

Symposium: “On Being an International Newswoman”

Introduction

The presentations in this symposium focus on international newswomen, a group of reporters who have received the brunt of persecution and human rights violations in recent years. Female journalists, who are often viewed as the weak link of international newsgathering in many parts of the world, have been murdered, abducted, raped, threatened with death, and forced into exile. This symposium will consist of presentations of case studies of a number of female journalists who were caught up in such problematic situations.

Abstracts

Session 1 (Respondent, Uyanga Bazaa)

Julie Grandjean

Governmentality and Female Journalists: A Comparative Case Study of Two Newswomen in Russia and Cuba.

Being a journalist is a dangerous profession. But is it more dangerous when the journalists are women? This paper analyzes the cases of Anna Politkovskaya from Russia, and Yoani Sánchez from Cuba. The comparative case study was carried out within the framework of the concept of governmentality, the idea that each nation has a mentality of governance that impacts freedom of expression. Newspapers articles were collected in the week following the assault these reporters were the victims of. A close

reading of these articles show that their profession was the main reason for the attacks. This study shows that rather than gender, it is the political context of the country that poses a risk to the lives and freedoms of journalists.

Kaylee Hinton

Fake News Charges and Journalists Behind Bars: The Case of Mimi Mefo of Cameroon.

This study aims to lay out the conflict between the corrupt Cameroonian government and the English-speaking separatist (Anglophones), and how this conflict impacts journalists' ability to report the news. Journalists are being jailed for trying to shed light on the civil war between the Anglophones and the francophone government. In this study we examine how a journalist, Mimi Mefo is thrown in jail for 3 nights when she tried to determine who killed an American missionary, Charles Wesco, who had recently moved to Cameroon. With the fear of the American government reducing its military and security aid, the government finds it in its' best interest to punish journalist who trying to report or uncover any details about the death of this American missionary. This study used textual analysis to determine the motives of the government officials who put Mimi Mefo behind bars. The Cameroon government utilizes the "fake news" charge to ensure that journalist are penalized for uncovering its human rights violations.

Charles Shipp

Every Female Journalist For Herself: Dolores Guadalupe García Escamilla (Mexico)

In Mexico, being a journalist is a risky and challenging job, especially if you are a woman. Journalists experience face extortion, harassment, death threats, kidnapping, and run the risk of losing their life for performing their job. Sadly, this was the case with Dolores Guadalupe García Escamilla, reporter in the town of Nuevo Laredo, who was murdered outside her workplace. There is controversy over her death and why it happened. A rhetorical analysis was carried out on two notable publications to explain how her murder was viewed in different time periods. Either way, the death of Dolores Guadalupe Garcia Escamillia was tragic and shows the ongoing dangers journalists face in Mexico.

Session 2

Session 2 (**Respondent Lamia Zia**)

Natalie Stanislaus

The Hazards of Being an International Female Journalist: A Comparative Case Study of German Photojournalist, Anja Niedringhaus, and Ukrainian Journalist, Anhar Kochneva

Previous research surrounding the fate of international female journalists concludes that female journalists are often targets of gender-based violence due to minimal protections available in the field of journalism and by news organizations. However,

little research has been developed on how audience members of major international news organizations are unknowingly being persuaded to view international female journalists in a particular way. This study will evaluate the narratives presented in articles from *the Washington Post*, *Bild*, *the New York Times*, and *Tass* on the problematic situations faced by two international female journalists: Anja Niedringhaus from Germany and Anhar Kochneva from the Ukraine. Through a comparative rhetorical analysis over the presentation of these two female journalists, this case study will demonstrate the hazards of being an international female journalist and how the amount of gendered violence, harassment, and femicide remains unchanged because of the harmful gender myths within these narratives that are presented as true.

Dharius Timmons

Gender- Based Sexual Assault Against Female Reporters: The Case of CBS' Lara Logan in Tahrir Square, Egypt.

The aim of this paper is to discuss how women journalists are treated. In this paper is a case study of Lara Logan, a *CBS 60 Minutes* reporter who was sexually assaulted in Egypt. This paper analyzes how two major news networks covered the attack on Lara Logan in Cairo, Egypt. It used framing theory to explore how media outlets frame how stories are told to the public. The paper shows the struggles women journalists face and how media outlets try to control how people feel about such news stories. The study explores these three questions: How did the attack effect Lara Logan's career? What are

the necessary steps to ensure a safe working environment for women reporters? Lastly, how do news outlets control the narratives. of news stories?

Meagan Messina

Whistle Blower Turned Martyr: The Tale Maltese Journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia,

This is a case study of the life, journalistic career, reports, and murder of Maltese Journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia. The purpose of this study is to examine and use the story of Daphne Caruana Galizia to show the dangers female journalists face, as well as the situations they are often faced with. These problems are caused by political leaders, the context of the country in which the journalist is reporting in, as well as media backlash against journalists who disturb the system. There are two ways in which Daphne Caruana Galizia has been portrayed since her death in 2017. The Maltese media and political leaders describe her as a “whistle blower”, the woman that betrayed Maltese officials and abused her rights as a journalist. On the other hand, journalists and citizens see her as a hero, as a woman who exposed the truth behind the corrupt government of Malta. In many ways, Daphne Caruana Galizia is seen as a martyr by female journalists throughout the world.