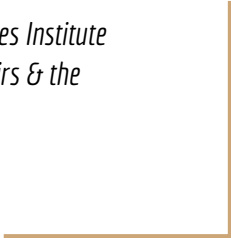# GENDER IN PEACE & SECURITY NEWS

Dr. Gretchen King, gretchen.king@lau.edu.lb
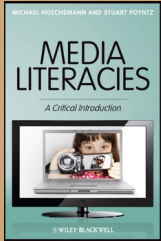
Session 1 of 3 organized by the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs & the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Session Goals + Methods

➢ Introduction to Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

➢ Introduction to Media Literacy

➢ Introduction to Gendered Analysis + Activity

➢ Case studies from Palestine, Afghanistan, and Jordan
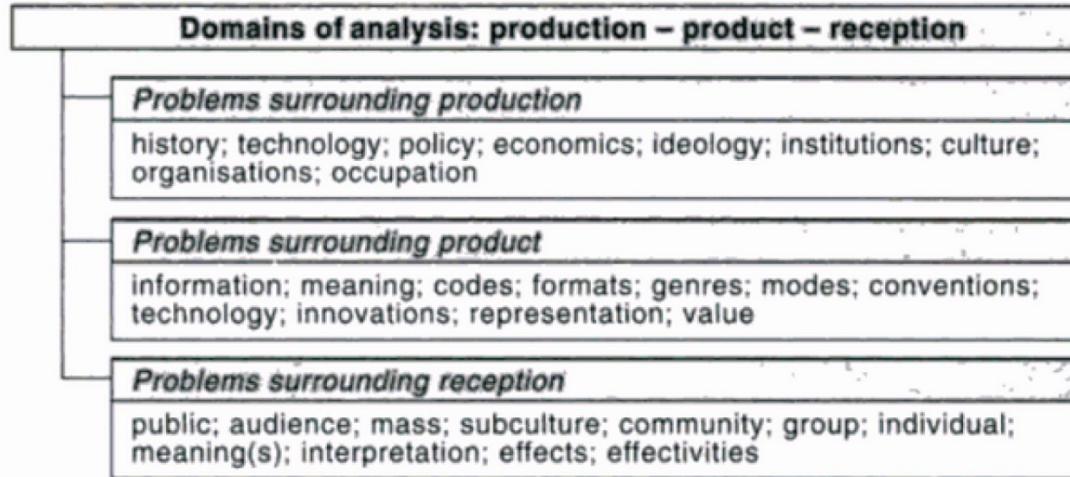
What is media literacy?

Critical Media Literacy *"… is a set of competencies that enable us to interpret media texts and institutions, to make media of our own, and to recognize and engage with the social and political influence of media in everyday life"* *(Hoechsmann & Poyntz, 2012).*
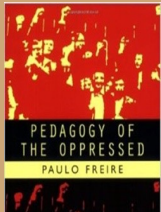
Media Literacy of the Oppressed *"… reframes existing concepts and competencies, engages local communities in the reinvention of media literacy, integrates media literacy critical reading and writing/production as well as participatory activism, prioritizes problems of the oppressed communities…."* *(Melki, 2017).*

Domains of Analysis

Domains of analysis: production – product – reception

Problems surrounding production

history; technology; policy; economics; ideology; institutions; culture; organisations; occupation

Problems surrounding product

information; meaning; codes; formats; genres; modes; conventions; technology; innovations; representation; value

