

The Module Lecture Guide

**MANUAL FOR TEACHERS OF JOURNALISM
ON HOW TO WRITE ABOUT MIGRATION...**



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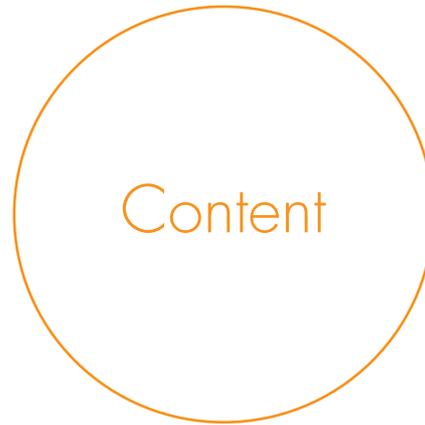
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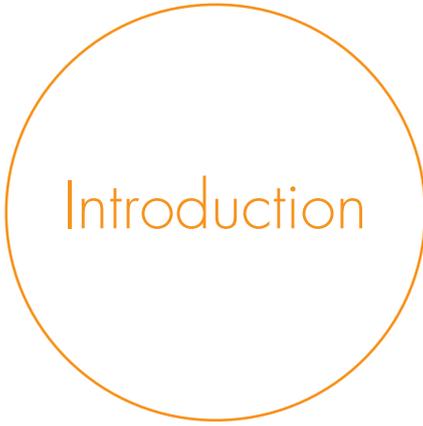
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Introduction

Migrants, be it those from the surrounding or more distant countries, have become an integral part of most European Union member countries. This fact, nonetheless, remains unmentioned by the media. Especially in the new member states, which are just beginning to adjust to their new immigration role, the cultural, ethnical, and language diversity of their societies remains insufficiently reflected in the news and the media environment as such. The migration reality in partner countries (Czechia, Italy, United Kingdom, and Spain) is very different. In traditional immigration countries, such as the United Kingdom, viewers and listeners of local television or radio have more opportunities to hear various accents than in these new member countries, which are still only getting used to their new role. However, there is one thing these countries have in common; rooted in journalistic practice and an emphasis on negative and shocking events, the tendency is to inform about foreigners and immigration in a rather negative way. The news very often has a tabloid-like character and portrays immigrants as a non-integral part of local communities as well as a dangerous threat. This securitization discourse has been growing in importance especially since the onset of the global economic crisis in Europe in 2008.

One of the faults of journalists is also their use of a specific vocabulary, which they often uncritically adopt from politicians. When talking about migration related topics, politicians seem to enjoy using various popular water-metaphors, such as streams, flows, waves or floods of refugees, migrants, or immigrants. The popular flood (emergency) comparisons often refer to migration as a modern, unseen, and unprecedented phenomenon, as something that previously did not exist, and now poses a threat in every corner of Europe's geographical and cultural borders. The main incentive for the creation of this publication was, therefore, the often undervalued or one-sided orientation of the news, which perceives the migration topic either from the perspective of securitization (migration as an immediate threat), economization (migration

as a financial loss or benefit), samaritanism (migrants as victims in need of help), or some kind of exotization of the topic (foreigners as an exotic element in the European societies). On top of that, the minuscule amount of effort made by the media to address the individual states' cultural diversity manifests itself, not only in the content (selection of topics), but often in the staff's composition (e.g. multicultural editorial staff) as well.

The aim of the **Module Lecture Guide (MLG)** is, therefore, primarily to provide support to the teachers and students of journalism, together with new journalists and experienced editors. Support is provided in terminology, methods of approaching topics, data sources, and working with migrants. We are aware that the media markets in each member state have their own limits, and that it is not in the power of every editor's office nor every journalist to focus on one single topic, working intensively and systematically towards becoming a specialist in that one particular area. As a result, there is an often unintended tendency to misrepresent information, misinterpret situations, and reproduce stereotypes and myths, which are not based on reality, but instead represent the only available source of information for journalists. Regularly, these articles are written using the journalist's own judgement and instinct, rather than facts and relevant contexts. The limiting conditions of the journalist's environment, including a lack of time and finances for a profound study of the topic, and the collection of relevant data and information, were another reason why the MLG was created.

What is the Module Lecture Guide and who is it for?

The Module Lecture Guide (MLG) is a manual designed principally for teachers of journalism and media studies at universities, but students of journalism and professional journalists can also use it. The manual is composed of four independent chapters that discuss working with journalism students in individual partner countries (Czechia, United Kingdom, Italy and Spain), and thereby attempts to respect specific conditions and characteristic data in individual countries.

Aside from framing member states within the global map of international migration, the manual also contains an overview of basic migration vocabulary, including meanings, and a discussion of the migratory discourse in local media. The MLG is concerned with the personality of the journalist and her/his influence on the image of foreigners and international migration in the media. The MLG also attends to the question of approaching marginal topics, or how a topic can be chosen and conveyed in an ethical way. Furthermore, it deals with challenges that appear to lie in the actual work of the journalist with a migrant, and their method of contacting and communicating with her/him.

An integral part of the MLG is an overview of statistical databases and instructions on how to handle the data and data resources. A discussion of the most frequent myths and stereotypes, which tend to be transmitted without critical judgement from one article to another, across various media and genres, is included too. The MLG reflects contemporary trends in the media, as well as observations from new media, videos and the use of visuals.

Apart from containing a theoretical framework, the manual is interwoven with examples from practice, including various exercises that encourage students to practice critical thinking and critical perception of the way in which media treats migration topics.

How was the Module Lecture Guide created?

The Module Lecture Guide was created as one of the outputs of the Face 2 Face project – Facilitating Dialogue Between Migrants and European Citizens, which was realized between January 2013 and June 2014 by four European non-profit organizations: The Migration Awareness Programme of the People in Need Foundation (Czechia), Cesvi (Italy), Migrant Voice (United Kingdom) and SOS Racismo Gipuzkoa (Spain).

The MLG is primarily built on these organizations' experience with media promotion of migration topics, cooperation with media, realization of media training for migrants, as well as experience developing migrants' media and communication skills. The MLG was also developed from a round table with professional experts, academics, and active migrants, which were held in all four countries:

— 26 September 2013 in Prague in the Centre of the People in Need – Langhans, which was attended by representatives of the Aktuálně.cz server, Lidovky.cz, Český rozhlas (Czech Radio – public broadcast), Charles University in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno, People in Need and selected foreigners active in the media.

— 12 February 2014 in Milan at the Università Bicocca, which was attended by Karim Metref (journalist), Anna Meli (journalist and General Coordinator Associazione Carta di Roma), Jeroen Vaes (University of Padova), Marcello Maneri (Università Bicocca, Milan), Barbara Ghiringhelli (Università IULM, Milan), Simona Ghezzi (Cesvi)

— 31 October 2013 in London at the Migrant Voice offices, which was attended by Jason Bergen (Sheffield University), Dr. Barbara Zamaluj (Queen Mary's University), Dr. Helia Lopez Zarzosa (Oxford University), Daniel Nelson (One World.Net), Dena Arya (Migrant Voice), Nazek Ramadan (Director, Migrant Voice), Anne Stoltenberg (Migrant Voice).

According to UN estimates, 232 million people lived outside of their countries in 2013, which is approximately 3.2 % of the world's

Migrants in the world

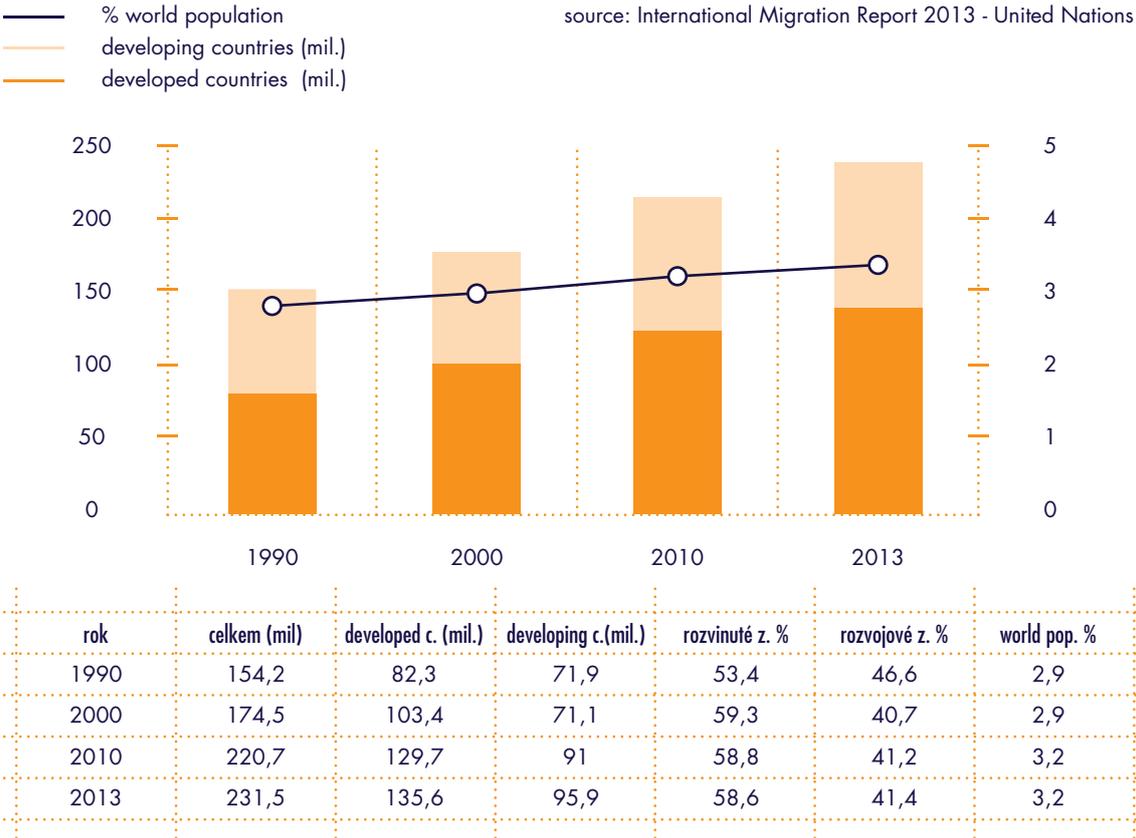
entire population. The absolute value of this number is constantly growing in direct proportion to world population growth (by estimation, there were 154 million migrants in the world in 1990; in 2000 175 million migrants). However, the relative value of migrants, when compared to the entire population, oscillates over the long-term at around 3 % (fig. 1). Therefore, if the proportion of migrants in the entire population does not change, or stays constant, then why is migration spoken about as a new phenomenon? What makes contemporary migration different from the migration of the past? And, why is the topic of migration surrounded by so many myths and stereotypes that are not really based on actual facts?

International migration = contemporary phenomenon?

The now cultish book written by Stephen Castles and Mark Miller (1993), *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, which was first published in 1993 and lived to see its 5th edition

in December 2013, referred to the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century as the “age of migration”, introducing a new discourse. This discourse not only penetrated into the sphere of migration professionals, but also was outright adopted by the media, which suddenly connected international migration with attributes such as ‘unseen’, ‘unprecedented’ or ‘a phenomenon’. However, the context and content that stands behind the conception of contemporary migration as a phenomenon is often missing in most media outputs.

Fig. 1: Number of migrants settled in developing and developed countries, and migrants in proportion to the entire world's population in years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2013



According to Castles and Miller, the character of the contemporary age of global migration dates back to the end of the 1980s and the early 1990s as a response to the economic, social, and political changes in the post-modern society which followed the end of the Cold War. Castles and Miller mention point to the collapse of the USSR and the proceeding bipolar perception of the world made up of allies and enemies. They mention the end of apartheid in South Africa, the 1st Gulf War, famines and crises across Africa, fast economic growth and development in Asia, shifts from dictatorships to unstable and indebted democracies in Latin America, and the growing importance of economic and political integration in Western Europe (Castles, Miller 1993: 2). According to the authors, all these events had one thing in common: they were connected with the mass movement of people. Nonetheless, as we will show in the following lines, the migration of today's era is exceptional not only in terms of the mass scale of these movements, but as the authors point out, the unprecedented circumstances that surround contemporary migration, and the people who migrate, are far more unique than numbers of people in motion.

