CONSTRUCTED | CONSTRUCTIVE JOURNALISM

BRUSSELS, 8-9 DECEMBER 2016

Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts,
Academy Palace, Hertogsstraat/Rue Ducale 1, 1000 Brussels

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
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Introduction

Welcome

The Brussels Institute for Journalism Studies, the Department of Applied Linguistics, the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), as well as the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts are delighted to welcome you to the international conference on constructed and constructive journalism.

The latter term is on the rise in recent research and debate on new directions in journalism. Theories and practices of constructive journalism are not only academically relevant, but they also have a social and professional relevance. In contrast, the constructed nature of news is as old as the profession of journalism, but it remains fascinating how news can influence people’s views on reality. The way the news is constructed by diverse teams of news workers in constantly changing contexts is still an important topic, to be monitored by both journalism scholars and practitioners. We hope that this conference’s enthralling presentations, captivating keynotes and interesting informal conversations will lead to new and rich insights into the constructed nature of news and into the concept of constructive journalism.

A warm welcome also to Brussels, the booming capital of Belgium, a vibrant and superdiverse global village in the heart of Europe. Please, enjoy the conference. Connect and exchange in order to create fruitful cross-fertilizations. But also venture out of doors, explore the city and have a great time in Belgium!

Organizing committee

Roel Coesemans  
Jelle Mast  
Martina Temmerman

Scientific Committee

Dr. Roel Coesemans (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Applied Linguistics/Journalism Studies)  
Prof. Dr. David Domingo (Université Libre de Bruxelles – Journalism Studies)  
Ria Goris (Erasmus University College Brussels – Journalism Studies)  
Dr. Jelle Mast (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Applied Linguistics/Journalism Studies)  
Prof. Dr. Florence Le Cam – (Université Libre de Bruxelles – Journalism Studies)  
Prof. Dr. Steve Paulussen (University of Antwerp – Communication Studies)  
Dr. Martina Temmerman (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Applied Linguistics/Journalism Studies)
MAP OF VENUE

Royal Flemish Academy of Science and Arts (KVAB)

Hertogsstraat 1/Rue Ducale 1 - 1000 Brussels

Free Wireless internet
Name: academie
No password needed
FLOOR PLAN

Ground floor

First floor

1. Marble room
2. Throne room
3. Stevin room
4. Lipsius room
# Programme Overview

## Thursday 8 December 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 12.00-13.25 | Registration  
Main Entrance Hall  
Lunch  
Stevin Room & Lipsius Room  |                |
| 13.30-14.00 | Welcome & Opening  
Marble Room  |                |
| 14.00-15.00 | Keynote: From mirrors to movers: The controversy and potential of constructive journalism.  
Cathrine Gyldensted (Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands)  
Marble Room  |                |
| 15.15-16.15 | Panel session A1: Conceptualizing Constructive Journalism  
Marble Room  
Panel session B1: Rethinking Journalism as a Construction  
Rubens Auditorium  |                |
| 16.30-17.30 | Panel session A2: Global Perspectives on Constructive Journalism  
Marble Room  
Panel session B2: Mediated Constructions of Gender  
Rubens Auditorium  |                |
| 17.30-19.00 | Reception  
Stevin Room & Lipsius Room  |                |
| 19.15-20.15 | Free guided city walk  
Starting point: in front of the conference venue; finish: Brussels Central Station  |                |

## Friday 9 December 2016

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<th>Time</th>
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| 9.00-9.25 | Registration  
Main Entrance Hall  
Coffee  
Stevin Room & Lipsius Room  |                |
| 9.30-10.30 | Keynote: “Telling it like it is or just telling a good story?” The microanalysis of news editing techniques.  
Peter Bull (University of York, UK)  
Throne Room  |                |
| 10.45-12.05 | Panel session C: Resolving and Reconstructing through Constructive Journalism I  
Throne Room  
Panel session D: Constructed Journalism, Politics, and Democracy  
Rubens Auditorium  |                |
| 12.05-13.25 | Lunch  
Stevin Room & Lipsius Room  |                |
| 13.35-14.35 | Panel session E: Constructed | Constructive Journalism and the Popular/Commercial  
Throne Room  
Panel session F: Mediated Constructions of Terrorism and Foreign Affairs  
Rubens Auditorium  |                |
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<td>14.45-16.05</td>
<td>Panel session G: Resolving and Reconstructing through Constructive Journalism II</td>
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<td>Panel session H: Mediated Constructions of Migration and Cosmopolitanism</td>
<td>Rubens Auditorium</td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>16.35-17.35</td>
<td>Panel session I: Local Contexts of Constructive Journalism</td>
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<td>18.00-18.30</td>
<td>Closing event</td>
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<td>An interview (by Liesbeth Van Impe, editor-in-chief <em>Het Nieuwsblad</em>) with Rob Wijnberg, philosopher and founder of <em>De Correspondent</em></td>
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<td>19.00</td>
<td>Conference dinner (registration required – payment upon registration)</td>
<td>Restaurant Les Petits Oignons</td>
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**ABSTRACTS PLENARY LECTURES**

**Cathrine Gyldensted**  
Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands - c.gyldensted@windesheim.nl  

*From mirrors to movers. The controversy and potential of constructive journalism*  
In a world where the media is focused around negative and conflict-based stories, scandals and exaggerations, ‘Constructive Journalism’ wants to strengthen constructive elements in journalism through the application of positive psychology, moral psychology and prospective psychology. In addition to informing about negative events and crises, ‘Constructive Journalism’ aims to offer possible solutions to face and handle them. Thereby, journalists are reminded of their special responsibility as influential opinion makers, to report in a well informed and diverse manner.  
Cathrine Gyldensted coined the term ‘Constructive Journalism’ academically in 2015 (with Karen McIntyre) and is currently serving as the world’s first director of Constructive Journalism at Windesheim University, the Netherlands. There the complete journalism faculty is applying this methodology into the curriculum of the journalism students. While elaborating the concept academically and spreading the method worldwide, Cathrine has also authored two books on ‘Constructive Journalism’: *From Mirrors to Movers. Five Elements of Constructive Journalism* (2015) and *Handbook of Constructive Journalism* (2014 – in Danish). Between 2000 and 2011, Gyldensted served as an investigative reporter, news reporter, radio anchor and executive producer at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation and at Radio24syv. Cathrine majored in Radio & Foreign Affairs at the Danish School of Journalism in Aarhus and holds a Master of Applied Positive Psychology from the University Of Pennsylvania.

**Peter Bull**  
University of York, UK - peter.bull@york.ac.uk  

*Telling it like it is or just telling a good story? The microanalysis of news editing techniques*  
Microanalysis involves the detailed (‘micro’) analysis of communication through both speech and nonverbal behaviour (Bull, 2002, 2008). This lecture reports the application of such techniques to the study of news editing. According to recent research, there has been a marked shift in television news journalism from a fact-based to a more interpretive style. When politicians appear on the news, it is typically in the form of what are termed “short-form interviews” (Eriksson, 2011) – brief extracts included within the context of a news story, and typically heavily edited (Ekström, 2001). The politician’s original answers are cut, and mixed with other voices, such as that of a reporter, an expert, or a layperson. In addition, visual clips from interviews may be combined with other images and integrated into the narrative a whole.  
In this lecture, a study is reported of British news bulletins, broadcast during the parliamentary expenses scandal of 2009 (Bull, Negrine & Hawn, 2014). Notably, this research is based on the analysis of audio-visual clips, which were utilized by more than one television channel. Thereby, it was possible to investigate how identical audio-visual content was interpreted and re-interpreted across different news bulletins. In addition, clips taken from House of Commons debates were checked against Hansard (the written record of all parliamentary proceedings), to investigate how these excerpts were cut and edited, even to the extent of creating imaginary dialogues between different politicians.  
Overall in this lecture, news bulletins are conceptualized as a form of narrative, with politicians as actors, political journalists as narrators, and excerpts from different political events edited into the overall framework of an interpretive storyline. If there was ever a time when journalists just reported the news, those times are long since dead: political journalists are now active participants in the political process.  

