

# EDITORIAL

The current issue of *Media Research* brings you several engaging communication-oriented and interdisciplinary studies authored by both domestic and international scholars.

Authors Igor Vobič, Marko Robnik Šikonja, Aleš Žagar, and Boris Mance, in their article **“Watchdog or Copycat? Examining News Diversity in Slovenian Journalism System”**, conceptualise the problem of news diversity in the Slovenian media environment on the basis of empirical research. Drawing on a corpus of 13,207 news items from television, radio and online portals, and using text-reuse recognition, network clustering, and large language model-assisted source extraction, the authors demonstrate that news diversity in Slovenia is structurally conditioned, segmented, and unevenly distributed, shaped by intertwined ownership, organisational, and ideological factors. The study underscores the normative importance of news diversity as a cornerstone of democratic communication and calls for structural reforms to foster a more inclusive and pluralistic journalism system

Anthony Ban, Branka Ličanin i Božidar Veljković, in their article **“Aesthetic and Corrective Interventions: Changes in Self-Confidence and Social Communication”**, present the results of a study conducted among patients following aesthetic procedures in order to determine whether the differences exist in levels of self-confidence and social communication before and after aesthetic and corrective procedures. Taking into consideration the sex and age of 150 respondents, they applied a self-confidence and social communication assessment scale, and the data were analysed using SPSS Statistics (version 23). The Wilcoxon test results demonstrated significant increases in self-confidence and the quality of social communication after the procedures ( $p < .001$ ) across all observed variables. The Mann–Whitney U test and the Kruskal–Wallis test confirmed statistically significant increases in the perception of outcomes with regard to sex and age ( $p < .05$ ). The findings are noteworthy because they contribute to understanding the relationship between aesthetic procedures, self-confidence, and social communication.

Daria Marjanović in her article **“Local Identity Communities on Facebook: Exploring ‘Digital Homeland – jakovlje.com’”** examines communication on social media grounded in a specific collective micro-identity within a regional contest. The number of Facebook communities devoted to local identities has increased over the recent decades in Croatia and worldwide, and this study focuses on the Facebook community operating under the common name “Digital Homeland – jakovlje.com”, which brings together nearly one thousand members across several interaction channels. A mixed-methods approach was used to gather data, applying

standard quantitative and qualitative communication research techniques, including in-depth, semi-structured, and structured interviews. The methodological toolkit included an online survey completed by 24.9% of the members of the central Facebook group over a two-month period, accompanied by a simultaneous quantitative and qualitative analysis of user posts, comments and reactions, online and field interviews conducted during a preceding five-year period of observation and following the online survey, and a comparative analysis involving three similar Facebook communities in Croatia. The findings suggest that Facebook may play an intriguing role as a valuable media environment that supports a broad repository of heritage-related data, thereby contributing to the preservation of local micro-identities.

Kristina Silaj and Ljubica Josić, in their article “**Bibliotherapy for Children and the Mass Media: Underutilised Potentials of Children’s Literature in Mass Media Contents**”, begin from the premise that children’s literature can serve as a therapeutic aid in alleviating various difficulties and problems experienced by children, and they examine the potential of mass media in applying bibliotherapy. The importance of bibliotherapy lies in the assumption that the use of children’s literature to support mental and emotional health can contribute to nonviolence and to reducing violence among children, and consequently within society more broadly. Bibliotherapy is a literary aid to medicine, grounded in the recognition that it can never replace medical care. However, the authors also draw attention to the neglected and insufficient distribution of children’s literature in children’s magazines, on television, and across other mass media platforms.

We extend our gratitude to all those who contributed to the publication of this issue – authors, reviewers, and collaborators. We invite you to follow this and all previous issues of *Media Research* at <https://hrcak.srce.hr>, and to learn more about *Media Research*, its history, and the journal’s concept at <https://www.mediaresearch.cro.net>.

Please continue to send us your articles, book and conference reviews, reflections on defended doctoral dissertations, and information on new communication-studies workshops, schools, and programmes.

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