline, especially when asked to respond in ways that “force” choices between narratives (for instance, while participating in a sociological survey).

Id: 13055

Title: Media and electoral crisis in Burundi: Silencing the "voice of the voiceless"

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: In May 2015, following a failed coup d'état after contested presidential elections, four radio stations and one private television, constituting the main providers of independent information in Burundi, were destroyed and then prevented from resuming their activities. This event marked the culmination of escalating tensions between the regime of President Pierre Nkurunziza and the independent media whose relations have been gradually deteriorating since 2006. In fact, the political system has shown tendency towards authoritarian structures since the past elections in 2010, while the media sector has become more liberal, due to foreign donor support, providing a space conducive to free expression and giving voice to all those whose word could not be heard neither in the public media nor in those media outlets close to the ruling party CNDD-FDD.

The political system and the media system, which are generally highly interconnected (Hallin & Mancini 2004), have thus evolved in divergent directions in recent years, becoming more and more incompatible and leading to the current conflict. The present research aims at addressing this violent rupture whose impact is significant both for the journalistic profession (more than 80 journalists are in exile since May 2015, mainly in Kigali) and for the population that now has access to pro-government media only. The study is based on data collected in two waves before and after the beginning of the crisis: Around thirty interviews were conducted with journalists in Bujumbura in January and March 2015 and in January 2016 in Kigali. In addition, a series of twelve focus groups was carried out in March and October 2015 in different localities of Burundi including different groups of the Burundian society.

The material sheds light on (1) how the Burundian population perceives the role of the media and (2) how journalists perceive their own role both from a comparative perspective (before and after the beginning of the crisis). Two questions are at the center of the analysis: What impact does the crisis and the closure of the independent media

have on the audience that was used to a somewhat pluralistic media landscape and highly suspicious towards the manipulation of information in the past? Secondly, how did the change in the media landscape influence journalism in Burundi? The profession is now divided in three groups: those who stayed in Burundi and either work for the pro-government media or the few remaining independent media projects (e.g. Iwacu newspaper or various media production projects supported by international donors) and those who are in exile. The study highlights the fragmentation and the weakening of solidarity within the profession in response to the crisis.

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Id: 13078

Title: Anti Press-Violence in Post-authoritarian Societies: Sub-national Comparisons in Contemporary Mexico

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: This work seeks to contribute to the understanding of anti-press violence in post-authoritarian societies, such like Mexico, which has been recently labelled as the most dangerous and deadly place for journalists in the Americas (RWB, 2014), and where 103 journalists have been killed and 25 have been missing since 2000 (PGR, 2015). With that stated, the questions that animate this work are: What type of conditions foster anti-press violence in sub-national Mexico? And what are the main causes and predictors for this phenomenon?

In the first part of the piece it is argued that in a context of generalised weakness in the Rule of Law (Lawson and Hughes, 2005), the attacks against the press are the result of the privatisation of violence by the state and extra-state actors, who make the decisions on what should and should not be published. This is especially true for Mexico's provinces, where the state not only has less presence and control, but also where the chilling-effect of those attacks is even more pernicious.

By using a principal components analysis (PCA), in the second part of the research an Anti Press Violence Index (AVPI) is constructed, which summarises the aggressions against the Mexican press, from 2010 to 2015. The Index allows a comparison between the intensity and recurrence of violence against the press among the 32 sub-national entities. The Index also works as a dependent variable in the following section.

In the third part, a statistical analysis (lineal regression) is used to explain the main external determinants and patrons on anti-press violence in the Mexican provinces. It is also concluded that the main predictor of violence against the press is the general level of violence in the province, especially the product of the presence of organised crime (Relly and González de Bustamante, 2014; Rios, 2013). The second predictor is number of human rights violations made by state actors at local level. This is because half of assaults against media and journalists come from public officials and local security elements (Article 19 Mexico, 2013). This study also concludes that anti-press violence is negatively related to the presence of critical media outlets, and to the development of local democracy.

Based in a set of 50 semi-structure interviews that I recently conducted to local journalists in ten of the thirty-two Mexican provinces, in the last part I advanced a taxonomy of the internal determinants of anti-press violence at local level (such as level of journalistic professionalization, quality of journalistic networks, and the synergy

within local authorities and journalists in the region).