**References**  
Rob Wijnberg
De Correspondent - sprekers@decorrespondent.nl

Closing interview by Liesbeth van Impe (editor-in-chief of Het Nieuwsblad)
Rob Wijnberg is the founder and editor-in-chief of De Correspondent, the Amsterdam-based journalism platform that serves as an antidote to the daily news grind. His numerous books include Nietzsche en Kant lezen de krant ('Nietzsche and Kant read the paper,' 2009) and De Nieuwsfabriek ('The News Factory,' 2013). The latter addresses the future of journalism and was written as a manifesto for the alternative online news platform De Correspondent. On the basis of his own experiences with traditional and newer forms of journalism he will look back at the conference and reflect on some of the general topics, while giving his views on the way forward for journalism.
ABSTRACTS PANEL CONTRIBUTIONS
(in alphabetical order of surname of first author)

Dina Farouk Abou Zeid
Ain Shams University, Egypt - dabozeid@hotmail.com
Panel A2: Global Perspectives on Constructive Journalism (Marble Room)

Constructive journalism among Egyptian young journalists
Media in Egypt focus on news about conflict, wars, victims, corruption, poverty, problems, scandals, accidents and drama. But, according to positive psychology and constructive journalism, it is important to spread positive emotions through media. This could be happening by showing progress, solutions and hope. However, good, happy and positive news have bad reputation among Egyptian audiences so journalists prefer to criticize the regime and focus on negative aspects in society instead of writing about positivity and achievements. A survey of 500 Egyptian young journalists is conducted to examine constructive journalism in Egypt. The researcher tries to answer the following questions: what are the characteristics of constructive journalism according to Egyptian young journalists? When and how can they use it? Why do Egyptian young journalists avoid constructive journalism? The results of the study show that the majority of the sample associated good, happy and positive news with creating political propaganda, praising the regime, promoting journalists’ beliefs, shifting attention from problems, brainwashing audiences, hiding the dark side of political and social current facts and supporting media owners’ business.

Laura Ahva & Mikko Hautakangas
University of Tampere, Finland - laura.ahva@uta.fi
University of Tampere, Finland - mikko.hautakangas@uta.fi
Panel A1: Conceptualizing Constructive Journalism (Marble Room)

Journalists as mediators: The constructive role of journalism in polarized issues
The rise of “constructive journalism” in Europe has been significant in the 2010s. The movement has emerged from journalists’ need to critically examine some of the basic tenets of their profession. There appears to be a call to re-evaluate the role that journalism plays in the construction and solution of social problems. It can be claimed that certain journalistic routines (such as news criteria and editorial practices) may often participate in maintaining and escalating social tensions rather than relieving them. Therefore the ideal of neutral and balanced reporting of events, facts and opinions does not seem sufficient at all times, but instead journalists should better recognize their role as active participants influencing the course of public discussions.
We argue that the current discussion about constructive journalism could gain from what was learnt from the “public journalism” movement of the 1990s. Public journalism aimed at the inclusion of regular citizens into the journalistic process and public deliberation. This is also essential in constructive journalism that covers polarized social issues (e.g. conflicts related to environment, immigration or health). Such issues often develop into unproductive deadlocks. They challenge journalists to step into the role of active facilitators or conflict mediators in creating spaces where respectful problem-solving could emerge between opposing parties. The mere act of providing a public platform is not enough: the debates should be analyzed and governed, making sure that those involved feel heard and understood, and responsible for participating in finding constructive solutions.
In this paper, we will draw from public journalism and conflict mediation literature to develop further the idea of journalists as constructive mediators. This theoretical paper is connected to a larger action research project at the University of Tampere, Finland, in which constructive methods are developed together with journalists in a series of workshops.

Pascale Asmar
Saint Joseph University and the Lebanese University, Lebanon - pascale.asmar@hotmail.com
Panel F: Constructed Journalism, Politics, and Democracy (Rubens Auditorium)

The construction and deconstruction of the representations of Hezbollah in the local and foreign press: The particular case of “the Resistance”
Hezbollah is a group which has emerged in Lebanon the 80s with the sole vocation of organizing a Resistance against the Israeli occupation. It is the only entity which has got an armed wing and, at the same time, participates in the Lebanese political activity. This paper tackles the role of the local and foreign press in the (de)construction
and transmission of the representations of this polemic group within the framework of its self-representation: “the Resistance”.

In the first part of this paper, I will present a brief round-up of the extra-linguistic context which plays a major role in the interpretation of the linguistic manifestations (Pêcheux). Then, through a corpus of articles, which were selected from Lebanese, French and American newspapers, I will analyze the functioning of “the Resistance” in discourse: a self-representation, a rigid designator (Kripke) in the Lebanese context and a formula (Krieg-Planque) which carries political and identity issues. This analysis aims to synthesize the linguistic tools and strategies the journalists use to construct or deconstruct this particular representation of Hezbollah for specific purposes which could be related to the foreign policy of their country, local political affiliations or religious orientation.

References

Piet Bakker
Technical University of Utrecht, The Netherlands - piet.bakker@hu.nl
Panel session I: Local Contexts of Constructive Journalism (Throne Room)

Constructive journalism in a hyperlocal context
On face value, the concept of constructive journalism could be at odds with the idea of critical independent journalism. Journalism, according to that traditional definition, should not be concerned with sustaining a community but with its independent voice. On the other hand, in a more traditional concept, media belong to the fabric of a society, offering services that members of that society can use to foster their position within that society. These positions are often combined which can lead to a complicated relation between media and society. Media and journalists belong to a society, but at the same time declare their independence. We want to test this dilemma in a hyperlocal context. Can local media that are rooted in a local community be committed to that community and contribute to solving this community’s problems, and at the same time act as an independent and critical voice within that community?

We will use a sample of a dozen Dutch hyperlocals that we investigated in an earlier research. In that research we looked at their organizational and business model. We will now focus on content. We identify issues that are covered for a longer period in a local community and research how these issues are covered. Special attention is given to elements that would either identify criticism (focus on adversary voices, attacks on people and institutions, investigations, holding people responsible, reporting on past events, negative implications) and ‘solving’ problems (suggesting actions, offering mobilizing information, giving practical information, showing solutions, reporting focused on future events, positive angles).

As stories on hyperlocal news sites often contain readers’ comments as well, we will include these comments in our research. We will also conduct interviews with journalists of hyperlocal news sites to see whether they have a specific strategy on covering important issues.

Henrik Bødker
Aarhus University, Denmark - imvhb@dac.au.dk
Panel B1: Rethinking Journalism as a Construction (Rubens Auditorium)

Journalism and the construction of ideology: From legacy production to digital circulation
Notions of circuitry are central to Stuart Hall’s conceptualisation of how communities, cultures and media constitute or construct each other. This is very explicit in his encoding/decoding model from 1973. While Hall here reserves the term “circulation” for a distinct moment, the broader argument is for a circular movement, or continuous (re-)construction of culture through media. In this broader view, Hall sees circulation as both technological and hermeneutical processes through which meaning and/or ideology move into and out of “signvehicles” (Hall’s term). The encoding/decoding text(s) refer on several occasions to “current affairs” but
later applications of this model have somewhat neglected the sphere of journalism. This paper consequently situates Hall’s circular notion of ideological construction in relation to new modes of circulating journalism on participatory digital platforms. Given the status of Hall’s model the overall goal of this rereading is two-fold: seeing Hall through contemporary issues puts into perspective key aspects of Hall’s thinking while Hall’s framework in turn helps illuminate important characteristics of how journalism is ascribed meaning in a digital landscape. A central point is here what (Langlois, 2014, p. 41) calls a “new governance of meaning” based on interlinked processes that coalesce to produce a “shift away from meaning itself toward the management of the circulation of content along a ‘more meaningful/less meaningful’ axis” (p. 43). This may, as will be discussed, entail a shift of weight from production to circulation with regard to the role of journalism in relation to the wider (re-)constructions of ideology.