Even in the past, the mass movement of people from one end of the world to another took place. There were movements of entire tribes and nations, and as for the number of people in motion in proportion to the entire world's population, some of the contemporary numbers are rather laughable in comparison to some eras in human history. From history classes, we know about the wandering of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land, centuries of migration of nations, the conquests of Alexander the Great, Mongolian hordes or Moors, European conquistador crusades to the continents of Africa, Asia, and America, or the infamous Atlantic slave trade, where millions of Africans were moved by force from one continent to another. From more contemporary history, we see, for example the Armenians' expulsion from Turkey and the near exodus of the Europeans to the New World, when Ireland almost disappeared from

the map of the world, due to the mass departure of its inhabitants, who were running away from famine.

Why is it then that at the turn of the 1990s, migration was perceived as something exceptional and unprecedented, despite history proving that the world has been through much larger movements?

Our concept of migration is significantly influenced by our thinking, in which people are a priori seen as 'sitters', that is people who essentially do not migrate and their primary endeavour is to remain settled in one place. From this perspective, in which a human is perceived as being concerned for the most part with nesting, migration is considered something exceptional, worth our attention, or even suspicious. A migrant is then perceived as someone who is supposed to go out into the world to get some experience, but then quickly return and settle back home. Or, in case the migrant decides to settle permanently in the host country, he or she should do it as soon as possible and ideally blend in with the surroundings.

Contemporary discourse on migration is also influenced by society's established views on principles of national gregariousness, which started to form during the Czech National Revival in the mid-19th century. It was influenced by the need for state sovereignty, which became evident at the turn of the 20th century with the introduction of travel documents, visas, and quotas. Another powerful factor is statistics – at the turn of the 20th century only approximately 50 independent states existed in the world. Nowadays, this number is quadruple. Just in Europe alone, the number of states has increased from 34 to 46 since 1990. Among other things, a by-product of the growing number of states was a sudden increase of the number of foreigners residing in the territory of a given state without anyone ever having come – which even happened in the Czech case when the territory was enriched overnight by a few tens of thousands of foreigners on New Year's Day, 1993. Those

foreigners were Slovaks, who up until today represent one of the most numerous groups of foreigners in this country.

The most significant influence is, nonetheless, the structural changes in the post-industrial period, which changed the whole world. Thanks to the development of the transportation infrastructure and the transfer of information, goods, services, and capital, the whole world has become connected. At the same time, this connected world has also increased the divide between the poor and rich, between the ones who have access to resources and those who do not. Economic development has become the engine of migrations. On one hand, it has increased economic reasons for migration – companies have incentive to organize recruitment campaigns among workers abroad, in countries, where labour is cheaper, and then ‘import’ these to the factories in economically stronger countries. On the other hand, there are also people who desire to work abroad, while simultaneously, development has made migration accessible to broader groups of people. Migration, on its own, is very financially, psychologically, and socially demanding; therefore, it is rarely undertaken by the poorest ones. When the poorest ones leave, it generally happens domestically, or as refugees in times of crisis, typically to the closest safe destination.

Worker recruitment campaigns in particular agitated migration so as to create bridges between destination countries and source countries. Both recruitment campaigns in post-war Europe, and the so called Bracero program in the USA, which lasted from 1942 till the end of the 1960s, established the main migration paths between economically strong regions and their contemporary important source countries (e.g. Germany – Turkey, USA – Mexico). In the post-war era, job agencies imported tens of thousands of workers from economically weak countries close by to Western Europe and the USA, provided that they would go back when they were no longer needed. Swiss author Max Frisch once said a now legendary sentence: “We asked for

workers, but we got people instead,” demonstrating concisely that this is not the way it works, and it never will. On the contrary, the original economic migrants were not only not going back, but, on the contrary, invited their families to join them. It is logical – after many years in a different environment people change and going back home would really mean ‘home’ only on the paper.

Moreover, the word ‘phenomenon,’ when used in connection with migration, has lately been gaining an even more complicated meaning, and it especially confuses those who believe in loyalty to one country. Thanks to the development and availability of internet access, communication technologies, and social networks for a growing number of people in the world (Facebook, the most widespread social network, had 1.2 billion active users at the end of 2013), migrants are becoming the so called transmigrants (Glick-Schiller, Szanton-Blanc 1994; Glick-Schiller, Basch, Szanton-Blanc 1995; and others); people who live in two or more spaces, between which they simply move both in physical geographical space, and in the virtual cyberspace. With their friends and acquaintances thousands of kilometres apart, they can still remain in touch on an almost daily basis. On top of that, there is also a group of migrants, predominantly highly qualified engineers, managers, and university students, whose mobility in space cannot be counted as a definitive number of arrivals and departures. Instead, their movements in space are fluid across time zones, and within the scope of one day, they can flexibly transfer from one end of the planet to another if they so need. These people typically move on the global labour market in some kind of Anglophone pan world community; even if they, for example, move to Paris for a year or two, they typically remain loyal to this expat community. They do not integrate very much into local structures and do not even learn local language, because they know, that in a few years, they might be in Kuala Lumpur or Johannesburg. In addition, they typically work in international settings, where it is not necessary to learn the cultural specifics of work for the given country.

The mass scale of contemporary migration is not so much on account of the number of people shifting from one place to another. It is rather due to the fact that the possibility to migrate has spread into all corners of the world thanks to the development of infrastructure and information broadcasting; therefore, becoming accessible to a much broader group of people. Aside from globalization and acceleration (expansion to all regions), contemporary migration is also characterized by a differentiation of the reasons for migration (one reason is interwoven with another, e.g. economic and family reunification), feminization (a growing number of women are becoming mobile - especially in connection

with the trend to migrate for the purpose of family reunification, as well as filling the demand for domestic workers and home nurses in developed countries), and the transnationalization of migration. But, it is characterized mainly through the politicisation of migration; when migration gets to the level of haggling between the imaginary conquered (Fortress Europe, American Dream, etc.) and the imaginary conquistadors (crowds of migrants, waves of refugees), or to the level of the imaginary fight over highly qualified workers on the international labour market, and all in the spirit of fighting for economic competitiveness (the so-called concepts "brain drain" and "brain gain").

Exercise 1: Circle to what extent you agree with the following statements and discuss your positions and opinions with colleagues.

	disagree	somewhat disagree	undecided	somewhat agree	agree
<i>Person with two citizenships can be loyal to two states at the same time.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Everyone's dream is to live in the USA or the EU.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Migration can be controlled and managed, and borders can be opened or closed as necessary.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>The European Union, and its member states, are too liberal towards migrants and, as a matter of fact, are open to everyone.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
<i>There are too many migrants in Europe.</i>	1	2	3	4	5

Question for the discussion?

- Do you personally perceive people as primarily migratory or nesting beings?
- How does your perception of people's nature influence the way you perceive and judge international migration?
- Have you yourself ever been a migrant? Do you think of yourself as a migratory or nesting person?
- There are too many migrants in Europe.

I. Czechia

Czechia on the world map of migration

In looking at the Czech lands of the past, we cannot claim that Czechia's current position on the migration map is particularly significant or even exceptional in the context of the lands' entire history. Excluding the numerous incursions into Czech lands during the Middle Ages and the modern period, which are in essence also a form of international migration, it is possible to say that migration is a relatively innate part of this country. It is actually evident even in folk tales interwoven by a complete range of pilgrims and countrymen. Czech modern history is full of runaways and returnees – from the pedagogue Jan Amos Comenius and other Protestants fleeing the country during the Habsburg dominion, to settlers and workers leaving for tsarist Russia in the 19th century, border areas of Austria-Hungary (Romania, Croatia etc.) or North and South America, to the subsequent exoduses of the Jews and other persecuted persons, before and during the Second World War, to the violent displacement of almost three million Czech Germans, to the arrival of hundreds of thousands of soldiers of the Warsaw Pact, and last but not least, to the Czech emigrations between 1948 and 1989. Running away was often followed by coming back, and the Czechs often returned along with their families – one of the first examples was the Czechoslovak president Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, who invited his American wife to Czechoslovakia. If we were to name other famous migrants who influenced Czech history and society, we should certainly not forget Cyril and Method,

the famous brothers from Salonica, who literally introduced the Christian belief into the Czech society, forming the basis of its way of life for hundreds of years to come. Even the significant ruler Charles IV was an emigrant.

Until the fall of socialism in 1989, the country was, apart from a few exceptions such as labour migration from the countries of the Eastern Bloc, an emigration country. Its status has nonetheless significantly changed since the 1990s, de facto becoming an immigration country. This new role can be proven, not only by statistics, but also by the demographic behaviour of the migrants/foreigners themselves. Since 1993, the number of foreigners in the country has increased six times, from 70 thousand to the current 440 thousand (Czech statistical office/Foreigners – Český statistický úřad/Cizinci); foreigners now represent 4 percent of the country's entire population. Furthermore, statistics show that most foreigners living in Czechia have already settled permanently. The validity of this statement is underscored not only by the data regarding the number of foreigners with long-term residence, but also, for example, by the number of foreigners' children born in Czech maternity hospitals, and the number of foreigners' children attending Czech primary and high schools. In 2013, for the first time since the establishment of long-term residency in 2000, there were more foreigners with a long-term residence permits than those with temporary residence permits – 54.1% to 45.9% (Czech statistical office/Foreigners – Český statistický úřad/Cizinci). Since 1995, the number of foreigners' children born

in Czech maternity hospitals has increased from 667 children to 2,959 in 2011 – an increase from one percent to three percent of all children born in Czechia. The growth of the number of foreigners' children in nurseries, primary, secondary, and tertiary education, is proportional to the growth in the number of foreigners. Nowadays, foreign pupils and students represent two percent of the entire number in all categories.

The growing number of foreigners' children in Czechia strongly attests to the fact that the foreigners lifestyles are family oriented and that they are choosing to establish their home in Czechia. This is due to the fact that children become familiarized with a 'new' environment, which subsequently makes 'returning back' home less and less realistic for their parents (migrants of the so-called first generation). This trend is particularly well established within the Vietnamese immigrant community, among whom most adults express their desire to go back to Vietnam in the future, but they are currently unable to do so as their children attend local schools and are accustomed to their life in Czechia. As a result, they must wait until their children grow up and become independent (Kušniráková, Plačková, Tran Vu 2013; Freidingerová 2014). Even then, going back still seems rather impossible. After living abroad for so long; migrants become alienated from their own country, and the home country itself has undergone profound changes throughout the migrants' absence.

However, when reading Czech Statistical Office data, it is important to realize that the data includes only the number of registered citizens in the Czech Republic with the status of a foreigner. This means, for example, that citizens of so-called third countries without residence permits, naturalized citizens, or even Euro citizens, who decided not to be registered, are not included in this data. At the same time, data concerning the number of foreigners does not take into account the total number of immigrants – on one hand, the group of foreigners includes people who essentially are not migrants because they were born in Czechia. On the other hand, the data

does not include those foreigners - immigrants who have already received Czech citizenship and thus, have automatically been removed from the foreigners' register. Therefore, users should regard the data provided by the Czech Statistical Office more as a demonstration of a particular trend, rather than hard data. The trends are:

- Despite slight statistical declines in 2000 and 2008, the number of foreigners in the Czech territory is steadily growing.

- The number of foreigners under 26 and the number of foreigners' children born in Czech maternity hospitals is growing in proportion to the growth of foreigners. This means that while in the 1990s most foreigners were in the productive age of 20 – 40 years and predominantly economically active, currently the foreign communities in Czechia are more diversified in terms of their age, and growing in terms of those who are not economically active (especially children, mothers on maternity leave, or seniors).

- The diversification of the community is also connected with the foreigners' varied reasons for residing in Czechia. Those are not only economic, but also for family reunification or studies; currently the whole EU is experiencing a growth of people who come to EU for the purpose of volunteering or interning (for example through the projects of the AISEC organization).

