The Agendas of The Stream

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This dissertation is dedicated to Clemencia Burgos de Guevara, my kindhearted and courageous grandma who died in May 2013.

Contents

The Agendas of The Stream

Abstract

The new tech has introduced the traits of the hypermedia, interactivity and convergence in the journalism field. Moreover, it has involved the emergence of new media and changes in the informative contents. In 2006 Al Jazeera in English was created for covering the underreported regions, inasmuch as new media arise, new contents do so, thus, the research examines the agendas of The Stream, the TV show from Al Jazeera that relies heavily on social networks.

Keywords

Introduction

In prior years the public was considered as a passive receiver, nonetheless, technological development changed the news audiences from passive to interactive consumers. The invention of the Web and boost of new gadgets enabled audiences to make their voice heard; media outlets have lost the monopoly over the news. Currently, users, bloggers, and citizen journalists judge the contents, discuss their views through social networks, interact with programs' hosts and guests, provide feedback to reporters; in fact, they take part in professional news making process. Civilians participate with no formal training in journalism gathering and spreading news content, "newspapers, magazines and digital media publish readers' articles and photographs, even TV channels give technical support to citizen videographers who provide their reports to them" (Riaz & Pasha, 2011).

Particularly, social media as a public mobilization tool has caught the attention and interest of scholars, citizens, journalists and media. Twitter, Facebook and Google + have allowed rediscovering topics, stories, personages and places; though, the set of journalistic matters of the leaders of breaking news is not usually related to underreported subjects such as racial discrimination, religion, or rape, Al Jazeera English, has a daily TV show powered by social

media and user-generated content for covering citizens' untold stories or facts that have not got enough coverage; newsworthy criteria in the light of participatory journalism could be changing, thus, in the context of the active role of civilians in the production of contents, the article describes the agendas of The Stream with the objective to create scales of thematic saliency and issues prominence in order to examine which are the most-important topics, covered regions and issues.

Aims

1. General Objective

1.1. Describe the agendas of The Stream during March

2. Specific Objectives

2.1. Create a scale of thematic saliency in order to determine the most-important topics and covered regions.

2.2. Construct a scale of the prominence of issues in order to examine which are the most-covered issues.

2.3. Calculate the percentage of coverage by thematic and issue saliency.

Justification

Al Jazeera represents the global media; it has an increasingly influence and capacity to illuminate the worldwide society. In 2008, Philip Seib coined the name *The Al Jazeera Effect* to point out the influence of new media in terms of leading the public discussions in national and international matters. According to him,

> The connectivity of new media is superseding the traditional political connection. This rewiring of the world's neural system is proceeding at remarkable speed, and its reach keeps extending even farther, it changes the way states and citizens interact with each other and it gives the individual a chance at a new kind of autonomy, at least on an intellectual level, because of the great availability of information. This is the Al Jazeera Effect. (Seib, 2008)

Besides the Al Jazeera Effect, new media involves new contents, and then new study needs emerge. The journalism world is witnessing the era of the user generated-content, as a matter of fact, it can be examined the case of IReport.com, the participate section of the CNN website, where users disclose not edited, checked or screened news items. The skill of participating in the contents production from the audiences is modifying the agendas of broadcasters (Allan & Thorsen, 2009) therefore, inasmuch as The Stream, Al Jazeera English daily TV show, works with the user generated-contents and social media, it is relevant to examine its informative agendas.

Al Jazeera is tapping into the social networks potential

Al Jazeera English is headquartered in Doha, Qatar, is an international news channel with over sixty bureaus around the world. It was established in 2006 as the first independent news channel in the Arab world for covering global stories especially from underreported regions.

> The channel currently broadcasts to over 250 million households across 130 countries; it is part of the Al Jazeera Network, one of the world's leading media corporations, encompassing news, documentary and sports channels. (Al Jazeera English , 2012)

The Stream is a daily television program from Al Jazeera English, it broadcasts every Monday through Thursday at 19:30 GMT. The TV emission was launched in 2011 as "new phenomenon – a web community with its own daily show," (Al Jazeera English , 2012) it works with the tweets, the comments, the photos, the videos and all multimedia material users produce and share in social media. Its current hosts are Femi Oke, an international journalist and broadcaster who has been following The Stream since its beginnings, and Malika Bilal, a digital producer coming from Doha, Qatar, where she honed her social media skills as web editor.

