

EDITORIAL

Dear readers, in this issue of *Media Research*, we focus on two topics that have in one way or another marked this year – disinformation in the media and COVID-19. The topics were researched from an empirical and a theoretical point of view in the research papers we hereby publish. It was especially important for us to show the diversity of methodological approaches and scholarly interests.

Tihomir Katulić in his paper **Towards the Trustworthy AI: Insights from the Regulations on Data Protection and Information Security** bases his research on the comparative overview and analysis of the selected sources and provisions of European and national legislation. His research is also based on the analysis of some other scholarly sources in order to interpret the existing and proposed provisions regarding personal data protection and information security, with particular emphasis on ethical issues related to the regulation of artificial intelligence.

In his paper **Disinformation in the New Media System – Characteristics, Forms, Reasons for its Dissemination and Potential Means of Tackling the Issue**, Tomislav Levak tries to explain the phenomenon of disinformation and its impact, magnitude, and seriousness, as well as the importance of joint action of all social structures involved in solving it. He presents a historical overview of the design and fabrication of untrue and inaccurate information and news, their dissemination in various periods and through different technologies, and compares it with the processes present in the communication of the digital age. The author provides an insight into the definitions of the term *disinformation*, which has been officially adopted by the European Union. He also addresses similar terms such as fake news, misinformation, malinformation, information disorder, information pollution, alternative facts etc.

Josip Popovac addressed the problem of disinformation in the media at the international conference Suppression of Disinformation in the Age of Digital Media, which was held in Zagreb at Hrvatski novinarski dom on 27 November 2019. He has adapted his presentation from the conference for this issue of *Media Research*, which is hereby published under the title **Disinformation in the Digital Age: The Fight for the Truth**. The author highlights the escalation of disinformation found in the corpus of public knowledge in our era of social networks. Social networks play a specific role in the process of spreading disinformation. On the one hand, they eliminated the communication monopoly which had hitherto been reserved for an elite circle of people and mass communication. However, on the other hand, society is now faced with increasingly complex demands when it comes to the fight for the truth. The paper also deals with the model for counteracting the impact of

disinformation according to the principles of the European approach to counteracting disinformation, emphasizing that fighting for the truth is a more appropriate model than fighting against lies.

Tijana Vukić in her article **Journalism Education and Fake News: A Literature Review** gives a scholarly review of the literature and research concerning the education of journalists and fake news from an international and a local (Croatian) perspective. Her paper aims to explore the connection between the education for journalists as a scholarly and academic discipline, as well as a teaching practice, and the issues caused by the fake news phenomenon in the digital age of mass media. Based on the comprehensive critical conceptual analysis of the body of knowledge on that specific subject, the author found that there is a diverse discussion about the position of journalism education regarding fake news. However, the author concludes that fake news and journalism education have not yet drawn the interest of Croatian scholars.

In their paper **FM Radio in the Age of COVID-19: The Case of Zagreb and Zagreb County**, authors Marina Mučalo, Anita Šulentić, and Damir Jugo question the existing and the potential role of the radio as a medium during the coronavirus pandemic, i.e. the current health crisis. The paper relies on qualitative and descriptive research based on the analysis of the answers from the questionnaire. Open-ended questions (30 questions) are grouped into three main categories. The categories are the organization of work on the radio, editorial policy, and communication with listeners. The questionnaire was sent to all radio broadcasters in the area of Zagreb and Zagreb County (N=22). Out of 22 radio broadcasters, 13 (56.5%) of them responded and participated in the research. The results show that program contents, despite the double crisis, stayed mostly the same. This also applies to informative programs. This begs the question of the status of the radio in the new media environment.

Authors Miriam Mary Brgles and Dora Škender in their article **Opera Audience in the Digital Environment and Online Streams during COVID-19 Lockdown** focus on the research in the field of the sociology of the media and culture. According to the paradigm shift, which was confirmed by the research conducted in the United States, the authors posed the following research questions: a) can live opera broadcasts in cinemas be considered cultural events; and b) can Dollase's (1998) audience categorization be expanded with a new category consisting of audiences who watch the opera and opera-related contents in cinemas and/or online, which was the only possibility during the quarantine imposed due to COVID-19. The research uses a phenomenological approach and the following qualitative methodology: participant observation, four semi-structured interviews, and content analysis. The authors conclude that the role of the virtual space, albeit significantly different and marked by specific shortcomings, is almost as equally important as the physical space which

serves as the stage for the social interaction of the opera audience. Therefore, they believe that the addition of a new category, digital opera audience, to the Dollase's audience categorization is justified.

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the publishing of this issue. We would also like to thank the Ministry of Culture and Media and the Ministry of Science and Education for their financial support. We thank our authors, reviewers, and contributors. Continue sending us your research papers, conference and book reviews. Send us your suggestions, critiques, and commendations.

Nada Zgrabljic Rotar
Editor-in-Chief