- The most populous groups of foreigners in the territory of Czechia are Ukrainians (around 26%), Slovaks (20%), Vietnamese (13%), Russians (8%) and Poles (4%)

Migration and the Czech journalist

Why write about migration? Every journalist would certainly answer this question in a different way. For some migration might be a personal topic, which somehow influenced their life or work. At the same time, even in Czechia migration has become an important and relatively controversial all-society topic. In Czechia, we can talk about the rise of immigration during the past approximately fifteen years. During this time, the number of

foreign nationals residing in our territory has increased more than six fold. Today, migrants without Czech citizenship represent approximately 4.1 percent of the entire population.

In practice, it means that the country is experiencing, not only the growth of the 'migration phenomenon', but also a growing number of people from different countries of origin living here. The diversity of cultures and environment is increasing, while at the same time there is an increasing fear among certain Czech citizens, who worry about the stability of the society. For many Czechs, questions around migration are still confusing. As a result, their opinions are rather ambiguous. For example, the annual survey of public opinion performed by the Centrum pro výzkum veřejného mínění (Public Opinion Research Centre) has shown for many consecutive years that only 20% of Czechs perceive migrants living in their close environment as a problem. Nonetheless, approximately 60% generally see the presence of migrants in Czechia as problematic. The role of journalists can include an explanation of this phenomenon and show this inaccessible world, which the average media consumer is often afraid of. At the same time, journalists must not forget that migrants can also be consumers of their outputs, not only its topic.

It is very probable in the coming years that a larger percentage of people in this country, including politicians, will take more interest in the topic of immigration to Czechia, and in the migrants who permanently reside in this country. Hence, it is important that people know more about the reality of migrants' lives and the associated terminology. Perhaps the most important reason why migration is something journalists should be interested in writing about is the fact that migration is connected with the fundamental topics of the Czech society:

- international politics concerning Czechia, especially business relations;
- the labour market;
- social politics and the state's relationship to minorities;
- family politics;

- employee labour-law and corruption at an employer level;
- extremism and xenophobia.

For journalists, it is also essential to remain objective. They must refrain from holding either a strongly positive or negative bias in their profession, which is still a common phenomenon in the Czech journalist environment. For a journalist who decides to deal with the topic of migration, it is very important to gradually build a network of personal contacts with migrants and with organizations that might potentially provide such contacts. Almost no story on the topic of migration can be complete without the migrants' and migration experts' point of view. Sometimes it may seem easier to base a story on a press release, for example by the Ministry of Interior or the Foreign Police. Those are available sources. However, if journalists want their stories to be balanced, they also need to include migrants' opinions.

This task – to find and maintain contacts with migrants – might be quite difficult, especially in the beginning. The main reasons for this are: the migrants' fear of communicating with journalists (particularly if the migrant belongs to a threatened group), an inability to identify the 'spokesman' for a specific migrant group, and sometimes a fear or unwillingness held by the journalists themselves.

In communicating with migrants, it is also necessary to remember that certain topics can be very sensitive. Some migrants might be in a very vulnerable position. For example, questions about migration without valid residence permit, foreign workers' exploitation, or even questions regarding gaining a legal residency permit might be disconcerting. This is why, in these cases, it is important to respect the migrant's wish to remain anonymous. Of course, the journalist is obliged to state in the story that the source asked to remain anonymous. If the source is concerned, it is ethically correct to refrain from using any other details that might indicate the source's identity. Even if these concerns might seem to be, and sometimes really are, unjustified, the migrant's job

or the safety of her/his family might be jeopardized (especially if she/he does not have a legal residence permit).

Agenda setting: What topics are written about

According to the agenda setting theory (McCombs, Shaw 1972), the image that the public holds about certain topics is hugely influenced by the media. By writing about, or actually talking about certain topics, facts or events, the media are setting an agenda, and thereby ascribing topics with different levels of importance. Topics that remain neglected by the media consequently influences the public agenda as well – what is spoken about, what people think about, and what importance they ascribe to different events and topics.

In migration's case, the media often informs us about criminal acts that foreigners commit, emphasizing their foreign status or ethnicity. Negative news still dominates Czech media, while positive news is almost non-existent. Among readers and the Czech society as a whole, this can create an impression that most foreigners are criminals, although the reality is obviously quite different. It would certainly be quite a distorted image to think that every Vietnamese is a marijuana grower or a fraudulent salesman, or that every Russian is a member of the mafia. However, these are exactly the kind of misleading ideas that media tend to create through their choice of news.

In the Czech media, we also encounter examples of foreigners' "bad integration" relatively often, while integration is often dealt with as if it was assimilation, although using the integration terminology. This can produce disastrous ideas about "wild ghettos", where migrants tend to concentrate.

The news that remains neglected, on the other hand, is the positive examples of successful

integration and the benefits migrants have on Czech society. This can be attributed to the sensational nature of journalism, in which topics attractive to the media tend to be events which are surprising, negative, and sometimes shocking. There is a journalistic analogy that has become legendary, which says: "when a dog bites a man that is not news, but when a man bites a dog that is news." Priority is usually given to unexpected, shocking, and to a large degree, negative announcements.

Examples of headlines in Czech media – migrants and criminality:

"Border dwarfs no longer the hot item. Stallkeepers now cook drugs for Germans" (idnes.cz, 4. 1. 2014)

"Turk accused of rape in overcrowded pub" (Strakonický deník, 11. 1. 2014)

"Mongolian accused in security knife attack sent back to Zlín court" (denik.cz, 17. 12. 2013)

Not giving migrants enough space to explain themselves is still a practice commonly used by Czech media when reporting on migration topics. Giving them space to express their opinion on non-migration topics is then completely out of the question; even though they could, for example, comment on events at the communal level in the municipality where they reside. It scarcely crosses people's minds that something such as a migrants' voice should even be heard in public. As if migrants had a smaller right to express their opinion on what is going on around them.

Journalists should realize that their choice of topics and the importance they ascribe to them (e.g. by the frequency of writing on a certain topic, the attractiveness of the story's position in the newspaper, etc.), influences what people think and talk about.

Exercise 1: According to which standard do media choose the news they publish?

Do you know the so called "news values" concept?

According to the "news values", what in your opinion enables an event to become news?

What do you think of the criteria followed by journalists?

Do they bear any risks?

Discourse: How migration is written about in Czechia

“Europe the fortress”, “flood” or “wave” of refugees, and “uncontrollable stream of migration” – all expressions which we often read and hear in the media in connection with migration. Migrants are portrayed as a threat, which “we” – the Czechs (Europeans) – must face. It is necessary to protect our territory against the invasion of ‘hostile hordes’. Even if it is only on the subconscious level, similar metaphors and illustrations are extremely powerful in forming the idea we hold of foreigners and migration. What matters is not only what journalists write about in connection with migration, but also the way they write about it.

We can often encounter a differentiation between “us” – Czechs (Europeans) – and “them” – inadaptible migrants; foreigners, who take our jobs; foreign mafia, etc. Such discourse repeatedly leads to their further segregation instead of their much-needed integration into society. The gap between ‘us’ and ‘them’ is constantly widening. We are reassuring ourselves in our positive self-presentation: we are the honest workers, the true Czechs, our European culture is the best, we must protect it. While on the other hand, they are “the Others” – foreigners, who want to flood Europe and abuse our rich welfare system. If the media is dominated by such discourse, one that portrays migrants as a threat, as something different, as something that threatens us, many people’s idea about migration ends up based solely on such deterrent images. Migration can consequently be perceived as something very negative, something we might even be afraid of.

Exercise 3:

What categories and metaphors are most frequently used, in your opinion, to portray foreigners? Try to make a list of these categories and assign them with given metaphors.

The ways in which migrants are portrayed most often in Czech and world media can be divided into a few basic categories: (1)

migrants as a security threat; (2) migrants as a workforce; (3) migrants as victims; (3) migrants as something exotic:

— Migrants as a security threat

Metaphors play an important role in the discourse. In migration descriptions we often encounter metaphors of natural disasters. Migrants are being compared to floods, waves, and avalanches. Such words evoke unpleasant feelings, which people associate with natural disasters. They are creating an image of something that needs to be prevented, something that we need to fortify against.

At the same time, such discourse supports the perception of migrants as a homogenous mass. It does not emphasize the fact that they are individuals with diverse motives for migration, and various life destinations and plans. It does not show that some of them are running away from a war, others from a lack of freedom in their country, or, for example, that they want to join their families who had left the country earlier.

Examples of headlines in Czech media – metaphors of natural disasters:

“Bulgarians build embankment to stop Syrian refugees” (ct24.cz, Nov-29-2013)

“Czechia among countries to help Bulgaria with refugee wave” (ceskenoviny.cz 18. 10. 2013)

“Hords of refugees flooding Europe are welcome in some places” (EuroZpravy.cz, 13. 10. 2013)

“New wave of Syrian refugees scares EU” (E15, 10. 10. 2013)

“Turkish locals unhappy with flood of Syrian refugees in border towns” (Český rozlas, 12. 9. 2013)

“WAVE OF TUNISIAN REFUGEES floods Italy again” (tn.cz, 7. 3. 2013)

— Migrants as a workforce

Examples of headlines in Czech media – migrant workers:

“Czechs upset with foreigners taking their jobs” (novinky.cz, 30. 4. 2013)

This headline captures clearly another common way of viewing migrants: foreigners as a workforce, be it in a positive sense: “at least they will help us do work we aren’t much fond of”, or contrariwise, as something negative: “they are taking jobs from the Czechs.”

It is a paradox that migrants are also faced with an opposite critique: “foreigners don’t work and abuse the welfare system.” What is the reality then? Do foreigners take the jobs of Czechs, or do they avoid working and abuse the social welfare system instead?

Similar discourses are encountered outside the Czech environment as well. At the end of 2013, British media warned of “hords” of Romanians and Bulgarians coming to their country the minute restrictions in the EU labour market are abolished in the beginning of 2014. In fact, none of that really happened.

— Migrants as victims

On the other hand, we also encounter migrants being portrayed as victims, and often as victims who are passive. For example, migrants are depicted in connection with labour exploitation, as described in the article “Czech Police ‘rescue’ traumatized Ukrainian woman” (Mladá fronta DNES, 6. 12. 2013).

In 2012 and 2013, the media paid huge attention to the story of the Ukrainian woman Anastasia Hagen, nicknamed by the media as the “Porn Mama”, due to her history in the Czech porn industry. Headlines appearing in connection with her story included: “Heartbroken: Porn Mama Anastasia faces imprisonment after being forced to return to Ukraine” (tn.cz, 31. 7. 2013), or “Porn Mama waits for Czech asylum after being

chased out of home by big shot” (Lidovky.cz, 27. 10. 2012).

The asylum seeker was put into a position of a victim. An image that was further supported by photographs of this petite attractive woman who attempted to bring attention to her case by protesting half-naked in front of the Czech parliament.

— Migrants as something exotic

In media we can also encounter an attitude which portrays migrants as an exotic element in Czech society. Reports, for example, bring attention to foreign cuisine and its unknown dishes, or to the celebrations of untraditional holidays.

On one hand, it is positive that media portray this diversity and show that not every inhabitant of Czechia eats only traditional Czech dishes, such as *svíčková* sauce with dumplings, and celebrates New Year on the 1st of January. On the other hand, it is also misleading to give migrants space in media only in connection with exotic dishes and untraditional holidays. Why could not they for example express their opinion in public inquiries regarding common events, in which they can present a different perspective?

Examples of headlines in Czech media – exotic migrants:

Vietnamese celebrate Year of the Horse. It will be fast and friendly (Táborský deník, 1. 2. 2014)

Authentic Vietnamese restaurants on the rise in Prague (idnes.cz, 10. 11. 2013)

How to choose a topic? And where to begin?

Which topics related to migration shall we look for? Sometimes a good beginning is one's personal experience. It is good to ask about the prejudices and assumptions that people around you have regarding migrants or the phenomenon of migration. Other quality sources can be information produced by non-profit organizations that work with migrants, or organizations and associations administered by the migrants themselves.

The question of objectivity is almost never easy for a journalist. When it comes to topics related to migration, objectivity can be especially challenging. The most important rule should be the balance; however, not at the cost of inhumanity. Migration is often written about from the perspective of laws, rules, and norms. It is, however, also necessary to remember that migration is mainly about migrants, i.e. about people. Often they are people in difficult life situations, be it their fault or not.

