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Informing conflict prevention, response & resolution:
The INFOCORE consortium's approach to production
and dissemination of news in violent conflict

ROMY FRÖHLICH et al.
ECREA 2014
12-15 November 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

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Romy Fröhlich, Christian Baden, Rosa Berganza, Dimitra Dimitrakopoulou, Marie-Soleil Frère, Thomas Hanitzsch, Christoph Meyer, Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt, Georgios Terzis, Snezana Trpevska, Gadi Wolfsfeld
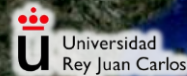
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INFOCORE

Comparative Approach …
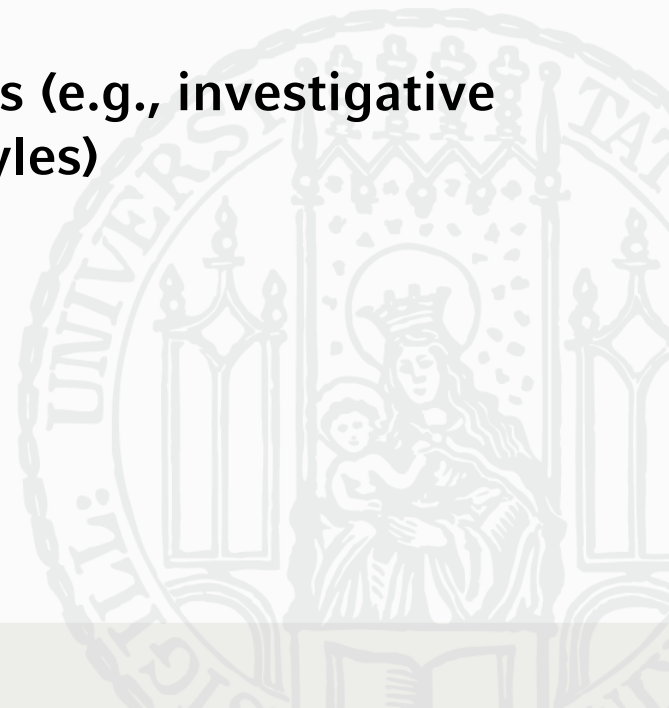
… across different media formats (print, audiovisual, online)

… across local, national, and transnational media

… applying different journalistic styles (e.g., investigative journalism, peace journalism, local styles)

… inside and outside conflict areas,

… in different kinds/types of conflicts

… over time of up to 7 years

Holistic Perspective and Comparative Approach

- **social processes** underlying the production of conflict news
- **inherent dynamics** of conflict news contents and public discourse

(1) CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- the **roles** of individual **agendas** and **resources**
- professional **norms** and **cultures**
- media **organizations** and **systems**
- **political** systems
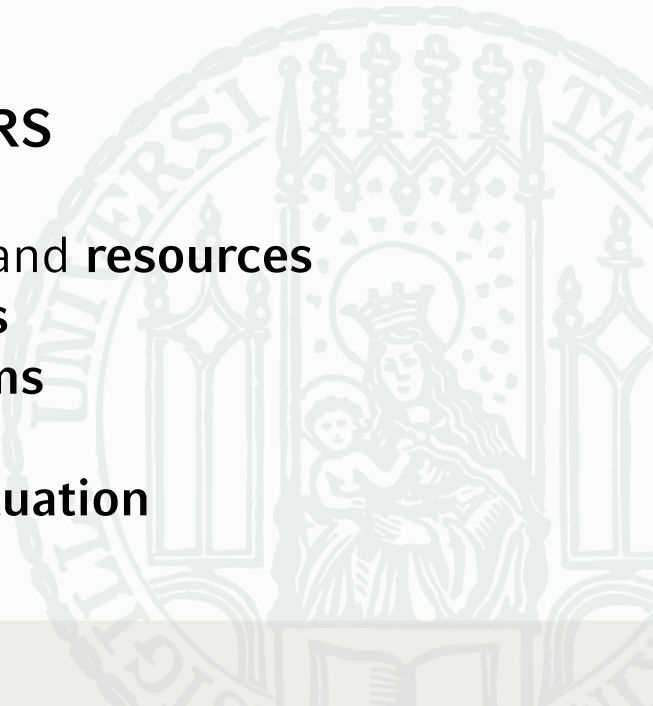- characteristics of the **conflict situation**