References:

Henrik Bødker
Aarhus University, Denmark - imvhb@dac.au.dk

Panel H: Mediated Constructions of Migration and Cosmopolitanism (Rubens Auditorium)

Mediated constructions of a cosmopolitan European youth

The attack on the Bataclan Theatre in Paris in November 2015 targeted a transnational community of youths able to move and convene freely; as such, it was an attack on the liberal and cosmopolitan core of the European project. Along with the huge influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa this puts into sharp focus an opposition between a privileged cosmopolitan, who moves freely — in both a literal and imagined sense — across national and cultural boundaries, and people with goals that somehow undermine this ideal of mobility. Against this background, this paper seeks to investigate how CafeBabel (cafebabel.co.uk), a multilingual current affairs online magazine co-funded by the EU and aimed at youth, aims to construct a new generation of Europeans akin to what Beck and Beck-Gernsheim (2009), in a different context, call a “transnational generation on a global scale”. Such a transnational generation entails the promise of traversing inhibiting boundaries and the analyses of this paper specifically aims to draw out how the notion of mobility is journalistically constructed in relation to various markers of identity and how this may be linked to what Lindell (2014) calls a “cosmopolitan disposition”. What will be analysed and discussed is, more specifically, how such an ideal is constructed in relation to a perceived right to movement and, ultimately, how this is linked to social, legal and cultural hierarchies. The paper employs theories of cosmopolitanism and new media, global journalism studies, digital journalism as well as, more broadly, studies of youth cultures and (global) media. The analysis will be based on a selection of articles about the Paris attacks as well as articles about the recent refugee crisis. In terms of approach the paper will draw on discourse and web site analysis.

References:

Peter Bro
University of Southern Denmark, Denmark - ppe@journalism.sdu.dk

Panel A1: Conceptualizing Constructive Journalism (Marble Room)

Constructive journalism: Principles, practices and precedents

News reporters, editors and media owners who want to prompt action among their audiences in order to make society better have little news value. The party press flourished in many countries throughout the 19th century, action journalism was popular on both sides of the Atlantic in the early 20th century, public journalism was much debated in the latter part of the century, and now – in the 21st century – a new generation of journalists and editors are experimenting with what some have termed “constructive journalism” (see e.g. Gyldensted 2015 and Haagerup 2015). This paper tracks attempts to affect the world by way of news reporting, and the paper traces the historical differences and similarities between these and more traditional norms of news reporting. Finally,
the paper discusses the opportunities - and difficulties – journalistic pioneers have faced in the past and continue to challenge proponents of a more constructive journalism in the present. Theoretically, the paper is based on the literature about journalistic roles (see e.g. Donsbach & Patterson 2004 and Bro 2008), and empirically it refers to a variety of past and present journalistic attempts where news organizations - and well-known persons within the field, such as Joseph Pulitzer and Jakob A. Riis - have perceived themselves as public institutions with a duty to improve society.

References:

Joanna Chojnicka & Norman Laws
University of Bremen, Germany - joanna.chojnicka@uni-bremen.de
Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany - laws@uni.leuphana.de

Panel G: Resolving and Reconstructing through Constructive Journalism II (Throne Room)

“A future to believe in”: Sustainability and the Sanders campaign in advocacy journalism

Journalism is never neutral. The journalist can hardly escape his or her own ideological preconditions and the social circumstances he or she lives and works in. This accounts for the general societal order, but also for the workplace and its dynamics. In this paper we want to highlight how two forms of advocacy journalism that are – consciously or subconsciously – carried out by people working in the press, TV or new (social) media. For this purpose we will use two different examples that seem on the first glimpse barely related. But, as it will be shown, they are overlapping and intermingled, thus being able to serve as an illustration for the progressive advocacy journalism and the status quo advocacy journalism. The examples we will use are the different notions of sustainability and the coverage of the Sanders campaign during US primaries.

Social-constructivist and critical media theories claim that all news is constructed from a particular perspective and serves particular strategic goals. Sustainability is a case in point – the notion of sustainable development that reinforces economic growth is still promoted on mainstream media as a universally accepted approach, prevailingly ignoring the existing progressive alternatives – relational or societal forms of qualitative development. When it comes to the US primaries, the main US media (e.g. CNN) focused its coverage especially on the Trump and Clinton campaigns, neglecting the Sanders campaign and thus diminishing the public visibility of a questioning stance towards the status quo and the powerful interests behind it.

With the increasingly decentralized, participatory and activist electronic mass media, the traditional mainstream media may be losing their liberal-elite image as they come under scrutiny for the role they play in sustaining the status quo and thus holding off emancipatory and progressive ideas.

Roel Coesemans
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium – roel.coesemans@vub.ac.be

Promoting peace or conflict? Constructive vs destructive journalism during Kenya’s post-election crisis

The General Election on Thursday 27 December 2007 plunged Kenya into chaos. After rumours of vote rigging violence spread on the streets, while politicians fought for power. Discourse analytical, linguistic pragmatic and journalistic analyses of international and local news discourse on these dramatic elections revealed two main frames of interpretation. Whereas the international media promoted an ethnic frame of interpretation, the Kenyan media mainly covered the events from a sociopolitical perspective, steering clear of references to tribes or ethnicities (e.g. Coesemans, 2012a; Iraki, 2010; Oucho, 2010; Somerville, 2009). It is clear local journalists and foreign correspondents used different strategies while covering the same events, resulting in different stories.

This paper tries to shed some new light on the results of earlier ethnographically supported news discourse analyses (Coesemans, 2012b) by relating the studied news reports to strategies of peace and conflict journalism and by reinterpreting some of the findings through the lens of constructive journalism.

References
“Facts don’t work”: ‘Post-truth politics’ and the journalistic construction of facts in the EU referendum campaign

Arron Banks, the entrepreneur and largest donor to the Brexit campaign for the UK to leave the EU, has acknowledged in a newspaper interview that the successful campaign was predicated on generating an emotional response because ‘facts don’t work’ (Booth et al., 2016). The assertions made by the campaign – such as the £350M per week cost of EU membership which could instead be spent on the National Health Service – have been identified by commentators such as NYU professor of journalism Jay Rosen as ‘post-factual’ (Rosen, 2016).

‘Post-truth politics’ has been characterised as being recently imported to the UK from the United States (where it was found most recently in the campaigning of Donald Trump), and is understood as being in opposition both to Habermasian conceptions of the public sphere and to journalistic notions of objectivity. However, it can be challenged on the basis that political communications, in the form of spin, propaganda, rhetoric and public relations has always included such techniques (Negrine, 2008: 13). In this view, ‘post-truth politics’ is less a distortion of ‘true’ political activity, and more a discursive construction in the debates around the legitimacy and limits of political speech.

In this context, this paper will seek to understand how British media have constructed the notions of truth, fact and the ‘post-factual’ during the referendum campaign, by analysing a number of key contested issues in the referendum debates, with a particular focus on the ‘fact-check’ websites and blogs which emerged in order to address what media channels presented as a distorted and unenlightening political process.

References
Roos Dohmen, Luise Schlindwein, Mariska Kleemans, Rebecca De Leeuw & Moniek Buijzen
Radboud University, Nijmegen - M.Kleemans@maw.ru.nl
Radboud University, Nijmegen - r.deleeuw@maw.ru.nl
Radboud University, Nijmegen - m.buijzen@ru.nl

Panel C: Resolving and Reconstructing through Constructive Journalism I (Throne Room)

Talking about looking through rose-coloured glasses: How constructive news and peer-discussion influence a child’s reaction to news

Every day, more than 50% of the Dutch children (9-13 years) watch the children’s television news program Het Jeugdjournaal (CBS, 2014; De Leeuw et al, 2015). Although this program already uses several consolation strategies to make news suitable for them, it remains a challenge to present news to children because important events are mostly negative (Van der Molen & De Vries, 2003). Research has shown that children experience negative emotions and anxiety-related behaviors after exposure to negative news (Buijzen et al, 2007; Galician & Vestre, 1987; Riddle et al, 2012). It is thus important to investigate how these negative effects can be reduced. The current study therefore explores whether constructive journalism might be a promising way to present news to children.