It is also important to bear in mind that the decision to leave one's home and move to another country is a very difficult one. This is why when discussing migration it is very important not to forget the motivation of all persons involved: of the authorities, the migrants themselves, and Czech citizens.

— Migration topics that are written about

For inspiration, we are presenting a few topics connected with migration that were recently written about in Czechia (approximately between 2012 and 2013).

1) Health insurance for migrants.

"Can health insurance be compared to car insurance? What makes health insurance different?" (Český rozhlas, 30. 11. 2013)

"Public health insurance may be open to non-EU business people" (Česká televize, 3. 3. 2013)

2) New citizenship law.

"Do you know enough to pass a Czech citizenship test?" (ihned.cz, 25. 11. 2013)

"Want fast and easy Czech citizenship? First Czech officials must learn their job!" (Aktuálně.cz, 26. 1. 2014)

3) Refugees and the Italian island of Lampedusa.

"Italians outraged: Images from Lampedusa remind of concentration camp" (Česká televize, 18. 12. 2013)

"Life on the island of Lampedusa: Beautiful beaches, one school, and hundreds of new refugees per day" (ihned.cz, 15. 10. 2013)

On the other hand, the process of revolutionizing the Czech attitude towards the politics of immigration was completely neglected. Meanwhile, this process affected the creation and passing of a completely new law and the residency of foreigners in the Czech Republic.



Round table in Prague - 26.9.2013



Pilot of the MLG in Prague 12. 4. — 18. 5. and 24. 5. 2014



Workshop Talking to reporters in Prague 14. 9. 2013

II. United Kingdom

Reporting and responsibility

There is some brilliant reporting on migration and migrants in all media; many journalists are careful about checking the facts about migration; are concerned about the use of emotive, negative or inflammatory language; and are aware that a misleading headline or an inappropriately selected photo can harm individuals and groups. But journalists work under pressure: the news editor is demanding the story and other assignments are stacking up. The temptation is to simply record what is said and get a reactive comment: job done. There is no time for a scrupulous analysis of the terms used, the statistics being brandished, the claims made. But journalists are more than Dictaphones, simply repeating what is said. The privilege of writing the first draft of history must be matched by responsibilities, especially in areas, such as migration, which can be highly charged and contentious.

It's a two-way affair

The United Kingdom is home to migrants from all over the globe. About 13% of the UK population is foreign-born, according to the 2011 National Census statistics. Their main reasons for coming have been work, education, and safety.

According to the Long term international migration flows to and from the UK report (2014) 498,000 **people migrated to the UK** (13% fewer than in 2011) in 2012, of whom:

- 158,000 came from the then 27 European Union countries (there are now 28);
- a little over half the migrants were from non-EU countries the rest were British nationals returning;
- 180,000 of the migrants came for work, and 180,000 to study 45% planned to stay for only 1 or 2 years.

Patterns of migration are constantly changing and emerging – from the Polish RAF pilots and Italian prisoners who stayed on after the Second World War to today's inflow of Premiership footballers. All have interesting – and sometimes extraordinary – stories to tell.

Conversely, the UK has been a world-changing source of migrants to scores of other countries. In the last 200 years millions of Britons started new lives in Argentina, Australia, Canada, India, Kenya, New Zealand, Rhodesia, South Africa, the US and elsewhere: today this emigration continues, albeit on a smaller scale but with new patterns emerging, such as retirees in Spain and France. Migration from the UK In 2012 totalled 321,000, with Australia and the Indian subcontinent the most popular destinations. In May 2014 the Office for National Statistics reported that 314,000 people went to live abroad.

Around half (53%) of British citizens emigrating between 2000 and 2010 said they intended living abroad for more than four years, some 33% intended emigrating for between one and two years and about 11% for more than two and up to four years. The remainder

said they were unsure about their intended length of stay.

Most (61%) Britons who left the UK in 2010 were single, 37% were married and 2% were widowed or divorced.

The majority of UK emigrants are of working age. About 2% were men over 60 or women over 65. News and feature stories about immigration rarely show this side of the migration picture.

The numbers game

Numbers about migration are strewn around like confetti, but are mostly used to generate heat rather than light. Data collected by Rob Ford of Manchester University “shows that the British public generally holds an exaggerated view of the scale and impacts of immigration in the UK, consistently estimating numbers of migrants or asylum seekers in excess of official statistics. (...) In 2002, the average public estimate of migration levels was more than double the actual level” (Ford 2011: 1).

Media must take some – perhaps most – responsibility for this and other misconceptions, because of the number, tone, presentation and, above all, the angle of the migration stories they run. Coverage can affect political debate and ultimately decision-making. It can result in violent attacks on individuals and groups of people perceived as “problems”, “spongers” or “trouble-makers”.

Journalistically, it is vital to check statistics that you are given, make sure the terms and definitions they use are clear, question them, attribute them (“Some analysts believe that at least £600 million a year, one per cent of the entire NHS budget, is going on immigrants who are not entitled to treatment” ... is not a credible source).

A report by the freedom of expression organisation Article 19 highlighted this point when it said, “The asylum debate focuses overwhelmingly on the number of people entering

the country to claim asylum, but the numbers which are presented in print and broadcast reports are frequently unsourced, exaggerated or inadequately explained. Contextual analysis of the relevance and meaning of official statistics is missing from the debate” (report What’s the story? 2003).

Even when you have attributed figures, do not just accept them: have they been accurately quoted? Is it clear what period is covered? Are there important caveats in the research that produced the figures? Do they really illustrate the relevant point? For example, in a report about unemployment, do the migration figures you have quoted include students – which is a separate issue?

Similarly, opinion polls are often used unquestioningly. But you need to know (with all polls, not just those about migration) who commissioned the poll and who carried it out. If it was not done by a trustworthy polling organisation, you need to know the question (the phrasing of which will determine the answers), the size of the sample (if it is a small number it will represent nothing except the small number of people asked), whether those questioned are a true cross-section (asking people in a street outside a church on Sunday will produce a different expression of public opinion than questioning passengers at Heathrow); when the poll was conducted (was it, for example, immediately after a sensational incident or political row on a topic closely related to the polling questions?) A properly run opinion poll has a margin of error of four per cent either way, so a 51-49% ‘yes’ response to a question is not necessarily a majority in favour.

Define your terms

Words matter. Does the speaker you are quoting give them the same meaning as you?

For example, the following words and phrases are frequently used, often disputed and rarely defined. Sometimes they are used to deliberately obfuscate. Unless you are sure that they

mean the same to the speaker, the reporter and to readers, listeners and viewers, your report will be contributing to confusion rather than elucidation. The point here is not tell you what to write or say – this country is proud of its freedom of speech or to advocate a pedantic political correctness: the point is to emphasise that part of a journalist’s job is to think carefully about the words they use and the implications of those words. A journalist, after all, is a wordsmith.

— Non-white: it has negative connotations, defining people as not belonging to the group that constitutes the norm;

— Ethnic: is this a genuine category or a ‘code word’ for people of colour? Are Poles an ethnic group?

— Indian, Pakistani – or British?: a British citizen originating from Pakistan or whose parents came from Pakistan is not a Pakistani. It is important to distinguish between nationality and country of origin;

— Black: does this mean any person of colour, or only those from Africa and the Caribbean?

— Asian: who’s included in this category? Does it refer to national origin? To race? To some British people?

— Gypsy, Traveller, Romany: do you know the difference? Does the speaker? Do your readers?

— Student: migrant numbers generally include students, but students are here to study, not to get a job. Has the person you interviewed deliberately conflated the two in order to cite a higher figure? Does the inclusion of statistics of students from other countries muddle your story about unemployment in Britain?

— Immigrant: is this synonymous with migrant? Or do you mean someone who arrives with the intention of settling permanently?

- Illegal asylum-seeker: there’s no such category. Everyone has the right to seek asylum;

— Clandestine (used as a noun): sometimes used by government officials. Do you know what it means? Do your readers?

— Expatriate, expat: the UK media usually uses the term to mean Britons working

abroad, such as aid workers and managers (WE are expats, THEY are migrants);

— Refugee, migrant, asylum seeker: they are not the same. Interviewees often start talking about one category and slide imperceptibly into another;

— Illegal immigrant: human rights’ campaigners say the term is vague and dehumanising, and prefer ‘undocumented immigrant’.

Word selection can change the tone of a neutral report – by, for example, turning an “issue” into a “problem”, an “increase” into a “flood”, a person drawing social security into a “benefits scrounger”.

The Migration in the News report (2013) by the University of Oxford’s Migration Observatory, analysed collocates (words used immediately before and after key words) and found that the most common modifier of “immigrant” throughout the 43 million words scrutinised was “illegal”. The words “flood”, “influx” and “wave” frequently accompanied the words “migration” and “immigration”.

This was true for both broadsheets (or compacts, as the restyled smaller versions call themselves) and tabloids. The latter also used the word ‘flood’ in conjunction with migrants. The computer analysis showed that the word “immigrants” was associated with words such as “million” and “thousands”. Again, this applied to all types of newspaper.

Similarly, an Oxfam-financed analysis by Cardiff University researchers (Gross, Moore, Threadgold 2007) found that when the word “asylum” is used on TV it is often synonymous with “illegal immigrant”, “bogus”, “scrounger”, “criminal” and “terrorist”. Part of the reason for the negativity and confusion, the researchers said, was the government’s constant stresses on the need for asylum-seekers to prove themselves to be deserving instead of emphasising the human rights of those seeking asylum and the responsibility to offer hospitality to those in need.

The study reported that asylum is rarely the main focus of TV coverage: instead, the focus is on the success or failure of immigration controls. Media coverage has shifted from what asylum-seekers do while living in the UK to their “removal”.

The report criticised TV’s lack of “*context, histories or connections*” that would allow the viewer to engage with asylum issues. And it pointed out that asylum and refugee issues are dealt with very differently when the individuals concerned are British.

Study Media and Migration in the United Kingdom, 1999 to 2009 by Terry Threadgold (2009) of Cardiff University’s School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, concluded that the media use a template to frame stories about migration. These frames generally conflate all migration with asylum, make the migrant the victim and the object and show migration as a problem.

“There is a focus on numbers and statistics (particularly on figures that imply a burden on scarce public resources), on political debates on immigration and on language that evokes the theme of ‘invasion’. Stories on immigration are often unconsciously collocated in the news with reports of ‘foreign threats’ (for instance war, drugs, crime, or terrorism) – implying a connection between the two. The media contributes to a perception that immigration is in perpetual crisis...” (Threadgold 2009: 1).”

Immigration has become a highly politicised issue in the UK and the print and electronic media reflects – and sometimes fuels – this politicisation. This in turn is reflected and re-fuelled by parts of the social media, often in even more intemperate language, and then picked up again by the mainstream media in an endless excitable cycle.

In this highly charged context, balanced, accurate reporting and editing becomes particularly important. Checking and analysing facts, digging out fresh and concealed information, careful use of language, headlines that do not

exaggerate and go beyond what is justified by the story, appropriate photographs – all have a role to play. But there is another factor, one that is often missing from the debate and yet offers tremendous opportunities to the media:

III. Italy

Appellations and vocabulary

The connection between social perception and media representation has been studied in numerous surveys. The study *La Sicurezza in Italia e in Europa: Significati, Immagine e Realtà* (2010), for example, has documented that the quantity of crime news reported determines the level of social angst towards immigrants as opposed to the actual number of crimes committed. Furthermore, while direct contact with immigrants often leads to a more positive and tolerant attitude, the indirect approach by way of the news tends to heighten prejudices and stereotypes.¹

The media influence social perceptions both through the choice of specific themes which then acquire a certain prominence as well as how the news is presented. When focusing on the way the news is reported, we refer to how the sentence is structured, where the emphasis is subtly placed on certain words by virtue of the choice of a linguistic structure as opposed to another. These stylistic choices may carry a linguistic bias, sometimes quite involuntarily, which contributes in fact to a non-objective perception of the person described and in this particular case, immigrants residing in Italy.

Here are some linguistic forms which upon reading may contribute to an unfavourable perception of immigrants and are common in journalistic language especially in crime news in Italy.

