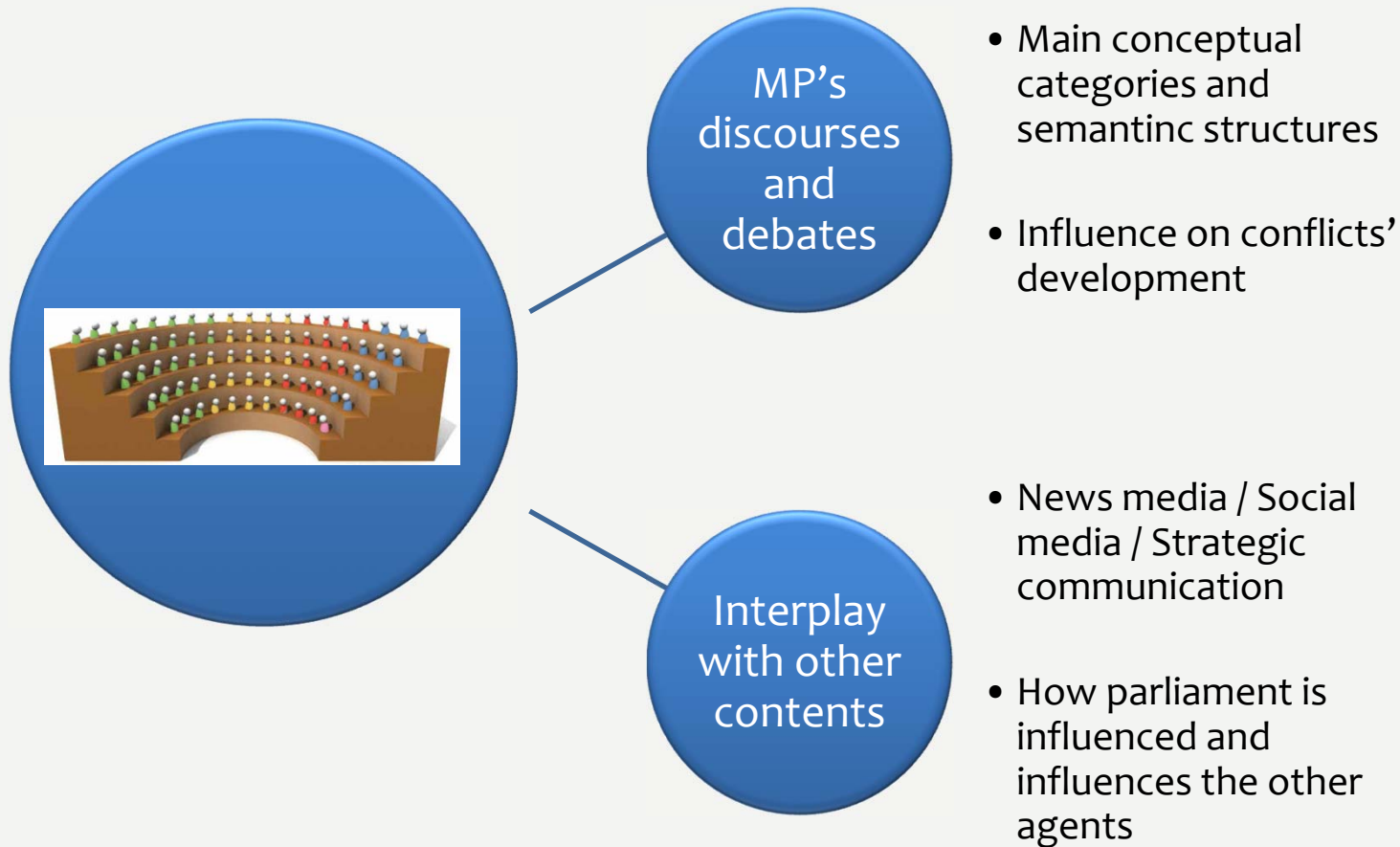INFORMING CONFLICT PREVENTION,
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RECEPTION OF NEWS
IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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1. Research interests

MP's discourses and debates

- Main conceptual categories and semantinc structures

- Influence on conflicts' development

Interplay with other contents

- News media / Social media / Strategic communication

- How parliament is influenced and influences the other agents

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2. Research questions (I)

Parliamentary agenda building

- What **issues** are covered in the parliamentary debates?

- Are parliament discourses stable or variable from a **diachronic** point of view?

- Which **factors** related to the issue or the political context favor their **inclusion**?

- Who takes the **initiative** of an issue in the parliamentary debates?

- Who **supports** the main discourse and who doesn't?

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2. Research questions (II)

Discussed issues main features

- Which are the main **frames, evidential claims** and **agendas for action** linked to the main issues discussed in parliamentary debates?