> The program taps into the extraordinary potential of the increasing power of social networks to disseminate news. Individuals have now

become an integral part of the news information network through their ability to publish information and share opinions on events as they take place. (Al Jazeera English , 2011)

In other words, The Stream is made of the content that generate users in the web, therefore, it allows viewers to interact with Femi and Malika, but also with their guests during the program via Twitter, Facebook, Google+ Hangouts and Skype, and on the whole, this could be the key for defining the set of topics and issues of each one of the stories for the show.

State of The Art

The research rests on the potential of the users for influencing the agendas of The Stream. In order to do an overview analysis, the different approaches were classified according to the fields that have been changing due to the emergence of the participatory journalism. The participation of the audience has affected the ties with users, technologies, routines, narratives and genres of the profession; a final section with previous studies related to the analyses of the Al Jazeera's agendas was included.

Ties with users

The digital journalism has transformed the style and form of the profession, this can be explained by "the capacity of alternative media to empower citizens, that is to say, ordinary people can tell their stories without the expertise of the mainstream journalists." (Boler, 2008) As far as the connections between producers and receivers of the contents is concerned, the citizen journalism has different fundamentals:

a. User-generated Content

Forums, weblogs and collaborative writing are some resources that users have for participating in the process of news making and gatekeeping. The user-generated content, UGC, is defined as "the process where anyone can contribute to the professional products," (Hermida & Thurman, 2008) thus, there are three features associated with the UGC: Publication, creative effort and production outside the professional routines and practices. (Wunsch-Vincent & Vickery, 2007)

b. New forms of audience participation

According to the practices, there is a typology based on the connection between mainstream journalism and citizens: 1. Traditional journalism, 2. Public journalism, 3. Interactive journalism, 4. Participatory journalism and 5. Citizen journalism. (Nip, 2006) Due to the approaches of the research, ties with users in traditional and public journalism are not considered in order to analyze the agendas and frames of The Stream digital contents.

Interactive journalism

The term involves two dimensions: Content interactivity and interpersonal interactivity. (Massey & Levy, 1999) The first is related with tech capabilities that enable users to break the linearity from the analog media, meanwhile, the second deals with the different choices audiences have in the digital products. "Interpersonal interactivity is possible if communication with the content producers and other users are provided. It takes place only when professional journalists answer inquiring e-mails or chat with users, and when users respond to postings of others, " (Nip, 2006) then, audiences can take part in the treatment of information only after contents are published, so professional journalists are responsible for the entire process of news making and gathering.

Participatory journalism

It is based on the user-generated content with a certain degree of independence from professionals. "Participatory media production provides the constituents of an alternative public sphere," (Lazaroiu, 2001) so audiences can participate in the news making process, yet "there are journalists who produce, publish and market the whole news, thus, user contributions are solicited within a designed context by professionals." (Nip, 2006)

Citizen journalism

It gives voice and power to the people, (Gillmor, 2004) inasmuch as "people are responsible for gathering, visioning, producing and publishing news, the citizen journalism is present." (Nip, 2006) Therefore, professional journalists are not involved and groups of individuals or nonprofit organizations are who running a weblog, a news website, a community radio station or a newspaper.

c. The news access

The citizen journalism grants ordinary citizens a hands-role in the news making, "notwithstanding the hundreds of citizen sites operating just in the United States, the question of whether ordinary individuals are at all capable of producing news is the subject of an on-going dispute," (Reich, 2008) so there are three standpoints with regard to the role of the users: The naysayers, well-wishers, and mixed school.

The naysayers claim citizens are unqualified to produce news contents, they can only do comments, analysis, express opinions and, eventually, produce breaking stories when they are in the place of the issues. Well-wishers assert that citizens can produce news and members of the mixed school asseverate "the citizens contributions tend to be prose-shy often supplying fragments of stories instead of full-fledged news items." (Reich, 2008)

Technologies

"The general perceptions allied to the customs and values of journalism and underpinned by the uses of technology, significantly shape," (Clarke & Bromley, 2012) uses of the new tech devices, as the cellphones, pocket cameras, Androids, IPad's, tablets and so forth, have altered the means and methods of news sourcing, construction and dissemination, "the cell phone has become not only a part of our culture, but also a tool of the public sphere." (Kavoori & Arceneaux, 2006) The people access to a cellphone for record video and voice, convey information through a post on Facebook or in a tweet of 140 characters means participation and collective production of contents.

