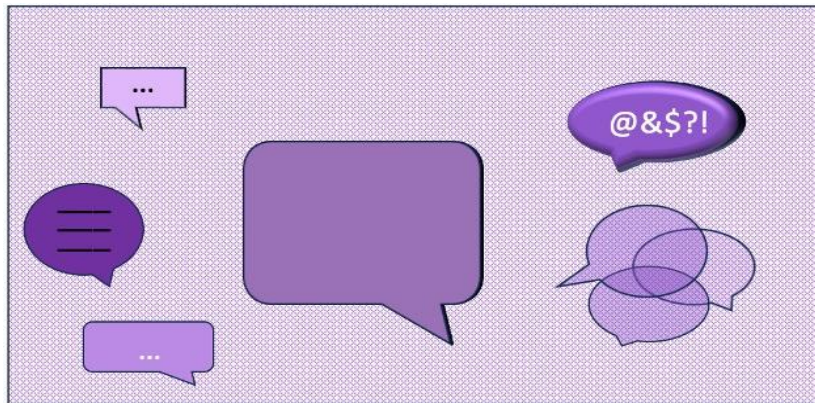# Look Who's Talking:
Voices and Sources in the News

Fifth International Conference
organized by the
Brussels Institute for Journalism Studies

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

The University Foundation, Brussels
12-13 December 2024

Table of Contents

Program Overview: Thursday 12 December 2024

12:00-13:00

Registration & Lunch

13:10-13:30

Welcome & Opening (Félicien Cattier)

13:30-14:30

Keynote address (Félicien Cattier)

Patricia Moy (Washington University)

Cutting through the clamor: Revisiting voices in today's political landscape

14:40-16:15

Panel session 1

Voices/Sources, Community and the (Cultural) Other (Félicien Cattier)

Panel session 2

Translation Approaches to Voices/Sources in the News (Emile Francqui)

16:15-16:40

Coffee break

16:45-18:20

Panel session 3

Diversity in the News(room) (Félicien Cattier)

Panel session 4

Voices/Sources, Conflict and (Journalistic) Authority (Emile Francqui)

18:20-19:30

Reception

19:30-20:30

Guided walk (fully booked)

Program Overview: Friday 13 December 2024

8:45-9:15

Registration & Coffee

9:25-9:30

Welcome (Félicien Cattier)

9:30-10:30

Keynote address (Félicien Cattier)

Lieven Vandelanotte (Université de Namur & KU Leuven)

Fake quotes, fake news? Reappraising forms and functions of speech and thought representation

10:40-12:00

Panel session 5

Journalistic Specialisms, Expertise and Epistemology (Félicien Cattier)

Panel session 6

Voices/Sources and Environmental Journalism (Emile Francqui)

12:00-13:15

Lunch

13:25-14:25

Panel session 7

(Dis)trust, Bias and Alternative Voices (Félicien Cattier)

Panel session 8

Voice, Discourse and Ideology (Emile Francqui)

14:35-15:55

Panel Session 9

Voices/Sources, Politics and Disinformation (Félicien Cattier)

Panel Session 10

Gendered Voices in the News (Emile Francqui)

15:55-16:25

Coffee break

16:30-17:50

Panel Session 11

Voices/Sources, Digital News, and Gen Z (Félicien Cattier)

Panel Session 12

Expert and Journalist Voices in the News (Emile Francqui)

18:00-18:45

Keynote address (Félicien Cattier)

Laura Postma (Leiden University)

Becoming the face of the conflict: The role of foreign correspondents in covering the 2023/2024 Israel-Gaza war

19:00

Dinner (reservations closed)

Abstracts Keynote Addresses

Patricia Moy (University of Washington)

Cutting through the clamor: Revisiting voices in today's political landscape

Thursday, 13:30-14:30 / Room Félicien Cattier

Democratic theory is grounded in the notion of a knowledgeable and active populace, one where its members can express themselves freely and expect governmental responsiveness. Put another way, for democratic systems to work, voices must be heard—and journalism plays a normative and empirical role in ensuring these voices are heard.

In this opening keynote, I begin by presenting the historical arc of how voices have been heard, from bonfires in the "olden days" to journalistic representations of public opinion and the spate of new(?) voices today. Despite their prevalence, journalistic portrayals of public opinion are not perfect measures of what the "public" wants or feels.

What prevents the public from understanding the voices they are exposed to in the news and media landscape in general? Myriad factors exist, including: journalistic values and reporting practices; the rise of inauthentic voices such as "insincere" respondents participating in surveys and the growth of manufactured voices used for nefarious purposes; and individual-level dispositions (e.g., listening styles and distrust in the news) fueled by sociopolitical and technological developments.

Given the theoretical and practical foci of the keynote, the session will close with a group discussion of the challenges conference participants face in their own research to foreground specific voices.

Lieven Vandelanotte (Université de Namur & KU Leuven)

Fake quotes, fake news? Reappraising forms and functions of speech and thought representation

Friday, 9:30-10:30 / Room Félicien Cattier

Across a broad range of text types and interactional contexts, a lot of what people talk and write about concerns the words and thoughts of others or of themselves, whether real or imagined. Which linguistic forms we use to provide access to the contents of such words or thoughts, and how we embed this representation within the larger discourse, can produce very different effects.

As a fictive, jocular example, consider these possible reports on some recent Trump comments about Hitler, attacked by the Harris campaign, with examples (2-3) gleaned from a thread on the social media platform BlueSky:

- Trump says Hitler 'did some good things'.
- Campaigns spar over historical comparison.
- Harris refuses to state which dictators she admires.

In this talk, I first want to review some theoretical and descriptive basics of speech and thought representation, probing the essential nature of quotations as 'demonstrations' (Clark & Gerrig 1990) and critically surveying traditional distinctions made in English between forms such as direct, indirect and free indirect speech/thought (Vandelanotte 2009, 2023). Next, I want to demonstrate how some journalistic forms provide interesting test cases as regards 'types' of speech and thought representation, including in more narrative (Van Krieken & Sanders 2021) and opinionating styles of journalism, and as regards the question whether quotes are 'faithful' (Short et al. 2002), fundamentally 'constructed', or even in some sense 'fake'. Examples from social media discourse – often, these days, an important source of news, both real and fake – will further extend the scope of enquiry.

Laura Postma (Leiden University)

Becoming the face of the conflict: The role of foreign correspondents in covering the 2023/2024 Israel-Gaza war

Friday, 18:00-18:45 / Room Félicien Cattier

In times of conflict and war, especially in the first phases, news and information move fast. Information is not only spread from direct sources involved in the conflict, but also shared from various external sources on several channels on social media. In certain occasions it becomes challenging to verify and select sources, or identify information as truthful and whether or not it is for example AI-generated. In a fast-pace environment and with the need to bring 'breaking news', foreign correspondents and visiting reporters need to make quick decisions in a limited amount of time and sometimes with a limited number of sources at their disposal.

This study takes the 2023/2024 Israel-Gaza war as a case study, for the reason that it is a recent event that is still developing and receiving a lot of attention in international media. There is a significant number of foreign correspondents that are permanently stationed there. Also, during the first weeks of the war, thousands of visiting reporters arrived in Israel to report as 'parachute journalists'. Between March and August 2024, 13 foreign correspondents and visiting reporters from 10 different countries were interviewed about their experiences reporting on the war. It was found that foreign correspondents have specific techniques and routines to verify information at these types of events. They often refer to the added value of their physical presence, which immediately sets them apart from other forms of foreign reporting. At the same time, many challenges were identified involved in reporting on a crisis on the ground, some of which can also be linked to the physical presence of the correspondents. This study contributes to a better understanding of the role of foreign correspondents and visiting reporters in the information provision about the 2023/2024 Israel-Gaza war. It looks into what influences the decision making, verification and production process of reports and if and how this changed during different stages of the war.

Additionally, this keynote will take the case study as an example to zoom in on the role and position of the foreign correspondent in general as the 'face' and main source of a conflict, but also as the seen expert of a country or region and the responsibility this comes with. It will link these questions to personal experiences of the speaker being a foreign correspondent in the United States and Central Europe. Challenges will be highlighted and discussion points will be presented.

Abstracts Panel Sessions

Session 1: Thursday, 14:40-16:15: Voices/Sources, Community and the (Cultural) Other

<u>Chair</u>: Hilde Van den Bulck (Drexel University) / Room Félicien Cattier

Jennifer Sclafani, Peter Federman & Nasiba Norova (U of Massachusetts Boston)
Problematic place-making: A critical intertextual and multimodal analysis of the opioid crisis

Joe Jones (West Virginia University)
Decolonizing the news: Solidarity, voice, and human connection in care-based journalism

Marcin Kosman (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw)
An apparent change? TVP Info's coverage of events at the Polish-Belarusian border in 2021 and 2024

Ellen Thorisaen, Catherine Bouko & Sarah Van Leuven (Ghent University)
Diversity in representing the other community: A quantitative content analysis of Flemish topics and actors in the RTBF news segment "Un Oeil en Flandre"

Manon Mortier (Ghent University)
Journalism as a forum for discussing history and historical interpretations in the news: Debating Cyriel Verschaeve streets in Flemish Radio and Television (2017-2019)

***

Problematic place-making: A critical intertextual and multimodal analysis of the opioid crisis

Jennifer Sclafani, Peter Federman, and Nasiba Norova (University of Massachusetts Boston)

This study examines the discursive construction of "Mass and Cass" (MAC), a tent city located in downtown Boston, which has become the epicenter of the city's intersecting opioid, mental health, and homelessness crises. The issue has received heightened media attention in recent years and featured as one of the central issues in the city's last mayoral election.

Analyzing a corpus of 440 print news items from the *Boston Globe* (~378,000 words) and 100 videos of local broadcast coverage (~10 hours) on the events, issues, and policy discourse surrounding MAC over the past decade, we perform a critical intertextual and multimodal analysis (Fairclough 1992, Van Leeuwen 2014) of news coverage of the situation, focusing on ***whose voices*** are represented in news coverage of MAC, ***which interests*** these voices represent, and ***what solutions*** are promoted and rejected through the strategic selection of quoted sources and lexicogrammatical aspects of journalistic speech representation.

Findings show that political executives' voices outweigh those of public health and housing experts and other stakeholders and community organizations. Unhoused residents of MAC are largely silenced in the *Boston Globe* coverage (accounting for < 9% of all direct quotations), and are dehumanized through a variety of multimodal strategies in the broadcast news reporting (e.g., subject selection, montage, camera angle and focus). In both print and broadcast data, the human experience of addiction and homelessness is further suppressed by other voices (e.g., neighbors, small business owners) decrying the safety and aesthetic implications of the human activity at MAC through specific journalistic reporting strategies.

Part of an ongoing collaborative interdisciplinary research project between sociolinguists and public policy researchers, this study illuminates how media discourse informs public opinion on urban health policy and political action, and aims to ultimately improve policy-making practices in Boston and other US cities with populations undergoing similar hardships.

Decolonizing the news: Solidarity, voice, and human connection in care-based journalism

Joseph Jones (West Virginia University)

Using history, postcolonial theory, journalism studies, critical discourse analysis, and media ethics, this study analyzes the development of American journalism as both an institution and also a set of practices that have simultaneously served democracy and mimicked the imperial logic of the modern West. After delineating how epistemologies like naïve objectivity and practices like privileging elite sources can recreate colonialism, I analyze two regional media outlets that defy this historical trend. Centering marginalized voices, *100 Days in Appalachia* and *Black by God: The West Virginian* improve public deliberation by countering the stereotypes associated with the impoverished Appalachian region. By asserting local voices, these outlets belie the reductive reporting of media external to these communities and nuance the social conversations, political possibilities, and identity work about and for the region. Ultimately, voice—who is allowed to speak, on what grounds, and why—is a crucial question for the purpose of journalism. As we move into an increasingly contentious, fragmented, and liquid "post-truth" digital world, it is imperative we anchor journalism in enduring but adaptable principles that ensure its continued existence as a distinctly ethical and helpful form of communication. Through history, theory explication, and empirical analysis, I will conceptualize a morally preferable understanding of voice that can guide the media necessary for our everchanging times, namely, a journalism built on truth, justice, and care.

Just as Said (1978) argued that colonial empires were established with both armies and also writers and scientists, so has journalism in the United States "conquered" its inhabitants with abstracting, detached reporting. While some claimed to provide a "voice to the voiceless," Spivak (1988) asks whether the subaltern can actually speak or if elites always do it for them. This study explores such issues, reasserting the humanness of news as AI looms as another form of abstraction.

