



Tel Aviv University

Media, Conflicts and Politics

Spring 2020

Dr. Erga Atad

Office hours: After class

Course Description:

In the course, we will point to major changes in the media coverage of war and terror in the last two decades. Traditionally, at the breakout of violent crisis the nationwide media rallied around the flag in support of the political establishment. This has been a basic axiom in regard to national broadcasting and the printed press, accepted as self-evident by the community of scholars of media and politics. Representatives of the elite were free to address the media at any time, crossing the threshold through the “front door”, while radical groups were able to invade the screens via the “back-door,” that is, only by the use of violence. However, following the growing globalization of heretofore national media, the new advances in surveillance and diffusion technologies, the commercialization of news media and, the emergence of new-style, a-symmetrical wars, there were significant changes in the coverage of war. The most salient is the fore-grounding of “backdoor” actors—terrorists and enemy leaders. Other actors, once positioned as statistics (ordinary people) or as tellers behind the scene (journalists), are now promoted to centre-stage. All of these new actors have gained status of the kind that in the past was exclusive to media and political elites - editors, military generals and political figures. The possible implications of these changes on media ethics and on public's understanding of war will be discussed.

Course Objectives:

The main intention of the course is to explore the changes in the media coverage of war and terror during the last two decades. This will be undertaken by using a series of case examples of media reporting of conflict.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain and evaluate the relationships between media, politics and conflict.
2. Pose critical questions on the literature in the field of media, war and terrorism.
3. Apply the theoretical and conceptual frameworks to relevant case studies.
4. Identify media independence in the coverage of war and terror
5. Summarizes the changes in media coverage of war and conflicts during the last two decades.

Teaching Method:

The course will be conducted through a combination of formal lectures and class discussion. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments.

Course Requirements

Compulsory attendance Yes

Pre-requisites: None

Structure of Final Course Grad

1. Regular attendance, reading and participation in class discussions	10%
2. Class Presentation	20%
3. Final paper (up to 10 pages)	<u>70%</u>
	100%
4. Extra credit – up to 5 points can be added to the final grade for completing extra credit assignment	

Note:

- course policies - Students are allowed up to 3 unexcused absences.
- Final paper will be submitted by the students on DATE TBD.

Course Topics and Mandatory Reading

1. Introduction: Media, War and Terror

Kalb, M and Saivetz, C. (2007). The Israeli—Hezbollah War of 2006: The Media as a Weapon in Asymmetrical Conflict. *The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*. 12: 43-66

2. Media, Conflicts and the Indexing theory Israel and the United States

Bennett, W. L. (1990) Toward a theory of press-state relations in the United States. *Journal of Communication* 40(2): 103-127.

Bennett, W. L., Lawrence, R. G., & Livingston, S. (2006). None Dare Call It Torture: Indexing and the Limits of Press Independence in the Abu Ghraib Scandal, *Journal of Communication*, 56(3), 467-485.

Balmas, N., Sheafer, T., & Wolfseld, G. (2014). Enemies also get their say: Press performance during political crises. *International Journal of Communication*, 9, 154-174.

Tenenboim, O. (2017). Reporting War in 140 Characters: How Journalists Used Twitter During the 2014 Gaza–Israel Conflict. *International Journal of Communication*, 11(0), 3497–3518.

United Kingdom and Canada

Allen, W. L., & Blinder, S. (2018). Media Independence through Routine Press-State Relations: Immigration and Government Statistics in the British Press. *International Journal of Press/Politics*, 23(2), 202–226

DeCillia, B. (2018). “But it is not getting any safer!”: The Contested Dynamic of Framing Canada’s Military Mission in Afghanistan. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 51(1), 155–177

3. Media-Politics-Media: Media Logic and Politics Logic

Stromback, J., & Esser, F. (2014). Mediatization of politics: Towards a theoretical framework. In Frank Esser and Jesper Stromback (Eds.), *Mediatization of politics: Understanding the transformation of Western democracies* (pp. 3-28). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Wolfsfeld, G. (2011). *Making Sense of Media and Politics: Five Principles in Political Communication*. New York and London: Routledge: Introduction, chapters 1&2.

Wolfsfeld, G., Segev, E., & Sheafer, T. (2013). Social Media and the Arab Spring: Politics Comes First. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 18(2), 115–137

*Vos, D. & Van Aelst, P. (2017). Does the political system determine media visibility of politicians? A comparative analysis of political functions in the news in sixteen countries. *Political Communication*, 35(3), 371-392.

4. Journalists at times of crisis: between the nation and the profession

Zandberg, E & Naiger, M. (2005). Between the nation and the profession: journalists as members of contradicting communities. *Media, Culture and Society*, 27(1): 131-141.

Schudson, M. (2002). What's Unusual about Covering Politics as Usual?, in: B. Zelizer and S. Allan (eds.). *Journalism After September 11*. (pp. 36-47). New York: Routledge.

5. The New Characters of War

5.a The Performer Journalist

Liebes, T. and Kampf, Z. (2009). Performance Journalism: The Case of Media's Coverage of War and Terror', *The Communication Review*, 12:3, 239 — 249

Bell, M. (1998) The journalism of attachment, in M. Kieran (ed.) *Media Ethics*. London: Routledge.