— How to cite nationality

Mention has already been made in the first point of these guidelines on the suitability of acknowledging with greater responsibility and awareness the protagonist's nationality. **We believe it is also useful** to underline the importance in **the way** we refer to the nationality of the subject.

Often nationality is used as a noun rather than an adjective (e.g. *"the encounter on the landing was fatal as the Asian was under the effect of methamphetamine"* as in a subheading from *"Il Fatto Quotidiano"*; 8. 10. 2012).

Nationality used as a noun might lead to the **"equation of the aggressor with his social grouping thus creating a negative association between a social group (immigrant) and crime while circumscribing more personal characterisations of the subject in other social categories (such as young, male or other)"** (Carnaghi et. al 2008).

Furthermore, this linguistic form tends to put the individual on a secondary plane whilst highlighting his/her social grouping. To mention the individual first would diminish the creation and reinforcement of stereotypes about immigrants, leaving the social grouping as a minor element in reporting crime news.

¹ Results of the research "Immigrazione, paura del crimine e i media: Ruoli e responsabilità" done by Jeroen Vaes and Caterine Suitner in 2012.

— Linguistic abstraction

5. Noun	<i>e.g. the aggressor</i>
4. Adjective	<i>e.g. A is aggressive</i>
3. Status verb	<i>e.g. A hates B</i>
2. Interpretive verb	<i>e.g. A harms B</i>
1. Descriptive verb	<i>e.g. A hits B</i>

The way we describe the same act may vary in terms of concreteness/abstraction. In the above illustrative table, if a person (A) has punched somebody (B), we may describe this action (1) literally, (2) giving an intention to the aggressor, (3) ascribing a state of mind to the aggressor, (4) describing the aggressor with a constant trait or (5) consigning him/her to the aggressive category. Literature has shown that these linguistic choices create very different impressions of the protagonist. When the episode is described with greater abstraction, it becomes easier to generalise such behaviour to all members of the social group and perceive instances of such behaviour as a stable characteristic over time, e.g. an aggressive person or an aggressor will always be more inclined to come to blows (Maass et. al 1989).

Exercise 3:

Compare these two examples describing child molesting. The case of an immigrant was described in this manner:

"after having heard the mother's account, the carabinieri were able to identify the molester who was trying to cover his tracks" (Corriere della Sera Roma, 27. 2. 2010)

While the one perpetrated by an Italian was described as such:

"'I've done something very serious and I need to be treated to help me stop.' But these words do not wipe out the horror" (il Giornale, 10th Oct. 2010)

In the first example the criminal is clearly defined as a child molester and no excuses are

given. Such information together with the fact of his nationality (presented in the headlines and underlined three times in an article of less than 200 words) contributes in quite an evident manner the association between immigrant and molester. In the second example, it appears that personal responsibility is diminished because of a pathology of which the criminal himself is a victim.

The first criminal 'is' but the second one 'has done'.

We suggest therefore that greater attention is given to **the more abstract forms** (3. & 4.) *and to avoid using them in a biased way especially when reporting negative acts by immigrants.*

— Metaphors

One picture may tell more than a thousand words. For this reason, the metaphor as a figure of speech is used frequently to render an article more engaging and incisive. Again, we exhort journalists to be cautious as we compare two metaphors most commonly used in news reports. In the two examples given below, we can single out two metaphors – that of an explosion (in the case of the Italian) and that of an animal (in describing the immigrant).

"According to investigative reconstruction, the quarrel exploded while the woman had her youngest child in her arms ..." (la Repubblica Napoli.it, 24. 2. 2014)

"He waited hidden by some plants like a bloodthirsty animal and smoked two or three cigarettes. Then when he saw Alessandra at the door, he sprung out from the shadows." (la Nazione.it, 26. 5. 2010)

Associating criminals with animals and a clash with an explosion are two recurrent metaphors that carry very different messages. The first picture suggests that the criminal action is innate being in the beastly nature of the aggressor while the second image refers

to an episode which was the result of an act of folly beyond the control of the perpetrator. Research suggests that the first image is used most often when the criminals are immigrants (65.5%) while the metaphor of an explosion usually refers to crimes committed by Italians (67.7%)². **An informed use of metaphors** and of the images that they transmit is fundamental (???)

The use of data about immigration

Rigorous journalism gives great importance to such qualities as objectivity, transparency, precision and accuracy so much that media make ample use of figures and statistics which will catch the public's attention with their immediacy and precision. If the source is, in addition, authoritative and official, the news will also gain in impact and trustworthiness.

Nevertheless, numbers are never direct recordings of what takes place in reality. Institutions and organisations, in order to register a given social phenomenon, use procedures that highlight some of its aspects, with certain tools, in particular moments, giving it a form. Although the expression "*data collection*" is quite common, those who reflect on research issues prefer to speak of "*data construction*".

As a consequence, it is of great importance to be aware of the procedures and issues inherent to the data used in the first place. In the second place, one must consider that institutional records are collected for specific administrative purposes and not for scientific research. Thirdly, it is quite common to find various databases for the same phenomenon that bring to different conclusions. **It's important to question whether all possible options have been considered by whoever is disclosing the data and whether an *ad-hoc* choice has been made.** The goals behind the disclosure of any data may not necessarily have a purely cognitive nature. Fourthly, any data only records a partial aspect of reality – the most easily measurable one -but is then used to understand a wider phenomenon. For example,

counting the number of individuals charged with a penal offence as a measure of crime casts a limited light on the matter. Finally, the same data may mean different things, as its meaning is produced within a fixed context, be it a comparison in time, space or population, or a set of expectations.

It will be easier to illustrate these problems with examples from the data most frequently used by the media on the subject of immigration, with specific reference to official statistics.

— Estimation of illegal immigrants

The data used most frequently to measure the number of foreigners in Italy is provided by ISTAT, which counts individuals recorded by all the civil registries in the country. This data, published yearly, is periodically and extensively corrected. Firstly, the registries are slow in striking off the data of people who have left the area, which then results in a double count. Secondly, occasional amnesties lead to the emergence of people previously unaccounted for. Thirdly, censuses show discrepancies between the statistics offered by municipal offices and those derived from ISTAT interviews. Finally, comparing ISTAT data with those provided by the Ministry of the Interior points to further differences as the latter base their findings on residency permits.

The irregular share of the foreign population is unaccounted for and only estimated in calculations which differ widely depending on the method used. Quite often, the basis used is the regular foreign population (which, as we have seen, is highly variable from source to source) in order to come to an average of illegal immigrants in proportion to every 100 persons with a residency permit. However, this coefficient although quite adequate for specific populations, may not be so for other groups, where the phenomenon is practically inexistent.

The lay person would do well to check up the methodological notes of such research reports

² Results of the research "Immigrazione, paura del crimine e i media: Ruoli e responsabilità" done by Jeroen Vaes and Caterine Suitner in 2012.

carefully or consult with an expert capable of explaining the inherent problems in these sort of data so as to avoid over-representing or underestimating the phenomenon as the case may be.

— Crime statistics

There are at least five different types of data which can be used to estimate crime committed by foreigners. In order of distance from the 'observation point' of the perpetration of the crime the available statistics are taken from: (a) criminal complaints; (b) criminal offences for which a legal action has been started by the magistrate; (c) criminal court activity; (d) convicted defendants; (e) detainees or persons with alternative punishments.

Each of these statistics may be useful for some purposes but unreliable for others. In the analysis of crime, a general principle prevails: the further one goes from the perpetration of the crime itself, the more numerous are the factors that intervene to modify the survey of the initial phenomenon.

Unfortunately, one of the most frequent data to appear in the media is the one down the line: the proportion of foreigners in the prison population or even in a single prison. This data is heavily influenced, amongst other things, by the different rates with which Italians and foreigners are subject to alternative punitive measures other than detention, as well as by the penal aspect of clandestine immigration offence up until 2014.

At the other end of the scale, closer to the perpetration of the crime, one finds the statistics on criminal complaints, which have their own problems. Crimes that are not discovered by the police but are the result of judicial investigations are not included in these statistics.

Statistics that consider criminal offences for which a legal action has been started, on the other hand, omit numerous cases that have been reported but did not have a judicial follow-up.

In general, it is necessary to keep in mind the following issues:

— it has been estimated that less than 35% of crimes are reported – with great discrepancies from crime to crime – therefore any statistics would regard only a part of the phenomenon by disregarding the 'obscure number';

— only 23% of perpetrators are identified – again with great variation according to the type of crime. Therefore any comparison between Italians and foreigners will regard only a tiny portion of crimes: those committed by known perpetrators and reported to the police or the magistrate. This means considering an average of only 8% of all crimes;

— the police and the Magistrature have a proactive behaviour that may vary in time as well as according to the type of crime. In other words, they concentrate their energy in a selective way: as all the statistics mentioned measure the activities of the police and the judiciary, they are influenced by the priorities defined from time to time by these institutions, according to the perception of the gravity of the situation, to the resources required to combat the phenomenon, as well as to the expected results;

— 'x' percent of foreigners charged of a crime does not mean 'x' percent of 'criminal' foreigners, because a part of these complaints (or legal actions or sentences) would refer to the same individuals known as repeat offenders. Furthermore, being the object of a complaint does not necessarily mean that a crime has been committed;

— any comparison between the foreign and autochthonous population or among different nationalities must take into account the fact that the two groups may not have the same demographic characteristics: young persons and males commit more crimes, so the groups with this type of profile would have a higher tendency to crime without taking into account any other factors;

— estimates on small populations tend to be skewed with a high statistical error: a few individuals engaged in criminal activity may have a great impact on their nationality's

crime rate. The fact that in data collected in the first decade of this century the Irish once resulted as the population with the highest rate of robbers should not lead us to conclude that they are dangerous immigrants, as we have a too small group here to be viable for statistical extrapolations;

— criminal behaviour varies quite gradually over time so that any sudden rise or fall in specific crimes is most likely the result of changes in survey procedures rather than in actual behaviour.

— The “number of refugees/migrants ready to land on our coasts”

From time to time, members of the government in spring would give statements with figures with many noughts of the number of people ‘ready to land on our coasts’. This sort of data consists of a forecast about the future based on murky indicators and unclear intelligence sources. While coming from governmental authorities, it has none of the advantages of official statistics: it does not originate from standardised and systematic procedures nor is it ‘collected’ by any appointed bureau but consists of an extremely hazardous wager about the future. In every case, the data provided by agencies dealing with migrants’ landings have then proven such forecasts completely wrong.

On the basis of ten years’ worth of experience and in the light of the examples of independence and professional rigour that are the pride of journalism, it is important to enquire about the accountability and reliability of forecasting data pressing the public authorities when they issue such information. In any case, it is quite appropriate and increasingly relevant the call from the association Carta di Roma to avoid scaremongering when estimating the potential flux of migrants. At the same time journalists should explain the international issues that determine a significant increase in the migratory flow.



Pilot workshop of the MLG in Italy



Pilot workshop of the MLG in Italy



Pilot workshop of the MLG in Italy

Informative Resources for journalists

What we propose here is a list of sources divided up into sectors, where journalists and media operators can find the latest data and information about migrants, asylum seekers and minority groups.

— Institutions and immigration policies

www.lavoro.gov.it – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: specific information can be found in the “immigrazione” and “Area Sociale” sections of the website;

www.interno.it – Ministry of Interior: there are several items to be consulted: “Immigrazione”, “Asilo”, “Cittadinanza”, “Servizio Demografico”;

www.esteri.it – Ministry of Foreign Affairs: in the section “Politica estera italiana” (Italian Foreign Policy) is given an overview of the different geographical areas of origin of migrants, while under the section ‘visti’ are filed all documents concerning flows’ origins and motivations.

www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it – Integration of Migrants. Living and Working in Italy: in-depth website on immigration issues (statistics, initiatives and services, legislation, etc.), jointly promoted by the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, University and Research and Ministry of Integration headed by the European Fund for Integration.