An apparent change? TVP Info's coverage of events at the Polish-Belarusian border in 2021 and 2024

Marcin Kosman (University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw)

The coverage of the situation at the Polish-Belarusian border by TVP (Poland's public service broadcaster) has stirred up numerous controversies – researchers have observed a stereotypical portrayal of people trying to reach Poland (Kosman, 2024; Graban, 2024) or an unconditional endorsement of the then government (Szylko-Kwas, 2023). On December 19, 2023, the new government passed a resolution calling for the "restoration of public media impartiality and integrity". This paper examines continuity and change regarding the coverage of the border situation.

The study adopts a Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies perspective to analyze articles from TVP Info, the news website of TVP, focusing on the border situation during two specific periods: from August 6, 2021, to January 6, 2022, and from January 16, 2024, to June 16, 2024. To enhance the analysis beyond a purely linguistic dimension, the study employs an interpretive framework that includes concepts such as securitization (Buzan, Wæver, & De Wilde, 1998), orientalism (Kerboua, 2016), and discursive discrimination (Boréus, 2006).

Overall, the discourses on events at the border used by the two editorial boards are similar in many respects – both in 2021 and 2024, TVP Info portrayed the government as responding appropriately to the situation and caring for the safety of Poles. The narrative about the influx of people as part of a hybrid war was particularly significant; both editorial boards wrote mainly about young men from Muslim countries, often mentioning their alleged crimes.

While the new TVP did abandon the EU-sceptical discourse, it – similarly to the old TVP – ignored the humanitarian aspects of the events and did not attempt to reconstruct the point of view of refugees or organizations helping them. In addition, the perspective of the opposition was omitted, giving the reader the misleading impression that the government consistently takes the right stance on all issues, when in fact it has not escaped criticism from various organizations and opposition parties.

Thus, it appears that despite declarations of the need to present a nuanced picture of reality made by the new TVP authorities, Poland's public service media still largely show the government's point of view and ignore the information which might contest its propaganda.

Diversity in representing the other community: A quantitative content analysis of Flemish topics and actors in the RTBF news segment "Un Oeil en Flandre"

Ellen Thorisaen, Catherine Bouko & Sarah Van Leuven (Ghent University)

The Belgian media landscape is divided into two distinct parts: both the major private channels (VTM, RTL-TVI) and public broadcasters (VRT, RTBF) focus on news from their respective communities (Sinardet et al. 2004). Additionally, they often emphasize the differences and contrasts between the two communities, sometimes resorting to stereotypes (Sinardet 2009). More recent analyses are unavailable but these findings remain consistent with current journalistic opinions on the subject (Touriel 2017; Poosen 2022).

Since 2020, in the 'Un Œil en Flandre' segment of RTBF's Sunday news programme, 3 or 4 VRT reports have been presented to French-speaking viewers to give them an overview of current events in the north of the country. The aim of our research is to identify the extent to which the representations of Flanders in all 'Un Œil en Flandre' segments from 2020-2024 (N = approx. 150 editions, 465 reports) are diverse, on two levels:

1. **Topics selected**: We will determine whether politics predominates (Sinardet et al. 2004), or whether soft news is favoured, as in the 'De Taalgrens/Vu de Flandre' segments broadcast in the 2000s (Sinardet 2000).
2. **Actors**: We will identify the types of actors given a voice and cross-reference them with the selected topics using a regression analysis based on a four-level typology: governments and politics, professionals and experts, civil society organizations, and citizens (Beckers and Van Aelst 2019).

Beyond the fact that the diversity of actors is likely to generate a diversity of viewpoints essential to democracy (McNair 2000), analysing the diversity of actors is crucial in the context of intercommunity stereotypes. Indeed, according to extended contact theory, inter-group interactions (between individuals) are a powerful means of reducing intercultural prejudices. This principle also applies to the relationships between interviewees and television viewers (Wong et al. 2022).

Journalism as a forum for discussing history and historical interpretations in the news: Debating Cyriel Verschaeve streets in Flemish Radio and Television (2017-2019)

Manon Mortier (Ghent University)

History, with its wide array of possible interpretations, often has the potential to cause controversy in society. Consequently, much has been debated and written about the 'correct' way to present and remember various historical events and figures in the media. In Flanders, issues such as the Flemish canon, the TV series 'The Story of Flanders', and the controversies surrounding statues of King Leopold II have regularly stirred debates among opinion-makers, academics, citizens and politicians. These discussions inevitably raise the question: who claims or is granted the authority to communicate about history? Journalism, typically serving as the primary platform for such debates, plays a crucial role in shaping and reconstructing historical narratives. But what voices come to the fore? How diverse are the perspectives represented in the news and whom do journalists consider authorities on history?

To explore these questions, this study examines three instances where a street named after Cyriel Verschaeve, a controversial figure who collaborated during WWII, became topics of public debate. Specifically, it analyses television and radio news items from VRT, Belgium's Dutch-speaking public broadcaster, between 2017 and 2019. To what extent are politicians, residents, historians or other voices present? And what arguments do they emphasize in favor of or against renaming these streets? By connecting the fields of research of Journalism Studies, Public History, and Memory Studies, this multidisciplinary study aims to enhance our understanding of the participants and dynamics involved in the (re)construction process of historical narratives in the news.

Session 2 : Thursday, 14:40-16:15: Translation Approaches to Voices/Sources in the News

<u>Chair</u>: Jaap de Jong (Leiden University) / Room Emile Francqui

Rasha Alkhrejah (University of Reading)
Exploring the inter-relationship between critical discourse analysis, multimodality, and translation studies in BBC news reporting of the Arab Spring

Léa Huotari (University of Turku/University of Helsinki)
Whose voice gets heard? – The role of geographical context on journalistic sourcing and quoting in the Finnish media

Ashley Riggs (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
Who is 'heard', and 'how', in constructive news across languages and cultures? Two case studies of bilingual corpora

Kayo Matsushita (Rikkyo University)
The duality of voices: Interpreting foreign athletes in sports journalism

Sabine Hillen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
The French voice of the magazine books: A global or nationalist perspective on the foreign media-scene?

***

Exploring the inter-relationship between critical discourse analysis, multimodality, and translation studies in BBC news reporting of the Arab Spring.

Rasha Alkhrejah (University of Reading)

The term 'Arab Spring' refers to a series of uprisings in several Arab countries against their leaders in 2011, which was widely covered in international news reporting. This study investigates how voices originating from these Arab countries and in different languages are appropriated and presented in televised news reports across borders, focussing on BBC news reporting about the Arab Spring. The study provides a comprehensive examination of how 'original voices', i.e., those emerging from foreign countries which are being reported about, potentially in different languages, are integrated, represented, and translated in TV news. The analysis will consider news values, language use, multimodal features, as well as the role and representation of translation, aided by coding with NVivo. By exploring these components, the research seeks to understand how the voices of various stakeholders, including leaders, officials, protestors, and news reporters from the Arab Spring, are (multimodally) depicted in audio-visual reports and how they are represented in cross-national and cross-language news coverage. Attention will be given to news programs covering Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya during peak Arab Spring reporting periods, with a total of 54 news shows. The study aims to discern the selection criteria for the integrated original voices in BBC news reporting, the process of appropriating voices from the Arab Spring into BBC coverage, and the portrayal of discourses emerging from the three selected Arab Spring countries in UK news media.

Whose voice gets heard? – The role of geographical context on journalistic sourcing and quoting in the Finnish media

Léa Huotari (University of Turku)

Financial constraints have led media companies to cut the number of foreign correspondents and to rely more on news agencies' services and major international news media when reporting on foreign countries. This material is rarely checked (Diekerhof & Bakker 2012, 252) and is primarily in English. Recently, Finnish journalists have raised concerns about the narrowing range of their language expertise, which they believe has led to an overrepresentation of Finnish and English sources in the Finnish media (Tuomasjukka 2022).

This study investigates the use of journalistic foreign sources in Finnish media within the field of Translation Studies, specifically in journalistic translation research (Valdeón 2020). It focuses on how the location of the journalist—whether he or she is located in the foreign country or in the national newsroom—affects journalistic translation in terms of source use and, consequently, foreign reporting.

This research utilizes a journalistic corpus of foreign news articles from the Finnish national daily Helsingin Sanomat (HS) covering France's last two presidential elections (2017 and 2022). The focus on HS is particularly relevant as it cut its Paris bureau in 2010. This dataset is complemented by a questionnaire sent to Finnish journalists and semi-structured interviews with journalists and foreign editors involved in the news process of the articles included in the corpus. The qualitative analysis of the interviews provides deeper insights into the quantitative trends revealed by the corpus, offering additional information on the sources used by journalists, their language skills, and their working processes.

The study demonstrates how the geographic context affects the use of sources in the coverage of France and, consequently, how the diversity and plurality of voices are challenged due to the absence of a foreign correspondent on-site.

Who is 'heard', and 'how', in constructive news across languages and cultures? Two case studies of bilingual corpora

Ashley Riggs (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Working from the perspective of news translation studies, I address a topic which an earlier edition of this conference also addressed, and which is still under-researched in my discipline (an exception is Riggs 2024): constructive journalism.

Constructive journalism is 'done' differently (e.g., Mast, Coesemans & Temmerman 2019; the relevant special issue of Journalism more generally) to mainstream news. Among other aspects, 'its proponents' say that they 'are particularly keen to amplify alternative discourses that are affirmative, creative, under-reported, and give voice to underrepresented social actors' (Atanasova 2018; my emphasis), whereas 'mainstream news media's selection bias' often involves 'privileging elite voices' (CFP).

Previous analyses of voice (in non-constructive news) have shown how it may be magnified, suppressed (e.g. Ping 2023), or otherwise altered through transediting (e.g. Troqe & Fontanille 2015); some have indicated that translingual quoting (Haapanen & Perrin 2019) of foreign actors' voices can make such actors sound less competent (e.g., Filmer & Riggs 2023), but that practices of domesticating and idiomatic translingual quotation also exist (as in, perhaps surprisingly, the Daily Mail).

Using two bilingual corpora of constructive news – of English articles transedited (Schäffner 2012; Stetting 1989) by EnPositivo into Spanish (www.enpositivo.com) and of German-English/English-German news published by Reset – Digital for Good (https://reset.org/) – I explore constructive journalism as a cross-cultural, stylistic and multimodal phenomenon. Given the above, I ask: To what extent do the voices of 'underrepresented social actors' come through, and how? How does this compare to the journalist's voice? Does the presence and power of these voices differ from one linguaculture to another? Across linguacultures? How are these voices conveyed/modified in translation? I extend my analysis of the Spanish-English corpus (Riggs 2024), analyse the journalistic style and quotations in the German-English corpus, and compare the two. Because the news reading experience is resolutely multimodal, I also investigate the degree to which the images chosen reflect, draw attention to, or mask the minority actors/voices involved, or (instead) the journalist's voice.

My discipline aims to engage more with journalists and other stakeholders; I aim to broaden awareness of and research on constructive news and potentially, in conjunction with other stakeholders, explore best (transediting) practices. This conference would be an excellent opportunity to do so.

The duality of voices: Interpreting foreign athletes in sports journalism

Kayo Matsushita (Rikkyo University)

The role of sports interpreters in shaping the public personas of foreign athletes is both significant and understudied, as exemplified by the case of Japanese baseball star Shohei Ohtani in Major League Baseball (MLB) in the U.S. Ohtani's reliance on interpreters due to language barriers provides a unique case for examining how sports journalists and audiences perceive foreign athletes. This paper explores the transition between Ohtani's two interpreters—one who was dismissed in 2024 after embezzling millions of dollars from Ohtani to cover losses from sports gambling, and his successor, previously a performance operations manager. Utilizing text analysis, this study qualitatively compares the voices of the two interpreters and examines how each has influenced the portrayal of Ohtani's public image in English-speaking media.

The research aims to identify shifts in tone, style, and content in Ohtani's media interactions, assessing how these changes may affect audience perception. Given the crucial role interpreters play in media representation of athletes, this study highlights the concept of "translingual quoting" (Haapanen, 2017; Matsushita, 2021)—or "transquoting" for short—where the original speech is not only translated but also culturally and contextually adapted. The impact of this practice on the authenticity and integrity of the athlete's voice is critically analyzed, providing insights into the broader implications for sports journalism and the translation of foreign voices in the media.