Professional Routines

The profession changed inasmuch as the communication trends changed; nowadays, everybody can produce and convey information. The democratization of the journalism can be summarized as "speed, space, multiplicity, interaction and participation in the contents production." (Fenton, 2010) The reporters are dealing with the implications of Web tools and literacy skills of the audience, and it has consequences within the ways of research, disclosure and gatekeeping. In that sense, "there has been a step change in the nature of

news productivity and it is embedded in a part of a complex convergence of economic, regulatory and cultural forces that are contingent upon local circumstance at any one time." (Fenton, 2010)

Narratives

The hypertextuality like the main unit of the architecture of the on-line information alters the narrative of the stories because links break the traditional linearity of the analog media. The background of the hypertext joint with interactivity is called multimedia and affords to audiences "rebuilding the text sense starting from its own paths of lecture." (Marrero S., 2008) Therefore, the interactivity is linked with the consumers' implication degree in the making process of the contents since it consists of the movement through different links and the creation of new products." (Franco, 2008)

Genres

There are four types of Web genres: Interpretative, informative, argumentative and dialogic, (Salaverría, 2003) but, instead of applying all, the research highlights dialogic genres for emphasizing the interactive channels that are transforming the journalism courses. "The dialogic genres imply interaction, since the encouragement of direct and indirect dialogs around information products with users," (Salaverría, 2005) therefore, contacts are formed by a sort of collection of forums, chats, online surveys and techniques of the living interview through social networks like Facebook and Twitter, that is to say the journalism is in "the middle of sweeping changes in its relationships with the communities it serves, and the audiences for news and public affairs it seeks to address. Changes in technology have blurred the lines between professionals and citizens, partisan and objective bystanders." (Papacharissi, 2009)

Previous Studies

It exists a number of studies related to Al Jazeera's Network, its worldwide impact in the decision-making process of different Prime Ministers and politicians in the international system, its influence and leadership in the Arab society, but also in the media around the world; the differences between its coverage and the treatment of the information that

broadcasters like the BBC of London and CNN have made about national and international matters, nonetheless, they are specially about the coverage of the Arab Spring. Regarding the analysis of the agendas of objects from The Stream and/or from Al Jazeera English, it was found two studies that can set precedents about the subject of interest: *As redes sociais e os novos fluxos de agendamento: uma análise da cobertura da Al Jazeera sobre a Primavera Árabe* by Gustavo Chaves Lopes from the University of Brasília, Brazil, and *Participation in Al Jazeera English: integrating witnesses and users to broaden the reach of the news* by Samuel Negredo Bruna from the University of Navarra, Spain.

The researcher Gustavo Chaves Lopes examined the role of social networks in building the media's agenda in the context of the Arab Spring. He offered the hypothesis "that social networks transfer their agenda to the media by creating new scheduling flows and concurrence with the classical conception of the Agenda-Setting theory." (Chaves Lopes, 2013) He claimed that demonstrators use social media in order to protest and denounce social injustices and defeating the censorship imposed by the government to the local media, so Lopes studied how the citizens' complaints throughout alternative media can influence the traditional agenda-setting process which was described by McCombs in his first studies.

In order to do so, the researcher analyzed news from the website of Al Jazeera English over protest movements of the Arab Spring in Egypt between January 25th and February 11th 2011. He thought about a new flow in the saliency transmission. To the extent that social networks transfer its salience to the media agenda of objects, the public agenda becomes the media agenda.

He showed a positive correlation between the highlighted issues in social networks and those that were published in the website of Al Jazeera English. Nevertheless, the idea over a saliency transference from social media to traditional media is limited, since the correlation was not decisive, Lopes pointed out a deeper need of analysis.

Samuel Negredo Bruna examined the different ways that Al Jazeera English viewers have in order to do their inputs into the news gathering process. Bruna studied the Web tools that audiences use for generating contents and how those technologies allow gathering, producing and disseminating news. In order to do so, the researcher analyzed three forms of audience input: a general contact form for user contributions, a platform to gather eyewitness accounts, Ushahidi, "that allows the participation of anyone through text

messages or a contact form, and offers visual representations, both chronological –on a timeline– and geographical –on a map–" (Negredo Bruna, 2013) and finally another platform for leaking documents, multimedia content, clues or pieces of evidence that allows the source to remain anonymous, the Al Jazeera Transparency Unit (AJTU), which, according to Negredo Bruna, was received as the Wikileaks for the Arab World.

Besides he extended his study to the analysis of two TV programs whose production rests on user-generated contents in social networks: Listening Post and The Stream. Negredo Bruna examined 28 testimonies with an average length of 23 seconds each. They were recorded with webcams, cell phones, iPhones and Flip cameras. He analyzed each eyewitness account by the country they come from and the witnesses' profession or office. Regarding The Stream, he studied different aspects from 10 episodes from the show: the dynamic of each one of the post-shows for the Web and their short stories made with Storify, live interviews on Skype; the participants number in the discussions of the show, video comments from the viewers in Youtube, debates on Google+ and the reading of the users' tweets. As well, he examined the multimedia elements that were used in order to produce the contents for The Stream.