Id: 13425

Title: Remembering the Absent Other: cultural therapy for Polish national identity

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: Although the staggering majority of Jewish Poles perished during WWII and most of those who survived left Poland, the Jewish Other has returned to representation as a specter since the collapse of the state socialist regime. Since then, the past gained a pronounced emotional resonance as a basis for national identity building and questions about Jewish-gentile relations serve as points of contention mobilizing emotions in mediated public debates. Multiple public memory projects attempt to recover the Jewish past in Poland. These include cultural festivals, films, books, museums and exhibits. Significantly, these are conversations about Jews without Jews. Given the tiny numbers of Jewish Poles, “Jews do not present a material problem for Poland as a minority, only a spiritual problem” (Gross, 2014). More precisely then, these projects are conversations among gentile Poles about the dead. And it is to the spirits and to the idiom of haunting (Derrida, 1994; Gordon, 1997; Gunn, 2006) that this paper turns to understand how one particular project reimagines the past and relations with the Other as part of the post socialist transition.

This paper analyzes "The Biography of Things," an exhibit held at the new Museum of Jewish History in Warsaw in 2013 before the main permanent exhibit opened last year. The exhibit is a collection of a wide variety of items of everyday use and memorabilia that are “associated” with the history of Polish Jews and videos of the donors describing the significance of the artefacts they donated. The exhibit will become part of the permanent digital collection available on the museum’s website. I use a cultural textual analysis to read the exhibit as a memory project to identify how associations with and significance of the Polish Jewish past are constructed and thus what kinds of memories about the Other are encouraged. I then discuss implications for the negotiation of Polish post socialist national identity and its cultural traumas.

Scholars have argued that the Jewish memory projects enable a recovery of the past, healing of the cultural traumas and even possibilities for reconciliation between Jews and gentiles in Poland. I contend however, that the exhibition technology puts the Other “in its place” and mobilises affect in a way that encourages closure of the past and a detachment from the Other. It is a therapeutic discourse that attempts to ascertain a future for the healed but nostalgic Polish subject in the European and global context through the Absent Other in its proper place. That is, the exhibit feeds a broader cultural memory

project that “reintegrates Jews into the past and we go to Europe with the dead” (Smolar, 2014). However, I apply the concept of haunting shows that the exhibited “remains” resist this attempt at closure and reveal a "specter" that prompts a recognition of the Polish gentile subject’s implication in violence against the Other. My analysis points to alternate future paths to living with ghosts as an ethical obligation.

Id: 13649

Title: Regional identities in post-socialist Germany - How regional TV programmes remember a homeland that's gone

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: When the German Democratic Republic was dissolved with the German Reunification on 3rd October 1990, many people not only gained their freedom from a socialist dictatorship, they also lost the country that had been their homeland for 40 years. As a key event in recent German history, the German Reunification has started a new chapter of national identity. The on-going process of the building of a reunified German identity still is a core element of Germany's national self-perception (Früh et al. 2012, p. 146), especially in the context of the newly-formed German states. The internal and external perception of the own social group (in-group) is one vital factor of the formation of social identity (Tajfel/Turner 1986) as it helps to structure the own social environment. Furthermore, TV as a medium plays an important role for self-reassurance amongst modern societies (Früh et al. 1999, p. 13). Since regional TV broadcasting can be seen as a central factor of integration in a new national and political environment (Rost 2004, p. 43), broadcasters in the newly-formed German states today face the challenge of discussing the issue of an unjust nation without eradicating the personal life story of its inhabitants.

Although, the media coverage of the events around the German Reunification and its anniversaries has been examined by various studies (most recently Holtmann et al. 2015, Media Tenor 2014), only few consider regional media (e.g. Löser 2013, Früh et al. 2011). From a thematic point of view, only Früh et al. partly consider everyday-news-coverage, whereas the other studies mainly focus on the portrayal of the historical events. Studies on the identity-constructing function of memory in regional media beyond historical key events do not exist yet, only Rost (2004) touched the matter briefly in his individual case study of a TV show on the regional history of Brandenburg.

This paper examines the corresponding research gap on two levels: Firstly, the extent and the programme context of the portrayal of the socialist regional history are examined in

regional TV in former East Germany today (RQ1). Secondly, the paper analyses different modes of remembering in the identified references, especially regarding the conflict between historical facts and individual biographies (RQ2).

We present a content analysis of the biggest regional TV broadcaster (MDR) in the newly-formed German states, which was recorded during four weeks in April 2015. Being the public broadcaster for the federal states of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia, MDR's TV programme is the by far mostly watched regional TV programme in former East Germany. In a first step, a quantitative analysis clarified programme sections and thematic categories (such as politics, economics, uncontroversial social issues, human touch, etc.), in which the issue of GDR history was raised (RQ1). Additionally, topics, actors, evaluations, and the sources of evaluation (e.g. private individuals or experts) were examined in all identified references in order to establish the different modes of remembering, such as nostalgia, historic analysis, and personal experiences (RQ2).