Problems surrounding reception

public; audience; mass; subculture; community; group; individual; meaning(s); interpretation; effects; effectivities
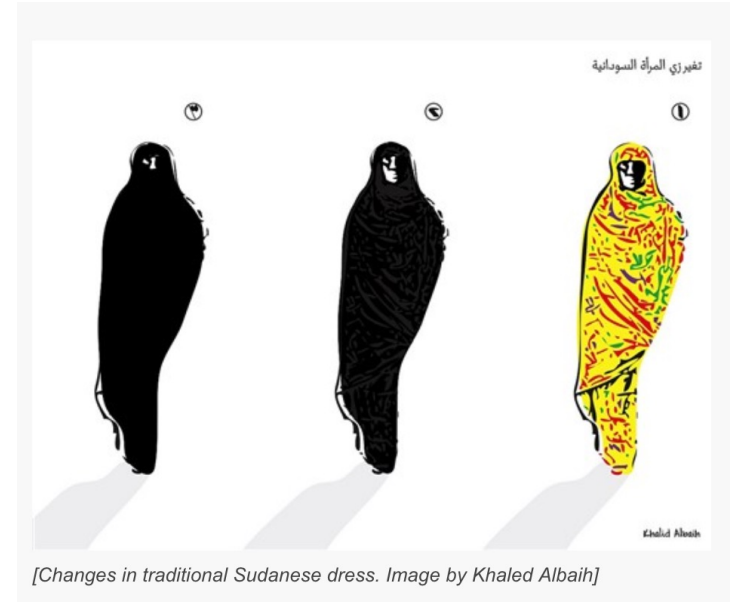
Sinha, N., and Newcomb, H. (2000). A student's guide to surviving communication scholarship. In D. Fleming (Ed.), *Formations: 21st Century Media Studies* (pp. 15–30). Manchester University Press.

Activity

Read Maya Mikdashi's article on "How to Study Gender in the Middle East."
https://tinyurl.com/55y5wa73

Which points do you **agree** or **disagree** with or **want to know more about** and **why**?

[Changes in traditional Sudanese dress. Image by Khaled Albaih]

Image credit: Jadaliyya

Analyzing Gender in the News

Traits

What are common gender stereotypes for women featured in the news?
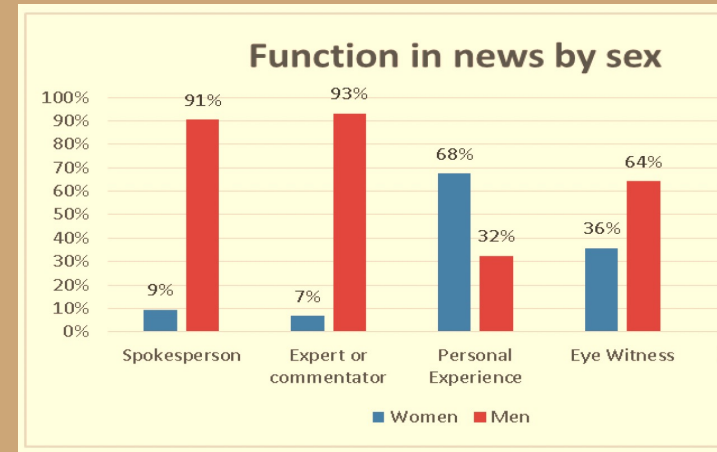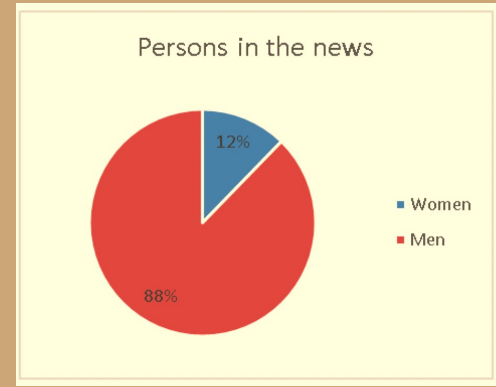
Sources

Who appears or is quoted in news stories?

Are women or men quoted as official sources, experts, homemakers, or mothers and fathers?

News Role

What is the news role for women and men quoted in the news?

Case Study

How are Palestinian women represented in local news media?

Persons in the news

- Women 12%
- Men 88%

Function in news by sex

Function	Women	Men
Spokesperson	9%	91%
Expert or commentator	7%	93%
Personal Experience	68%	32%
Eye Witness	36%	64%

■ Women ■ Men

Women Media and Development - TAM (2017). Media Monitoring of Palestinian women's image and representation in news related to peace and security. Bethlehem, West Bank – Palestine.