As a result, the researcher drew the next conclusions: journalists and news organizations can count on the users in all the phases of the information process, from uncovering topics and covering them on the ground, to amplifying distribution as active viewers. The integration of user-generated contents allows to add a greater diversity of perspectives, therefore users' inputs on the Web must be an integral part of the news gathering, production and distribution phases. (Negredo Bruna, 2013)

Theoretical Background

The Technology-driven changes are democratizing the profession owing to the public access to the tools of the craft, and it meant the beginning of a new stage characterized by the New Media on the flow of cyber journalism or digital journalism. In order to explain it, Roger Fidler claimed that the new tech defined the evolution of communication in such a way as metamorphosis involves biological changes in the growth process of some animals, therefore, Fidler coined the term mediamorphosis in 1990; in the context of tech

transformations mediamorphosis refers to "the process of media adaptations in the cyber age as a result of the interplay of the technological innovations with perceived needs, competitive and political pressures and social modifications" (Fidler, 1997). Hence, this study analyzes the agenda of objects and attributes of a TV show linked with the mediamorphosis as one of the biggest changes in the journalism realm.

The Internet impact can be summarized as "speed, space and multiplicity, interaction and participation in the contents production. In fact, the journalists are attending to the dismantling of the structures of news media as we know them" (Fenton, 2010) since the implications of Web tools and literacy skills of the audience have had within the modes of research, disclosure and gatekeeping of journalists and news organizations. The reaction of the researcher Kawamoto to these sweeping changes provided the used key concept for delimiting what can be described as on-line, digital or even, cyberjournalism. According to him, it deals with "the use of digital technologies to research produces and delivers news and information to an increasingly computer-literate audience." (Kawamoto, 2003)

Furthermore, the author conceived like typical of the journalism in the Web the following features: hypertextuality, interactivity, nonlinearity, multimedia, convergence, customization and personalization. This approach in the new media studies argues that interactivity leads to the presence of the readers, viewers and listeners in the development of the facts which are conveyed by communications media. Regarding hypertextuality, it is conceived like the main unit of the architecture of on-line information, in which case works as the network of interconnected links that allow receivers to access to tied contents, which offer the chance to select the data of interest.

The hypermedia alters the narrative of the stories, no matters the format, the links break with traditional linearity of the analog media and it means more than the transferring of products to the Web, thus, as journalist Quim Gil claimed "the hyperlinks let the browsing among different sites in the webpage or in multiple portals at the same time, so the real digital journalism breaks with one way communication." (Gil, 1999)

The multimedia makes the background up of the hypertext, interactivity, customization and nonlinearity of the contents for the Internet, it multimedia consists on "the use of more than one type of media in a single product then." (Kawamoto, 2003) Nevertheless, it is a restricted concept due to the meaning of multimedia goes beyond and involves the

standpoint about the multimedia journalist, who is "the professional able to produce quality contents in every format, at the same time he takes advantage of different resources for generating innovative ways to deliver the products." (Cárdenas Beltrán, 2006) If the news outlets use multimedia resources with efficiency, they can incorporate whole procedures of convergence. The convergence trait consists on the blend of different newsrooms for developing contents in different formats suitable for the narrative of digital platforms.

All the characteristics –hypermedia, interactivity, multimedia, convergence and nonlinearity– shape the tools' set of the Internet audience. It works as the main mechanism to the transition from passive receivers to users (Hauben & Hauben, 1997) actively involved in online communities and social media; so it outlines a new language, a fresh storytelling style, but also further genres that allow the closer interaction between information producers and consumers. The potentialities of the traits can be summarized in three words: bidirectionality, personalization, and collective production, these key ingredients define the base of participatory journalism that basically consists on the-first-person reportage, as Allan Stuart said. The huge impact of the-first-person reportage in the media is related with new practices, different language and innovative storytelling.

The terms 'citizen journalism' and 'participatory journalism' mean "the act of a citizen, or group of citizens, playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing and disseminating news and information. The intent of this participation is to provide an independent, reliable, accurate and relevant information that democracy requires" (Bowman & Willis, 2003). Nowadays anyone who have Internet connection or any technological device like cellphones, cameras and so forth, can report, take pictures, record video and voice, even convey information through a post wall on Facebook or Tumblr.