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Id: 13987

Title: From Post-socialist to New Authoritarian Media Systems in Europe

Session Type: Individual submission

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Abstract: Scholars researching Central and Eastern Europe have identified numerous challenges in the media systems of this region since the end of communism (e.g. Bašić-Hrvatín, Kucić, & Petković, 2004; Dobek-Ostrowska, 2012; Downey & Mihelj, 2012; Jakubowicz, 2007; Mungiu-Pippidi, 2008). This long period of transition has been marked by the tenuous transformations of former state broadcasters (Jakubowicz, 2008), the struggles of new commercial media in the face of intense competition, and the efforts of media professionals to redefine themselves in the new environment. Amidst this, some clear problems have stood out in relation to government or political interventions in the media, often in the form of undue influence over public service media (PSM) and threats to the independence of national regulators. Some of the research into media systems in the region would indicate that there is continuity from the past in terms of political elite's control of the media. Splichal (2001:34) argued that, while imitating some media policy from the West, new elites in this region copied old mechanisms of control of the media because they continued to have an "old authoritarian conception of the polity". Jakubowicz (2007) found them more instrumentalist, arguing that, new elites maintained old systems of control because they both felt insecure in their power base, and that they deserved to use the media to support the process of reform.

However, these explanations fall short in terms of explaining more recent developments in the region. Populist leaders elected with clear and stable support from voters have also been consolidating political power over its public service broadcaster (PSB) and curtailed the powers of its national broadcasting regulator. Just after taking power at the end of 2015, Poland's new government passed a law giving the Minister of the Treasury the power to appoint the members of the management board of the PSB, a process which since 1992 had been done through an open call managed by an independent regulator. Viktor Orban in Hungary, Nikola Gruevski in Macedonia have been highly criticised for their attempts to control the media.

This paper first traces the transition from post-socialism to new authoritarianism in the governance of the media in Macedonia based on an in-depth examination of media laws between 1991 and 2013, semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis. It then puts this into a current context and presents an analysis the most recent media law

changes in comparison with those made in Hungary and Poland by the current ruling parties. Based on this two phased investigation this paper argues that there is a distinct new authoritarian approach to media emerging. Drawing on Dobek-Ostrowska's (2012) suggestion that the concept of instrumentalisation of the media is particularly useful in reference to the media systems of the region, this paper finds the new authoritarian approach to media is less drawn from past mechanisms of control than it is conditioned by modern relations with domestic and international capital and the positions of private media companies.

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Title: Commemorations and the Quality of News in a Divided Society: Twenty Years On 'Divided We Thrive

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Abstract: More than 20 years ago democratization swept across Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and put an end to communist regimes. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the process was less peaceful; the country engulfed in ethnic conflict and enmities with neighbors. Previous research demonstrated that media played a significant role in these processes. Later, in the post-conflict period, the media have been used as vehicles for peace-building and democratization, at least up some degree. Fast-forward 20 years, the country is still rigidly divided along ethnic and entity lines. Political bickering, stalemates and corruption, hand in hand with poor economy and high unemployment, are the faces of the country's poor democratic record. Media record is not impeccable either. Year 2015 was the time where Bosnia was supposed to celebrate two decades of peace and reconciliation; however that was not the case. This paper intends to look into how Bosnian newspapers and new media commemorated some of the anniversaries, thus asking about the character of news media today, and media's capacity in terms of their public role and shaping memories. With this in mind, this research paper aims to probe into how political debates about anniversaries and unresolved issues from the past unfold in the news media, and consequently to shed some light on the quality of news. The case study chosen for this paper corresponds to several important dates and events in the country: 20th anniversary of Dayton Peace Agreement (November 21), Independence Day (March 1), National Day (November 25) and Day of the Republika Srpska (January 9), covering a span of almost one year (March 2015 - January 2016). The paper, by applying framing analysis (Reese, 2001, 2010), analyses media texts published around these events by looking into the news content, news sources and wider context. According to Reese, in order to explore frames, researchers are encouraged to delve into the contextualization of topics: socially, historically, and culturally. That is, they have to look into the ongoing construction of discursive environment. Given that shared past in Bosnia is reinterpreted under the influence of unresolved conflicts, these respective commemorations follow the same logic. Preliminary results suggest that news about these events follow well established parallelism in media and ethnic myopia(s) in society; the news media are involved in political and historical power struggles between different political/national options. Audiences are left with simplified reproductions of the same nationalistic discourses present ever since. Surprisingly,

commemoration of 20th anniversary of Dayton, which should be the key event in Bosnian statehood, received relatively low prominence, whereas the January 9th commemoration of the Day of Republika Srpska has been widely constructed and used for political ends.

Additionally, the results of this analysis were discussed in the context of democratic potentials of the news media and media performances in public. Content of Bosnian media have been studied in relation to election campaigns and hate speech, however, less research analyzed news content in order to measure media performances in recent times.