— European institutions

http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en – The European website on Integration: it contains an overview of integration, best practices (with reference to every Member State), sites, bibliography and the project partners;

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs – DGs Home Affairs of the European Commission:

clicking the menu item ‘Policies’ you will access the sections ‘Immigration’ and ‘Asylum’; <http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp?langId=en> – DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion of the European Commission: which is responsible for security and social protection;

www.frontex.europa.eu – FRONTEX: the European agency for the management of external borders;

http://fra.europa.eu – Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA): European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, advisory body of the European Union;

www.mipex.eu – Migration Integration Policy Index: compares the integration policies of different States on the basis of a series of indicators;

www.emn.europe.eu – European Migration Network: network headed by the DG Internal Affairs of the European Commission, which publishes the national reports of all the 28 members states.

— International organizations

www.oim.com – International Organization for Migration;

www.unhcr.it – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

— Legislation and legal updates

www.asgi.it – Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (ASGI): essential for the upgrade of laws, decrees, decisions, circulars and implementing regulations;

www.immigrazione.it – magazine addressed to professional users interested on immigration issues, especially for what it concerns the legal and social domain;

www.meltingpot.org – the Melting Pot Europe

project: is a multilingual website addressed to the public and private sector operators involved in the migration phenomenon, which provides complete and in depth coverage of all issues relating to immigration laws;

www.immigrazioneoggi.it: provides legal advice and news on civil society and cultural initiatives relating to immigration;

www.stranieriinitalia.it/briguglio/immigrazione-e-asilo: archive that provides several documents (mainly legal) relating to immigration, hosted in the editor of foreign languages publications website.

— Statistics and data

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database – EUROSTAT: statistical office of the European Union, with references to individual Member States;

www.istat.it – The National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT): “measures” the various aspects of the Italian society, included immigration, publishing data on residents (divided up into municipalities), reporting the results of specific surveys (demographic projections and indicators, weddings, social disadvantage) and updating the immigrant labor force survey;

www.dossierimmigrazione.it: promoted by IDOS, this website provides the summary of the ‘Immigration Statistics Dossier’ which is published every year since 1991, introduces the new IDOS Edition publications and all events ongoing;

www.fortresseurope.org – the Fortresseurope Observatory: edited by the journalist Gabriele Del Grande, constantly monitors the shipwrecks and rescues of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea.

— Research institutes

www.censis.it – Study center for social investment (CENSIS): whose Report on the country

social situation is considered to be the most qualified and complete tool of interpretation of the Italian society;

www.cnel.it – National Council of Economy and Labour (CNEL): useful data are displayed under the item ‘Immigration’ under the menu ‘Statistics’ (CNELSTATS). In addition, the National Coordination Body for the social integration policies of foreign citizens to a local level (ONC), established in the CNEL since 1998, publishes annual index of immigrants integration in Italy, divided up to territory;

www.fondazione Nordest.net – The North East Foundation: to accede to the Studies and Research projects, please refer to the item “Immigrazione” (Immigration) under the menu “Ricerche” (Researches);

www.ismu.org – ISMU Foundation (Initiatives and studies on multi-ethnicity): a body that promotes studies, researches, and initiatives on the multiethnic and multicultural society;

www.fieri.it – International and European Forum for Migration Research;

www.cestim.it – CESTIM: is an association of social and cultural workers involved in different immigration sectors. It also provides a database of dissertations;

www.cser.it – The Scalabrini Fathers’ Emigration Study Centre of Rome (CSER): is known for its Emigration Studies review and its specialized library (whose books are also available on-line), it updates new publications and all events taking place in Italy (www.roma-intercultura.it).

— Economy

www.unioncamere.gov.it – the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Craft and Agriculture: publishes reports and news relating to the foreign entrepreneurship, regarding the origin, the territorial settlement and the areas of expertise;

www.fondazioneleonemoressa.org – The Foundation is promoted by the artisans and small enterprises Association - CGIA of Mestre since 2002. It processes the data on immigration, classified into: remittances, labor market, wages, business, demography, school.

— Second generation

www.secondogenerazioni.it – the G2 Network Association: the website composed by young people born or grew up in Italy whose parents are immigrants. They were among the first promoters of the Law on Citizenship reform;

www.associna.com/it – The association of young Italian Chinese: is active in several Italian cities, from Prato to Milan and Bologna;

www.italianipiu.it: it is a portal of the publisher “Stranieri in Italia”, dedicated to the second generation;

www.yallaitalia.it: it is a blog dedicated to the second generation and printed supplement of the weekly ‘LIFE’.

— Specialized agencies and news

www.redattoresociale.it: it is a daily news agency of the Community of Capodarco, dedicated to social issues with a great attention to the migration phenomenon;

www.stranieriinitalia.it: this platform includes different multicultural newspapers publishing in various languages and realized with the collaboration of journalists with ethnic minorities background;

www.mmc2000.net: The Ong COSPE website on media and cultural diversity.

— About journalism and immigration

www.cartadiroma.org – The Associazione Carta di Roma (Charter of Rome Association):

website was created in order to promote the knowledge and the full implementation of the Code of conduct addressed to journalists, regarding migrants, asylum seekers and refugees;

http://www.parlarecivile.it: links to the “Redattore Sociale” website, relating to journalistic language;

http://associazioneansi.org: specialization group of the FNSI composed by foreign journalists working in Italian newspapers;

www.face2faceitalia.wordpress.com: blog promoted by Cesvi under the European project ‘Face 2 Face. Facilitating dialogue between migrants and European citizens’.

IV. Spain

We are

“Immigrants come to Europe in small boats and waves, living on social aid; they increase insecurity, do not want to integrate and are a threat to our ways and culture ...”

These speeches, messages and information generated from prejudice show a narrow and restrictive view of reality and social participation of ethnocultural minorities. However, they are everyday language in the media to whom many people nowadays refer to understand our environment. Therefore, communication is a strategic tool with immense potential to promote respect and social cohesion and strengthen or increase the ignorance among those forming society. This view, hinders the desire to get know the others those who we consider different and encourages fear and stimulates racist attitudes. Generating dynamics to facilitate mutual understanding and to promote respect is difficult but not impossible and these are some of the objectives of the **Face 2 Face** project.

DiversitatOnline.org aims to be a space where, preferably, professionals and students of Media Communications can access references, to help them get documented on the migration processes, on the social and cultural participation of ethnocultural minorities and on situations of discrimination and racism. Obviously is open to all persons interested and affected by this issue.

Starting by offering contextualized documentation and contact with various sources, the sections of diversitatonline.org are there to guide the future professionals in the production of Media contents but also through a proper critical revision and final publication and diffusion of their works.

Diversity Online is a space created by the Observatory of Diversity in the European project Face 2 Face. This space is coordinated by Raúl Martínez Corcuera, professor of Communication at the University of VIC-SOS Racism and by MUGAK Gipuzkoa.

Collaboration, participation and educational innovation

The media are a fundamental means for citizens to get information on areas such as immigration and diversity. The mass media are involved in shaping public opinion, either to promote coexistence either to induce social tension.

Thus, journalism has to become aware of its responsibility to provide plural social and cultural perspectives. Rigorous and professional journalism means being more sensitive to social and cultural issues that could compromise coexistence.

Journalism has to use its ability to report and denounce injustices that threaten the integrity of the people, without compromising the rigor and professionalism. A clear and current ex-

ample can be seen in the commitment of the media in the reporting domestic violence.

Likewise, they could promote social participation of ethnocultural minorities and coexistence among all the people who are part of society, whether born here or arrived from other countries. And in this process it is essential to respect the professional codes, to represent all voices and points of view, the independence, the impartiality and the responsibility towards others.

There is a noticeable difference between a front page highlighting the stereotypical image of Islam “CAE an Islamist network that recruited suicide bombers in Catalonia” (El Periódico, 29. 3. 2007) OR report on issues which reflect about diversity within the Muslim religion “Islam in a feminist key” (Público, 25. 10. 2008).

To paraphrase the writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in front of a plural vision of realities you encounter the danger of a single story. A single point of view of a story denies equality to those who it does not represent and prevents you from seeing the world as it is, and thus those who read it get a limited and one sided version of the facts. *“I’ve always felt that it is impossible to engage properly with a place or a person without engaging with all of the stories of that place and that person. The consequence of the single story is this: It robs people of dignity. It makes our recognition of our equal humanity difficult. It emphasizes how we are different rather than how we are similar.”*

Today, and for various reasons, media coverage of basic social and cultural issues such as gender equality or diversity is out of the universities’ curriculum for future journalists. Thus, the students are not sensitized and do not realizes the importance of working these questions truthfully. Issues like these, which affect coexistence, must be worked with all students when dealing with socially cross-cutting themes. Meanwhile, several people part of society, professionals and persons linked to the academic field, are trying to offer tools and

resources to facilitate these processes of education and training.

The Face 2 Face project

In this line, “Face 2 Face: Facilitating dialogue between migrants and European citizens” is an international project that is trying to break these negative stereotypes through a unique look towards ethnocultural minorities and seeks to promote a better public perception of migration by showing a diverse reality. This formula refers to the creation of a basis for interaction and dialogue among all people in the country. Face 2 Face proposes the creation of a guide to train and raise awareness (Module Lecture Guide – MLG) around diversity in the media. And in this process of creation www.diversitatonline.org was born.

This is how, the proposal for a web site, upgradeable and participatory involving different fields of action came to life. Matter of fact those are the two premises which drove us to take Internet as a platform for our MLG. In it, we would like to get in touch with the students of communication, and with all those people related to the representation of minorities and who want a change toward a path of normalized social participation.

What is DiversitatOnline.org?

— A space of documentation and information on minorities and a mean to facilitate access to full and respectful information, away from a vision generated exclusively from stereotypes and linked to the conflict.

— An area of contact with protagonists and experts on migration issues from a political, economic, social, cultural or existential perspective, to provide real testimonies about living together in multicultural societies. But also with professionals from different fields and with various geographical and cultural backgrounds, who can give an insider view not necessarily linked to their geographical origin.

— A space for critical reflection about socially sensitive issues, which needs a professional, rigorous and documented treatment. A space of criticism of the negative decontextualized portrayals or based on stereotypes, and a place where counter-discourses on immigration are proposed; it is also an area where you can consult newspaper articles written in a way consistent with journalistic ethics, in order to have an example of how it is a rigorous and professional work when dealing with immigration and ethnocultural minorities.

While the space can be attractive and effective to media professionals, **diversitatonline.org** has an added value for students of areas such as communication and education (Fig. 2). Besides being a space for training, awareness, reflection and critique it is also a collaborative and participatory space for the diffusion of the productions of the students themselves. Thus, at the same time the project responds to an interest in pedagogical innovation, to train Media and Communication's students. **Pedagogical innovation that from proposals such as autonomous learning which promotes the ability of students** to direct their own learning, training in critical thinking and awareness of the variety of viewpoints. Dan Gillmor in his

book *Mediactive* (2010) stresses the need to persuade passive consumers to become active users of media both in reading and in the creation process. Proposes to students to choose a topic in which they are experts and create a web space about it. So as to generate a critical space about the news published by the media, that relate to the chosen topic. The project seeks to promote critical thinking and work, assessment and analysis of the information from the Media by using their own standard of judgment. And in this line works www.diversitatonline.org.

Moreover, among the proposed application in education, reference is made to the need to connect the work of teachers in various subjects with their own projects, something that will remove the teaching experience away from the routine.

In conclusion, **www.diversitatonline.org is a space for documentation, reflection, critical analysis and to train and sensitize Media students, who have the opportunity publish and to distribute their own communication products, once they have worked on diversity through rigorous and journalistic professionalism that is needed in this sensitive area both socially and culturally.**

Fig. 1: *For an adequate Media representation and participation of ethnocultural minorities (www.diversitatonline.org)*

The screenshot shows the website www.diversitatonline.org. The header includes a navigation menu with links for HOME, SOMOS, OBJETIVOS, CONTACTO, SITEMAP, and REGISTRATE. Below the header, there are language options: CATALÀ, EUSKARA, ESPAÑOL, and ENGLISH. The main content area features a section titled "Desmuntatòpics" with a colorful bar chart and text describing a project by the Observatori de Diversitat. To the right, there is a "FUENTES" section with the heading "Fuentes informativas" and a paragraph discussing the relevance of information sources in the communication process. The footer mentions "VI Jornades de la Mesa per a la Diversitat".