To this end, 336 children (9-13 years old) were exposed to either a constructive broadcast (including positive elements and solutions (Gyldensted, 2015; McIntyre, 2015)) compared to a traditional broadcast (problem-based with focus on negative elements). Both episodes were about the same event, namely the 2011 tsunami in Japan. In addition, half of the children participated in a peer-discussion about the broadcast they were exposed to, in order to investigate whether talking with peers after watching the news moderates the effects of news on children’s reactions. A paper-and-pencil questionnaire was used to measure children’s emotional responses both before and after exposure to the constructive or traditional broadcast, and after the discussion. Moreover, as constructive journalism aims to improve not only individual, but also societal well-being, we also measured children’s prosocial intentions after exposure and after peer-discussion.

As expected, results demonstrated that constructive news, compared to traditional news, reduced negative emotions in children and led to a smaller decrease in positive emotions. Furthermore, peer-discussions held after exposure increased positive emotions and enhanced prosocial intentions in children. Finally, in the traditional condition, peer-discussion increased positive emotions and decreased negative emotions. These findings highlight that both constructive journalism and peer-discussions can function as tools to make negative news less harmful for children.

References


Reconstructing journalism together: A call for the collective responsibility of society for making (constructive) news

Journalism can and should be reconstructed to reconnect with the citizens it is supposed to serve. And researchers should take the responsibility of participating in the process. This paper lays out a proposal on how to include all the relevant social actors in a debate that would redefine the normative values and production practices of professional journalism; a journalism that would to foster constructive collective decision-making in local communities.

If we understand journalism as a collective social practice beyond the profession and the institution (Domingo and Le Cam, 2015), a practice that negotiates through everyday interactions the norms and values about what is news and who can produce them (Domingo and Wiard, 2016), then we should acknowledge that the news is not only a discursive construction, but also a collective one, the outcome of a dispersed myriad of efforts to describe events and impose alternative interpretations. Journalism itself is a social construction, a product of these interactions between multiple actors involved in newsmaking.

This paper revisits the implications of this approach in order to identify the responsibilities of different categories of actors in the definition and the practice of journalism: 1) how to develop a healthy relationship between politicians and professional journalists that acknowledges pluralism but fosters critical distance; 2) how can citizens get involved in journalism beyond the hype of the concept of “participation;“ 3) how can algorithms help to make journalism more efficient and inclusive; 4) how may policy-makers foster sustainable and plural media systems; 5) how can academics help foster these changes; and 6) how journalists may embrace old and new normative values in this context to regain legitimacy as the creators of the arena where common interest is debated.

References:

Political commitment as a source of journalistic power of construction: The case of the Gezi protests

The political commitment of the journalist is one of the most effective factors that determine the construction of the news. Its effect on journalists has become clearer during Gezi Protests and movements arisen with the occupation of Gezi Park on 1st of June 2013. The theoretical and rare empirical researches on the journalistic field in Turkey are generally interested in the framing of social phenomenon or movements. The dimension of ‘actor’ – according to Touraine’s term/concept- is the missing part of these studies. Few studies that interested with the relation between social movements and medias treated the journalist in the context of his/her professional conditions and commitments. However the journalist is also a social actor committed to political or social organization and acting by the influence of some specific ideology other than his professional ethics. On the other hand political commitment can be a key concept for studying different ways of constructive journalism: Some of them played important roles of mediation between protesters and the government during the protests. Journalists with different ideologies (Islamic, pro-governmental or leftist supporting Gezi) have acted as activists more than professionals. In-depth interviews with some of these journalists have revealed this constructive aspect of journalism.

Journalistic field is a place of struggles for imposing the dominant principle of social vision or division. Terms used by journalists when they present protesters, their source of information are significant for analysing the construction of a social phenomenon. In this context this research aims to expose the effect of different ideologies on the ‘construction’ of Gezi protests by journalists. Political commitment, ‘social trajectory’ and ‘dominant principle of vision or division’–with the terms of Bourdieu- are some of the key concepts in this study. In-depth interviews with approximately 40 journalists; discourse analysis on their writings published during the occupation of Gezi park, are the technics used during this research.
The role of the media in constructing the resolution: The Turkish case

Media, while covering the conflicts, mostly benefit from power, politics, economic targets and mainstream ideologies. However, in recent years as a result of increasing role of mass communication in directing world politics, the literature regarding peace journalism started to be used in defining the responsibilities of the media regarding social consensus both in local and global context and thus many media scholars such as Lynch (2005), Keeble (2010), and Allan (2007) extensively focused on the debates regarding the role of peace journalism in overcoming the socio-political clashes. Nevertheless, looking at the effect of the media in constructing the resolution in global conflict issues, it is possible to state that there are many questions regarding the scope of peace journalism and its practice at other media courses.

This paper, in this regard, handling the representation of the conflicts in the Turkish media, the Kurdish Issue in particular, (a) tries to answer the questions regarding solution-oriented news production, (b) questions the reasons of traditional ways in media approach to the conflicts, (c) asks broader questions regarding the media freedoms whilst covering the sensitive issues and (d) tries to analyse how media contribute the democratisation in the country. The analysis of the political and professional factors that have combined to analyse the role of media in constructing the peace will be based on semi-structured informant interviews with media professionals. To be able to extensively answer the practice of peace journalism I have also conducted content analysis of the two main news items regarding the Kurdish Issue. Both these methods will at the same time allow us to examine the change in the Turkish news production. The issues related to the sociology of news will be particularly handled such as agenda building factors of the mainstream Turkish media, media and government dealings, the relation between the news sources and news producers within the process of news production.
Frank Harbers, Andrea Wagemans & Tamara Witschge
University of Groningen, The Netherlands - f.harbers@rug.nl
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France - andrea.wagemans@gmail.com
University of Groningen, The Netherlands - t.a.c.witschge@rug.nl
Panel A1: Conceptualizing Constructive Journalism (Marble Room)

**Constructed and constructive journalism as entrepreneurial strategy**
In this paper we examine the extent to which both journalism as constructed and constructive is part of the discourse and practice of entrepreneurial journalism. With many new challenges in the journalistic field, we find that emerging forms of journalism seek to set themselves apart, both in the way they define journalism and the way in which they do journalism. An important part of the emerging journalistic self-understanding is the idea that journalism needs to have an impact, be relevant, ‘move people’: journalists are not ‘mere’ messengers. Our research data, which includes interviews with 124 entrepreneurial journalists in four continents, reveal how many aim to make a ‘constructive’ contribution to society. Moreover, entrepreneurial journalists are very much aware of the ‘constructed’ nature of their output: journalism is not ‘something out there’ to be reported on, but rather, entrepreneurial journalists acknowledge that their coverage and storytelling is determined by their own, personal perspective and approach. Rather than suggesting that journalism is an objective affair, journalists seek to find their niche by highlighting how what they do is different to what others do.

However, while we see that the idea of journalism as constructive and constructed is very much present in our data, we have to look at this critically. First, there is great diversity, also among entrepreneurial journalists, as to how the societal role of journalism is perceived. Second, whilst journalism as constructed/constructive gains ground in both theory and practice of journalism, this by no means provides a cohesive or comprehensive definition of journalism, nor is it radically overhauling existing ways of categorizing journalism. Our research shows, for instance, that the dichotomy of subjectivity/objectivity is still strongly present in the discourse on journalism. As such, the concepts of constructed and constructive journalism, though valuable they may be, do not provide definitive answers to the long-lasting debate about what journalism is and what it should be. We need to consider to what extent they enable us move beyond the dichotomies such as subjective versus objective, and help us view the practice and conceptualisation of journalism as an on-going, and diverse process, rather than a static and fixed project.

