

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of *Zeszyty Prasoznawcze / Media Research Issues* contains a collection of papers devoted to two main research areas: the issues surrounding electronic media, including changes in media payments and media functioning; and lastly, the issues surrounding the journalistic environment with a particular focus on how dynamically incurring economic, political or socio-cultural changes affect modern journalists. The majority of the texts presents the outcomes of empirical research on the issues pertaining to media management.

The "Articles" section begins with Tadeusz Kowalski and Bohdan Jung's paper entitled "Hybrid Time as a Critical New Variable in Media Consumption – Context of the Attention Economy". The authors emphasize the growing importance of the time variable in media consumption research and put forth the idea that the traditional division of time is losing importance when considering work, leisure and how media consumption occurs in hybrid time. The researchers discuss the paradigm shift in the functioning of the media market.

Polarization of content in Polish news making is the focus of the study presented by Jędrzej Skrzypczak and Grzegorz Iwasiuta who investigated an extremely significant issue regarding bias and the polarization of information presented in news programs of the three most popular broadcasters, both licensed and public, that covered dramatic and important events essential for the functioning of the state and public life in Poland.

Researchers exploring the issues of the Polish journalistic environment will undoubtedly be interested in the two articles devoted to this subject matter. In the text entitled "Factors Affecting Self-Censorship Among Polish Journalists", Agnieszka Stępińska reflects on the factors that have negatively affected the level of autonomy and the phenomenon of self-censorship among Polish journalists in the three decades following the political transformation in Poland. The findings of the research revealed that in the first decade after the transformation, journalists perceived political factors as the main source of restrictions on autonomy, while in the second decade they felt it was mainly due to economic pressure. Recent years have brought another change – journalists have once again started to suggest that political factors are potentially influencing their sense of autonomy in the selection of topics discussed and the manner of reporting them.

Weronika Świerczyńska-Głównia also points out the importance of political factors in the work of journalists. In her article, titled "Trust in Journalists in the Light of Survey Findings Gathered from Members of the Journalistic Profession", she presents the results of research aimed at identifying the factors that, in the opinion of journalists, have the greatest impact on building trust among the readers and the viewers. The author highlights the importance of political views as the main factor having the greatest impact on the way the issue of *trust in journalists* is understood and perceived by journalists themselves. Moreover, the results of her research also

indicate that political views are also important in terms of the recipient's choice of specific content – both in personal and institutional context.

The article by Karolina Pałka-Suchojad entitled “Who Keeps the Gate? Digital Gatekeeping in New Media” is an attempt to transpose the gatekeeping theory in the context of the recent changes in new media and, more specifically, social media. Finally, Krzysztof Flasiński investigates the media narrative regarding the effects of the pandemic restrictions on social life during the COVID-19 epidemic covered by gazeta.pl website. The findings of empirical studies suggest that the health crises was reported according to the principles of the life cycle of a news topic. Content analysis of news items published during the first wave of the pandemic in Poland, showed no correlation between the number of news stories on COVID-19 and the number of confirmed cases of the new infectious disease. The pandemic is still on the rise in many countries at the time of publishing of this special issue of our journal.

The collection of articles is supplemented by three book reviews. In her text “Then, Now, and Later: The Transition of Documentary Photography” Weronika Saran reviewed the latest work of Michelle Bogre. MyKaila Young focused on Amit Pinchevski's “Transmitted Wounds: Media and the Mediation of Trauma”. Magdalena Hodalska discussed fact-checking and fake news verification in the context of infodemic ensuing COVID-19, reviewing the latest “Verification Handbook: For Disinformation and Media Manipulation”, edited by Craig Silverman and published shortly before the pandemic changed our lives and media.

Weronika Świerczyńska-Głównia

 orcid.org/0000-0001-8840-703X