Note: www.diversitatonline.org is a Module Lecture Guide directed and coordinated by the Observatory of Diversity in the Media; MUGAK/SOS RACISMO and UVIC-UCC

— Sections and content

diversitatonline.org is based on the following sections and categories that seek to articulate a proposal for journalism based on rigor and respect to the journalistic treatment of diversity, migration processes and the situation of ethno-cultural minorities.

We want to merge in one place all the aspects and contributions of all those who want to collaborate on this project.

On **diversitatonline.org** you can search for information, get updated, share and participate in various languages such as Catalan, Basque, Castilian or English. The structure of the website is: (1) info; (2) opinion; (3) review; (4) sources; (5) documentation.

1) Info

It collects the production of the students working on issues related to diversity through communication, education, sociology. They will be the ones working on different journalistic genres, from the simplest to the most elaborate and they shall propose other means to report on diversity.

News
Interviews
Reports

2) Opinion

In this section, we work on opinion, differentiated from information. The future professionals (students) incorporating analysis and reflection, share their personal vision with professionals or people involved in the issue (experts), expressing opinions on a wide range of topics.

3) Review

Critical review used as a resource to analyze the hegemonic media discourse. To highlight the bad practices (titles and / or incriminating

pictures, stigmatizing terminology, stereotyped themes, homogeneity in the sources of information, univocal points view...). **And to highlight good practices of professionals that are committed to another type of journalism than television.**

Television (We have seen), radio (We have heard), press (We have read) and Media content Internet are the areas in which we work.

4) Sources

Given the homogeneity of the usual sources of information, the **“Agenda of the Diversity”** provides a directory where to find more than one thousand alternative sources including minorities (experts, associations, institutions) with which you can complete and enrich your work.

“Who’s talking about...” includes sources from minorities and experts that can give a reasoned opinion on current issues.

5) Documentation

A resource which allows us to have an adjusted approach to reality, to the keys of the migration process and to the current ethno-cultural diversity.

To that end, various sections are hereby incorporated:

— Writing online. Keys to work the journalistic format (online) that is consolidated day after day.

— **Glossary** gives directions and explanations on concepts and also about the appropriate terminology to use for a correct handling of information.

— **“Recommendations”**: are included media style books and recommendations on appropriate treatment of information both on immigration and minorities in general or on specific issues such as how to address the Muslim religion and avoid falling into stereotypes and prejudices etc. You will find different proposals by entities and organizations that work on the representation of minorities in the Media.

— **Deontology** incorporates proposals about news coverage of minorities in various codes of ethics and Media style books to work with, according to ethical values and respect of human rights.

— The **“Press Review”** section, allows us to see what the agenda of the media on immigration and minorities is. From there, we can dwell on those same issues from a different perspective or take in count other new issues. The press review it is a newsletter developed by the Observatory of the Diversity in the Media, which includes the Media content published by 24 Spanish newspapers. On <http://medios.mugak.eu> you can find a database with more than 120,000 reports published in the last decade.

6) Links

Links leads to other web sites of interest that complete the educational proposal of www.diversitatonline.org

Principal keys for and adequate representation

Research on documentation

We consider that the research on the documentation is at the base of the editorial process. Having a better knowledge of the themes and contents that we communicate, allow us to offer concrete and professional information. In the case of media coverage of diversity, this documentation process is even more significant as since the message can promote coexistence and respect for all persons or delve into the ignorance and prejudice.

Depth research on sources; knowing the recommendations regarding the language used in treating diversity; or accessing to different point of views of reality on immigration and racism, allows providing comprehensive and accurate information. Knowing the content we work on allow us to escape superficiality, avoiding stereotypes and making a professional work.



The media discourse on immigration in Catalonia. Thoughts to achieve inclusive language.

The media discourse on immigration in Catalonia, contains reflections to attain inclusive language through the analysis and collection of expressions currently used in radio to define ethnic minorities, immigration and foreigners. So as to determine how far they are grounded in the language of hate and/or modern racism (even by strengthen it) or if they contribute to the recognition and inclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities.

Source: www.mesadiversitat.cat/pfw_files/cma/MDA/materials_mesa/materials_mesa/guia_llarga_llenguatge_inclusiu.pdf

Galdon (1993) presents an adequate definition and functions that argue for the need of the documentation process in conducting professional and thorough journalism. Therefore documentation is an essential process in the development of reliable, complete, clear and useful information.

Wadah Khanfar, Al Jazeera's director from 2003 to 2011 and previous director of La Vanguardia (6. 2. 2014) commented on this: *"The news are already for free, for the information we will have to pay."*

In Galdón's discursive line: if journalism is conceived as a mere social technique used for a rapid and effective transmission of facts, opinions and statements, then the research process is not required. Thus you can make news needless of documentation.

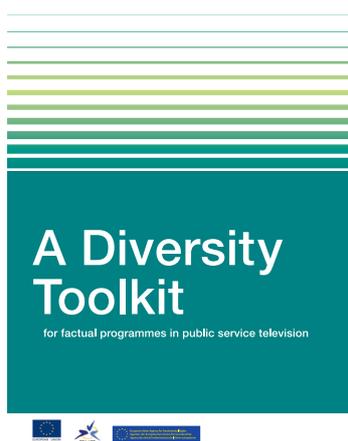
Instead to inform, namely to provide a true, fair, comprehensible and clear understanding of current human realities which the public needs to

know about, to be able to act freely, the research on documentation is an essential process.

The difference lies in providing simple news or information; to produce gossip or report; to give a superficial view or work with the audience to help them understand and contextualize the information in order to think and act freely.

Among the many features that Galdón sets for documenting, we can point out two. He speaks of a preparatory function to provide editors an accurate knowledge of the persons, institutions, issues or countries that will be the subjects of their work. To avoid superficiality in press coverage, we must be knowledgeable about the content that we are communicating about.

He also talks about a critical-verification function that needs to be used to compare sources and content to prevent forgery, falsification of reality and also manipulation of informants by the journalists themselves or by the various interested sources.



A Diversity Toolkit – for factual programmes in public service television (2007)

A toolkit, to reflect on the treatment of diversity on television. A study prepared by the EBU-UER (European Broadcasting Union) a space for reflection on actual emissions in different European television. And its added value is starting from the daily experience of a group of professionals who have to deal with the day to day work of television.

Source: www.mesadiversitat.cat/componentes/controles/download.php?MjQ4ODY%3D

Immigration and racism in media's stylebooks

The **deontology** section on diversitatonline.org incorporates various proposals of how minorities should be treated in the context of the media, in several codes of ethics and also several style manuals for the media in order to perform work in conformity with ethical values and human rights.

Servimedia, a media agency specialized in social issues, barely has a reference on page 47 of its stylebook around the processing of information on immigration, in which they recommended to avert to present the topic only from a point of view of conflict.

The immigrant or an immigrant person is still seen as a problem in many cases of public safety. In Servimedia we must make an effort not to frame this social phenomenon in a scenario riddled with permanent suspicion. An attack perpetrated by 5 young Romanians and one perpetrated by 5 young Spanish people, should have the same information value. Meaning, let's not put the focus of the event, on the exclusive condition of that the Romanians are also suspected robbers.

The national **Spanish's Radio and Television** media manual has a section, chapter 5, which covers sensitive issues and in paragraph 14 refers specifically to contents related to immigration, racism and xenophobia. RTVE advise to flee the stereotypes and treat rigorously these contents.

RTVE should avoid superficial and stereotypical views when issues relating to immigration, racism and xenophobia are addressed. To do this, although we report the legal-policing aspect of these issues (events, deaths, etc..) we must push for the presence of only the information that affects the underlying issue. RTVE professionals must take a responsible and active attitude in promoting coexistence and ethical values.

Chapter 7, "Normas de práctica y ética deontológica profesional", of the newspaper **El Mundo**, dedicated some lines in section IX to

the treatment of racism in the Media *and to the use of racist or ethnic, social or religious supremacy expressions. The derogatory remarks about ethnic groups, religions or groups are prohibited and we must pay attention to those cases in which apparently a reference is not racist, but the context is so: for example, the mention of detainees "Gypsies" or "Moroccan" in events in which the origin of those involved is as irrelevant as if they were Aragonese, blond or Adventists. Naturally, absolutely avoid derogatory terms like "le engañaron como a un chino" (they played him like a chinese), "una merienda de negros" (a black tea meeting) or "fue una judiada" (behaved like a jewish).*

However, these basic recommendations do not guarantee a proper treatment of the issue. "Invasion fully fledged by 300 sub-Saharanans" was on the front page of *El Mundo* (17. 10. 2012) under it a photo where agents of the Guardia Civil are shown holding a group of black men with naked torso. In the same cover and just below, another headline concerning minorities, this time the Chinese and linked to organized crime "Blow to the Gao Ping's Mafia". This representation connects directly with the idea that invasion, assaults and even the crimes that are committed everyday are something which is inherent to immigrants.

The Basque newspaper **Berría** stated in its stylebook the following recommendation on immigration and ethnic minorities.

— *Ethnic, religion, origin or cultural background won't be mentioned in the information unless it is completely necessary to understand the news.*

— *Immigrants do not constitute a homogeneous group. Therefore stereotypes and topics must be avoided. Thus, for instance, we cannot identify a specific origin, ethnic or religion with fundamentalist attitudes, a crime or a social conflict.*

— *Also regarding immigration issues it is necessary to guarantee diversity of information sources. Immigrants, as not only subject, but also as information sources.*

— *The graphic aspect of information must*

be taken care of to avoid involuntary implicit links between ideas.

— *Xenophobic speech will not be allowed [no] Vaitkus is the best doing gipsy trick*

These residual references in the manuals are examples of limited dimension given to the treatment and representation of ethnocultural minorities.

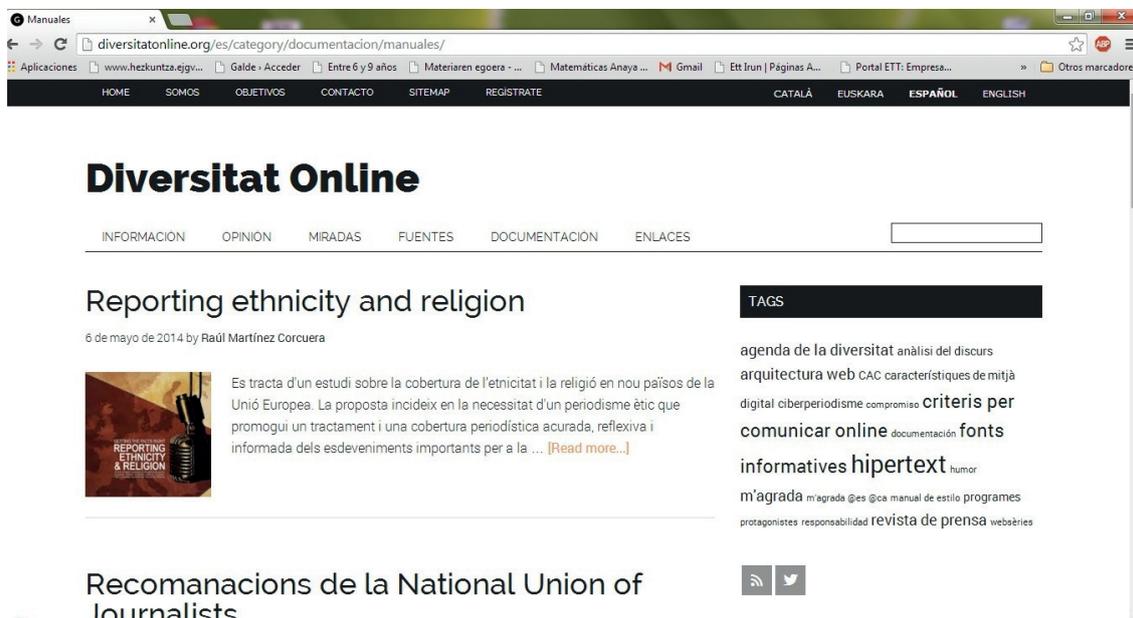
A profound reading and a critical review of the contents that link to the issues related with diversity, becomes more and more necessary and for this we incorporate in our website articles that contribute to this review.