- Are there **correspondences** between these frames/evidential claims/agendas for action and those present in **media** coverage, in **social media** and **strategic** contents?

- Who **promotes** them?

- How is the **diachronic evolution** of these semantic patterns? Are they different or do they remain stable over time?

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2. Research questions (III)

Patterns of information diffusion

- How is **the issue-attention-cycle** of MPs through the time frames analyzed?

- Are there **common patterns** in the way MPs adopt war-related information content **among the different countries** studied?

- May these patterns of informative diffusion have **influence on** the development (increasing o decreasing) of the **conflicts**?

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2. Research questions (IV)

Gender representation

- How are **women** as part of violent conflicts **represented in parliamentary debates**? Are they presented as victims?

- How is the **participation of women** in parliamentary debates? Which are their posts? How is the gender composition of parliaments?

- How is the **relationship between sexes in parliament**? Is there any difference in treatment or when they refer to each others?

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3. Parliaments analyzed

Conflict countries' parliaments	Non-conflict countries' parliaments
National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia	House of Commons (UK Parliament)
Republic of Kosovo Assembly	National Assembly (French Parliament)
Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia	Bundestag (German Parliament)
Knesset (Israeli Parliament)	EU Parliament
Palestinian Legislative Council	
Peoples's Council (Syrian Parliament)	
National Assembly of Burundi	
Parliament of the DR of the Congo	

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4. Documents Analyzed

Symbolic agenda

Debates' minutes

Israel, Kosovo, Macedonia, UK, France, Germany

Substantive agenda

Resolutions & declarations
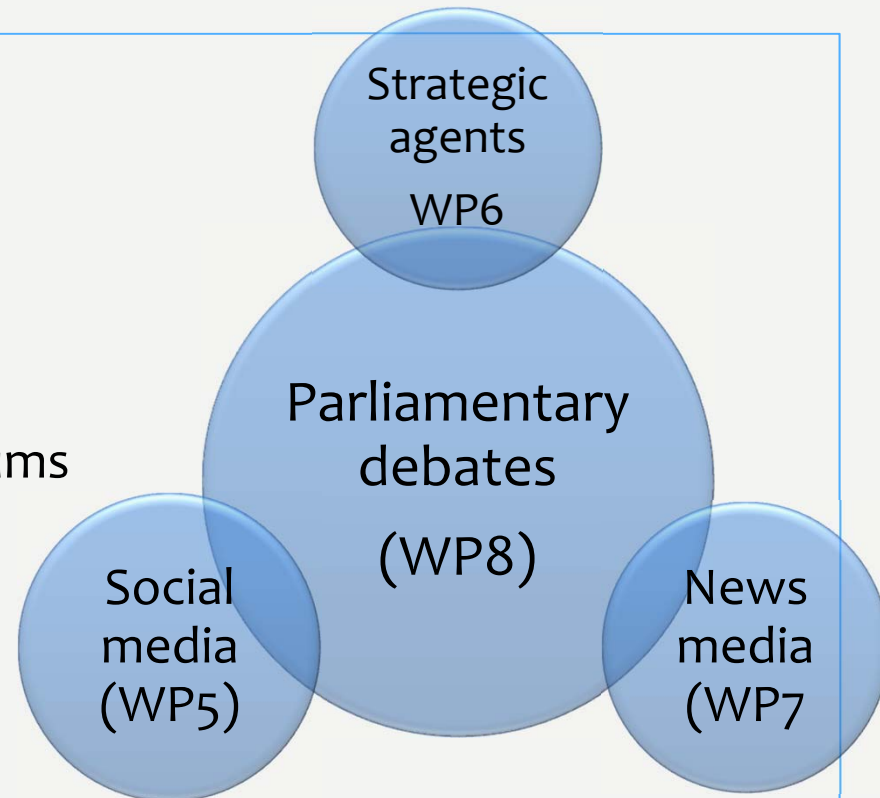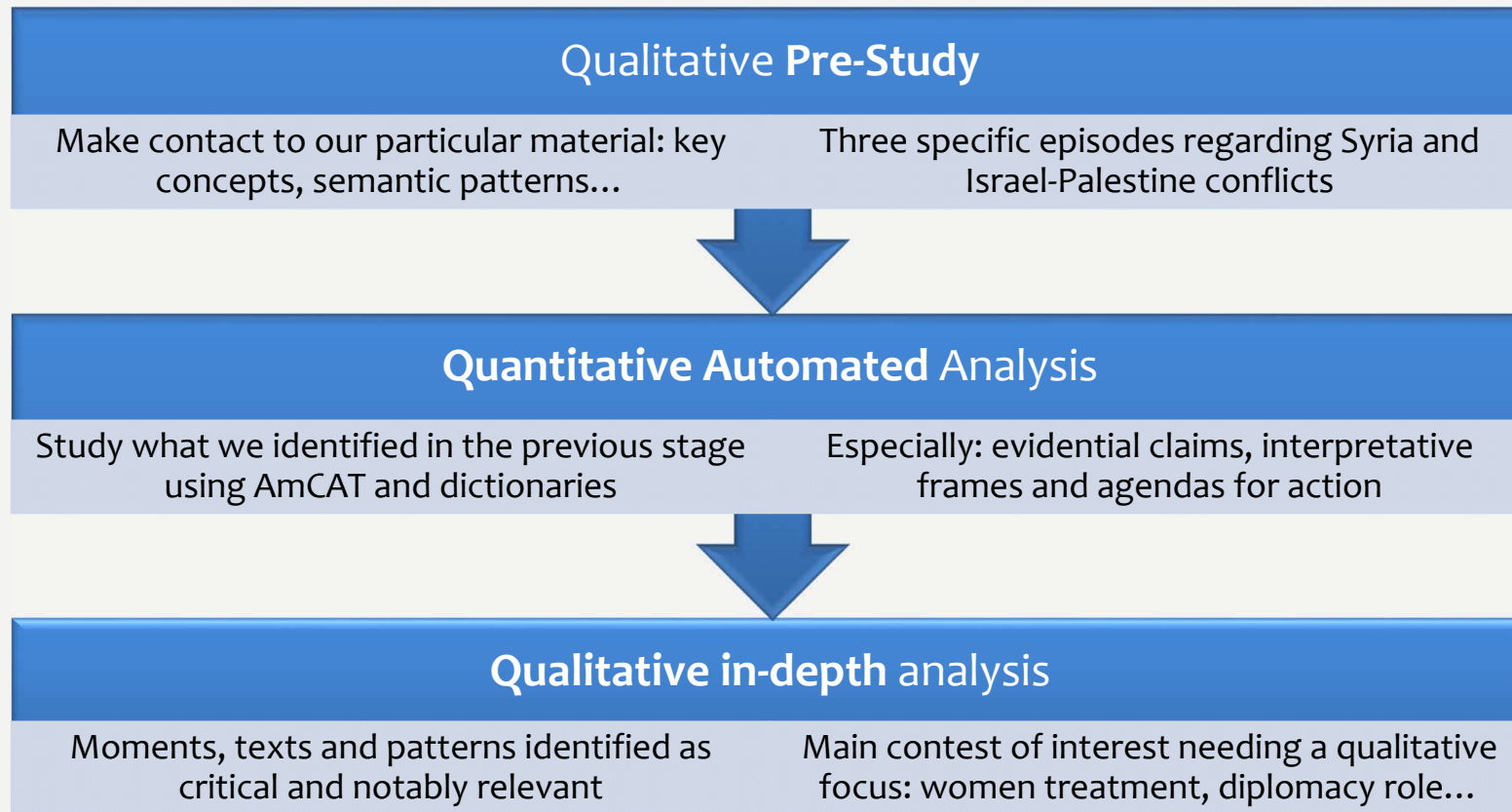
Palestine, Syria, Burundi, Congo, EU Parliament

