

MeCCSA Postgraduate Network 2018 Conference Special Issue: Contemporary News Discourse Around the Globe

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Co-Guest Editor

The papers presented in this special issue were submitted as part of the Best Paper competition at MeCCSA's Postgraduate Network conference in 2018. The conference took place on 5th and 6th July 2018 at Canterbury Christ Church University and was organised by Nicholas Furze, Aurora Patera and Emma Kaylee Graves. As there were several high-quality papers submitted for the competition, it was decided that the 2018 conference would have two special issues in *Networking Knowledge*, instead of the usual one. This issue therefore compliments the previous issue of the journal: *MeCCSA Postgraduate Network 2018 Conference Special Issue: Communities and the Media Around the Globe*. While the first special issue had a very broad scope in terms of the topics covered by the authors, the current special issue has a more specialised focus on analyses of news discourse.

Monika Bednarek and Helen Caple state that news discourse

'has great potential to exert considerable influence over us. [...] Sometimes we may modify our behaviour, ideas and beliefs, based on what we have read or heard [...]. This also points to the power of the media: the influence they exert both on our governments and major institutions as well as their ability to shape our ideas and behaviours' (2012, 6).

With this in mind, it is no surprise that research on news discourse has been plentiful over the years. This includes analysing news media's representation of individuals, groups, events, issues and objects. Recent examples include Juliane A. Lischka's (2017) examination of *The New York Times*' coverage of Donald Trump, Hsiang Iris Chyi and Angela M. Lee's (2017) research into US news coverage of *Apple* products, İbrahim Efe's (2018) study of the representation of Syrian asylum seekers in the Turkish press and Sophie Hinde and Bianca Fileborn's (2019) analysis of the #MeToo movement in Australian news. The research presented here further enriches this established and important field. In just three papers, this issue provides insight into news discourse from a variety of countries: the UK, US, Germany,

Denmark and Russia. Each of the authors in this issue have appropriated some form of discourse analysis in their studies of news media, though each differs in their topic and approach.

The first paper in this issue, written by Zixiu Liu, won the Best Paper Award at the Postgraduate Network's conference in 2018. Liu's contribution analyses the Ukraine crisis in both Russian and British news, focusing on quality print media with global audiences: *The Moscow Times* and *The Guardian*. Liu applied Robert Entman's framing analysis to almost 200 news articles published during the period that marked the start of the 'Euromaidan' anti-government protests in Kyiv. In addition to framing, Liu takes a mixed methods approach to her study, while also considering agenda setting theory. Her comparisons between the two newspapers are particularly insightful, which lead to an argument which 'challenges the current perception that Russian news media are more propagandistic than British media' (4). Overall, this first paper provides a sound contribution to research on news framing of conflicts.

Also involving framing, Michelle Lawrie's paper uncovers the representations of Muslims in British and Danish newspapers reporting on the Charlie Hebdo Attack. Focusing on four newspapers, two from the UK (*The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*) and two from Denmark (*Jyllands-Posten* and *Politiken*), Lawrie presents a meticulously detailed multimodal critical discourse analysis of one opinion piece from each source. In addition to framing, throughout her analysis Lawrie considers ideas of Othering and orientalism as well as Virginia R. Dominguez's Star System theory. Ultimately, Lawrie argues that within these newspapers, the Charlie Hebdo Attack has been 'recontextualised to focus on the incompatibility of Muslims living in each country' (25).

Moving away from British news media, Svitlana Tubaltseva's paper analyses international news coverage of the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, 2014. Unlike previous research, Tubaltseva does not focus on the coverage during the games, but on what was published leading up to the games. She argues that this is an important period to analyse because it is the public's first experience of the Games (having not yet seen live footage), so news coverage can play a major role in creating attitudes towards the Games. With this in mind, Tubaltseva's main analytical technique is J. R. Martin and David Rose's evaluative theory of Appraisal. She applies this to 30 news articles from both North American and European newspapers: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *New Europe* and *Deutsche Welle*. This detailed analysis provides valuable insight into news coverage of the Sochi Olympic Games whilst considering Russian politics and the issues that arose surrounding this event.

To conclude the issue, co-editor Nicholas Furze presents a review of the *Fan Phenomena: Harry Potter* collection edited by Valerie Estelle Frankel. Overall, the research published in this issue contributes to journalism studies, linguistics, discourse studies and media studies more broadly, amongst other areas specific to each author.

References

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