The difference in audience perception between the two interpreters underscores the potential need to allow athletes' voices to be heard directly. With advanced technology, media organizations could potentially translate statements themselves in a relatively short amount of time. While interpreters would still be necessary for facilitating immediate communications such as post-game interviews, there might be an over-reliance on interpreters that needs addressing, a challenge that this paper intends to pose to sports journalism and beyond.

The French voice of the magazine books: A global or nationalist perspective on the foreign media-scene?

Sabine Hillen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

In the field of Translation Studies, the magazine Books offers an interesting example of how the international press-exchange between France and the English-speaking countries suddenly came to a standstill. Books' editor in chief, Olivier Postel-Vinay, started in the early tens of this century a monthly French periodical with selected translations of The New Yorker, The London Review of Books, The Atlantic, Die Zeit etc. This interesting selection familiarized the French reader with the sources of an international media-scene. It also opened the French sometimes narrowminded vision to a more globalized perspective. Recently the printed version of the magazine, available in most libraries throughout France and Belgium, collapsed. A digital website with shorter articles and no room for investigation took over what was once one of the leading magazines of news-investigation.

Given the experience of the VUB-students and myself with this periodical during the seminars of French cultural History, I would like to question the editor's voice towards Anglophone news-sources in general (from 2010 until recently). Did his editorials manifest an evolution on globalism or nationalism in the selected sources? How did he give attention to Anglophone articles that often, after a short appearance under the public eye, disappeared under the radar once the next issue took over?

An assembling of 25 issues from Books can enable the study of the editorials of the initiative taker, Postel-Vinay. How did he relate in these short columns to the English investigations? When did he find it necessary to give the floor to French speaking voices who made their point without falling into the trap of English as a new Esperanto? Maybe Olivier Postel-Vinay has chosen for the printed version of Books a selective elitist news diet too remote from the everyday concerns of specific groups of readers? Maybe his voice dealing with the need of investigation and slow motion during the increasing fastness of online media is no longer the voice of a majority?

For more information see: www.books.fr

Session 3: Thursday, 16:45-18:20: Diversity in the News(room)

<u>Chair</u>: **Pieter Maeseele (University of Antwerp) / Room Félicien Cattier**

Hedwig de Smaele (KU Leuven)
Diversity (or lack thereof) of voices on the opinion pages of Flemish quality newspapers De Standaard and De Morgen

Astrid Vandendaele & Jaap de Jong (Leiden University/Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Voices in flux: Navigating power dynamics and shifting sub-editor roles in local and regional Dutch news media

Reetta Nousiainen (Tampere University)
Diversifying Finnish newsrooms

Naomi Smith (Birkbeck, University of London)
An intersectional approach to changes in source diversity in television news coverage

***

Diversity (or lack thereof) of voices on the opinion pages of Flemish quality newspapers *De Standaard* and *De Morgen*

Hedwig de Smaele (KULeuven)

In newspapers, there is a clear separation between fact and opinion. On the one hand, there are news articles that strictly deliver facts without subjective interference. On the other hand, there are opinion articles that are placed on separate pages (e.g. 'Opinie en Analyse', 'Meningen') clearly marked as opinion. While news articles merely inform the reader, opinion articles convey views (or indeed, voices) that help the reader form an informed opinion about the news.

In Flanders, it is primarily the quality newspapers that allocate space for opinion pieces. Back in 2017, we conducted a quantitative content analysis of the op-eds in two Flemish quality newspapers, De Morgen and De Standaard, over eight weeks (N= 452). In addition, an in-depth interview was conducted with the editors of the opinion pages in both newspapers. The results showed a limited diversity of guest authors, with a predominance of white, highly educated men. The themes and viewpoints (pro, neutral, contra) were somewhat more diverse.

In 2023, this study was replicated to observe any changes over the 6-year period. We thus pose the following research questions:
RQ1: Which authors are featured in the opinion pieces of De Morgen and De Standaard in 2017 and 2023?
RQ2: What themes, subjects, and viewpoints are presented in the opinion pieces of De Morgen and De Standaard in 2017 and 2023?

The results for 2023 are only partially available at the moment, but they already show little progress in terms of author diversity. In December, we intend to present the results of 2023 in comparison to the results from 2017 and reflect on the implications of these findings for public opinion.

Voices in flux: Navigating power dynamics and shifting sub-editor roles in local and regional Dutch news media

Astrid Vandendaele & Jaap de Jong (Leiden University/Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

This paper examines the evolving role of sub-editors in local and regional news media in the Netherlands, with a focus on how their (dwindling) voices are represented in the newsroom. It is part of ongoing research into Dutch local media and the evolving news production processes in smaller newsrooms.

With the impact of digitization, AI-tools, growing media distrust, and budget cuts, local news organizations are facing challenges that have resulted in job losses and the need to reconsider workload division. Through qualitative analysis of 48 interviews with (sub-)editors and local reporters, supported by ethnographic field research in local and regional newsrooms, this study explores the changing responsibilities and expectations placed on sub-editors.

Our study reveals that the traditional role of "sub-editor" no longer accurately captures the diverse tasks undertaken, which now include language checking, quality control, marketing, and coordination. The research highlights a shift in sub-editors' involvement from the end stages of news production to the initial stages, as well as the adoption of human resources and public relations-related responsibilities. The role of sub-editors has become either fragmented across the newsroom or consolidated into, often overstretched, one-person roles.

We uncover the fascinating power dynamics between sources in local journalism and sub-editors: local stakeholders are not only being used as sources in the news, but their voices resonate ever louder in the local news production process, at times even overruling the sub-editors'. Our key findings reveal that local residents, institutional sources, and individuals from associations play a significant role in shaping news content. However, challenges arise when sources attempt to, for instance, alter quotes, and go beyond the boundaries of their role. The sub-editors' involvement is crucial in maintaining quality and ensuring representativeness.

This research contributes to our understanding of the evolving landscape of local and regional journalism by examining the transformations in voices and sources in the news brought about by changing sub-editor roles.

Diversifying Finnish newsrooms

Reetta Nousiainen (Tampere University)

Editorial offices in the West are dominantly white and elitist (Douglas 2021, 3), and newsrooms have failed to give space to different voices (Clark 2022). This article focuses on an attempt to enhance ethnic diversity in Finnish newsrooms. I have conducted qualitative research following four non-Finnish journalists doing their internships in newsrooms in Finland. I have shadowed

journalists in the newsrooms and conducted interviews with them individually and with their mentors.

The journalists that took part in the research come from countries that can be defined as fragile democracies. In fragile democracies, it is often thought that journalism should support a particular political perspective (Waisbord 2008, 374). Journalists in these countries also tend to adopt a collaborative approach with other actors (Hanitzsch et al. 2019, 288).

Journalistic culture refers to the way in which journalism is embedded in the historical, political, economic, social, and cultural conditions of each region (Hanitzsch et al. 2019, 16). Traditionally, Western journalistic cultures have emphasized the ideal of objectivity and the notion that journalists should maintain a distance from their subjects (Hanitzsch et al. 2019, 4).

Through my data, I examine moments when different journalistic cultures intersect in the context of journalistic work and training. These encounters reveal important characteristics of the dominant journalistic culture and how enhancing ethnic diversity challenges its conventions.

Research questions are:

To what extent does Western journalistic culture allow itself to be challenged via diversity measures? What are the characteristics that can enrich this culture, and what are its non-negotiable characteristics?

Preliminary findings indicate that journalists that come from different journalistic cultures challenge the existing conventions in terms of (1) journalistic genres, (2) journalists' relationship to sources, and (3) editorial practices. The lack of time from the editors' side is the most significant obstacle for inclusion.

An intersectional approach to changes in source diversity in television news coverage

Naomi Smith (Birkbeck, University of London)

This paper outlines an intersectional framework for analysing changes in source diversity in television news coverage over time, using a comparison of coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising and the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests as a case study. It argues that an intersectional approach that renders complex identities visible can help researchers to identify and understand the systemic inequalities embedded in news media. Moreover, it argues that news story selection and framing is partially driven by the identities of the subjects and sources of news stories. Using data gathered from archival news footage from US-based national television networks, it considers the similarities and differences between the diversity of sources in coverage of these two events which occurred twenty-right years apart but were very similar in character. Focusing specifically on the race and gender identity of sources, this paper asks: who gets to speak and in what kind of story? How long do they get to speak? Who gets priority? How are they verbally described and visually depicted onscreen? It then considers how changes in source diversity may have altered the nature of the stories told and the ways in which these stories might be received by audiences. Finally, it considers whether this methodology could usefully be expanded to consider intersectional identities beyond gender identity and race, and how this might work in practice.

Session 4: Thursday, 16:45-18:20: Voices/Sources, Conflict and (Journalistic) Authority

Chair: Joe Jones (West Virginia University) / Room Emile Francqui

Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska (University of Opole)
From silence to salience: Voices behind polarized deliberation on the Ukraine war in Poland's social media

Shepuya Famwang (University of Southampton)
Framing violence: Voices and sources in the online news of the Herders-Farmers' conflict in Nigeria

Leticia Gambetta & Agustina Huertas (Udelar)
The contemporary media enunciation phenomenon: A case study of Uruguayan journalism

Jonathan Ilan (Bar-Ilan University)
"What the heck is going on in the group!": A pseudo-professional WhatsApp news group claiming journalistic authority

Masoumeh Rahimi (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Evidentiality, register, and hate speech in interlingual news reporting amid conflict

<div align="center">***</div>

From silence to salience: Voices behind polarized deliberation on the Ukraine war in Poland's social media

Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska (University of Opole)

This presentation reports on the results of the research done within the international project CORECON (The coverage and reception of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in Polish, Romanian and English-language media: A comparative critical discourse study with recommendations for journalism training 2024-2026), which aims to study how conflict discourses are shaped by media through language choices and how this results in how conflicts are received by various target audiences.

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, the Polish mainstream media have been uniformly supportive of and sympathetic towards Ukraine as a nation, and as a state in need of military aid. However, in the Polish political Twitter/X, the range of opinions is more diverse and polarized, probably also as a result of staged disinformation campaigns. Also, media scholars researching political deliberation have noticed that the public sphere is polarizing due to the platform's penchant for confrontation – pitting representatives of a limited number of relatively marginal radical views against each other and exploiting conflict for attention, ratings or clicks.

Using a special-purpose social media subcorpus of the coverage of Ukraine war collected in CORECON, we map how two top Polish Twitter/X profiles – @LukaszBok (an influencer

specializing in disaster and conflict reporting) and @WarNewsPL (a collective covering the military aspects of geopolitical conflicts) – have enabled a variety of previously silenced subjectivities and voices to be included in the discussion. In order to map the ideological positioning of online debaters, we study discursive strategies that represent a spectrum of sentiments and frames. We focus on identifying strategies that elevate the rhetorical salience and amplify resonance of some ideological positions. We use a multi-million-token reference corpus of Polish- and English-language war coverage to verify relative keyness of selected expressions.

Framing violence: Voices and sources in the online news of the Herders-Farmers' conflict in Nigeria

Shepuya Famwang (University of Southampton)

The Herders and Farmers conflict is a recurring issue in various countries in West Africa. It presents a complex interplay of socio-economic, environmental, and political factors. Violence has been measured as a degree of conflict rather than as a form of conflict (Brubaker and Laitin 1998) and some forms of organised violence in the 21st Century has been argued to be motivated by differences in ethnic identities (Kaldor, 2013).

This study examines how violence in the Herders-Farmers' conflict has been portrayed in news media narratives. The study focuses specifically on how sources in the news are included to contribute to the evolving narrative of violence in the conflict. Using framing theory, the study conducted a qualitative content analysis of 208 news stories from 4 online newspapers to discover the types of news sources that were included or excluded in the news. The study also interrogated how the news sources frames about the violence in the conflict were transformed into ethnic conflict frames. The findings revealed that quasi-elite sources and nonelite sources from the Farmer's community were the main sources in the news about the conflict. The findings also revealed that journalists: 1) adopt the perspective of the Farmers community, positioning it as a relevant perspective, 2) construct news frames about violence and recruit sources to support their narrative and, 3) interpret sources statements to develop and enhance the framing of violence as ethnic oriented within the ethnic conflict frame.

This research contributes to a nuanced understanding of journalistic practices that engender the framing of violent conflict in news reporting in the Global South. It also provides insight into source diversity and source hierarchy in the era of digital journalism in armed conflict in the Global South.

