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### CALL FOR PAPERS

As an effort to share and amplify the role of the social sciences during this pandemic, Jurnal Komunikasi would like to welcome submissions for manuscripts on media, communication and COVID-19 for publication in our June issue. Papers should be articles based on original research and may be submitted to us through OJS.

We look forward to receiving your papers.

Posted: 2020-04-14

### NEW ISSUE: JURNAL KOMUNIKASI VOL 36 NO 3

The Editorial Board at Jurnal Komunikasi is pleased to announce the publication of our September 2020 issue, Jurnal Komunikasi: Malaysian Journal of Communication Vol. 36 No. 3.

We would like to thank all authors, reviewers and contributors for making this issue a

The new issue may be accessed at: <a href="http://ejournal.ukm.my/mjc/issue/view/1322">http://ejournal.ukm.my/mjc/issue/view/1322</a>

Thank you all for your kind support.

Posted: 2020-09-29

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Home > Archives > <b>Vol 36, No 2 (2020)</b>		USER
		Username Password
Vol 36, No 2 (2020)		Remember me
Table of Contents		NOTIFICATIONS
Articles		<ul><li><u>View</u></li><li>Subscribe</li></ul>
Media Framing of Minorities' Crisis: A Study on Aljazeera and BBC News Coverage of the Rohingya	PDF	
Osama Kanaker, Mohamed Oklah Abughazlih, Mohd Faizal Kasmani		JOURNAL CONTENT Search
<u>Digital Visual Effects (DVFx): Comparative Iconography Analysis in Malaysian, Indian and Australian Award-Winning Movies</u> Hasrul Hashim	<u>PDF</u>	Search Scope
Media Sosial, Alat Komunikasi Alternatif Suara Wanita: Satu Kajian Mengenai Peranan Wanita Berhijab dalam Sub-Budaya Muzik Metal di Indonesia Rizky Hafiz Chaniago	<u>PDF</u>	Search
<u>Faktor – Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Komunikasi Interpersonal dalam Kalangan</u> <u>Mahasiswa Kerja Sosial di Universiti Awam di Malaysia</u> Nazihah Kamarudin, Fauziah Ibrahim, Nur Saadah Mohamad Aun	<u>PDF</u>	By Issue     By Author     By Title     Other Journals
<u>Memobilia dan Kesedaran Wasiat Digital dalam Kalangan Belia Malaysia</u> Anuar Ali, Mohd Azul Mohamad Salleh, Normah Mustaffa	PDF	
<u>"I Don't Know If It Is Fake or Real News" How Little Indonesian University Students Understand Social Media Literacy</u> Hamdani M. Syam, Febri Nurrahmi	<u>PDF</u>	FONT SIZE
Internet Memes with Feminist Content as a Communication Media of Philosophical Meaning through Building a Deep Understandings on Women's Positions Iva Ariani, Fadhila Rachmadani	<u>PDF</u>	
Literasi Media dalam Kalangan Pelajar di Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Terhadap Isu Alam Sekitar Shahrul Nazmi Sannusi	<u>PDF</u>	
Analisis Psikometrik Literasi Media Baharu dan Pemantapan Integriti Penyertaan Politik Golongan Muda Mohd Sufiean Hassan, Maizatul Haizan Mahbob, Siti Nurshahidah Sah Allam	<u>PDF</u>	
"Money Politics" and "Ethnicity" in Voting Decisions during Tanzania Presidential	PDF	
Election Mwidima Peter Charles, Mus Chairil Samani		
Rise of the 5th Estate: How Online Public Discourse on Najib Razak's 1MDB Scandal Foreshadowed Pakatan Harapan's Win in the 14th General Election Nur Haniz Mohd Nor, Amira Firdaus, Surinderpal Kaur	<u>PDF</u>	
Influence of Different Facets of Internet Addiction on Subjective Well-being in Malaysia: A Comparison Across Ethnic Groups Siti Zobidah Omar, Zeinab Zaremohzzabieh, Asnarulkhadi Abu Samah, Jusang Bolong, Hayrol Azril Mohamed Shaffril	<u>PDF</u>	
Immediacy Factors as Solutions to Email Satisfactory Communication Among South- East Nigerian Academic Staff: Structural Equation Modeling and Preliminary Findings Chinedu Eugenia Anumudu, Megat Al Imran Yasin, Akmar Hayati Ahmad Ghazali, Syed Agil Shekh Alsagoff	<u>PDF</u>	
Pembinaan Kepercayaan dan Persepsi Risiko dalam Pembuatan Keputusan: Kajian Kes Komuniti 'Couchsurfing' Nur Syairah Asri, Izzal Asnira Zolkepli, Cheah Wen Kit	<u>PDF</u>	
Penerimaan dan Penggunaan Portal E-Warga dalam Kalangan Kakitangan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Muhammad Adnan Pitchan	<u>PDF</u>	
<u>Sindiran dalam Media Sosial: Perspektif Lakuan Bahasa</u> Nur Atikah Ibrahim, Maslida Yusof	<u>PDF</u>	
Special Articles		
Ethical Challenges in European Parliamentary Debates with Regards to Audiovisual Sexual Risks on the Internet Agnese Pastorino	<u>PDF</u>	
The Narrative of Ethnic Minority Children on Education in Central Java – Indonesia Hapsari Dwiningtyas Sulistyani, Turnomo Rahardjo, Lintang Ratri Rahmiaji, Taufik Suprihatini	<u>PDF</u>	
Meta Analysis of Women Politician Portrait in Mass Media Frames Hasan Sazali, Lutfi Basit	PDF	