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5. Linkages to other WPs

We will look for:

• Influences

• Dependences

among these different agents/forums
for the war-related contents

Strategic
agents
WP6

Parliamentary
debates
(WP8)

Social
media
(WP5)

News
media
(WP7

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7. Some examples from our pre-study

Shared content of interest: Agenda for action

"**Our approach, in close coordination with our European partners is: first, to push for** implementation of the Annan plan as the internationally agreed road map to end the violence; secondly, **to increase** the pressure and isolation felt by the regime; and, thirdly, **to ensure** justice, accountability and humanitarian assistance for the Syrian people…"

Mr. William Hage, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
UK Parliament debate about Syria conflict (25 May 2012)

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7. Some examples from our pre-study

Shared content of interest: Gender issue

"We should not equate terrorists firing rockets with a supposedly civilised state systematically **killing women and children and elderly and disabled people**..."

Mr Andy Slaughter (Lab)
UK Parliament debate about Israel-Gaza conflict
(14 July 2014)

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7. Some examples from our pre-study

Specific content of interest: diplomacy in discourse

"The UK is a committed **friend of Israel**, and a friend to the region…"

Alistairt Burt, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
UK Parliament debate about Israel-Gaza conflict (14 June 2010)

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7. Some examples from our pre-study

Specific content of interest: Level of popular support referenced

"**Large numbers of my constituents** have expressed the view that the people of Gaza are suffering collective punishment..."

Steve Baker (Con)
UK Parliament debate about Israel-Gaza conflict
(14 July 2014)

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Thank you very much
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