The contemporary media enunciation phenomenon: A case study of Uruguayan journalism

Leticia Gambetta & Agustina Huertas (Udelar)

This paper examines the phenomenon of contemporary media enunciation, using the publication of a news story on corruption in Uruguay by journalists from El Observador newspaper as a case study. These journalists disseminated the information from their personal social media accounts due to censorship by the newspaper. The research is framed within the Critical Discourse Analysis of social networks, employing a combination of enunciation theories (Benveniste, 1971;

Ducrot, 2001) and Critical Discourse Analysis (Van Dijk, 2003; Wodak, 2003; Fairclough, 1995, 2003, 2012), complemented by the Critical Analysis of social networks (KhosraviNik et al., 2016; Müller, 2020). Publications by journalists on Twitter, as well as the interaction and repercussion of these publications in other media and among users, are analyzed. This work is based on Critical Discourse Studies, which examine how hegemonic discourses reinforce structures of power and domination. The study reveals that media enunciation has become blurred and unpredictable in contemporary communication. By publishing a news story from their personal accounts after being censored by their employer, the journalists from El Observador broke with traditional media logic, creating a new hybrid space of enunciation between the individual and the collective. This action sparked a public debate on censorship, freedom of expression, and the mediating role of traditional media. The work contributes to understanding how new technologies and social media are transforming the dynamics of media enunciation, presenting challenges and opportunities for journalism in the digital age.

"What the heck is going on in the group!": A pseudo-professional WhatsApp news group claiming journalistic authority

Jonathan Ilan (Bar-Ilan University)

Notions about what it is that makes news legitimate have long been a matter of great scholarly interest (see, e.g., Abott, 1988; Soloski, 1989; Zelizer, 1992; 2004; Schudson and Anderson, 2009; Carlson and Lewis, 2015; Carlson, 2016; 2017; Deuze, 2005; Steensen and Ahva, 2015). In the digital mediascape, however, additional entrants and new technologies have become significant challenges to the old news legitimacy models (see, e.g., Carlson, 2015; 2017; Singer, 2015; Lewis, 2012; Vos and Thomas, 2018; Bowman and Willis, 2003). These are illustrated in the growing number of highly involved ordinary citizens worldwide, for example, who can participate in the daily making and dissemination of news today. This active form of citizen participation in the news would clearly be less available if it were not for mobile media devices and their unique technical features, e.g., their high-resolution cameras, friendly navigation functionalities, strong connectivity signal, or the easy access to social media and popular messaging apps such as WhatsApp, and their affordances (see, Duffy et al., 2020; Westlund, 2013; Bowman and Willis, 2003; Burum, 2015; Masip et al., 2021

This paper focuses on a particular case of citizen participation and mobile news – the daily operations of pseudo-professional WhatsApp news groups, from a journalistic legitimacy standpoint. This is done by conducting a textual analysis of how a particular breaking news story was handled by a leading Israeli pseudo-professional WhatsApp news group ("Field Security"), compared to how it was covered by the leading Israeli TV News13 broadcast. The paper aims to show the ways in which journalistic boundaries are being established in a pseudo-professional WhatsApp news group, and the unique relations of information exchange that are formed between such groups and traditional news outlets, at a time when journalistic authority is constantly challenged in today's digital mobile news environment.

Evidentiality, register, and hate speech in interlingual news reporting amid conflict

Masoumeh Rahimi (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

This paper examines evidentiality in interlingual sources to understand the origins of news writers' knowledge, how they express their reliability, and their communicative intentions in a conflict context. I randomly selected a sample of articles (N=100) from the corpus of my PhD research on the Iran nuclear deal, a controversial issue that the media keeps covering. The articles incorporated translations and were published by the Iranian newspaper *Kayhan* in the post-nuclear deal era (2015-2020). I used MAXQDA to code the evidentials, including reportative (hearsay & quotative), inferential, assumed (Aikhenvald, 2018), unknown sources, and the evaluative terms used in the interlingual reporting. Moreover, the paper discusses how sources were translated into Persian, mainly when dealing with hate/rude speech.

The results show that the coverage remained biased despite using multiple sources from prominent Western news outlets and elites. Among the coded evidentials, 'reportative quotative' was more frequently used. The register was often informal and confrontational. While the frequent use of quotative evidential adds neutrality to the reporting, the use of various evaluative terms, such as "impudent", "baseless", "hostile", and "arrogant", interwoven with evidentials to denote interlingual sources, made the reporting biased. Hate/rude rhetorics that referred to in-group actors and actions were often euphemised in the translations. There were also instances where manipulation in the translations aided in constructing hate speech. Such interlingual reportings have different pragmatic functions, such as strengthening nationalist sentiments, mobilising domestic support, constructing and promoting a victimhood discourse, and (de) legitimising the acts of the parties involved. Hate, rude, or 'toxic speech' (Tirrell, 2017), a significant concern for constructive journalism, is often present in the news discourse. This paper contributes to the debates surrounding ethics in journalism and the role of language in shaping realities and opinions in conflict settings.

Session 5: Friday, 10:40-12:00: Journalistic Specialisms, Expertise and Epistemology

<u>Chair</u>: Laura Postma (Leiden University) / Room Félicien Cattier

Jonathan Hendrickx & Hilde Van den Bulck (University of Copenhagen/Drexel University)
Rumor has it: Epistemology of celebrity journalism In the Flemish digital media ecology

Katie Baker Jones (West Virginia University)
Expertly dressed: Fashion advice and lifestyle media in liquid modernity

Lieve Maanicus & Astrid Vandendaele (Leiden University/Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Food for thought: Unveiling foodie voices and language choices in Dutch culinary journalism

Anna Luo (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Journalists' emotions in metajournalistic discourses: A case study of What I Didn't Say

<center>***</center>

Rumor has it: Epistemology of celebrity journalism In the Flemish digital media ecology

Jonathan Hendrickx & Hilde Van den Bulck (University of Copenhagen/Drexel University)

Taking the case of Belgian (Flemish) celebrity news, we discuss the impact of digitization of the news media ecology on the epistemology of celebrity journalism. Theoretically, the epistemology of celebrity journalism is considered as a set of practices, through which knowledge is acquired, claimed and justified, that are shaped by the specifics of the media ecology and the celebrity culture and industry. Empirically, we analyze media celebrity coverage in two celebrity magazines and one website, owned by DPG Media and sharing a converged newsroom. Quantitative content analysis and expert interviews reveal that, while digitization somewhat affects the ways in which journalists acquire, claim and justify their knowledge, celebrity news epistemology is mostly affected by the distinction between local and global celebrities, mostly through direct versus indirect access. We discuss how the outlets and platforms differ in their approaches of giving local and global celebrities direct voices and what sources they routinely consult to obtain this voice indirectly. In doing so, we shine additional light on the sourcing and sense-making processes of contemporary celebrity news reporting in small media landscapes that are marked by their own ecology of celebrities and magazines. At the same time, we highlight tensions that arise as said ecology is also heavily influenced by global (and notably American) celebrities and specialised outlets on one hand and the rise of ubiquitous social media platforms on the other, which global and local celebrities alike increasingly use to use their own voice directly to their followers and audiences.

Expertly dressed: Fashion advice and lifestyle media in liquid modernity

Katie Baker Jones (West Virginia University)

'Ask Vanessa' originated in the *New York Times'* weekly fashion-oriented newsletter, Open Thread, in 2017 granting readers direct access to its long-serving fashion critic and director, Vanessa Friedman. In January 2021, the column started appearing online and in print in the

paper's Style Section. That a paper of record offers fashion advice for its readership is not in itself notable. There is a long tradition of style advice columns in papers large and small, establishing a running conversation between columnist and reader on how to act and present oneself in the world. However, 'Ask Vanessa' operates in a society where two popular beliefs are held: that experts are not to be trusted and that 'anything goes' in fashion. On what grounds, then, can an award-winning, twenty-year veteran fashion journalist dictate to a public that can seemingly wear what they like without recourse? Any advice-giving enterprise in the twenty-first century will, I argue, have to accommodate for intersectionality, both/and positionality, shifting concepts of expertise, and other contingencies of everyday life.

The 140 'Ask Vanessa' editorials published online and in print between January 2021 and January 2024, were explored with the following questions in mind: How does Friedman frame, build, and enact her voice as expert? How does the advice offered consider the complexities and contingencies of modern life? And, ultimately, based on Friedman's advice, how *should* one dress for the liquid modern era? I engaged critical discourse analysis (CDA) to explore the intersections of voice and power in Friedman's columns. In the tradition of CDA, I examined this very particular media discourse to understand the ways in which one fashion editor voices what is or ought to be the way to dress and, more broadly, the ways fashion/lifestyle journalists co-constitute with readership *embodied* meaning.

Food for thought: Unveiling foodie voices and language choices in Dutch culinary journalism

Lieve Maanicus & Astrid Vandendaele (Leiden University/Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

This paper delves into the intersection of language, culinary journalism, and rhetorical choices made by professional culinary reviewers. By examining how these reviewers communicate their opinions about restaurants, we shed light on lesser-heard voices within the gastronomic discourse.

The study employs a qualitative approach, combining content analysis of sixty culinary reviews with semi-structured in-depth interviews of three seasoned Dutch culinary critics. We identify how culinary reviewers strategically employ persuasive techniques to sway readers' perceptions, emphasizing the appeal of certain dining experiences.

Culinary critics craft their prose using vivid figures of speech, invoking sensory experiences. Their descriptions go beyond mere taste and delve into the ambiance, interior design, and even the music within restaurants. Moreover, we found that culinary reviewers reveal their own preferences and biases through meta-discourse. Their language choices reflect not only objective analysis but also personal inclinations, adding authenticity to their reviews. The emotional labour (Kotisova, 2022) invested by reviewers shapes their language. Whether expressing delight, disappointment, or surprise, their words resonate with readers, influencing culinary perceptions. Finally, we disclose how each reviewer possesses a distinct style and focus. Some emphasize logical structure, while others prioritize sensory details.

This research bridges a gap in scientific inquiry (Shen & Tao, 2021; Tate & Taylor, 2013; Van Belle, 2011), by examining the linguistic strategies of professional culinary reviewers. Going beyond taste assessments, it underscores the persuasive power of language in shaping culinary

narratives. Investigating the interplay between academic views on persuasion and the lived experiences of culinary critics promises further insights into this flavourful domain.

By linking culinary discourse to the theme of lesser-heard voices, this research highlights the influential role that language plays in culinary journalism, amplifying the voices of those who savour and critique our culinary experiences. It serves as a reminder that, even in the world of food, language matters, and its impact extends far beyond the plate.

Journalists' emotions in metajournalistic discourses: A case study of What I Didn't Say

Anna Luo (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

This paper examines the literary magazine column *What I Didn't Say* (WIDS) as a type of metajournalistic discourse that reveals journalists' emotions. Within the column, which prompts journalists to share personal stories from their assignments, journalists express a wider range of emotions than traditional roles typically allow. Through discourse analysis of the column's articles, this article combines insights from three developing strands in journalism studies – emotions in journalism, metajournalistic discourse, and journalist's bodies – to understand the connection between journalists' emotions and bodies throughout journalistic processes. Taking insight from Francoeur (2021), the analysis shows that emotions guide and inform the use of journalists' bodies as a sensor, a transducer, and a depository. As a form of metajournalistic discourse, the articles in the WIDS column both reinforced and challenged certain journalistic boundaries. The paper argues that looking at emotions in metajournalistic discourses can lead to a better understanding of the role of the journalist's body and emotions beyond deep-seated notions of journalistic objectivity, given that the analysis shows how emotions lead journalists towards a more holistic understanding of what they witnessed.

Session 6: Friday, 10:40-12:00: Voices/Sources and Environmental Journalism

<u>Chair</u>: Lieven Vandelanotte (Université de Namur/KU Leuven) / Room Emile Francqui

Isabella Gonçalves, Marlene Strehler-Schaaf & Oliver Quiring (Johannes Gutenberg U Mainz)
Who are the voices of independent environmental journalism in Brazil?

Janne Bjørgan & Silje Kristiansen (University of Bergen)
Who sets the agenda? Constructing a climate policy network from the climate news

Wout Van Praet & Lutgard Lams (KU Leuven)
Polyphony in the coverage of climate change in children's news

***

Who are the voices of independent environmental journalism in Brazil?