The Making of Local Public Sphere: Case Studies in Kebumen Regency and Batu City in Central and East Java
I Gusti Ngurah Putra

The Effect of Cigarette Advertising on Smoking Behaviour of Students in Banda Aceh <u>City, Indonesia</u> Heru Syah Putra, Rizanna Rosemary, Deni Yanuar, Abdillah Ahsan	PDF
<u>Developing City Branding Strategy of Ternate in North Moluccas - Indonesia</u> Eli Jamilah Mihardja, Tuti Widiastuti, Prima Mulyasari Agustini	PDF
Communication Networks on Adopter Farmers of Planting Technology at Cigasong Districts in West Java Vivit Wardah Rufaidah, Asep Suryana, Dadang Sugiana, Tuhpawana P. Sendjaja	PDF
Political Communication of Ahok in Demolishing Slums to Normalise River Ciliwung in Jakarta Nur Kholisoh, Yuventus Newin Bylmoreno	PDF
Regularity of a Crisis: Media Framing of the 2015 Transboundary Haze Issue in Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia Mira Rochyadi-Reetz, Olivia Deskarina Budiono, Jens Wolling	PDF
How Jokowi Communicates with the Public During Covid-19 Crisis: An Analysis of Tweets on Twitter Kadhung Prayoga	PDF

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# Media Framing of Minorities' Crisis: A Study on Aljazeera and BBC News Coverage of the Rohingya

OSAMA KANAKER MOHAMED OKLAH ABUGHAZLIH MOHD FAIZAL KASMANI Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia

### **ABSTRACT**

News nowadays is framed according to its makers. A single news item can be presented in different frames. The Rohingya are currently considered one of the most oppressed minorities worldwide. However, this minority did not receive enough support to alleviate their crisis. In this article framing theory is implemented to discover the frames used by Aljazeera and BBC in framing the causes and ramifications of the Rohingya crisis. This paper found out that news covered six main causes of the Rohingya crisis. The prominent cause that both Aljazeera and BBC agreed upon was security and military causes. 91.8% of the coverage was allocated to this prominent cause. The remaining 8.2% was for the other causes. Concerning ramifications, it was found out that news of Aljazeera and BBC collectively covered 20 ramifications. The majority of the ramifications were covered by both Aljazeera and BBC. However, Aljazeera independently cover 17 ramifications and the BBC independently covered only 10 ramifications. The main three ramifications that framed both Aljazeera and BBC news were deportation, mass massacres and oppression. Throughout the news observation, both Aljazeera and BBC framed their news by focusing on detailed incidents rather than establishing a holistic picture of the crisis. The frames implemented by Aljazeera and BBC were mainly the powerlessness frame and marginally the responsibility frame.

Keywords: News, framing, Rohingya, Aljazeera, BBC.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Every day many important events occur around the world, but only some of them are reported in the news media. People are interested in news because they like to be in the loop (Kim, Mohammad & Fatin, 2017). Among the important events that happen is the oppression of minorities. In many countries worldwide, minorities suffer multiple social, political, economic and religious problems irrespective of the fact that many of these minorities are indigenous (Marsad Al-Azhar, 2016). Muslim minorities, in general, suffer challenges of beliefs, values, behavior, personality and knowledge posed by the non-Islamic environment they live in (Attawab, 2012). One of these minorities is the Rohingya minority of Myanmar.

