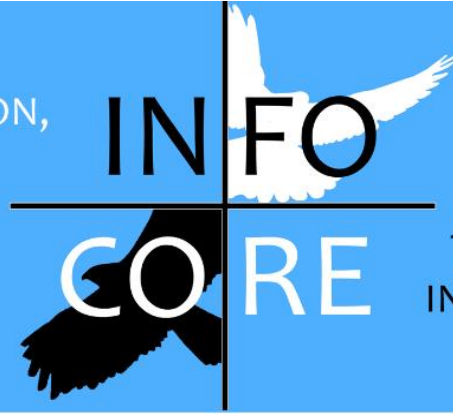


(IN)FORMING CONFLICT PREVENTION,
RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION:



THE ROLE OF MEDIA
IN VIOLENT CONFLICT

INFOCORE Definitions

“Journalists”

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Journalists

Journalists are most commonly defined by the activity they perform in their daily routines. One of the most popular definitions describe journalists as “all news-media personnel who have **editorial responsibility** for the preparation or transmission of news stories or other basic information units. This definition embraces those whose principal responsibilities lie in **news gathering, news processing and editing**, or the **supervision or management** of news operations” (Johnstone, Slawski, & Bowman, 1976, p. 7).

The extent to which journalism resembles a true profession is a matter of academic dispute. Journalism is notoriously referred to as a profession, occupation, trade, or a craft. In principle, journalists are the “**men and women who present that information as news to the audiences** of newspapers, magazines, radio or television stations or the Internet” as defined in the *The News Manual Online* (UNESCO). Furthermore, in some more specialised areas, journalists are sometimes described as “**public intellectuals**, they tend to view the world deductively, immersing themselves in the synthesis of complex areas of research, offering analysis across cases and events” (Nisbet, 2012, p.2). Additionally, there is an on-going debate whether journalists can or should be defined at all, since “with the widespread emergence of self-publishing on the Internet, a working definition of ‘journalist’ has never been more complex” (Burns, 2002, p. 16).

The definition of journalists is tightly close to the role they play in the society. Journalists serve a critical function in modern society: “besides being a **professional** and detached trader of valid information (a ‘mediator’), a second tradition of journalism is the ‘**communicator**’ in his own right who pursues subjective goals, however, most of the time by claiming to act for the sake of the ‘*volonté general*’ (Rousseau) or **public good**” (Donsbach, 2010, p. 39). Donsbach continues to see the challenges of defining journalists in constant societal changes. He maintains that “the very definition of ‘journalism’ and what it means to be a journalist is no longer as clearly defined as in the past when **journalists were reporters** and editors working for newspapers, the broadcast media or wire services” (PAGE NO?). He suggests defining journalists based on their roles, which requires five basic fields of competence: *subject competence, process competence, journalistic skills, professional values and professional values*.

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