With this paper we aim to provide a more nuanced, historically and culturally contextualized understanding of how the concept of journalism as constructed and constructive is defined and practiced. Understood as performative discourse, we gain insight into how journalism as constructed/constructive allows new players to juxtapose their practice to that of traditional journalists, and how it functions both as journalistic ideal and as marketing rhetoric.

Chung Kam Kwok
Trinity College Dublin, Ireland - kwokc@tcd.ie

**Panel D: Constructed Journalism, Politics, and Democracy (Rubens Auditorium)**

**“Chinese is the language of the future”: How Mandarin Chinese is constructed as the saviour of the Irish economy in the press**
Ireland’s decade long economic boom ended as the country was hit by the global economic crisis and the burst of its own economic bubble in the late 2000s. Meanwhile, the Chinese economy stayed robust in the midst of the turmoil. Against this backdrop, Mandarin Chinese is seen as a key to tapping the Chinese market. Examining two best-selling quality newspaper in Ireland from 2010 to 2015, three strategies that constructed learning Mandarin as the road to personal and national prosperity were identified. News articles tend to 1) portray Chinese tourists as high rollers; 2) emphasise the inability to speak a second language among Irish people which poses a hindrance to economic growth; 3) depict the effort made by other European and the world’s major economies in promoting Mandarin long before Ireland did and Ireland is lagging behind. I argue that these discursive strategies obscure the relationship between linguistic skills and economic growth. Specifically, while it is undeniable that China became the driving force of the world economy in the post-crisis era, the correlation between the ability to speak Chinese (and other languages) and growth is unclear, as Coleman and Hylew (2010) contend. This simplistic approach to finding solution may result in hasty actions in language policy making which would help the recovery of the country nor the unique social and linguistic situation of Ireland.

**Reference**
Yin Le
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China - yinle@cass.org.cn
Panel A2: Global Perspectives on Constructive Journalism (Marble Room)

Constructive journalism in China: Perceptions and attitudes
The traditional journalism concept has been challenged in today’s social media environment, which inquires a further study from the perspective of constructive journalism. This study tends to find the answers to the following questions: How to understand the global development of constructive journalism in social media environment? Will the positive news be an eminent issue in China? What are the attitudes of normal people, the journalists and the policy makers towards constructive journalism? What are the positive and negative impacts? This study consists of three parts. First, based on the long-term participant observation and semi-structured interview, this paper provides an overview of the evolution of positive news/good news spreading through different mass media in China and focuses on the journalists’ attitudes towards constructive journalism in social media environment. The second is of the survey of the current perceptions and attitudes of Chinese people towards the concept and practice of constructive journalism. What kinds of information do people like and are willing to share? What are the motivations? What do people expect to acquire most in the field of constructive journalism? This survey will be conducted by in July 2016, of which the sample size is around 2000 citizens. The third part discusses the attitudes’ differences, the role of social media and the future of constructive Journalism in China.

Florence Le Cam
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium - flecam@ulb.ac.be
Panel B1: Rethinking Journalism as a Construction (Rubens Auditorium)

How journalism spaces are thought: Learning from architectural plans and discourses
The newsroom symbolizes the work of journalism. But in addition to being a symbol, this room is also the physical space that gives birth to the production of information. In a moment when its centrality is being questioned by developments in newswork practices (telework, outsourcing, dispersed production, plurality of contributors), it is relevant to look back and acknowledge that the configuration of newsrooms was partly devised by other social actors besides the journalists, with architects having a crucial role in defining journalism though their projects. Evolving from a small room at the heart of the printing house to a large, mobile, open office, the newsroom is an important notion that allows us to contemplate the changes that have transformed journalism over the last century. This paper focuses on the perspective of architects on journalism, following up the preliminary analysis of a corpus of photographs of Western media newsrooms at various points in history (from the end of the 19th century up to today) (Le Cam, 2015). The analysis of the organization of work space is relevant to understand the constraints and flexibilities that journalists have to deal with, while their spatial environment has been imagined by others and are the result of ideologies. This paper proposes then to analyse the dialectic between space and ethnographies of work (Chari & Gidwani, 2005), focusing on the workplaces as imagined mainly by architects. A first case study analyses a series of architect’s plans from the quality newspaper Le Soir in Belgium from the end of the 19th century up to today. This series of plans reveals how the newsroom has been imagined, anticipating or following changes in the daily work of journalists. The second case study focuses on the conceptualization of the future Media Park Brussels. This project, promoted by the Agency for Territorial Development of the capital region, is planning the constructing new facilities for the public broadcasters and related media companies under the supervision of a well-known architect. Plans and interviews with the main actors show how a collective project (institutions, media, and researchers) imagine the current issues for the journalistic work environment.

References
Hye-Mi Lee, Hye-Yeong Gim & Seoung-Ho Ryu
Kangwon National University, South-Korea - leehm0818@kangwon.ac.kr
Kangwon National University, South-Korea - shryu@kangwon.ac.kr
Panel D: Constructed Journalism, Politics, and Democracy (Rubens Auditorium)

A semantic network analysis of reports relating to American presidential candidates in Korea

The outsider craze displayed during the American presidential election process and the Korean media has reported on this topic. Reports on ‘Donald Trump’, the conservatively disposed candidate, and ‘Bernie Sanders’, the progressively disposed candidate, can be analyzed based on the results of existing studies claiming that reporting frames vary according to the ideological disposition of Korean media sources. Based on the ideological disposition of organizations, Chosunilbo and DongAIlbo were classified as ‘conservative press’ (CP) while Hankyoreh and KyunghyangShinnun as ‘progressive press’ (PP). Upon analyzing Trump, there was no significant difference between CP or PP. A significant portion of the issues reported were related directly to Korea, such as the defense cost for Asian allies, and the termination or removal of US forces. This demonstrates that the Korean press applies a significant weight to issues related to Trump’s diplomatic policies. And then the Korean press often reports negatively on Trump known for real estate millionaire. Such a reporting disposition was similar in all forms of press regardless of any predetermined ideological disposition. Although ‘Trump’ espouses conservative values as an extreme right American Presidential candidate, there was no ideological conflict. Meanwhile, the reports by the Korean press on Sande display differences based on ideological dispositions. ‘Sanders’ promotes conservative values of ‘Americana’ as well as the progressive values of ‘relieving inequality’, and thus, perhaps he is a subject on which ideological differences between the press can be manifest. Upon comparison of the priority of frequency, CP used the expressions, ‘socialist’, whereas the PP used the expressions, ‘inequality’. PP aimed to express the criticism of social problems and established politics identified by Sanders concerning the ‘Korean’ society, whereas CP criticized the blunt expressions specifically naming Korean politician like Sanders. A different disposition of reports from different perspectives and context was ascertained, regardless of the use of the same terms. Thus, the semantic composition of the press on a specific issue displays significant differences according to their ideological disposition.

Kyser Lough & Karen McIntyre
The University of Texas at Austin, USA - kyserl@utexas.edu
Virginia Commonwealth University, USA - kem McIntyre@vcu.edu
Panel G: Resolving and Reconstructing through Constructive Journalism II (Throne Room)

Visualizing the solution: An analysis of the images that accompany solutions-oriented news stories

As scholarly work on solutions and constructive journalism increases, attention must also be given to the visual side of the story. Visual framing studies show that visual information overwhelms verbal information when both are presented to the reader. If those messages conflict, the visual message is the one readers will remember (Coleman, 2010). The power of this transfer of salience to the reader through visuals brings us to wonder if images in a solutions-oriented article carry the same message as the text and thus transfer the same message to the reader. Scholars have found that solutions frames impact how memorable a problem is to the audience as well as how probable they are to take action (Entman, 1993). Within the realm of photojournalism, one photographer noted his images resonated more strongly with the audience when they included “both hardship and hope” (Gyldensted, 2015). This study will analyze the visual content included in a sample of stories from the Solutions Journalism Network’s “Story Tracker” database of 1,420 international articles that have been identified as properly utilizing solutions journalism techniques. Points of analysis include whether the image visually depicts a solution or a problem, whether it came from staff or a wire service and to what level on the emotional hierarchy it stands. From this analysis, we will be able to better understand the type of visual content that is being presented with solutions-oriented news stories and which types of stories tend to attract certain types of images. As the research field on constructive and solutions journalism grows, visuals will continue to be an important point of analysis and this study provides a strong entry point for visual communication research.