The Rohingya minority lives in the Muslim region of Arakan in southwestern Myanmar (Khdr, 2008; Shadeed, 2015). Their population reaches four million Muslims forming 70% of the population of Arakan. The Muslim population of Arakan is called Rohingya. Some researchers believe that the Rohingya confessed the faith of Islam long time ago since the Rashidun Caliphate. Other researchers believe that Islam entered the region during the Umayyad era (Ibrahim, 1996). A third group of researchers such as Phayre (1883) believe that it was during the Abbasid era. No matter during which caliphate of the three Islam reached the Rohingya, the three of them were long time ago. It did not exceed the second century AH until Islam was known in that country.

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# Ethical Challenges in European Parliamentary Debates with Regards to Audiovisual Sexual Risks on the Internet

# AGNESE PASTORINO Sorbonne University, France

## **ABSTRACT**

Within European political debate on audio-visual sexual risks for children on the Internet, liberal positions on freedom of expression (Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 Dec. 1948) are balanced by protectionist approaches highlighting the need for child protection (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). Moreover, other political issues are raised with regards to ethical concerns, such as cultural diversity or censorship. Ethical considerations vary among European media systems due to different historical, cultural and political backgrounds. The hypothesis is that these ethical arguments reflect the historical and cultural diversity of the European scenario. Based on this assumption, the piece of research retrieved ethical reflections focused on audio-visual sexual risks on the Internet and the European media policy regarding child protection. A field study has been carried out through the online archive of European Parliament's plenary. The corpus collected 45 European Parliamentary debates held between 2001 and 2016. Firstly, content analysis has been applied with ATLAS.ti; secondly, a hierarchical descendant classification has been carried out with the Alceste method (IRaMuTeQ). As a result, the defence of protectionist values, such as consumer and child protection, is justified by violence prevention. Moreover, ethical issues are related to product placement and protection of cultural diversity. Four main themes are highlighted; they are the following ones: the equilibrium between public service and commercial interests, child pornography and sexual exploitation of children, the balance between freedom of expression, and child protection, the relation between freedom of expression and censorship.

**Keywords:** Risk, media, children, Europe, parliament.

## INTRODUCTION

The spread of harmful contents through the Internet has raised different forms of "public anxiety" and "moral panic" in public debates (Critcher, 2008), especially towards the use of violent and sexual materials among children and youths. Risky content is building up as a danger for society, particularly since social media are becoming the first place of socialisation for young people; also, they are evolving into various forms of extreme violence, such as child pornography. Public debate has tackled three sexual risks: child abuse material, grooming and online pornography (McKee, Albury, & Lumby, 2008). Discourse on ethical issues related to the use of online technology has been guided by the idea of risk society theorized by Ulrich Beck (1992).

On this concern, some authors have underlined the need to renovate forms of prevention towards the emergence of new risks in a socio-cultural liberal context (Frau-Meigs, 2011). In European media representations, attention to risks prevails (Haddon, & Stald, 2009), but it varies according to cultural and historical aspects (McKee, Albury, & Lumby, 2008). The online availability of sexual risks, such as pornography, child pornography and grooming, appears to be one of the most urgent policy debates with regards to child protection on the Internet. The issue has been tackled through a multi-stakeholder approach, aimed at implementing regulatory, self-

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# Regularity of a Crisis: Media Framing of the 2015 Transboundary Haze Issue in Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia

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## **ABSTRACT**

The problem of the haze caused by huge forest fires persists as an annual transboundary problem for Indonesia and the rest of Southeast Asia. In 2015, the problem was worse than ever before, affecting many countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and causing respiratory ailments for more than half a million Indonesians. This study explores the media framing of the haze problem in Indonesia from June to December 2015. Using Entman's framing approach, it investigates how media outlets from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore covered the crisis. Articles from six online media outlets published in these three countries were analysed. Using cluster analysis, this research identified three frames as follows: (1) crisis frame, (2) immediate action frame, and (3) regular problem frame. The first cluster/frame consists of articles giving high salience to all problems and causes of the forest fires provoking the haze. In contrast, the second frame mostly ignores causes and problems and focuses almost exclusively on the need for immediate action. The third frame, which represents more than 60% of the articles, covers the haze problem as a regular issue without emphasizing prominently either the different aspects of the problem itself or its causes and solutions. Further results show that the media in Singapore and Malaysia used the crisis frame more often than the media in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Framing, haze problem, content analysis, Southeast Asia, comparative research.