Case Study

How are Afghan women represented in Western news media?

Stabile, C. A., & Kumar, D. (2005). Unveiling imperialism: Media, gender and the war on Afghanistan. *Media, Culture & Society*, 27(5): 765-782.

Case Study

How are Syrian refugee women represented in local news media?

Alhayek: *"My concern is to critique a form of feminist online campaign that claims to represent the voices of women who generally do not have the economic and educational privileges to access the online spaces to speak for themselves."*
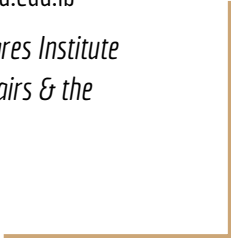

Image credit: Jadaliyya

Alhayek, K. (2014). Double Marginalization: The Invisibility of Syrian Refugee Women's Perspectives in Mainstream Online Activism and Global Media. *Feminist Media Studies*, 14(4): 696-700.

GENDER IN NEWSROOM CONTENT AND PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Dr. Gretchen King, gretchen.king@lau.edu.lb

Session 2 of 3 organized by the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs & the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Session Goals + Methods

➢ Session 1 Recap on Analyzing Gender in the News

➢ Activity: Analyzing Peace & Security News Features

➢ Feminist Political Economy Analysis of Newsrooms

➢ Activity: Mapping Gender in Newsrooms

Analyzing Gender in the News

Traits

- Trait descriptors (e.g., emotional, motherly concern),
- Physical characteristics (e.g., body height, hair length, clothing, makeup),
- Role behaviors (e.g., taking care of children or household),
- Domestic or occupational statuses (e.g., wife, mother, homemaker)

Sources

Sources in news stories provide quotes, offering expertise, analysis, or eyewitness accounts.

Who appears or is quoted in news stories?

Are women or men quoted as official sources, experts, homemakers, or mothers and fathers?

News Role

What is the news role for women and men quoted in the news?

More often women are quoted in the news as eyewitnesses or for their personal experiences and rarely as spokespersons, experts, or commentators.

Analyzing Discourses in the News

Orientalism

&

Self-Orientalization

Protection Scenario

&

Double Marginalization

Imperialist Feminism

Activity

Work in groups of 7 to apply concepts to analyze peace and security news features:

➢ Traits, Sources, & News Role

➢ Discourse (Orientalism, Self-Orientalism, Protection scenario, Double marginalization, & Imperialist feminism)

➢ Pick 1 news organization and review the two features: Al Arabiya / Al Araby TV / Al Ekhbariya / Al Hadath / Al Hurra / BBC Arabic / CNN Arabic / France 24 / RT Arabic / Sky News Arabic / TRT Arabic

https://tinyurl.com/2es3nvsk

فلسطين
الاحـتـلال الإسـرائيـلـي يـطـلـق سـراح الأسيـرة
أمـل طـقـاطـقـة بـعـد 7 سـنـوات قـضـتـهـا فـي سجـونـه

كاليه
اجـتـمـاع بـمـشـاركـة فـرنـسـا وألـمـانـيـا وبـلـجـيـكـا وهـولـنـدا
الحصاد
والـمـفـوضـيـة الأوروبـيـة لـبـحـث أزمـة طـالـبـي اللجـوء

Feminist Political Economy Analysis of Newsrooms

Ownership

Who owns the media?

Patriarchy & capitalism

"A pretty face sells"

Glass ceiling within employment hierarchies

Alternative practices

Mellor (2013) documents gender boundaries and dominant structures within pan-Arab newsrooms.

- Are there differences between the experiences of men and women journalists?

- The internal policies, such as hiring, how does this influence the media and gender?

- She says women negotiate gender boundaries inside the journalistic field, what does she mean?

- Mellor says some women end up accommodating and reproducing male dominant discourses and practices.

