

EDITOR'S NOTE

To the authors, reviewers and readers of “World of Media”

It gives me great pleasure to offer you the current edition of “World of Media”. Published since 2009, the journal has proved to be an effective platform for sharing knowledge, research and experiences among scholars interested in media and communication studies. The journal’s close affiliation with the National Association of Mass Media Researchers (NAMMI) makes it an important means of establishing common academic ground for Russian and international researchers today.

In “World of Media” we strive to publish articles of the highest quality that present outcomes of original research, both empirical and theoretical. The rigorous blind peer-review process and the meticulous care taken in editing and production by the staff at Lomonosov Moscow State University ensure the journal’s place as a premier venue for scholarly publishing in media and journalism.

We are fortunate to be supported by a highly professional editorial board from Russia and other countries: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Poland, Sweden, and the U.S.A. Their professional expertise and deep knowledge of the media world ensure that the articles accepted for publication are of a high quality and originality. For the last few years we have also had the pleasure of collaborating with Colby College (U.S.A.) for English-language editing of the journal. Let me express my sincere gratitude to editors, reviewers, publishers and other supporters who work on “World of Media” and contribute to its advancement.

I am particularly happy to report that the 2017 edition is truly international in nature, featuring articles prepared by scholars

from Russia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Namibia, and Nigeria. It is gratifying to see how the journal, which began as a publication focusing primarily on Russian media, has turned into an international platform for sharing the latest research findings in the sphere of journalism and media studies among scholars from across the world.

The current issue features a lead article – *“Subject competence in journalism: issues of responsibility and ways to tackle them”* by T. Frolova (Lomonosov Moscow State University), which points out the significant role that subject-matter expertise plays in attempts to raise the content quality of the media.

The articles included in the “World of Media” 2017 edition represent both empirical and theoretical research conducted by authors from a wide range of cities and institutions. *“Conceptual evolution of the digital divide: a systematic review of the literature over a period of five years (2010 – 2015)”* by B. Acharya (University of Ottawa) presents the analysis of the scholarly articles published between 2010 and 2015, which focus on different aspects of digital inequality. The article *“Buying a gun not to use it? A study of the change in Czech media ownership and its political instrumentalisation”* by J. Krecek (Charles University) argues that media ownership in Czech Republic can be studied in the context of several time periods: the 1990s, the economic crisis of 2008, and the period from 2013 on. *“Transformations in the Bulgarian media system: tendencies and challenges”* by L. Raycheva (The St. Kliment Ohridsky Sofia University) discusses the changes Bulgarian media system experienced after the transition to civil society and a market economy. V. Khroul (Lomonosov Moscow State University), in *“Christian media in Russia in the age of “networkization”*, discusses the transformations Christian media are undergoing in the face of the impact of digital technologies today.

J. Wilson and N. Gapsiso (University of Maiduguri) discuss the role of mobile technologies in Nigeria in their article *“Communicating in the absence of mobile telephone network during the state of emergency in Borno state, Nigeria”*. E. Akpabio (University of Namibia) claims in *“Women in the Tanzanian media: a critical analysis”* that women are generally marginalized in the Southern African and Tanzanian media. The paper *“Ethical education at Western schools of journalism”* by I. Kumylganova (Lomonosov Moscow State University) presents the results of a comparative analysis of Western approaches to teaching courses on journalistic ethics at universities. In *“Violations of the journalist ethics: professional negligence or a pattern?”* I. Dzialoshinskiy (Higher School of Economics) and M. Dzyaloshinskaya (Academy of Labor and Social Relations) reflect on the violations of the journalistic ethics in modern Russian media and discuss types and amounts of such violations in different media outlets.

E. Kalugina (Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University) attempts to draw a line between online media and other network resources in *“The influence of citizen journalism on the Internet media sector: demarcation between online media and other network resources”*, using as demarcation factors the spheres of professionalism, self-positioning as media, performance of journalism functions, and the degree of media independence. Last but not least, Abigail O. Ogwezzy-Ndisika and Shuaibu H. Hussein (University of Lagos) draw attention to the issues of the safety of journalists in their paper *“Freedom of expression and safety of journalists in the digital age”*.

The section devoted to contemporary debate features the paper *“Media criticism as a form of literary journalism: updating theoretical approaches to a meta-genre”* by A. Teplyashina and N. Pavlushkina (St. Petersburg State University), which examines current practices of literary journalism represented by a column as its meta-genre, and media criticism as its global content.

The issue also includes a review of the recently published monograph “*Magazines “Rabotnitsa” and “Krestjanka” dealing with women’s question in the USSR in 1920-1930s: model of propaganda support to social reforms*” by O.D. Minajeva (Lomonosov Moscow State University). The review was prepared by A. Grabelnikov (Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia). Finally, the issue includes a report on the Eighth International ‘Moscow Readings’ Conference “*Mass Media And Communications-2016*” organized in Moscow in 2016. The report was produced by A. Gladkova (Lomonosov Moscow State University), secretary of the local organizing committee.

Our aims for the next edition remain straightforward: to encourage the submission of thought-provoking and interpretive articles; to process and review manuscript submissions in a timely fashion; and to publish as swiftly as possible the results of recent communications and mass media research. Let us note that the journal welcomes innovative submissions from young scholars and hopes to continue expanding our international reach.

Finally, we thank all of the authors for their investment of research time in the current articles and for submitting their work to our journal, “World of Media”.

*Best regards,
Professor Elena Vartanova,
Editor-in-Chief,
Lomonosov Moscow State University*