Tumber, H. (2004). 'Prisoners of News Values?: journalists, professionalism, and identification in times of war', in S. Allan, and B. Zelizer. *Reporting War: journalism in wartime*, London: Routledge.

5.b The Terrorist

Liebes, T. and Kampf, Z (2004). "The P.R. of terror: How new-style wars give voice to terrorists." In: S. Allan, and B. Zelizer, (eds.) *Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime* (pp. 77-95). London and New York: Routledge.

Kampf, Z. (2014). News - Media and Terrorism: Changing Relationship, Changing Definitions. *Sociology Compass*, 8(1), 1-9.

5.c The Enemy Leader

Gilboa, E. (2005). Media–broker diplomacy: when Journalists become mediators. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*. 22(2), pp. 99-120.

Liebes, T., Kampf, Z, & Blum-Kulka, S. (2008). Saddam on CBS and Arafat on IBA: Addressing the enemy on television. *Political Communication*, 25 (3): 311-329.

Political leaders and social media during conflicts

Zeitsoff, T. (2018). Does Social Media Influence Conflict? Evidence from the 2012 Gaza Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 62 (1), 29-63.

Zeitsoff, T. (2017). How Social Media Is Changing Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 61(9), 1970-1991.

5.d The Man in the Street

Frosh, P. and Wolfsfeld, G. (2007) "ImagiNation: News Discourse, Nationhood and Civil Society". *Media, Culture & Society*, 29 (1): 105-129

Liebes, T and Kampf, Z. (2010). Homullus Medias: Transforming the Logic of Reporting Asymmetric Conflict. *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, 3(2): 86-98.

Liebes, T. & Kampf, Z. (2009) 'From Black and White to Shades of Gray: Palestinians in the Israeli Media during the Second Intifada', *International Journal of Press/Politics*. 14 (4): 434-453.

6. What Ever Happened To The Heroes? Politicians, Generals and Editors Under Fire

6.a Editors

Katz, E., (1992). The end of journalism? Notes on watching the war, *Journal of Communication*, 42 (3), pp. 5-13

6.b Military Generals

Nossek H. and Limor Y. (2001) "Fifty Years in a 'Marriage of Convenience': News Media and Military Censorship in Israel". *Communication Law and Policy* 6 (1): 1-35.

6.c Politicians

Katz, E. (2009) 'Media-Government-Public: Coalitions and Oppositions', *The Communication Review*, 12:3,199 — 204

7. Words and Images of War

Zelizer, B. (2004). When war is reduced to a photograph. In S, Allan and B, Zelizer. *Reporting war: Journalism in war time*. (pp. 115-135) New York: Routledge.

Kampf, Z. (2006). Blood on their hands: The story of a photograph in the Israeli National discourse. *Semiotica*. 162: 263:286.

8. Genres of War and Terror

8.1. War and Words

Kampf, Z. and Katriel, T. (2017). Political Condemnations: Public Speech Acts and the Construction of Moral Communities. *Handbook of Communication in Cross-cultural Perspective (International Communication Association Handbook Series)*, Routledge.

8.2 Disaster Marathons

Liebes, T. (1998). Television's disaster marathons: A danger to democratic processes? In T. Liebes & J. Curran (Eds.), *Media, Ritual and Identity* (pp.71-86). London and New York: Routledge.

Katz, E., & Liebes, T. (2007 Jan 8). 'No More Peace!': How Disaster, Terror and War Have Upstaged Media Events. *International Journal of Communication* [Online] 1:1. Available: <http://ijoc.org/ojs/index.php/ijoc/article/view/44/23>

Liebes, T. & Kampf, Z (2007). Routinizing terror: Media coverage and public practices: Israel 1996-2004. *The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, 12 (1): 108-116

9. Peace Journalism and War Journalism

Galtung, J. (2006). Peace journalism as an ethical challenge. *Global Media Journal: Mediterranean Edition*, 1(2), 1-5.

Hanitzsch, T. (2007). Situating peace journalism in journalism studies: A critical appraisal. *Conflict & Communication Online*, 6(2).

Tenenboim-Weinblatt, Keren (2016). Beyond paece journalism: Reclassifying conflict narratives in the Israeli news media, *Jouranl of Peace Reserch*, 53 (2), 151-165.

10. Conclusions: Media, War and Terror at the 21st Century

Additional recommended Bibliography

Allan, S. and Thorsen, E. (2009). *Citizen Journalism: Global Perspectives*. New-York: Peter Lang.

Chouliaraki, L. (2006) *Spectatorship of suffering*. London: Sage.

Hallin, D. C. (1986). *The Uncensored War: The Media and Vietnam*. Los Angeles: California University of California Press.

Moeller, S. D. (2009). *Packaging Terrorism: Co-opting the News for Politics and Profit*. Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell

Seib, P. (2006). *Beyond the Front Lines: How the News Media Cover a World Shaped by War*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Tumber H and Palmer, J (2004). *Media at War*. London: Sage.