References
Karen McIntyre & Meghan Sobel  
Virginia Commonwealth University, US - kmcintyre@vcu.edu  
Regis University, US - msobel@regis.edu

Panel C: Resolving and Reconstructing through Constructive Journalism I (Throne Room)

Reconstructing Rwanda: How Rwandan reporters use constructive journalism to promote peace

Several forms of news reporting have emerged under the umbrella of constructive journalism, which, in keeping with the social responsibility theory of the press, calls for the news media to be an active participant in enhancing societal well-being (Gyldensted, 2015). Perhaps nowhere in the world is journalism more constructive than in modern-day Rwanda. Twenty-two years ago, Rwanda lost up to one million of its citizens in a government-led genocide. Two short decades later, Rwanda has the highest primary school enrollment rates in Africa (UNICEF), a higher percentage of women in parliament (64%) than any country in the world (Inter-Parliamentary Union), and a soaring GDP rate (African Development Bank Group).

The media have been remarkably influential in Rwanda, a country where literacy is low and trust in the media is high. Reporters used this power for evil 22 years ago when state-run media houses exacerbated the genocide through so-called hate media (Kellow & Steeves, 1998). Given Rwanda’s impressive recovery, we wondered whether modern journalists use their power to promote a healthier public climate by working to unite the individuals their predecessors tore apart. Therefore, we sought to answer the following questions: What role have the media played in the post-genocide reconstruction of the country? And, do Rwandan journalists use constructive journalism techniques to promote progress?

In order to answer these questions, qualitative interviews with 24 Rwandan journalists were conducted in Rwanda in May and June 2016. Through multiple deep readings of the interview transcripts as well as the use of the qualitative data analysis platform Dedoose, results suggest Rwandan journalists have indeed contributed to the reconstruction of the country by practicing constructive journalism. Reporters feel an obligation to promote unity and as such, publish stories of resilience, hope, healing and inclusion that contribute to peace and progress.

References:

Renée Moernaut
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium - Renee.Moernaut@vub.ac.be

Panel G: Resolving and Reconstructing through Constructive Journalism II (Throne Room)

Construction work in progress? The hegemonic struggle underlying two multimodal climate change frames

Climate change is the global threat of the 21st century. Yet, our collective future largely depends on the ways in which media, among others, frame climate change. The dominant environmental frames have, however, been criticized for only manipulating (passive) consumers into supporting short-term actions, which serve the interests of the elites. Put differently, the mainstream frames are only superficially environmental and keep reproducing the (anthropocentric) hegemonic ideology. Real change, contrariwise, requires profound, ideological transformations (towards biocentric values). The engagement of active citizens and bottom-up groups is a means and a purpose. Alternative media, in particular, can be crucial for such endeavors: Through their bottom-up approach (e.g., citizen journalists, reversed hierarchy of access) they attempt to open up the public debate.

As one frame can promote various ideologies, familiar ‘masterframes’ like ‘Cycles of Nature’ or ‘Environmental Justice’ can provide convenient contexts for hegemonic struggles. However, little is known yet about the nature of the hegemonic and counter-hegemonic (media) ‘subframes’, particularly in alternative media. Therefore, conducting a multimodal qualitative framing analysis, we discuss the differential realizations of the Environmental Justice and the Cycles of Nature frames. Our corpus encompasses three mainstream northern Belgian newspapers and two alternative outlets.
The results demonstrate in detail the remarkable similarities among the two selected frames and striking contrasts within the frames. The anthropocentric ‘subframes’ foreground an external fight with a largely external enemy (GHG). The biocentric ‘subframes’ highlight internal problems within human society, which need to be solved internally. Yet, our analysis also shows that the alternative subframes still lack the potency to truly inspire bottom-up engagement or to expand the number of solutions considered: They are quantitatively and qualitatively underdeveloped, failing to provide concrete, positive solutions, encouraging us-them dualisms and/or lacking a truly biocentric language. Hence, we call for further (collaborative) scrutiny and construction work.

References

Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska
Opole University, Poland - molekk@uni.opole.pl

Panel E: Constructed | Constructive Journalism and the Popular/Commercial (Throne Room)

**Constructive frames for disease and ageing in popular science journalism**

Science journalism is a discursive domain where science-related content is expressed in ways that are accessible to the broader public. Its objective should be to disseminate science news effectively and responsibly. However, a gradual shift towards popular forms of journalism has resulted in more attention being paid to selecting science news items that are attractive and resonant. This construction of newsworthiness through language and image (Bednarek & Caple, 2012) leads to the proliferation of frames that render science-related events as if they had particular relevance and significance for the target readers. This, in turn, can be linked to the fact that the institutions of science have doubled their PR efforts to improve public perception and ensure public funding (Bauer & Bucchi, 2007). As the notion of framing is used to analyze “persistent selection, emphasis and exclusion” (Gitlin, 1980, p. 7), it can be productively applied in the study of constructed representations of scientific, particularly medical, advances. This paper aims to characterize some dominant frames in science reports devoted to disease and ageing by identifying which linguistic devices are used to engage readers, despite the alienating nature of the themes. The analytic perspective used here is an adaptation of the newsworthiness framework. The material is a collection of most read articles (according to online traffic) sampled from the website of the popular international science magazine New Scientist between late 2013 and mid-2015. The sampled texts are analyzed to identify newsworthiness frames that highlight the scientific credibility of the coverage while mixing it with unexpectedness and speculation.

References:
Laima Nevinskaitė
Research Institute of the Lithuanian Language and Institute of Social Innovations, Lithuania - laima.nevinskaite@gmail.com
Panel F: Constructed Journalism, Politics, and Democracy (Rubens Auditorium)

Securitization of Russia in the Lithuanian media: An actor analysis
The presentation investigates a special case of construction in the media—securitization. The theory of securitization raises the question of why and how some issues are framed as a threat and become issues of security. It is based on the assumption that ‘no issue is essentially a menace’ and ‘something becomes a security problem through discursive politics’ (Balzacq 2011: 1).

Since the Ukrainian crisis, the discourse on Russian foreign policy in respect to its western neighbours has intensified in the Lithuanian media, and seems to provide a case of securitization. The research is based on qualitative analysis of a sample from the Lithuanian online media. The presentation addresses two questions: how Russia is constructed as a threat and what actors take part in this construction? The first question is asked to demonstrate that Russia is constructed as a threat and takes a brief glance at what devices are employed in this process, such as use of particular words, metaphors, use of emotions, etc. The second question is about what actors are quoted or otherwise referred to in these constructions.

Analysis shows that the actors whose names mostly appear in the messages constructing the threat are the President of the Republic of Lithuania, some other politicians, and experts; representatives of international organisations are frequently mentioned, too. However, some cases of threat framing seem to not refer to any particular actor and must be classified as coming from the media/journalist; besides that, the journalist decides on whom to quote and how to present the quote. Thus the presentation will also try to look at the signs of journalist participation in securitization discourse.

References

Michaël Opgenhaffen & Kasper Welbers
KU Leuven, Belgium - michael.opgenhaffen@soc.kuleuven.be
KU Leuven, Belgium - kasper.welbers@kuleuven.be
Panel E: Constructed | Constructive Journalism and the Popular/Commercial (Throne Room)

News captions as emotion-making instruments in social media news
With the rising popularity of social media as news sources a new common format element for presenting news has emerged: in addition to the classic headline, lead and picture, social media users can add a caption containing their own message about the news article. We argue that news media use these captions as a strategic ritual of emotionality (Wahl-Jorgensen, 2013) in journalism to bridge the gap between objective reporting and the more interpersonal and subjective logic of social media.