Isabella Gonçalves, Marlene Strehler-Schaaf & Oliver Quiring (Johannes Gutenberg U Mainz)

Coverage of environmental issues like climate change, environmental disasters, and climate refugees frequently leans towards negativity, polarization and dramatization (Brüggemann, 2017; Chinn et al., 2020; Høeg & Tulloch, 2019). In attempts to balance perspectives, legacy news media often amplify non-scientific viewpoints in environmental discussions (Boykoff, 2007; Schmid-Petri et al., 2017), such as by climate-change deniers, which can increase polarization and erode trust in scientific information (Bolsen et al., 2014).

Furthermore, legacy news media often privilege the perspectives of powerful groups and institutions over marginalized ones (Gonçalves, 2023; Masini, 2019; Van Dijk, 2012). This bias is especially harmful to indigenous populations, who are not only neglected but also frequently reduced of agency because of repeated framing choices reinforcing their victimization (Belfer et al., 2017; McCrackin et al., 2024). Indigenous groups are typically portrayed as passive and in need of assistance, a narrative often perpetuated by journalists quoting political leaders rather than the communities themselves (Abel et al., 2014).

Less explored is the role of independent environmental journalists in either challenging or perpetuating these negative trends observed in legacy media. This study aims to answer the following research question: to which extent do environmental independent journalists in Brazil challenge the legacy news media bias when covering environmental issues? To achieve this aim, we employ a mixed-methods approach, combining semi-structured interviews with independent environmental journalists in Brazil and qualitative content analysis of their published news articles. Our findings reveal that journalists at independent news organizations often cover topics neglected by legacy media and experience greater editorial freedom due to less commercial pressure. By prioritizing diverse perspectives and solution-oriented narratives, independent journalists can challenge the biases and failings of legacy media and promote a more balanced and informed public debate on environmental issues.

Who sets the agenda? Constructing a climate policy network from the climate news

Janne Bjørgan & Silje Kristiansen (University of Bergen)

How to mitigate climate change is a central topic in the Norwegian political debate. This paper studies how actors are connected, and how they may influence policymaking through climate news. Media is a central arena for discussing politics, for information about climate change (Moe

and Ellingsberg 2022), and is considered having influence on decision-making in Norway's public bureaucracies (Figenschou et al. 2019). So, who sets the agenda?

While valuable contributions to the content, reception and production of climate news in Norway have been made (Moe, Nærland, and Ytre-Arne 2023; Ytterstad and Bødker 2022; Ryghaug and Skjølsvold 2016; Russell et al. 2023; Painter et al. 2022), studies of actors in the climate news are scarce (Ytterstad, Houeland, and Jordhus-Lier 2022; Eide and Ytterstad 2011). To our knowledge, a network study of the Norwegian actors within climate policy is also yet to be made. We construct such a (public) network based on climate news and analyse actors' visibility and communication about climate mitigation, identifying their agenda-setting power and connections. We compare this to a Finnish network study where actors positive to climate mitigation had 87.2% of the media appearances, while actors prioritising economy over mitigation had 6.2% (Vesa, Gronow, and Ylä-Anttila, n.d.).

Our study uses methods in computational text analysis, using a Large Language Model (Microsoft Copilot) for a content analysis of climate news, focusing on actors, arguments, and topics. The network is created using discourse network analysis, an approach combining content analysis with social network analysis (Leifeld 2013; Ylä-Anttila et al. 2018). We analyse approximately 500 climate news from June 2021 to June 2025, thus including important national and international climate events and the latest national election. Preliminary findings highlight politicians and elite organisations as most visible and well-connected, with agendas focusing on future job security, the environment and economic stability. Central topics are energy, EU and nature.

Polyphony in the coverage of climate change in children's news

Wout Van Praet & Lutgard Lams (KU Leuven)

This study investigates polyphony, or multi-voicedness [1,2], in the coverage of climate change in the Flemish children's news program *Karrewiet*. Targeting children and teenagers, *Karrewiet* plays a pivotal role in shaping the climate attitudes of future generations. In the age of social media, news outlets like *Karrewiet* compete with multiple other sources from which young people get their information. The task of accurately informing young audiences means having to engage with these other voices and negotiate the truth-value of the climate coverage. Moreover, reports of growing climate anxiety in children and teenagers [3] pose an added challenge for climate change communication: keeping young people informed and engaged without feeding into feelings of despair. For journalists, this raises questions of 'objectivity' and how to reconcile it with the social responsibility of fostering positive attitudes towards climate action. To examine polyphony in *Karrewiet*'s climate coverage, this study aims to answer the following research questions: (i) which stakeholders (e.g., experts, politicians, ordinary (young) people) are given a voice in the climate news, (ii) which voices dominate the news, and (iii) how does the journalistic voice engage with these voices? To answer these questions, the study combines two coding schemes. First, a qualitative-quantitative content analysis studies which voices are present, and dominant, in climate news. Second, a linguistic analysis of 'Engagement' looks at the linguistic resources through which the journalistic voice negotiates the truth value of their utterances and positions itself vis-à-vis other voices, both explicit and implicit (e.g., denying, acknowledging, countering them) [4]. These resources include modality, polarity, speech/thought representation, concessive/contrastive conjunctions, and various comment adverbials. Together, the findings shed light on how children's news programs manage the multitude of voices in the climate debate in a way that ensures factuality and promotes positive attitudes towards climate action.

Session 7: Friday, 13:25-14:25: (Dis)trust, Bias and Alternative Voices

<u>Chair</u>: **Joris Boonen (Maastricht University/Vrije Universiteit Brussel) / Room Félicien Cattier**

Miriam Kroman Brems (Aarhus University)
(De)selection and (de)legitimization: How alternative media users see perceived biases manifest in mainstream media's source practices

Virgo Siil (University of Tartu)
Creating trust slowly but surely?

Ria Goris & Marc Craps (Erasmus Brussels University of Applied Sciences/KU Leuven)
Outcomes of small group dialogues between journalists and those who distrust or avoid news

***

(De)selection and (de)legitimization: How alternative media users see perceived biases manifest in mainstream media's source practices

Miriam Kroman Brems (Aarhus University)

Alternative media claiming to represent viewpoints marginalized in mainstream media (MSM) have recently emerged across European media systems and managed to build considerable user bases (Holt et al. 2019; Newman et al. 2018). Previous studies suggest that their users turn to alternative media because they perceive MSM as politically biased, either in favor of the left-wing, right-wing, or elite (e.g. Noppari et al. 2019; Rauch 2007). Yet, less is known about exactly how the users see these biases manifest in MSM's source practices. This study takes a user-perspective and explores this question based on 25 qualitative interviews with users of Danish alternative media conducted in 2021.

Findings show that the users see MSM biases manifest in (de)selection and (de)legitimization of specific sources and the viewpoints they voice. As examples, users criticize source-imbalances favoring left-wing or right-wing politicians; handpicking experts with the same political opinions as MSM and excluding alternative experts; shaming vaccine-skeptics, immigration-critics, and anti-environmental consume; and favoring elite sources at the expense of ordinary people. Users thus see biases manifest in whom MSM give a voice and whom they silence, and this silencing-act can take the form of excluding specific sources and views as well as delegitimizing them when they are included.

These findings provide important new insights into what aspects of MSM's source practices make parts of the population turn to alternative news sources. Furthermore, they raise pertinent questions of whether and how MSM can and should respond to perceptions that they fail to abide by journalistic norms of balance and inclusion of diverging viewpoints without compromising these very ideals. For instance, can alternative experts and divergent political views be included without creating so-called false balances (Kosyk et al. 2023) or fueling extremism? The interviews were analyzed by the author using thematic qualitative analysis (Deterding & Waters 2021).

Creating trust slowly but surely?

Virgo Siil (University of Tartu)

Slow journalism avoids the pitfalls of fast news journalism (Le Masurier, 2015) – it prioritizes societal needs over the economic needs of the outlet, which in turn is enabled by taking time for high-quality coverage. Time is a tool that helps ensure quality and understanding of phenomena and other (socioeconomic) groups. Sources play an important role; the goal is to give voice to the voiceless, treat sources fairly, understand the "other," take time to find the best sources, avoid overused sources and sensationalism, build a trusting relationship with sources and avoid harming the community (Gess, 2012; Davis, 2016; Krieken, 2019; Palau-Sampio, 2018).

A case study of two slow journalism outlets reveals that voices, quality, and trust in journalism and society are essential for all stakeholders: founders, financiers, authors, and audience members. Expert interviews with founders and financiers and observations in editorial offices confirm the outlets' daily adherence to the principles of slow journalism (Siil&Kõuts-Klemm, 2023). Interviews with authors show that the opportunity for thorough source work and "doing journalism the way it should be done" is a considerable motive for authors (forthcoming, 2025). Focus group interviews (ongoing research) with audience members reveal that consumers also notice and value the thorough work with sources and effort, which is associated with the trustworthiness and quality of the outlets. Although other outlets were accused of shortcomings in said areas, fast news media are still not abandoned. The outlets of the slow press are important sources for covering timeless topics, giving context, and analyzing what is reported in the news.

The critical discourse analysis of these outlets' Facebook posts reveals some deviations from the principles of slow journalism while remaining close enough to those principles (ongoing research, 2025), which is confirmed by the audience members' predominantly positive attitude towards the outlets. Nevertheless, even with this "ideal type" of journalism (Neveu, 2016), some audience members were dissatisfied with its content and tone.

Slow journalism cannot inherently replace fast news journalism, but it can supplement it, offering the audiences and authors an "oasis" that enables them to enjoy calm and thorough coverage and give a voice to others besides the elites.

Outcomes of small group dialogues between journalists and those who distrust or avoid news

Ria Goris & Marc Craps (Erasmus Brussels University of Applied Sciences/KU Leuven)

Distrust in news and news avoidance are increasing worldwide (https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2024). This is also the case in the Flemish region of Belgium. After conducting 80 interviews with people who distrust and/or avoid news from legacy media, and 29 interviews with journalists about these phenomena, we organized dialogue sessions with journalists and those who distrust and/or avoid news. Between 23 February and 24 March 2024, three different dialogues took place with 21 participants and two facilitators.

Dialogue sessions constitute a specific methodology, which is quite different from focus groups, panel discussions, interviews or debates. They stimulate an empathic attitude rather than an offensive or defensive stance, fed with arguments, numbers or (authority) sources. The focus is on exchange about the own experiences, which opens new perspectives and insights in a unique way. Journalists listen to the voices of avoiders and distrusters, the latter listen to the voices of the journalists. Throughout the listening and speaking, something happens to these voices. They are altered.

This contribution focuses on the process of talking, listening and alteration of voices in the course of the dialogue process, and on the reported outcomes by participants, days or weeks after the dialogue sessions.

Session 8: Friday, 13:25-14:25: Voice, Discourse and Ideology

Chair: Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska (University of Opole) / Room Emile Francqui

Adam Glaz (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University)
The right questions about voice

Andrés Felipe Barrero Salinas (Universität Bremen)
The "obvious" voice of power: Evaluating the value of disclosing News Media Ideology in Critical Discourse Studies (CDS)

Hatty Liu (London School of Economics and Political Science)
Orientalism, dystopia, and the discourse of modern China in journalism

<div align="center">***</div>

The right questions about voice

Adam Glaz (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University)

In an otherwise very solid study of intertwined voices, José Sanders asks what seems to be a somewhat misguided question: "Which speaker – narrator or character – is responsible for which aspect of the text?" (Sanders 2010: 229). In fact, we should not be asking about speakers but voices. It is claimed here that the two are not be identified with each other (although they often co-align), nor should voice be viewed as a "property" of the speaker. Rather, it is a cognitive-textual category, an effect that emerges in discourse.

This view will be justified by analysing journalistic narratives (cf. Johnson & Graham 2012, Vanoost 2013) from two perspectives. First, it will be shown that voices can fuse to the extent of becoming indistinguishable. That is, if a narrative is told by the journalistic narrator, with contributions from participants in the events being reported on (the witnesses, the people affected, law enforcement officers, etc.), at some point all or some of those voices can fuse into a collective voice, unattributable to any specific speaker or speakers.

Second, a complex relationship between voices and viewpoints will be explored (to the extent that time limitations will allow). One kind of relationship is when voices are identifiable through viewpoints. That is, if a (spatial, temporal, psychological, cognitive, ideological, etc.) viewpoint from which the narrative proceeds is possible to reconstruct, on this basis "who" speaks can be deduced. However, that "who" may be an emergent "discourse effect", rather than an actual speaker. This study elaborates on earlier work by Głaz & Trofymczuk (2020) and Głaz (2023).