The idea of a homogeneous society is difficult to sustain in the 21st century. Migration processes

which are inherent to humanity have reshaped the social reality in Europe too. And do not forget the ethnocultural diversity of our country with the Gypsy presence as the continent's largest minority. A good journalistic practices proposal goes through a truthful and respectful journalistic treatment and communication with the people in order to promote and facilitate the processes of inclusion and coexistence.

We believe that organizations, enterprises, and media professionals who are prepared to practice journalism must take the commitment and responsibility that comes with being part of this process positively. We propose quite simply to perform a professional job, which is based on truth and respect due to all groups and individuals that are part of society.

Fig. 1: *For an adequate Media representation and participation of ethnocultural minorities (www.diversitatonline.org)*



Sources of information

We share with Casero and López (2012): the relevance of information sources in the communication process. First, the quantity and quality of the sources used allow the analysis of media competence in building social reality. In this sense, sources decisively condition the content (agenda) and the focus (framing) of media coverage, and therefore are relevant regarding the social perception of reality. In addition, pluralism in the use of sources, providing different views and interpretations of the same event, constitutes an objective criterion to analyze the quality and professionalism of journalistic production.

Analyses show the lack of media representations of diversity in society. Typically, the active subject of the contents is a white, heterosexual, middle-class male and they silence or under-represent the voices of people from other groups and social models. Often ethnocultural minorities, women, people with disabilities or who do not fit the hegemonic discourse become the subject of the news only when linked to conflict, crime or victimization.

Who is talking about...?

The section 'Who is talking about..?' offers sources of information to give a deep and alternative vision on current issues that you could get in touch with on the "Agenda of Diversity". An example, is the campaign #somosmacacos.

Raúl Martínez Corcuera, Peio Aierbe, Anaitze Agirre and sources of information regarding racism in sport. Since 2008 the Observatory of Diversity, has worked in research funded by the Superior Council of Sports on racism in Sports following up with world events such as the Olympic Games Beijing 2008; European Football Championship 2008; the World Cup

in South Africa in 2010; and monitoring of racist comments in the spaces dedicated to the opinion of the readers in the Spanish Sports press, in 2011.

CATALÀ EUSKARA ESPAÑOL ENGLISH

FUENTES

Fuentes informativas

Compartimos con Casero y López (2012:1-2) la relevancia de las fuentes informativas en el proceso comunicativo. Por una parte, la cantidad y la calidad de las fuentes utilizadas permiten analizar la competencia mediática a la hora de construir la realidad social. En este sentido, las fuentes condicionan decisivamente el contenido (agenda) y el enfoque (framing)... [\[Read More\]](#)

per parlar de la campanya #somosmacacos...

Dani Alves es menja un platan llançat des de la grada en Villareal i s'inicia la campanya universal antiracista #somosmacacos Raül Martínez Corcuera, Peio Aierbe i Anaitze Agirre són fonts informatives per parlar de racisme en l'esport. Des de l'any 2008 l'observatori de la diversitat ha treballat en... [\[Read More\]](#)

In pursuing a rigorous and professional journalism in treating diversity, migration processes or situations of discrimination and racism, [diversitatonline.org](#) promotes the use of various information sources to show a complete and truthful reality through the **Agenda of Diversity published by mugak.eu**

Journalists and students can register at the Agenda and access to more than a thousand experts in the field of migration; persons belonging to minorities involved in migration or experts in their professional fields; journalists interested about diversity; or associations.

The Agenda provides access to alternative sources of information to the institutional ones, enabling a diverse, respectful and most comprehensive vision of reality and also promotes a rigorous and quality journalism.

Fig. 4: *Agenda of Diversity*

The need to promote the use of various sources responds to the results of the analysis conducted by the Centre of Diversity that concludes about an overrepresentation of official sources in the newspaper articles related to diversity and a limited presence of other social representatives. From a general point of view this conclusion confirms the study by Mayoral (2005:101-102) that mentions a very low presence of sources of information in the Media; a lack of identification of sources used and over 10% have no attribution. In half of the cases the information is not confirmed by other sources, namely, a single source that gives his version without contrast. All this draws the perfect conditions for a message that apparently is informative; however it has a persuasive essence since the sources are the ones that dominate the flow of information, hiding behind the signature of a journalist.

Critical Review

A critical gaze involves reflection and awareness about the role of the media. A critical perspective or review by professionals and students of Communication implies observing

and revealing the objectives of the media in the form and contents of their publications, that is, if they are to inform, review, entertain, educate, persuade, sell or to offer a service ...

Reporting mainly on issues related to conflict and marginalization only serves to stigmatize and create stereotypes. It is no coincidence that in the collective imagination, immigrant women are either prostitutes or victims of a religion that oppresses them. Similar headlines are the most frequent "More than 700 foreign prostitutes in the province" (La Voz de Galicia, Pontevedra lp.; 28. 7. 2013).

This critical view, promoted from documented knowledge and access to diverse voices who provide plurality of views, allows to observe and critique a stereotyped, decontextualized information that exclusively links immigration to a problem, conflict, tension.

A critical, respectful, rigorous and professional gaze will involve values of tolerance; contextualization and confirmation from multiple sources. It involves giving voice to the protagonists; separate information from opinion; or it promotes the relationship between journalists and experts to deconstruct stereotypes and misconceptions that are still rooted in society.

Fig. 4: 'Tot un món' on the Televisió de Catalunya



Note: The ninth season of "Tot un món" seeks examples of people and cases that refute the rumors about immigration. It seeks to break clichés and stereotypes. They emphasize the positive aspects of diversity and good intercultural coexistence without avoiding the problems that might arise and they also treat cases that damage this coexistence. They want to share experiences that can serve as counter-response.

Source: <http://www.tv3.cat/totunmon>

For example, a story about immigration can be completed or processed using other sources than the usual formal ones. And even though these are the most utilized and the most valued by the professionals, **the picture could be enlarged considerably if given room to those who actually star in the facts.**

An example may show you the differences in the informative treatment.

It is not the same to state that "The number of foreign workers in Gipuzkoa grows at a rapid pace" according to the Social Security (DV, January 2008) or that "Lan egiteko bakarrik nahi gaituzte, eta ez gaituzte herritartzat hartzen" (They only want us for working and do not consider us citizens; Berria, October 2006). The first title can evoke the feeling

that people from other countries are getting all the jobs and abound with the prejudice that immigrants are taking away jobs from the natives. The second one, instead, directly includes the voice and opinion of an immigrant underscoring the utilitarian conception of this group.

Education, support of those who have concerns or want to be critical of the negative messages and have a positive attitude towards multiculturalism is the first step to promote a public opinion which responds to the values of tolerance and respect.

A critical review is thus the basis for a good work, and as a last step, the creation of own communication products which respond to this respectful, professional and rigorous gaze.

Fig. 5: Pa'que Sean series



Note: Pa'que Sean series is a webseries that is in its second season. Features pieces about 5 minutes long where, in medium shot, Dayon Moiz talks, talks and talks about his life experience, coming from Venezuela and living now in Barcelona. He speaks of the decision to come to Barcelona and "bureaucratic facilities", the journey and arrival, the economic crisis and his work without a proper contract, the celebration of Sant Jordi and the process of independence in Catalunya. All with a diverse and fun look, and an edit that removes the micropauses and leave us breathless.

Production and distribution of contents

The documentation process done with the resources provided by diversitatonline.org, the reviewing of the recommended manuals and codes of conduct, will enabled the students to complete a journey of awareness and training in working contents about ethnocultural minorities.

Following the documents review we will have completed the journey to prepare for the production of media contents by accessing to various expert sources in the issue and/or belonging to a minority.

After taking a critical gaze on the language used by the media, the observation and analysis of good professional practices is the time the students to develop other information and their opinion. They are in a position to produce contrasting content, use different sources and develop contextualized information. A rigorous, balanced, truthful and professional journalism. At the time of production, the news genre allows us to address the facts from the simplest manner in the form of news, delve into issues with the interview, or make more complex and elaborate productions through the report.

Additionally the opinion gives us space to reflect and discuss on various socially sensitive issues. This genre allows to deepen and learn a subject in detail, to know the different aspects and to provide background information and analysis that will help the audience better understand the facts.

For four months, students of the Faculty of Communication and Business at the University of VIC – Central University of Catalonia, followed this process which is now consultable at diversitatonline.org. We would like to acknowledge the cooperation and interest shown by the future journalists and communicators. We also want to thank the teachers who have collaborated in developing this didactic proposal. Also, we would like to stress again that this site is fundamentally collaborative and we hope to have the involvement of all those people, pro-

fessionals, academics and students who have a different and proactive view on how diversity should be reported.

Posting protocol

Welcome to diversitatonline.org!

To start posting entries on the site, click on the 'REGISTER' icon on the menu at the top of the page and enter your chosen password and username. If you have experience with the publication of entries in Wordpress, go ahead. **However if you have any doubts, this protocol will help you through the process.**

1) Registration and management of a profile

From the 'REGISTER' icon on the top menu of the page, you can enter the username and password that connects to your email and join the team of authors and collaborators of diversitatonline.org.

First of all, we recommend entering the profile (left column) and **changing the password**. You can also complete your contact information and/or your biographical data, the name under which you appear on the page or the language settings in which you want the configuration of the page.

2) To publish an entry

Once you have entered the settings page, **to post an entry**, you must go to the left column and click on **"Posts"** and then **"Add new"**.

In the middle column, you should place the title at the top and the text at the bottom. Choose 'normal' (visual) as a font, to keep the established formats for the entire site.

To complete the publication of the entry, go to the left column and follow a very quick process.

— At the top of the column appears the default **language** for the publication, that you

got automatically assigned. Switch it to the language in which you wrote your post.

— Go to **“Categories”**. Check the box (ONLY ONE) with the category in which your text fits in.

— Go to **“Tags”** and you can set some keywords separated by commas, to ease the search and reading of your text by content. 3 to 5 tags are usually used to facilitate viewing from search engines.

— The final step is to click, in the center of the column, on the icon **“Post”** or **“Submit for review”** if you want to take a final look before publishing.

3) Do you want to include media?

You can include an image / video / audio by clicking on the “Add media” icon. Place your cursor where you want to put the image. Usually if you share an illustrative picture is best to place it at the beginning of the entry.

— To include images from your own computer’s archive, click on the ‘Upload files’ icon and select the ones you would like to share.

— By clicking on the ‘Media Library’ icon you could also consult the images already shared on the site and use them freely.

If you have various images or media in your post but you would like to display prominently one more than the others, you must go to the tab ‘Featured image’ at the bottom of the right column. Click on ‘Set featured image’ and a screen will open to select the image in the same way as for the selection of media.

Thanks for your cooperation and remember that all kind of suggestions to improve diversitatonline.org are always welcome!

When journalists work with the topic of migration, they not only need to think about the choice of topics, but also about the way they write and report them. The way a story will be perceived and understood by its readers, listeners, and viewers is largely influenced by the choice of vocabulary, and the use of metaphors. The image people create about migration, although unconscious, is to a huge extent based on the media discourse. It is, therefore, the journalists' responsibility not to repeat stereotypes, and refrain from supporting the deepening gap between "us" and "them". On the contrary, they should think about their own discourse so as to contribute to migrant integration into society.



Among other things, it helps substantially to avoid using metaphors of natural disasters or portraying migrants exclusively as a threat, a workforce, victims, and an exotic element of society. Instead of presenting an indistinguishable mass of foreigners, they should portray individuals, along with their pros and cons, and different life destinations, just like anybody else.

One of the basic steps that a journalist needs to make if she/he wants to write about migration in a correct and informed way is to learn how to use terminology correctly. For example not every migrant is a refugee or an asylum seeker, and not every foreigner is a migrant. Long-term residence is different from citizenship, and so on. Also, some labels bear negative connotations and it is, therefore, incorrect to use them.

Only quality, balanced, and informed reporting on migration in the media can contribute to the much needed connection between migrants and the dominant society, and the majority to the lives of migrants. If journalists report on migrants without prejudices and misleading statements, they are providing their recipients contact with the often unknown world of migration. Journalists should reflect on their work the same way they do when dealing with all other important topics. They should remember that migrants are not a monolithic mass that threatens the majority. Instead, migrants are individuals with their own stories, experience, opinions, and mistakes, just like everybody else.

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