Holistic Perspective and Comparative Approach

- **social processes** underlying the production of conflict news
- **inherent dynamics** of conflict news contents and public discourse

(2) KEY INTERACTIONS (media, sources & audiences)

- **Professional journalists** (in various kinds of media)
- **Political actors** (including public authorities & military)
- **NGOs/experts** (intelligence, peacekeeping/conflict prevention, media assist.
- **Lay publics** (individuals and groups, including economic actors)

FIGURE 1: Actors & Roles in the Conflict News Production Process

Comparing across different kinds of media

(1) Professional news media (strong norms, routines, cultures, and conventions; monopolize the role of gatekeeping to be performed by professional, trained journalists).

 → print broadsheet and tabloid & online outlets, TV, radio (national & transnational)

(2) Social media (structured primarily by informal social norms and the constraints imposed by the software infrastructure; do not restrict the roles any user can perform; allow easy access for lay users).

→ Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, & selected opinion-leading blogs

(3) Expert media (produced by NGOs; depend heavily on the expertise & advocacy role of issuing organizations; target mostly small elite audiences of fellow experts & policy makers; channel information through a distributed network of highly specialized gatekeepers).

→ media of local and transnational NGOs with capacities and expertise relevant to media assistance and conflict/peacebuilding

Holistic Perspective and Comparative Approach

- **social processes** underlying the production of conflict news
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(3) DYNAMICS of conflict news content **OVER TIME**
→ **information diffusion** & **polarization/consolidation of frames**

- FRAMES provided by sources, eyewitnesses & strategic communicators
- FRAMES taken up, contextualized, elaborated & disseminated by the media
- FRAMES received by key media audiences (→ influence on conflict perceptions)

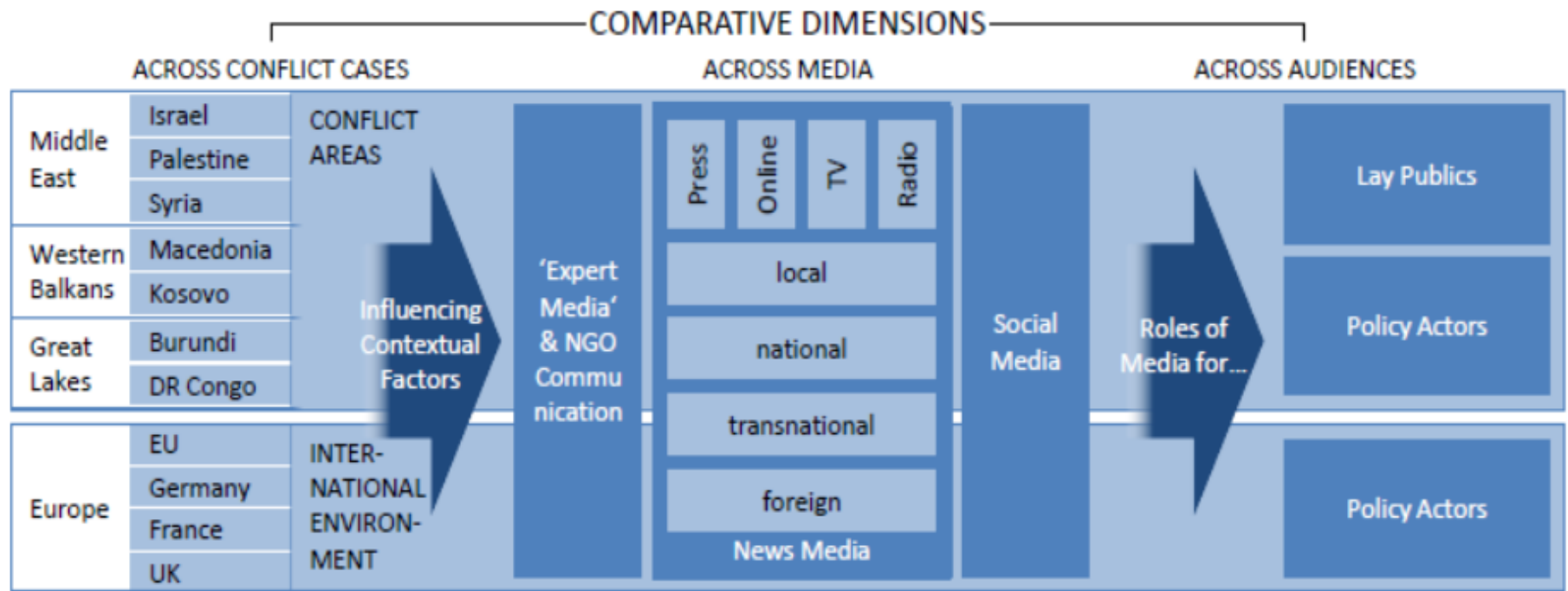# Holistic Perspective and Comparative Approach:
Gender Matters!