The "obvious" voice of power: Evaluating the value of disclosing News Media Ideology in Critical Discourse Studies (CDS)

Andrés Felipe Barrero Salinas (Universität Bremen)

It is well known that for Critical Discourse Studies (CDS), one of the denotations of critique is to disclose what has been made opaque in discourse—in other words, to reveal the voice of power behind discourse, such as in news media. However, two issues arise: (a) the voice of power often

appears "obvious" (for example, it is intuitive to believe that rightwing media typically portrays vulnerable groups negatively and advances biases under the guise of information); (b) therefore, focusing on the voices of resistance or counterhegemonic voices, as proposed by Positive Discourse Analysis, may seem more productive. Both cases question the value of disclosing ideology in news media. I argue that to tackle these issues, we need to revisit our notion of critique. First, the disclosing effect of critique should emphasize not only the content of ideology but also its mechanisms as deployed in discourse, such as linguistic and rhetorical strategies in specific contexts. This approach can uncover less obvious permutations of strategies that are localized. Second, even when empirical research confirms the "obvious," critique remains valuable if framed as an ongoing struggle against the naturalization of meanings. Critique combats the attempt to establish one voice as representative of others. Consequently, critique is also valuable to counter-hegemonic voices; both endeavors intersect when claiming "your voice is not theirs/ours!" and challenging news media production to be sensitive and aware of that diversity.

Orientalism, dystopia, and the discourse of modern China in journalism

Hatty Liu (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Increased capital flows and economic competition between the United States and China has set the stage for new models of discourse in journalism. In English-language news and popular media, China's technological and economic capabilities, such as its advances in renewable energy and its "social credit" system, have been fetishized via a techno-orientalistic discourse that racializes "Asian futurity" as being technically hyper-advanced, but dehumanized and morally "other," and therefore threatening to normative Western experiences of modernity (Bahng, 2015; Roh et al. 2015).

This project examines the techno-orientalist discourse of China as an intertextual production of symbolic meaning, resulting from the sharing of semiotic resources and signifying practices between journalism and popular media such as literature, film, and games, which have a history of Asianizing fictional "dystopias" (Morley & Robins, 1995). This recognizes techno-orientalism's roots in speculative fiction (SF), but also challenges journalism's empiricist "will to truth" (Foucault, 1971) founded on a claim of being able to create accurate and authentic knowledge of an objective reality. Relating to the theme of the conference, this project argues that "voices and sources" should not be only understood as embodied, intentional agents (individual or institutional) of knowledge and meaning external to the journalistic text. Instead, by combining corpus linguistics (CL) and critical discourse analysis (CDA) methods, the project will show how certain signifying practices, such as symbolic language and visuals, are replicated and recontextualized across a corpus of both journalistic and popular media texts to sustain hegemonic interpretations of "reality" without always having to refer to empirical facts. By centering language (both visual and verbal) as its own agent and "source" of meaning, this project supplements existing studies on CDA and symbolic/rhetorical discourse in journalism, and provides an alternative understanding of how hegemonic voices become legitimated and naturalized in the news.

Session 9: Friday, 14:35-15:55: Voices/Sources, Politics and Disinformation

<u>Chair</u>: Patricia Moy (Washington University) / Room Félicien Cattier

David Smith & Julian Matthews (University of Leicester)
Anonymised briefing in unsettled political times: UK politics, journalism and Twitter

Priscilla Hau, Steve Paulussen & Pieter Maeseele   University of Antwerp
The popularization of a far-right conspiracy theory: The strategic circulation and construction of the term 'omvolking' by the Flemish far-right party

Karina Stasiuk-Krajewska (SWPS University)
Author's subject position in fake news. Structures and functions.

Jaap de Jong, Astrid Vandendaele & Maartje van de Woude (Leiden University/VUB)
"How to build a cage for an unknown beast?" A qualitative study on the (need for) guidelines regarding AI generated images in the news

<div align="center">***</div>

Anonymised briefing in unsettled political times: UK politics, journalism and Twitter

David Smith & Julian Matthews (University of Leicester)

Anonymised briefing of journalists is a commonly acknowledged feature of news production, but little has been established about how such briefings are used in the context of changes in the media environment (such as the normalisation of social media use among journalists), or how anonymous briefing is related with in/stability in the political environment. This paper focuses on anonymised source use by elite political journalists on X/Twitter during the politically turbulent and fractious events of election campaigns, leadership contests and the Brexit referendum in the UK from 2016-2020. The factionalism and relative turmoil of this period has brought with it much commentary on the political strategies associated with each twist and turn, but also greater attention to related matters of spin and media management. We suggest that unattributed briefings should be seen as inherently bound up with the party political instability that marks this most recent period of British political history, rather than as a product of episodic and fleeting communications strategies. We chart the frequency of anonymous attribution, its sources and objects, and the associated political content. In concluding, we argue that analysis of the extent, character and direction of anonymous attribution uncovers how such attribution has been used by political communicators to enact political strategies in the context of extraordinary political circumstances.

The popularization of a far-right conspiracy theory: The strategic circulation and construction of the term 'omvolking' by the Flemish far-right party

Priscilla Hau, Steve Paulussen & Pieter Maeseele University of Antwerp

In 2010, the conspiracist white replacement theory that claims there is a deliberate plot to cause extinction of the 'white race', was espoused by the French writer Renaud Camus in his book 'Le Grand Replacement'. Since then, the theory quickly spread within the far-right movement in Europe, often with different labels. In the Netherlands and Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, far-right activists started to use the term 'omvolking' to refer to this theory. The Flemish far-right party Vlaams Belang employs this term to suggest a displacement of "our people" by the "others" (Temmerman & Harder, 2021).

This paper investigates how far-right extremists have managed to popularize a term from a racist conspiracy theory in public discourse through three empirical goals. Firstly, it maps how the term 'omvolking' entered the media agenda in Flanders. Secondly, it explores the circulation of the term 'omvolking' across Vlaams Belang's owned media content, Flemish legacy news media, and Flemish right-leaning alternative media. Lastly, it examines the roles of Vlaams Belang politicians, journalists, and their sources in constructing discourse on 'omvolking'.

Using quantitative and qualitative analyses, we trace how Vlaams Belang strategically circulates and constructs the term 'omvolking'. We identified five key periods of heightened attention between January 2004 until March 2024 using Google Trends and the social media tool Coosto: July 2020, January 2021, May and June 2022, October, November and December 2022, and January 2024. Each period was marked by critical moments when Vlaams Belang politicians amplified the term 'omvolking' through actions like tweets, a book publication, or speeches, which were then picked up by legacy and right-leaning media. We will analyze Vlaams Belang's owned media content, including tweets, articles on their official website, and articles of 'V-Nieuws', a website operated by Vlaams Belang's publisher, alongside coverage from four Flemish legacy news outlets and two right-leaning alternative media, to understand how the term 'omvolking' is circulated and constructed over time.

Author's subject position in fake news. Structures and functions.

Karina Stasiuk-Krajewska (SWPS University)

The categories of disinformation and fake news are among the more frequently invoked concepts in the discussions about modernity. In the contemporary accepted view, disinformation is understood as false or inaccurate information that has been produced intentionally to mislead (House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, 2019).The basis for defining the concept are the categories of intention and the impact on recipients, both difficult to define and analyze, so the concept of disinformation itself is not precisely defined (Bernecker, Flowerree, Grundmann, 2021).

I will focus on that part of the disinformation activities that seems to be defined fairly precisely - the fake news category. Fake news in the narrow sense is a specific media genre, imitating media news, whose characteristic feature is that it presents a false picture of reality, which can be

unambiguously judged to be such (Jester, Lanius 2021; Gelfert, 2018; Badia, 2019. If it is possible to assume that fake news is a specific media genre, the question should be asked about its characteristic linguistic structures and their relation to the linguistic structures of news. I will present the linguistic and semantic structures that build the subject position of the author (author's voice) in of fake news. Is this position analogous to the subject position of the journalist?

The question about the author's subject position (voice) is unambiguously a question about the problem of disinformation messages' credibility building, which also concerns how the author constructs himself/herself as trustworthy authority. The issue is also connected to the question of the impact of fake news on its audience: what functions does the author's subject position constructed in the text play in this context? The analysis will be based on the author's own research conducted on a sample of 500 texts that were considered fake news by professional fact-checkers, originating from the https://sprawdzam.afp.com/ (2022-2024).

"How to build a cage for an unknown beast?" A qualitative study on the (need for) guidelines regarding AI generated images in the news

Jaap de Jong, Astrid Vandendaele & Maartje van de Woude (Leiden University/VUB)

Our study explores the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on image selection and production in journalistic media, focusing on the responsibilities, possibilities, and risks associated with AI-generated images. Through 55 in-depth interviews with image editors, photojournalists, AI experts, legal professionals, and media ombudspersons, we aim to understand the current routines and guidelines in newsrooms for handling AI images in the Netherlands. We also investigate the ethical boundaries of AI image manipulation and the challenges faced by Dutch media organizations in maintaining transparency in image selection and production. In short, together with media partners AD, Pointer, Stichting Regionale Publieke Omroep (RPO) and informants from the world of journalism, we explore how we can "build a cage", or draft helpful guidelines, for an "unknown beast", or constantly evolving AI, revealing new capabilities and surprising us with its creative prowess.

The study, which is funded by the Dutch Journalism Fund (Stimuleringsfonds voor de Journalistiek; SVDJ), highlights the potential benefits of AI in image production, such as time savings and cost benefits, while also addressing the ethical concerns raised by the rapid advancements in AI technology. We address the need for image editors to possess the necessary skills and knowledge to detect image manipulation effectively, and in doing so, collaborate with AI. We also emphasize the importance of transparency in the use of AI-generated images to maintain public trust in the media.

By presenting problem cases and discussing ethical dilemmas with stakeholders, we aim to provide insights into the complexities of AI image production and the implications for journalistic integrity. With our findings, we hope to contribute to the development of new image guidelines for journalistic media, ensuring responsible and ethical practices in the use of AI-generated images. Overall, this study seeks to shed light on how journalism can navigate the evolving landscape of AI image production responsibly and transparently, considering the varied voices and sources that shape the news industry.

Session 10: Friday, 14:35-15:55: Gendered Voices in the News

<u>Chair:</u> Jonathan Hendrickx (University of Copenhagen) / Room Emile Francqui

Marianne Laplante & Yifan Wu (York University)
"Speaking through tears": Amber Heard's voice from the courtroom to the media

Elizabeth Kaufmann (LMU Munich)
Navigating the double bind: Linguistic representations of authority and submissiveness in The New York Times' coverage of #MeToo

Dawn Wheatley & Eirik Vatnøy (Dublin City University/University of Oslo)
50 years of Magdalene laundry survivors in Irish news: Voice, recognition and a transformed status

Emma Verhoeven & Rylan Verlooy (University of Antwerp)
Debating transness: An investigation into authors and themes of Flemish opinion pieces on transgender topics

***

"Speaking through tears": Amber Heard's voice from the courtroom to the media

Marianne Laplante & Yifan Wu (York University)

This study investigates Canadian media representations of Amber Heard's testimony during the defamation trial against Johnny Depp. We analyze the varied (and sometimes biased) discursive strategies the media used to represent Heard's voice, with a particular focus on reported speech (Caldas-Coulthard, 1993) and naming strategies (Clark, 1992). Our analysis shows that evaluation, particularly social gender ideologies, is inserted along the text trajectory (Blommaert, 2005) of the reported speech in the media (see also Ehrlich, 2012; Romaniuk, 2014). In addition, the naming strategies point to a tendency to portray Heard as an emotional source, thus associating her emotional display with insincere acting (Hunt & Jaworska, 2019).

We conducted quantitative and discourse analyses on a corpus consisting of 306 articles about the trial in the top seven circulated anglophone newspapers in Canada. Our analysis points to a strong focus on Heard's emotionality as being newsworthy (Bednarek & Caple, 2014; Bell, 1991). For instance, Heard's voice is less likely to be introduced with neutral verbs (i.e., say, tell) (Caldas-Coulthard, 1993; O'Keeffe & Breen, 2007) than Depp's (p=0.06). Rather, her voice is often introduced with non-neutral adverbial phrases foregrounding the emotional nature of parts of her testimony (e.g. tearfully detailed, sobbing Amber Heard). Heard's voice is also visually represented primarily through pictures of moments when she displayed strong emotions on the stand. These multimodal strategies contribute to the highlighting of her emotional testimony, and ultimately the portrayal of Heard herself as an emotional person. We argue that the media's non-neutral portrayal of Heard's testimony as well as its emotional nature impedes on her sincerity as a victim and credibility as a witness. This study is yet another example of a well-established tendency for the media to discredit women's experiences of gender violence (e.g., Bednarek & Caple, 2014; Ehrlich, 2019; Tranchese, 2023).

