

Workshop 4: First Global Data Journalism Study of Coverage of Migration

Issues

Terminology sets the tone

Speakers:

Sue Le Mesurier, IFRC, Switzerland

Fritz Cropp, Missouri School of Journalism, USA

Fred Vallance, King University, Canada

Christoph Schmidt, Deutsche Welle Akademie, Germany

Ton Veen, Christelijke Hogeschool, Ede, Netherlands

Martine Rouweler, EJC, Netherlands

Lucien Castex, INA, France

Moderator:

Dr. Susan Moeller, Director ICMIPA, University of Maryland

Workshop Summary

At the 5th Global Forum of the UNAOC in Vienna the results of the pilot study Global Data Journalism Study of Coverage of Migration Issues were presented. The study explores differences and commonalities within and among the media coverage of migration of the five participating countries France, Netherlands, Germany, USA and Canada. Research teams at journalism schools and media research institutions in the five countries took four-week snapshots of migration journalism around recent elections, including the presidential elections in the US and France, the Dutch parliamentary election, and regional polls in Germany and Canada. They identified and analysed some 650 pertinent articles and categorized them by their framing of migration: which types of migrants were in focus, which related topics were discussed, and what overall tone did the articles adopt towards migrants and migration. The sources primarily represented agenda-setting national as well as regional and local newspapers and news magazines.

The selected articles were evaluated on which scale they comply the UN Declaration on Human Rights. The results show a common trend to neutral coverage of migration issues. The covered topics are mostly within the categories citizenship and political life, law/policy, culture and religion. Sue Le Mesurier remarked that the topic of migration issues is mostly covered in combination with emotional attitudes. She argued the importance of continuing education of

journalists to tackle stereotypes and to enable a more productive cooperation between media and migration stakeholders.

The results of the study underline the effect of mass media coverage and framing on the public perception of migrants. To go beyond the „migration issue“ the focus should rest on positive notated human stories as well as a more distinguished terminology being used in public dialogues.