# INTRODUCTION

Since 1982, several provinces in Indonesia have experienced a haze problem caused by forest fires during almost every dry season. However, the problem is not an Indonesian one alone; neighbouring countries in the Southeast Asian (SEA) region are also victims of the Indonesian haze (Varkkey, 2016; Jones, 2004). The SEA haze problem is "believed to be commonly caused by smoke from grass, forest and peat fires" (Cotton, 1999, as cited in Varkkey, 2016, p. 6). Most forest fires are consequences of the slash-and-burn practices of the agriculture sector. The intentionally set fires run out of control and burn forest as well as plantation areas (Varkkey, 2016). Debate is still ongoing about who is responsible for these fires. However, three groups have been identified as responsible for the creation of forest fires in the area: traditional cultivators, small-scale investors, and large-scale investors (Jones, 2004).

The 2015 forest fires were not the first ones provoking transnational haze problems. Other major forest fire disasters have occurred in the region, including one in 1997 and another in 2006 (Varkkey, 2016). In 2015, however, the impact was greater than ever. The fires created huge haze problems in an extensive region for almost half a year (June until mid-November). As reported by *The Jakarta Post*, the 2015 haze disaster affected at least five

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Rise of the 5th Estate: How Online Public Discourse on Najib Razak's 1MDB Scandal Foreshadowed *Pakatan Harapan*'s Win in the 14th General Election

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> AMIRA FIRDAUS SURINDERPAL KAUR University Malaya

## **ABSTRACT**

Public discourse commonly takes place in public forums of free media. The 4th estate provides an external dimension to the democratic check and balance to the executive (1st estate), the legislative (2nd estate), and the judiciary (3rd estate). This paper discusses the rise of a social media 5th estate, as exemplified by online public discourse surrounding the 1 Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal, and the country's ensuing electoral change of government. Drawing upon thematic analyses of 1MDB-related comments in the official Facebook page of Free Malaysia Today, this paper illustrates the rise of a social media 5th estate in the run-up to *Pakatan Harapan*'s win in the Malaysian 2018 14th General Election. Since international public disclosure in 2015 of former Malaysian premier Najib Razak's purported siphoning of billions of ringgit from 1MDB, the scandal continues to be a trending topic on Malaysian social media. The online discourse of 1MDB evolved from heated posts discussing Najib's culpability and criticism of his *Barisan Nasional* administration, into support to the opposition *Pakatan Harapan* coalition, particularly in the run-up to the 14th Malaysian General Elections (GE14) that was held on 9th May 2018. *Pakatan Harapan*'s win, following the social media support, exemplifies the power of a netizen-fuelled 5th estate.

Keywords: GE14, Pakatan Harapan, 1MDB, Najib, Barisan Nasional.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Since independence Malaysia has been ruled for 60 years by the *Barisan Nasional* (BN), however, the political landscape has changed after the 14th Malaysian General Election (Loh & Netto, 2018). BN a politically dominant party who won 13th Malaysian General Elections up till the year 2018 and 6 Malaysian Prime Ministers were from BN.

The 1MDB political scandal has changed Malaysia's political landscape where BN was ousted in the 14th general election. This is due to the 3 years of frustration Malaysian netizens experienced with vague explanations from the then Prime Minister, Najib Razak on 1MDB, only through elections they could realize their online dissatisfaction to real actions.

In the early stage of the expose, Najib was alleged to have siphoned RM2.6 billion believed to be from 1MDB into his personal accounts (Sarawak Report, 2015). Other allegations affiliated with 1MDB followed in the next two years, making Najib the 'First Malaysian Prime Minister' to be associated with serious international financial scandals.

Though various online expose on 1MDB had been made known to the public since 2015, Najib denied the allegations (The Guardian, 2018). His denial angered many Malaysians and they turned to the online platform to express their dissatisfaction. Our previous research on the online discourse found that any news item published by local online news portals on 1MDB attracted comment of discontent among Malaysian netizens unhappy with Najib (Mohd

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