

Journalist of the EU: Which role in policy-making process?

This panel aims at studying the link between the EU policy making and the media sphere. Most of the academic works dealing with media issues focus on the European Union coverage and its effects on public attitude (and votes). For example, N. GAVIN studies the role played by economic information on TV in England (GAVIN, 2000). C. DE VREESE describes the characteristics of news about European affairs in a comparative study of the editorial policies of news organizations in Britain, Denmark, and the Netherlands. He investigates the effects of television news on public opinion formation. He questions also whether the framing of EU news benefits more to the European institutions or the citizens (DE VREESE, 2002). The journalists' role in policy making is less studied.

Nonetheless, the journalists presence at the European level has already been taken account of. Other scholars insist on the permanent link between European institutions and journalists. For instance, analyzing the Commission's midday *briefing*, G. BASTIN shows how deeply rooted were the journalists in the Commission's PR in the early 2000ies (BASTIN, 2002). Comparing journalists in France and The UK in the 2000ies, O. BAISNÉE explains how the newsmaking of the EU remains produced on a national level. But on the European level, journalists are a part of the European community. Thus he described the presence of a link ("a synchrony of representations") between the symbolic order of the bureaucrats and the journalists (BAISNÉE, 2007).

As a result, we would like to review and deepen those perspectives in order to question the relation between the European policies and the newsmaking of journalists. The core of our panel issue would be to work on those European Journalists and their role and involvement in the European public policy process. This panel is divided into two axes:

Axe 1/ Professionalization of an EU journalists group ?

One aim of this panel is to question the existence of a common European social world in which journalists belong to, and to analyze the reality of a EU journalists group. Are those journalists part of the *Field of Eurocracy* (GEORGAKAKIS, 2012)? What is the history of the construction of the social group and how they distinguish themselves from other actor on the European level?

Along the European construction, this social group gained prestige. Nonetheless, the European correspondents seem to loss some ground nowadays. There are fewer journalists whereas the EU is bigger. Different causes could be addressed: the transformation of technics, like the irruption of online video in European press conference, a generational effect between the first correspondents and the new journalists. The European Union itself has faced many issues like the Enlargement (LECHELER, 2008) or the difficulties around the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (TCE) which have an impact on EU coverage. Furthermore, the Press financial crises in many countries have crippled the journalist presence at the European level.

When does this process of professionalization start and how can we describe it? How can the journalists construct their own social identities? How far the practices remains national or are they Europeanized, as A. CORNIA described it concerning the Italian correspondents (CORNIA, 2010)? In other words, how deep are the effects of the EU institutions (new 'europeanized' practices) on journalists' national culture?

How far this world of journalists, lobbyists and bureaucrats is united? Can we, like G. BASTIN, consider that there is an united world including all these "governance workers" (BASTIN, 2005)? We could emphasis the unity of this professional group of European journalists, but it may be interesting to address their diversity and especially the differences between general and professional journalism. Thus we should question the existence of different paths of professionalization and degree of Europeanization of theses different kind of journalism which focus on a specific European public policy (CHUPIN & MAYANCE, 2014).

Axe 2/ Journalists' role in the EU policy making :

In this second axe, we want to question the European journalists' role in the EU policy making process. We won't focus only in which ways the journalists participate in the legitimization of the European Union. We want to open the discussion about the effective presence of European correspondents in policy networks. They not only take part of policy categories and identities shaping, but they also act as policy broker on European issues. We will welcome studies which question the practices of those journalists as intermediary of public policy.

There is a huge diversity of institutions. The goal would be to compare in the European institution the way to produce information and the role played by PR officers and by journalists. In fact, PR relations are organized differently in the Commission, the Council of the European Union, or the European Parliament (BAISNÉE, FRINAULT & LECHAUX, 2008; CORNIA, 2010; LAURSEN, 2012; BAISNÉE & HAHN, 2014).

But there is also a diversity of policy sector and issues. Are those journalists doing the same job if they are specialized in a specific sector or of if they cover the European institutions on the whole? Are the interactions with lobbyist more frequent by example?

Concerning the two axes, proposal which focus on recent events or historical approaches would be both welcomed. As for the methodological approaches: interviews, archives...

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