



INFORMING CONFLICT PREVENTION,  
RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION:  
THE ROLE OF MEDIA  
IN VIOLENT CONFLICT



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### WP7: JOURNALISTIC TRANSFORMATION

Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt  
Department of Communication and Journalism  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



## MAIN OBJECTIVES OF WP7

WP7 examines conflict news coverage, focusing in particular on the unique contribution of the news media to conflict discourse, as achieved by two main types of transformations:

- Intertextual transformation: the ways in which journalists mold other available texts into news
  - Type of texts: press releases, statements, social media...
  - Type of transformations: cultural, political, professional, evaluative and emotive
- Discourse-level transformation: the ways in which conflict news discourse evolves over time
  - focusing in particular on processes of polarization and radicalization



## Multi-layered, mixed-method approach

- Stage I – Exploratory discourse analysis:
  - Ontology building for the automated analysis - identifying a wide range of conceptual categories relevant to the conflicts and constructing a multi-language ontology
  - A pilot study analyzing the journalistic inter-textual transformations applied to key source texts during a key moment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict



## Multi-layered, mixed-method – cont.

- Stage II – Automated content analysis:
  - Analysis of a vast number of news texts in 70 news outlets within & outside the respective conflict areas
  - The construction & evolution of specific interpretative frames and agendas for action in news discourse
  - Patterns of discourse-level transformations, most notably processes of polarization and radicalization
    - Polarization – how interpretative frames and agendas for action become increasingly distinct or overlapping
    - Radicalization – increase in specific agendas for action and an excluding discourse



## Multi-layered, mixed-method – cont.

- Stage III – qualitative in-depth analysis:
  - Based on the findings of the large-scale automated, quantitative analysis.
  - Targets key moments in the evolution of news discourse in the different conflicts.
  - The range of journalistic transformations that characterize these moments are analyzed in depth, drawing also on data from other WPS, in particular the content analysis of strategic-communication source texts and the interviews with journalists and political actors.

## SAMPLE: 70 MEDIA OUTLETS FOR THE AUTOMATED ANALYSIS

### Within the conflict areas

- Israel (5)
- Palestinian territories (5)
- Syria (5)
- Macedonia (5)
- Kosovo (5)
- Burundi (10)
- DR Congo (10)
- Serbia (3)

### Outside the conflict areas

- Germany (3)
- France (3)
- UK (3)
- Transnational sphere:
  - Broadcast (5)
  - Print (3)

### News Agencies

- International (2)
- National (3)



## SAMPLE OF MEDIA OUTLETS FOR THE AUTOMATED ANALYSIS – SELECTION CRITERIA

- ***Influence:*** Leading news outlets, based on either popularity (circulation/reach) or their status as elite/opinion-leading media
- ***Representation:*** Within a country's leading news media, outlets that represent the broadest possible range of relevant political orientations and group affiliations.
- ***Pragmatic considerations:*** Availability of digital archives



## TIME FRAME

Conflict	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Israel-Palestine									
Syria									
Macedonia									
Kosovo									
Burundi									
DRC									