Activity

For this exercise, participants will work in teams of 7 (each group should have a current or former newsroom worker) for around 10-minutes to create a map of gender representation in their media organization.

Ownership: Who are the owners?	# of men, # of women
Decision making: Who is the Senior Editor, Senior Producer, or Newsroom Manager	# of men, # of women
Directing: Who is directing the camera?	# of men, # of women
On Camera: Who appears in front of camera?	# of men, # of women
Camera Operator: Who is behind the camera?	# of men, # of women

Case Study

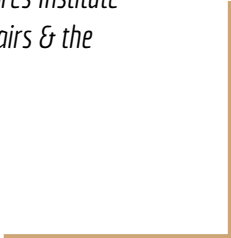Case Study from Radio Al Balad on Promoting Gender Equity in Newsroom Practices

Etaf Roudan, Station Manager

https://ammannet.net/

ACHIEVING GENDER EQUITY IN PEACE & SECURITY NEWS

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Session 3 of 3 organized by the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs & the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Footnote on Session 2

The *Cunning of Gender Violence: Geopolitics and Feminism* (forthcoming). Organized by Brown University Visiting Fellow in Palestinian Studies Rema Hammami, Birzeit University; Lila Abu-Lughod, Columbia University; and Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Queen Mary's University.

https://youtu.be/P3oAou45ylo

Session Goals + Methods

➢ Session 2 Recap on Feminist Political Economy

➢ Activity: Your Gender Compass

➢ Activity: Drafting production codes & guidelines

➢ Activity: Resources reflection

Activity

➢ How does this clip discuss the impact of **patriarchy and capitalism** on women in newsrooms and on Lebanese TV audiences?

➢ What problems related to **Production, Product, or Reception** are brought up in this clip that were discussed in the previous session?

Caroline Salibi
Researcher in Social Psychology

كارولين سكر صليبي
باحثة في علم النفس الإجتماعي

there shouldn't be institutions based solely on the principle of profit

Fe-male (2014). "Image Upon Request" Documentary [video]. Retrieved from: https://youtu.be/anJilPtCSnE

Activity

The GEJ compass reveals how gender concerns intersect with your understanding and practice of journalism, from the perspective of professional ethics. **Be prepared to share the finding of your compass.**

http://gps.contactgps.ch/rungps/0ZIKXEKKRK/en

Activity

Working in teams to prepare **a code or guidelines** with <u>at least 5 points</u> to improve the representation of gender in peace and security in newsrooms.

➢ WACC-IFJ **Guidelines** -->
➢ SFJN **Code of Conduct**, review "Part I: Basic Concepts" through "Part VI: Monitoring Mechanisms" https://media.sfjn.org/en/code-of-conduct/

Be prepared to share your points.

Guidelines: Reporting on peace and security

1. Value the knowledge, expertise and information available from women's networks, especially those with a recognised focus on media/communications, peace and security. Consult them for expert commentary.

2. Ask the question "where are the women?" for all sides of a peace agreement especially if there are no women visible or no women are signatories to an accord.

3. Ask the question "what does this mean for women, young women and children?" Find the women at the local level who can bring a gender dimension to the story. They may not be in visible formally organised groups, but they will no doubt be actively participating in informal collectives.

4. Women are not a homogeneous group. Speak to different women – from different social classes, ethnicities, political affiliations, etc. They will add depth and interest to the story, speaking from their varied perspectives. This is also a strategy to report whether a peace accord does in fact include the demands of all key players.

AR page 48: https://tinyurl.com/269c297k
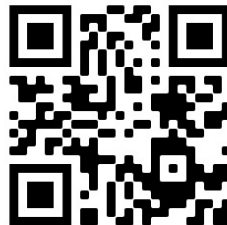
Activity

What specific **resources** in newsrooms (trainings, codes, policies, etc.) can improve the representation of gender in peace & security news?

https://www.menti.com/dxpdtfo6ki

Survey time!

https://forms.gle/StiJHFYV72Ag1GdS9

شكراً / Thank You!

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