To investigate this we used computational text analysis to measure whether captions from newspapers on Facebook contain more subjective and positive language compared to headlines and leads. Our analysis of 167,581 news posts on Facebook, covering nine newspapers from the Netherlands and Flanders over a period of 2.5 years, confirms that captions are more subjective and more positive. We conclude that newspapers use captions to strategically outsource emotion to the social media format.

This calls for a normative discussion addressing the con-sequences of using captions in this manner. On the one hand, adjusting to the social, interpersonal format of social media can be considered to be at odds with the dominant paradigm of objective reporting. On the other hand, traditional journalism has been criticized for being too elitist and too detached from the audience, and social media could be a way to reconnect. One might argue that captions—as external additions to news articles—could be a way to achieve the latter without harming the former.

References
What is the understanding of constructive journalism among academics, editors and journalists in Croatia and socialist/former Yugoslav country with a transitional journalism culture, which might provide us with a useful perspective for making sense of this new development. I draw on a series of semi-structured interviews I conducted with different stakeholders: academics, news producers and journalists – on how they understand the relevance of constructive journalism for how the future of journalism. My interviewees suggest that in Croatia the term connotes what was well known in Yugoslavia, where the word «constructive» was used as an opposite to «destructive», leading to anarchy. It described a role of the journalist in the communist society who was supporting the «best political system» and seeking to avoid being read as "critical" or "destructive".

The negative reactions to the campaign quickly overshadowed the campaign itself and made it a local as well as a national news item. Criticism appeared social media, alternative news sites and many individuals also protested against the campaign by calling and emailing the municipal communicators responsible. The negative reaction was largely driven by web sites and accounts linked to the far/populist right.

This paper analyzes the interplay between four categories of actors in relation to this campaign: (1) the producers of the campaign, (2) the (mostly right-wing) protesters, (3) local news media/journalists, and (4) national news media/journalists, using an overarching framework of contested construction. The producers wanted to construct a particular image of Karlstad and create a particular (positive) media framing; the online protesters wanted to re-construct the event as an anti-refugee/immigration rallying point; the local news media were mainly interested in covering a local event that had “turned national”; and the national news media were interested in making the local event fit with ongoing national news narratives and themes. In short, the event became a focal point of multiple and competing construction attempts, where “journalism/news media” was not a monolithic actor. The paper expands the concept of “construction” in relation to journalism both by including audience/citizen actors and political/civil servant actors in the news construction process, and by demonstrating that “journalism” or “news media” cannot be seen as monolithic actors in news construction.
Travel journalism: A constructive approach to tourism reporting

Often overlooked by academia, lifestyle journalism presents an interesting case for exploring notions of constructive journalism. More specifically, this study focuses on travel journalism, a type of lifestyle journalism, which many researchers suggest requires more attention in an increasingly globalized world as the tourism industry continues to grow (Hanusch 2012). Travel journalism involves exploring cultures as well as offering practical information to audiences, rooted in a history of travel narratives and different genres that spans centuries. Recent research on this niche journalistic form address its relationship with consumerism, entertainment, critical perspectives, cosmopolitanism, and ethical considerations that set it apart from other types of reporting (Hanusch and Fürsich 2014). Can travel journalism, however, be situated within a constructive context, focusing on more positive or empowering subjects? This newer interpretation of journalism as constructive involves identifying a path forward, stressing a social importance for a story (Gyldensted 2015).

How, then, can these practices apply to journalism that serves an audience who is planning a trip, as opposed to an audience composed of citizens participating in a democracy? Through qualitative interviews with a sample of travel journalists in Paris, as well as a content analysis of their work, this study explores the possibility of taking a constructive approach to this niche media. Professionals share how they do in fact aspire to constructive ideals by remaining positive in their stories, by putting their audiences first, and by emboldening their readers to push further in their travels. These results help illustrate to what extent travel journalism can be considered as a form of constructive journalism and opens up paths for further research and interpretation within niche media.

References

Top-down human rights and bottom-up citizenship: Democratic debate on human rights practices in mainstream and alternative news media

The potential role of news media for communication about and mobilisation against human rights violations has long been a topic of academic interest, but rarely more potent than now. Nevertheless, human rights discourse seems to have faded to the margins of national political debate and policy, and civic engagement and mobilisation appears at times severely lacking. The suggested political disinclination and civic indifference towards the international human rights system is surprising, as human rights in principle and in practice have long been articulated as a matter of near-universal consensus.

Through a mix of qualitative and quantitative analyses this study aims to grasp both the substantive trends in Flemish human rights reporting and the scope of ideological assumptions underlying such news coverage. First, an exploratory study of human rights reporting from 2002 to 2015 in the Flemish quality newspapers De Standaard and De Morgen charts the scope, evolution and substantive currents of over 10,000 articles and op-eds. Next, reporting on a selection of mediatized cases in these quality newspapers and their alternative counterpart Mo*magazine are studied in-depth. Content is analysed on the level of themes and subjects associated with human rights as a principle and in practice, the actors that are given epistemic authority and those that are not, and finally the arguments that are presented in news media discourses and the scope of the potential discussion on human rights practices.

This research argues that the predicament of human rights culture partly stems from the top-down demarcation of democratic debate on human rights practices, whereby existing power relations and procedures have been naturalised, and civic influence and responsibility is conventionalized as necessarily limited. This paper finishes by discussing the implications of the seeming consensus on internationalised human rights practice for the concept of democratic citizenship.
Filipa Perdigão Ribeiro & Kate Torkington
University of the Algarve, Portugal - fperdig@ualg.pt
University of the Algarve, Portugal - ktorking@ualg.pt
Panel H: Mediated Constructions of Migration and Cosmopolitanism (Rubens Auditorium)

Academic circles have become increasingly aware of the issues surrounding the labelling of different forms of migration, but during the last six months of 2015, the intense media focus on the so-called ‘migrant crisis’ in the Mediterranean also led to a terminological debate in certain sections of the international press and other public arenas. This debate was centred not on merely semantic questions, but also on ideological issues since the terms used to describe social groups implies frameworks, categories and conceptualisations which can almost certainly have social and political implications: the construction of representations of people ‘on the move’ through media discourse may lead not only to the formation of stereotypes but also, ultimately, to differential treatment of people.

This paper focuses on Portugal, which is usually (self)-perceived as a fairly tolerant country in terms of hosting migrants, and seeks to explore how different migration-related words in Portuguese (namely imigrante, migrante and refugiado) have been used in the digital press over the past five years by exploring how journalism discursive practices (re)construct and (re)frame various migrant groups. Our data comes from a corpus of articles drawn from several Portuguese digital newspapers, using a methodology that combines corpus linguistics and a critical discourse analytical approach, which views language as a constitutive component of social reality. Linguistic features are explored in order to uncover the discursive positionings towards certain groups represented in the articles, as well as the dynamics of agency. Our findings show that there is a noticeable shift in representations and positioning over the period under study, particularly after the terminological debate in the summer of 2015.

Sanne Rotmeijer
KITLV/Leiden University, The Netherlands - rotmeijer@kitlv.nl
Panel session I: Local Contexts of Constructive Journalism (Throne Room)
Small islands, big impact: Constructive journalism practices in St. Maarten and Curaçao

Current research in Journalism Studies show how increasing vulnerability of local news media to (in)direct commercial and political interference is reflected in editorial bias towards more uncritical positive and soft news (Nielsen 2015), also in the Caribbean (Storr 2016). However, looking from the perspective of constructive journalism (Gyldensted 2015; McIntyre 2015) an editorial focus on more positive news items and constructive story framing can also be the result of deliberate choices based on the idea that journalists can and should contribute to social change.

This paper addresses this constructive journalism perspective in the small-scale media landscapes of two Caribbean islands, Curaçao and St. Maarten, both in the middle of a postcolonial nation-building process as they became autonomous countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 2010 while retaining their non-sovereign status. Based on ten months of fieldwork and more than forty interviews with local journalists in Curaçao and St. Maarten, this study of four concrete print and social news media vignettes shows that local journalists aspiring to contribute to nation-building implement constructive elements in their news stories. Indeed, I argue that positive news selection and constructive story framing often result from ideals to strengthen local communities and contribute to nation-building.