Navigating the double bind: Linguistic representations of authority and submissiveness in The New York Times' coverage of #MeToo

Elizabeth Kaufmann (LMU Munich)

On October 5th, 2017, The New York Times reported on decades of Harvey Weinstein's sexual violence against scores of women (cf. Kantor and Twohey 2017) and ushered in what would become the #MeToo movement. Overnight, the previously underreported and pervasive societal problem of sexual harassment in the workplace was being discussed in the paper of record and beyond. During the early days of #MeToo, a unique discursive opportunity presented itself to women hoping to change the culture by sharing their stories of sexual violence. But in order to change the culture, you first need readers to know and believe your story. A dilemma, therefore, appeared before women-interviewees: they needed to present the facts of the abuse they suffered in a way that readers would perceive as being credible, while simultaneously not using such forceful language that they appear too radically feminist or off-putting to a society still very much steeped in misogyny and its effects.

This study uses critical discourse analysis to examine how women navigated this double bind (see Tannen 1994) and which linguistic strategies were utilized by women-interviewees in the first six months of The New York Times' coverage of the #MeToo movement to achieve the interactional goal of being "heard" and believed. Four sub-categories of analysis were identified, two for each category of authority (direct reported speech and the use of generalized "you"), and submissiveness (explicit mention of having said "no" and responsibility positioning). Further attention will be paid to the lack of usage of terms in the articles such as rape, assault, attack, or abuse, and why this might be - whether linguistic choices made by the interviewees themselves or choices made by the journalist during the editing process.

50 years of Magdalene laundry survivors in Irish news: Voice, recognition and a transformed status

Dawn Wheatley & Eirik Vatnøy (Dublin City University/University of Oslo)

More than 10,000 Irish women were confined to Magdalene laundries between 1920-2000, forced into unpaid labour and suffering psychological and physical mistreatment. For decades, these women were effectively silenced by both society and the news media, reflecting a socially conservative, Catholic-influenced culture. However, previous work has documented how activists, since the mid-2000s, effectively mobilised and produced a campaign in which recognition of the women's experiences, coupled with exposing state compliance, led to an official apology in parliament in 2013.

This research documents that status change from the perspective of news reporting, centring the discussion on ideas around voice and sources, and who is granted "primary definer" status: ultimately, who is elevated as the expert to provide insight, within whose narrative others must respond. We document a shift towards the news media's use of the women themselves as dominant narrators. The study does this by analysing the appearance of Magdalene survivors in Irish news reporting between 1970s-2020s, capturing a heightened presence in recent years alongside an underlying sense of esteem absent in earlier decades.

The qualitative work draws mainly on newspaper reports, alongside selected available radio and television clips, to document the women's shifting status. We identify five factors facilitating this

shift: (i) Activists's strategic communication efforts; (ii) Involvement of state actors and subsequent journalistic interest; (iii) Holistic recognition process as a component of social struggle and societies' ethical development; (iv) Shifting audience and societal attitudes; and (v) Key moments – such as 2013's apology– which further legitimised the women as credible, authentic sources, and provided clear newsworthy angles.

Ultimately, we argue that there was a shift in status from being silenced to being centred and elevated by journalists in news coverage, enabled following a process of recognition, all taking place against a backdrop of a country reckoning with its oppressive past.

Debating transness: An investigation into authors and themes of Flemish opinion pieces on transgender topics

Emma Verhoeven & Rylan Verlooy (University of Antwerp)

The underrepresentation of trans people in the news, like many other marginalized groups, has long been demonstrated. However, much of this body of research leaves out or neglects an important journalistic environment, namely the op-eds pages. These pages provide a platform where authors can voice opinions, including ordinary people (i.e., people who are not regularly featured in the news). Therefore, this study explores the debate on transgender topics within opinion pages of the Flemish press, investigating whether the representation is fairer in this environment. This research is guided by three research questions: (1) *Who writes opinion pieces on trans topics?*; (2) *Which themes are covered in opinion pieces on trans topics?*, and (3) *Which diagnoses and prognoses regarding trans topics are discussed in opinion pieces?* To answer these three questions, we applied a critical framing analysis (CFA) complemented by a quantitative content analysis. Opinion pieces published between 2020 and 2023 were collected through a string of search terms on the Belgian digital media archive BelgaPress. This resulted in a full sample of 87 articles that discussed trans topics as the main theme.

The findings reveal that even in opinion pages, trans authors are severely underrepresented. This highlights the dominance of non-trans experts in these debates, much like in other journalistic content. Most opinion pieces are written by journalists and academics, whereas experts in trans care rarely feature. Moreover, the findings show that thematic diversity is limited. Non-trans actors frequently steer the debate towards demarcations between sex and gender, and the contentious theme of "freedom of speech," often used to propagate trans-exclusionary beliefs. These abstract debates center more on perceived problems *with* trans people rather than the challenges faced *by* the trans community. This highlights the dominance of non-trans experts in these debates, much like in other journalistic content. Most opinion pieces are written by journalists and academics, whereas experts in trans care rarely feature. Moreover, the findings show that thematic diversity is limited. Non-trans actors frequently steer the debate towards demarcations between sex and gender, and the contentious theme of "freedom of speech," often used to propagate trans-exclusionary beliefs. These abstract debates center more on perceived problems *with* trans people rather than the challenges faced *by* the trans community. This research highlights how opinion pieces disseminate and normalize trans-exclusionary arguments.

Session 11: Friday, 16:30-17:50: Voices/Sources, Digital News, and Gen Z

<u>Chair:</u> **Steve Paulussen (University of Antwerp) / Room Félicien Cattier**

Luuk Lagerwerf, Gerbert van Loenen, Fiore Houwing & Youri Coudron (VU Amsterdam)
Clickworthiness of quotes in headlines: Effects in national and regional news sites

Daniel Pfurtscheller (University of Innsbruck)
From source to stitch: The multimodal presentation and recontextualization of journalistic voices on TikTok

Marie Verstappen & Michaël Opgenhaffen (KU Leuven)
The TikTok challenge: The influence of the news organization on video news content production

Lauri Haapanen (University of Jyväskylä)
From objectivity to subjectivity: Meeting the expectations of Generation Z

<div align="center">***</div>

Clickworthiness of quotes in headlines: Effects in national and regional news sites

Luuk Lagerwerf, Gerbert van Loenen, Fiore Houwing & Youri Coudron (VU Amsterdam)

Online news headlines tend to be longer than print headlines, and headlines consisting of several sentences tend to be selected more than single sentence headlines (Kuiken et al., 2017; Lagerwerf & Govaert, 2021). Online headlines are separated from the news article, so they need to be comprehensible in isolation. But informativeness does not automatically provide more attractive headlines. Next to many other formulations, the presence of a quote is an increasing trend in news headlines. Typically, a headline is followed by a quote without mention of the source, and without clear relevance. This may be called a form of forward referencing (Blom & Hansen, 2015). We want to answer the research question whether quotes in headlines raise more clicks than headlines without quotes. Moreover, we want to reveal differences between news sites with respect to their clickworthiness for quotes. Formulations do not predict steady effects, a news site's readership may differ in preferences. Comparisons of clickworthiness between news sites have not been investigated before. One national Dutch newspaper and three regional Dutch newspapers were compared.

A comprehensive content analysis is conducted on a dataset consisting of A/B test from four different news sites published by DPG Media (N headlines = 5933). Next to quotes, many other formulations are coded, including forward referencing types, narrativity (Molek-Kozakowska, 2013), discursive news values (Bednarek, 2019), and rhetorical formulations (*Cohen's κs > .7*). From the A/B tests of the particular new sites, the click count for each headline was collected and its total number of views. The effect of a formulation feature on click through rate (clicks per views) is established through a multilevel generalized linear model analysis (Smulders & Lagerwerf, 2022). Differential effects from particular newspapers will be inspected. Currently, 75% of the data are coded.

From source to stitch: The multimodal presentation and recontextualization of journalistic voices on TikTok

Daniel Pfurtscheller (University of Innsbruck)

Short-form news content on TikTok, Instagram Reels, and YouTube Shorts is transforming news consumption, especially among younger audiences (Newman et al. 2024). Legacy media must adapt to these changes to stay relevant. This study examines how TikTok, as a video-led visual platform, reshapes the presentation and recontextualization of journalistic voices and sources, using "Zeit im Bild" (ZIB) from the Austrian public broadcaster ORF as a case study.

Using a multimodal corpus of 981 TikTok videos produced by ZIB since October 2021, I examine TikTok's platform-specific affordances and their impact on journalistic voices. Compiled with the Zeeschuimer tool (Peeters 2024), the dataset supports micro-analysis of video content, including detailed metadata and interaction metrics. The analysis centers on the multimodal presentation of news—spanning spoken language, text overlays, images, and other visual elements—with an emphasis on journalistic quoting practices. The study also examines interactive features like Stitches and Duets, which facilitate imagined dialogues (Vandelanotte 2023) and stance-taking (Du Bois 2007) towards quoted TikToks, creating a layered, interactive form of news discourse. Moy (2020) highlights the complexities of voice in media. This study demonstrates how TikTok transforms traditional journalistic practices, emphasizing its role in recontextualizing journalistic voices and sources. By comparing TikTok with other forms of bite-sized digital news and the mediality of other visual platforms (Pfurtscheller 2020, in press), this study identifies platform-specific differences and discusses their implications for the future of news dissemination. On TikTok, the proliferation of voices leads to greater inclusivity but also introduces significant noise, complicating the landscape of news consumption and dissemination.

The TikTok challenge: The influence of the news organization on video news content production

Marie Verstappen & Michaël Opgenhaffen (KULeuven)

Within the news chain, the transfer of news from the online news website to the social platforms is increasingly gaining attention, particularly as youngsters are progressively consuming news through social media (Newman et al., 2023). News media organizations have hired designated individuals known as social media editors, entrusted with the responsibilities of selecting, remediating, and curating content on social platforms. These editors hold a pivotal role in engaging readers with the news website and fostering familiarity with the news brand (Verstappen & Opgenhaffen, 2023).

Lately the rise of TikTok, as one of the fastest growing news platforms worldwide has garnered significant attention (Newman, 2022; Newman et al., 2023). TikTok stands out from other platforms, like Facebook and Instagram, due to its unique architecture and affordances (Hase et al., 2023; Negreira-Rey et al., 2022). It primarily revolves around short and distinctive video content, with no direct link to traditional news websites. Elements like virality, trending sounds and hashtags characterize the logic of TikTok (Vázquez-Herrero et al., 2020). Additionally, it's increasingly common to witness journalists and social media editors appearing on screen,

conducting interviews or providing explanations and context themselves (Al-Rawi, 2024). However, it is often unclear how TikTok editors select and source material to cater to and voice their unique audience interests.

Through ethnographic observations and in-depth interviews, our research analyzes the TikTok media production process and how this is influenced by organizational culture within the local newsroom of the *Gazet van Antwerpen*. We do this through the operationalization of the organization-centric hierarchy of influence model. Our results indicate that while social media editors benefit from the autonomy granted by the organization they also experience pressures tied to both institutional expectations and platform demands, leading them to balance between innovation and adherence to journalistic standards while creating content for TikTok's younger audiences. We present our findings by identifying four challenges that emerged during our time in the newsroom. With this research, we aim to discover broader trends that affect the industry of journalism within the social media age.

From objectivity to subjectivity: Meeting the expectations of Generation Z

Lauri Haapanen (University of Jyväskylä)

People need truth-seeking information in the future too. To appeal to Generation Z, however, the traditional approach to journalism is becoming obsolete. I support this argument with three pieces of empirical evidence.

The first piece stems from my work as a university lecturer in journalism. As part of the curriculum's entrance exams, applicants are tasked with creating a news story. Over the past ten years, the applicants' understanding of the news genre has clearly deteriorated, leading to their "hard news" often containing evaluative and opinionated material.

Secondly, a friend of mine working at the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE shared insights about an internal development project aimed at creating journalistic content that appeals to audiences in their twenties. Traditional journalistic ideals such as "objectivity" and "neutrality" were perceived by these young people as strange and alienating, while they desired "closeness" and "subjectivity," preferring storytelling styles akin to social media. Young people also interpreted journalism through the lens of a kind of influencer economy: producing a story about someone was seen as advertising that person and endorsing his or her opinions, making it odd to create stories about someone generally disliked.

