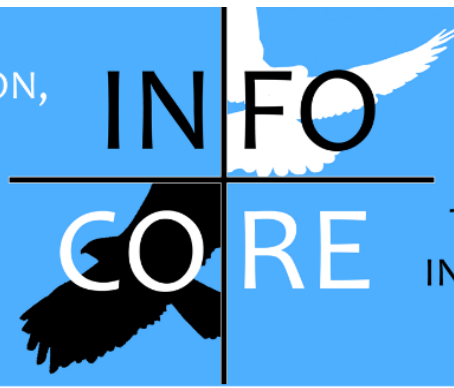


(IN)FORMING CONFLICT PREVENTION,
RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION:



THE ROLE OF MEDIA
IN VIOLENT CONFLICT

INFOCORE Definitions

“Political debates”

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Definition: “Political debates”

The concept ‘political debates’ refers to the verbal interactions carried out by certain actors in very specific forums. Political debates are discussions that address issues of general interest. Depending on the kind of actors involved and the space where it takes place, we can agree that there are a lot of different political debates. On one hand, it is usual to find this concept related to presidential debates held during election periods, often broadcasted by the media. On the other hand, we can also think in political debates accessible to civil society actors and, in these cases, the discussions can be developed in so many different environments: private houses, streets, bars, conference rooms, online forums, social media, etc.

The INFOCORE project restricts the semantic scope of the concept to limit its meaning to those debates held in the parliaments of the selected countries whose main figures are governmental and executive actors and legislative and party actors. The political debates to be analyzed in this research are those developed by the aforementioned actors and whose main objective is to address issues directly related to violent conflicts selected for study. These interactions between institutional political actors take place mainly at parliamentary forums as it has already been underlined. For this reason, it is necessary to access the minutes and documents that reflect the development of these debates. We are interested in getting access to the records of parliamentary debates in the countries that focus our attention (Israel, Palestine, Syria, Kosovo, Macedonia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi) and also other parliaments whose decisions may affect the conflicts studied (German, French, British and European).

Our main goal is to understand how political actors articulate and verbalize their interventions in these debates. It is important to understand the contextual factors that influence these parliamentary contributions. Although it is necessary to assess the influence of citizens, lobbyists and other interest groups, our approach will take particular account of how the media discourse determines these debates. WP8 is responsible for analyzing the reception of news in political debates using content analysis and frame analysis in order to indicate whether the journalistic information is used by politicians and, if so, through what strategies and for what purposes (do media affect their decision making or conflict responses?). Quotation from the Work Package description:

“The overall objective of WP8 is to analyze how evidential claims, frames, and agendas in the news coverage are received and re-used by political actors in the **political discourse**, depending on various contextual factors. Its results feed primarily into creating the knowledge necessary for objective A3, assessing the importance of media for impacting political conflict prevention and resolution, and laying the ground for addressing INFOCORE’s objectives B3 and B4.”

This part of the research will contribute to reach the target A3 (Understanding the dissemination of conflict news content) providing data and relevant results to improve our knowledge of what information is received by key media audiences and influences their conflict perceptions, agendas, potentially directing and motivating their manifest behavior (policy formulation) toward a conflict.

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