By closely examining concrete vignettes of constructive journalism in two island nations, this paper sheds new light on constructive journalism practices in small-scale local media landscapes.

References
Multimodal orders of discourse in the constructive representation of Sicilian antimafia in global video reportages

Crime reports and video documentaries about Italian mafias (Jewkes 2015) such as Italian Cosa Nostra traditionally focus on the representation of criminal actors such as mafia bosses and hitmen during arrests, as they escape police or order killings, less on the powerless victims, crime fighters or collaborators with justice (Caliendo, Lanslots & Sambre 2016). This contribution zooms in on TV news video coverage about anti-mafia movements in the legal and civil spheres, as they call for an alternative, less repressive and therefore constructive framing of civil resistance against Italy’s mafias (Friedman, Epstein & Wood 2012, Sambre fc.).

We describe how new orders of interaction arise, foregrounding new actors and voices speaking up against the mafia, its violent crimes, its illegal activities, and its law of silence (Superti 2009, Di Maggio 2011, Crowther 2014). This description involves the analysis of the discursive representation of new lines of communication and relations between legal and civil anti-mafia players, both on the institutional, collective or individual level (Machin & Mayr 2013, Van Leeuwen 2005). Furthermore, reportages may choose not to show mafia actors, or to reposition local criminals in a global narrative about anti-mafia resistance.

Our corpus is composed of a corpus of 6 English and Dutch video news coverage (Al Jazeera, France 24 English, Channel 5, SBS Australia, Canvas) analyzed through the theoretical critical discourse analytical lens of Fairclough’s (2006) ideas about the impact of local grassroots initiatives on change in hegemonic transnational (political and media) discourse.

Our description allows for a multimodal classification of these new activist mafia reportages in terms of combined verbal (i.e. who speaks to whom about whom) and visual representations (i.e. how, where and in the presence of whom is such speech/speaker visually contextualized) of orders of discourse for legal, social, political, educational, cultural, moral and media antimafia actors. The activist role of the news medium comes into play in the mafia reportage by the stance-taking of scenario writers and journalists displayed as they conceive of and interact with one or more anti-mafia dimensions in Italian society, using the Italian and English/Dutch language, as they address their own non-Italian audiences.

References
The representation of migrants in digital media: Investigating websites of selected media institutions from the British Isles, the USA and Australia

Last year has seen an unprecedented wave of asylum seekers arriving in Germany and other parts of Europe. Hand in hand with that development, reports about these migrants dominated the news around the world. How do media institutions, in particular online newspapers, construct these events involving migrants discursively, starting from their desire to arrive, their arrival, their accommodation, their daily life in their host country? The study focuses on English-speaking online news, in which newspapers of the British Isles, the USA and Australia have been chosen and compared. The British Isles have themselves experienced immigrants from this wave and thus might report differently than the USA and Australia, which are physically detached from that development, but which are historically immigrant countries. From these newspapers, articles from 2016 have been chosen that describe the migration to Europe in general and to Germany in particular. For this empirical study, corpus linguistic tools are used. It analyses the most common keywords and collocations of reports about migrants. Central questions, for instance, are if migrants are differentiated according to their religion, home country, language or sex and if so, in which contexts this happens. So, for example, sexual assaults of migrants are often attributed to North African male people. Female migrants, however, are rather reported to be victims of male asylum seekers themselves. Language use in (online) newspapers has important consequences on migrants living in Europe and on society in general. From the constructed reality in newspapers, clichés and expectations arise, according to which migrants are supposed to act, and if they do not, they have to justify their behaviour. Consequently, media institutions might pave the way for prevalent attitudes.

Constructing the ideal relationship: The image of intimate relationships in the Flemish women’s magazine Flair

For many years, women’s magazines were considered extremely valuable as historical sources, representing source material about the lives, thoughts and concerns of women in a particular period of time. Women’s magazines were seen as ‘mirrors of their time’, as ‘the morality, customs and traditions, yes, the whole spirit of that age is captured in letters and lines’ (Wassenaar 1976: 8). Consequently, they have long been studied in a descriptive way, considering them as reflectors of an independent social reality. However, instead of being mere passive witnesses or a reflection of the ‘real’ world outside, women’s magazines are also very important as cultural products, as they themselves define, by means of their organisation, number and content, cultural reality. Therefore, in recent years, there has been a shift towards a constructionist view, emphasising the important role they play in constructing that reality (Kitch 2015). Consequently, magazines are considered to be prescriptive as well as descriptive, as they not only reflect society as it is, but also prescribe how it should be by constructing ideals to which readers should aspire (Kitch 2015: 10). As a case study, this paper focuses on the ‘ideal’ image of relationships and how it is constructed through the pages of a popular Flemish women’s magazine, Flair (2013). Our analysis focuses on visual images of women and/or men and visual references to love, relationships and sexual activities. We seek to find out which image of relationships is depicted by Flair and how women are represented in their intimate (sexual) relationships.

References
The (white) Asian grooming gang

In February 2016 three British Asian men and two white British women were convicted of the sexual exploitation of twelve girls in Rotherham. Rotherham is a post industrial town in the north of England and has become notorious as a centre for sexual exploitation, particularly involving men of Pakistani origin. This case came at a time of moral panic about the ‘Asian grooming gangs’ scandal that has become an established part of the current British news discourse, as well as the dominant strain of Islamophobia that runs through much of the British media. Despite the estimate that 1400 young people had been victims of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham over a sixteen year period, to date this is only the second prosecution. This case involved a curious aspect in the form of these two white women who acted as procurresses and enforces for the men in the case, providing and controlling the adolescent victims. Despite the central role of these women, the emphasis of much of the coverage has been on the men rather than the women, despite their pivotal role in the exploitation of the victims. Drawing on a background of Rhetorical Psychology (Billig, 1991) and utilising large corpus media analysis, this paper sets out to examine the print media coverage of this case, specifically the continued construction of this “form of these two white women who acted as procuresses and enforces for the men in the case, providing and controlling the adolescent victims. Despite the central role of these women, the emphasis of much of the coverage has been on the men rather than the women, despite their pivotal role in the exploitation of the victims. Drawing on a background of Rhetorical Psychology (Billig, 1991) and utilising large corpus media analysis, this paper sets out to examine the print media coverage of this case, specifically the continued construction of this

As an ‘Asian grooming gang’ case despite the critical role of the two white women. Additionally, the complex intersections of gender, ethnicity, and Islamophobia are central to an understanding of the media representations of this case.

References:
Gender fluidity in hybrid journalism: The case of the *i* newspaper on the constructed other-representation of transgender people

In a society struggling to move beyond mere tolerance and towards embracing gender diversity, language and its use by the media take on a major social role in shaping and representing new gendered communities of practice. The existing binary and heteronormative linguistic categories are clashing with emerging communities, possibly leading to the creation of new hybrid, inclusive, non-discriminating discourses. Consequently, it becomes crucial to investigate the dynamics of power ensuing the use of language.

In this sense, the aim of this contribution is to explore the representation of transgender people in the British press, specifically in the *i*: a new hybrid form of newspaper, a quality daily in a tabloid format. Thus, this research points both at highlighting the representation of a diverse community by a diverse newspaper; and at investigating it as to pinpoint its main features and validate its description as centre-left quality tabloid.

In the framework of news discourse analysis (van Dijk 1988; Bell 1991; Bednarek and Caple 2012) and through the use of Corpus Linguistics (Baker 2006, 2014), this study focuses on the semantic prosody (Hunston 2007) and the evaluative stances (Bednarek 2006) conveyed by given linguistic choices in the abovementioned newspaper and, consequently, on the representation of the transgender community offered. This will be achieved through a comparison of the corpus of news stories on transgender people published on the *i* (2013-2015) and two reference corpora on the same topic collected from popular and quality UK newspapers in the same time-span.

This contribution will, thus, attempt to offer statistical evidence on whether the linguistic and content features of the *i* are more similar to the ones of other popular or quality newspapers.

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