FIGURE 2: INFOCORE Comparative Dimensions: Contextual Factors shaping the Roles of Media

INFOCORE's Research Structure

WP1: **Professional journalists** → gatekeepers in the news media

WP2: **Political actors** & **officials** → sources/advocates & audiences/users

WP3: **Lay publics** → news media audiences → reception of content by lay publics

WP4: **NGOs** → news sources/mediators/intelligence providers

WP5: **Social media** → de-differentiation of specific actor roles and types; verbalization, transformation, & reception of evidential claims, frames, & agendas on social media

WP6: **Strategic communication/PR** → evidential claims, frames, & agendas.

WP7: **Transformation/dissem.** → evidential claims, frames, & agendas in **media**.

WP8: **Reception** → evidential claims, frames, & agendas by **political elites**.

WP9: **Dissemination** of results.

About INFOCORE ▾ Consortium ▾ Study ▾ Events ▾ Results ▾ Network ▾ Expert Directory

(IN)FORMING CONFLICT PREVENTION, RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION:

INFO CORE — THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN VIOLENT CONFLICT

Working Papers

The INFOCORE Working Paper Series closely documents the progress of the scientific work of the project consortium. The working papers include the conceptual foundations of the project's research objectives, the main methodological strategies and materials, as well as the results from each individual Work Package's and the project's joint analysis.

Number	Authors	Title	Published
2014/01	Abit Hoxha Thomas Hanitzsch	**Journalistic production** *Conceptual framework for WP1*	–
2014/02	Gadi Wolfsfeld	**Political leaders, media, and conflict** *Conceptual framework for WP2*	–
2014/03	Igor Micevski Snezana Trpevska Marie-Soleil Frère	**Audiences and lay publics in conflicts: In search of a workable distinction** *Conceptual framework for WP3*	–
2014/04	Christoph Meyer	**NGO, media, and conflict** *Conceptual framework for WP4*	–
2014/05	Dimitra Dimitrakopoulou	**The role of social media in violent conflict** *Conceptual framework for WP5*	–
2014/06	Romy Fröhlich	**The contribution and role of strategic communication in the media's dynamic construction and contest of conflict discourse** *Conceptual framework for WP6*	–
2014/07	Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt Yonatan Gonen	**Journalistic transformation in violent conflict** *Conceptual framework for WP7*	–
2014/08	Rosa Berganza Adolfo Carratalá	**Reception of news in political debates** *Conceptual framework for WP8*	–
2014/09	Romy Fröhlich	*Theoretical/conceptual framework for the gender-sensitive perspective* *(within WP1–WP10)*	30.06.14
2014/10	Christian Baden	*Constructions of violent conflict in public discourse* *Conceptual framework for the content & discourse analytic perspective (within WP5, WP6, WP7, & WP8)*	27.09.14

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Thank you!

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