Thirdly, I refer to a survey conducted with my colleague among Finnish journalists (N = 104). Among other questions, we asked respondents to name practices that can reinforce the audience's trust in journalism. Younger respondents' views were categorized under the concepts of *pluralism* and *diversity*. According to them, trust is strengthened by a wide range of sources, perspectives, values, and voices. Conversely, more senior respondents often emphasized *balance*, *neutrality*, and *objectivity*, highlighting the independence and impartiality of the journalist, as well as balanced treatment of interviewees and opposing viewpoints.

As future voters and decision-makers, Generation Z's expectations cannot be underestimated. It is imperative for legacy media and journalism education to adapt, embracing new storytelling methods that resonate with younger audiences while preserving the core values of truth-seeking and integrity.

Session 12: Friday, 16:30-17:50: Expert and Journalist Voices in the News

<u>Chair:</u> **Astrid Vandendaele (Leiden U/Vrije Universiteit Brussel) / Room Emile Francqui**

Ana Filipa Silva Fonseca, Matilde Gonçalves & Fátima Silva (U of Porto/NOVA U Lisboa)
Voice attribution: Contrasting science and general news reporting

Kresten Ronald Johansen & Jakob Dybro Johansen (Danish School of Media and Journalism)
Between science and advocacy: The use of expert voices in journalism

Lucia Assenzi & Maria Stopfner (University of Innsbruck/Eurac Research Bolzano)
Plurivocity in times of crisis (1918/19 – 2020/21): Sources and journalistic perspectivisation in newspapers

Camelia Beciu & Mirela Lazăr (The University of Bucharest)
The voice of the journalist in the televisual construction of crisis situations: Practices of (re)production of authority

***

Voice attribution: Contrasting science and general news reporting

Ana Filipa Silva Fonseca, Matilde Gonçalves & Fátima Silva (U of Porto/NOVA U Lisboa)

Journalistic reporting offers various formatting possibilities depending on parameters such as theme, objective, and context in which it circulates. It aims to analyse or discuss social, political, or scientific events or phenomena, seeking to explain or question them (e.g., Fonseca, 2021). It navigates between principles of objectivity and clarity, striving for credibility and reader engagement (Charaudeau, 2011). Sources and attributions are crucial, as including voices beyond the reporter's is purposeful and socially impactful (Taboada, 2024). Various source types exist (e.g., Rabatel & Chauvin-Vileno, 2006), with markers of enunciative responsibility to attribute voices and assess statements' credibility (Bronckart et al., 2004; Adam, 2011).

Based on the hypothesis that the voices used, their social roles, and reporters' management of their proximity to the subject are crucial for categorising reporting types, this study aims to: i) analyse how sources and attributions are managed in scientific vulgarisation and other socially-driven reports; ii) describe the linguistic markers conveying their forms and functions, and their discourse implications; iii) correlate the data analysis with the varying didactic and scientific nature observed in the reports and their target audience.

With such purpose, we gathered a corpus of 60 reports from Público, Portugal's leading newspaper, 30 science reports and 30 addressing societal issues. These reports underwent quantitative and qualitative analyses within a framework that integrates principles from Text and Discourse Linguistics (Bronckart et al., 2004; Adam, 2011; Charaudeau, 2011) and reported speech in journalism (e.g. Harry, 2013; Teixeira, 2021; Mesquita, 2022).

Initial results suggest that non-scientific reports often call for ordinary individuals, while scientific reports typically reference specialists and pertinent field articles. These results underscore how source citation serves distinct communicative objectives and the reporter's stance. Both report types frequently utilise direct quotations to enhance credibility and provoke emotional responses from readers, although they vary in using other linguistic features.

Between science and advocacy: The use of expert voices in journalism

Kresten Ronald Johansen & Jakob Dybro Johansen (Danish School of Media and Journalism)

Expert sources appear everywhere in the media landscape. They lend authority and credibility to journalism. However, expert sources are a diverse group used in various roles and functions. There is a lack of current research-based knowledge about who they are, what they are used for, and how they are selected. All three aspects are covered in this study.

Using a mixed methods explanatory sequential design, we first conducted a quantitative content analysis of 517 news stories from the three largest national newspapers in Denmark: Jyllands-Posten, Politiken, and Berlingske Tidende, and compared the results with existing research.

Nearly half of the experts were private sector employees who were not researchers. These experts represented think tanks, interest groups, and private (typically consulting) companies. Economists and other social science professionals made up 79% of this group. Three types of expert contributions were identified: factual claims, assessments, and recommendations. In 97% of the articles, one or more expert sources were cast to provide assessments in the forms of guesses, predictions, or interpretations. In 21% of the articles, one or more expert sources were cast to provide recommendations – in many cases political or financial.

The quantitative findings were followed up by a qualitative analysis of 12 in-depth interviews with journalists from the same three Danish newspapers. The qualitative results indicate that journalists' use of experts is largely trust-based, and that journalists rely on experts themselves to indicate when statements are on shaky ground or lack support. Six different source selection parameters were identified as well as three different ways in which journalists assess expert knowledge.

Overall, the study raises questions about journalists' criteria for selecting expert sources and whether journalists assign the authoritative role to expert sources on a sufficiently critical basis.

Plurivocity in times of crisis (1918/19 – 2020/21): Sources and journalistic perspectivisation in newspapers

Lucia Assenzi & Maria Stopfner (University of Innsbruck/Eurac Research Bolzano)

Times of crisis have the power to shake the lives and beliefs of individuals, institutions and entire societies. They drive social change and innovation in social practices (Seeger/Sellnow 2016). However, crises as social, political, and cultural phenomena are not so much an objective status as representations and constructions (Hay 1996, Hay/Hunt 2018). They are talked into being by social actors who construe crises discursively in the public sphere in light of certain interests. In this context, the media play a decisive role, as they are co-constitutive in the construction of

crises by giving a voice to different social agents and providing contexts that guide readers' interpretation and evaluation of the situation. Hooker et al. (2012) report that in times of crisis, journalists show a strong commitment to being neutral and fact-based public informants. After the first acute phase of a crisis, they normally resume their independent position, e.g. by critically questioning the government's decisions, which in turn leads to giving voice to opposing voices and counter-publics.

Mediatized responses to crises build on patterns of previous crisis discourse (Coleman 2018) and general reporting practices. At the same time, journalists play an agentive role in the (re-/de-)construction of times of crises by granting access to the public forum (Stopfner 2024) and by framing different positions through "strategies of perspectivisation" (Reisigl 2017:52). Comparing the news coverage of the COVID pandemic in 2020/21 with that of the Spanish Flu in 1918/19 in popular newspapers from the US and Austria, the analysis aims to identify recurring patterns in crisis reporting. With this aim in mind, the paper combines the theoretical and methodological framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (Reisigl 2017, Reisigl/Wodak 2016) with the quantitative investigation of formal aspects of reported speech and reportive evidentiality in newspapers (Assenzi 2023a,b).

The formal analysis of reported speech and evidentiality complements discourse analysis by providing insight into the evolution of journalistic quotation practices. This is important, as different forms of reported speech can be used to frame sources in a different light, thus positioning both the quoted source and the journalist within the debate.

The voice of the journalist in the televisual construction of crisis situations: Practices of (re)production of authority

Camelia Beciu & Mirela Lazăr (The University of Bucharest)

In the "current decentralized information ecology" (Broersma, 2019, p. 92-93), the multiplication of information flows via the platformization of information, the diversification of discursive voices and strategic narratives (Pantti, 2016) force the journalist to reproduce his authority (Carlson, 2017; Bossio, 2017) in relation to sources that can act simultaneously and autonomously under different expression and relational forms, through a multitude of voices and "symbolic claims to represent the public" (Mădroane, 2018). Therefore, it becomes more difficult for journalists to reproduce their symbolic power within a highly heterogeneous, competitive and evolving media landscape.

Starting from these premises, we aim to analyse the presence of the journalist's voice in the construction of debates in crisis situations – in our case, in the context of the televised coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian - and the ways in which he discursively "manages" other voices, as an essential condition for the production of performative media discourse, "designed to persuade readers that what it describes is real" (Broersma, 2019, p. 94), is "truthful" and that the journalist is "worthy of belief".

Placing this research in a semio-discursive framework of analysis (Charaudeau, 2011; Lochard, 2006), we use the dispositive analysis to examine the ways in which the journalist uses the heterogeneous production conditions of the increasingly hybridized televisual dispositive

(verbal-enunciative, non-verbal, registers of visualization, including the integration of new media) to strategically mobilize voices with different statuses and to legitimize his own voice (including through polyvocality - cf. Carlson, 2017) in the dynamics of interaction with guests on the show and with the audience, aiming to establish effects of "real" and "truthfulness".

The corpus contains talk shows broadcast in prime time, relevant for political television journalism in Romania in the culture of connectivity, from two commercial channels focused on continuous news and political debates, selected in intervals from 2022, 2023 and 2024 related to the unfolding of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the continuity of media coverage of the subject.

The results of the research reveal a typology of the journalist's voices in the construction of a transnational crisis. The performative function of the journalist's voice is thus discussed from the perspective of the ways in which the journalist (re)produces his authority in mediating the immediacy of the conflict and in the emotional engagement of the public, as well as in relation to the discursive performance of journalistic roles.

Virtual presentations

Voices and sources in Yorùbá News on insecurity

Olamide Eniola (Tulane University)

Despite the proliferation of insecurity in the news content of the Nigerian media, research has often focused on the reportage of security threats in English, leaving out the representation of such threats in news media reporting in the Nigerian ethnic languages. Even though Hausa, Igbo, and Yorùbá spoken by major ethnic groups are used in the media, with Yorùbá being a pioneering language of journalism in colonial Nigeria, English largely dominates the media. Therefore, this paper examines evidentiality in the Yorùbá news, especially the Yorùbá media's reportage of insecurity in Nigeria. This is to examine the Yorùbá construction of social orientation to and epistemological positioning on insecurity in the news. Ethnic affiliation characterizes media ownership and how insecurity is reported in Nigeria. At the same time, some Yorùbá-medium news media occasionally rely on the English-medium ones for news on insecurity, thus making some of the Yorùbá news about insecurity translated stories. Based on these observations, this paper asks: is evidentiality used in Yorùbá news media to code the ethnic perspectival information or to implicate other forms of meanings about insecurity in Nigeria? What are the linguistic adaptations of voices and sources in Yorùbá news media's translations of news stories from English media?

Using news stories about Boko Haram, banditry, kidnapping, and herders-farmers' clashes, among others from *Aláròyé* and *BBC News Yorùbá* as data, my analysis will be guided by an adaptation of Bednarek's (2006) notion of epistemological positioning and evidentiality. Additionally, the data will be examined for news stories sourced from the English-medium media. Such stories will be analyzed for how Yorùbá news media render sources and voices in translated news stories. Existing literature has identified affirmative and surprisal evidentiality in Yorùbá syntax, the current study will show how evidentiality is rendered in the Yorùbá (insecurity) news discourse.

No voices from the valley: Coverage of the Abrogation

Ashmita Sharma (University of Hyderabad)

The Indian Parliament enacted the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, usurping the special status granted to the Indian state of Kashmir since 1952. The constitutional legality of the order, total communication and internet clampdown in the state, detainment of Kashmiri politicians, and stationing of thousands of paramilitary forces, all occurred in the span of five days without consulting the subjects who would be most affected by the enactments- Kashmiri people. The aforementioned conditions stipulated that the media highlight the agents hitherto ignored by the Indian state, but the recent literature on Indian media points to a worrying trend. Jaffrelot and Jumle (2020) and Raman et.al. (2022) use quantitative coding methods to understand the dominant discursive patterns on TV News to conclude that pro-government, pro-nationalism and hyper-masculine sentiments are prevalent on TV News. TV News is a complex of journalists, producers, editors, graphic designers, musicians, and news anchors, curating the important

elements of a news event. So how does a program's verbal track, textual crawls and visual imagery combine to produce meaning?

This paper analyses the textual/verbal and corresponding visual elements employed by three different newsrooms in their coverage of the enactments, using the Pragmatic Cognitive Model (Piazza and Haarman, 2016), to understand the political discourse being communicated. The findings reveal that the newsrooms disproportionately favour the Indian State, while disparaging Kashmiris and their political aspirations. The paper tries to frame the specific discourse propagated here within the larger Hindu-Nationalist project of the right-wing populists in India.