Since the communication theories of agenda-setting and framing, the impact of media —as an actor who determines the objects of the public agenda— has been studied even in different levels. The agenda-setting has three levels, two thoroughly known and on which there are a lot of researches with different applications in the knowledge fields. Journalists and media, as actors which can influence people viewpoints about issues, frame the facts based on their subjectivity. Gamson and Modigliani define media frame as "central organizing idea or storyline that provides meaning to an unfolding strip of events…The frame suggests what the controversy is about, the essence of the issue" (Gamson &

Modigliani, 1987). Entman asserted frames are "mentally stored clusters of ideas that guide individuals processing of information." (Entman, 1993) They consist of ''keywords, concepts, symbols, and visual images emphasized in a news narrative,'' (Entman, 1991) they highlight specific features of issues promoting a particular interpretation, evaluation or solution.

Information professionals and news organizations have also a decisive role in the task of determining the objects in the public agenda. "The editors in chief with their daily choices lead our attention and influence our perception over which are the most-important topics of the day. This ability to influence the relevance of the public issues is what has been called the media agenda setting." (McCombs, 2006) There are signs of the topics and facts relevance of the daily informative agendas, the spread story in the first page, the content of the cover compared with the inside text, the news that open a telecast, the headlines size…all these elements talk about the topics relevance of the agenda, nevertheless, in all media digital or traditional the recurrence of the subjects is the decisive clue in order to estimate its importance.

The audience turns to these media signals of relevance to organize its own public agenda, and therefore to decide which are the most-important issues. With the time, those topics that were highlighted by the media become essentials subjects in the public affairs, in other words, the media sets up the public agenda. "This function to place topics between the audiences to such an extent that they turn the center of public attention constitutes the first level in the public opinion formation." (McCombs, 2006)

The media role as agenda setter deal with the ability to influence over the subjects relevance and that is if people thinks it's relevant to have a point of view about an issue. Although there are many topics which compete for the public attention only few have success and the media influence over our perception relating to the most-important issues of the day. The theory of the agenda setting comes from Walter Lippmann. On the chapter that opens his classic of 1922, *The Public Opinion*, he summarizes the concept, even though he didn't mention the expression. His thesis is related to media as the windows to the world beyond our direct experience, but also as the responsible for the cognitive maps that we made about it.

The systematic analysis about the effects of the mass communication over the public opinion, as scientific investigation based on scientific precepts, date from the north American presidential elections of 1940, when the sociologist Paul Lazarsfeld and his colleagues from the University of Columbia, carried out seven interviews series with Erie County voters in Ohio, but they provided little evidence related with its influence in the attitudes and opinions. Two decades later, the Joseph Klapper book *The Effects of Mass Communication* announced the law of the minimum effects. However, those investigations in the 40s and 50s found lots proofs about people really acquires information from the media, such that the voters learn from the news. The law of the minimal effects became accepted and the idea of the direct persuasion was set aside, but it existed the permanent suspicion among the social scientists that there still were many media effects to explore and measure. The moment to change the paradigm in the analysis of the media effects had arrived.

Such a way during the United States presidential campaign in 1968 two journalists from North Carolina University started a research in Chapel Hill, those professors, Donald Shaw and Maxwell McCombs coined one name to that hypothetical mass communication influence, and they called it *agenda-setting*, "subject to various tests the hypothesis involved two series of proofs, the public agenda description (topics collection of Chapel Hill voters' interest) and the thematic agenda description from the media they consumed" (McCombs, 2006), owing to highlighted topics in the news will be relevant to the public with the time. In other words and different to the law of the minimal effects, the main idea of the theory consists in the relevance transfer from the media agenda to the public one.

In order to determine the public agenda in Chapel Hill, the researches accomplished one survey among indecisive voters random sample, scientists asked them for the main subjects of the day according to their own points of view and regardless of candidate discourses, then they identified topics were classified with the aspirant percentage of voters to describe the public agenda. They also gathered and analyzed the principal informative resources consumed by the voters, in the group there were five local and national journals, two television channels and two magazines. The hierarchy of topics in the media agenda was determined by the number of news allocated to each one of them during the last weeks, the

research produced, as a result, nearly perfect correlation between the relevant topics for the Chapel Hill voters and those presented in media.

According to McCombs and Shaw, there are three levels of agenda-setting: the influence of the media agenda of objects on the public agenda is the first, the correspondence between the media agenda of attributes and the public attributes agenda is the second, and the third suggests that digital media can bundle different objects and attributes and make these bundles of elements salient in the public mind simultaneously (Lei, 2012). Moreover to topic salience, "the explanation of a second level of agenda-setting has linked the concept with framing by suggesting that news media attention also can influence how people think about a topic by selecting and placing emphasis on certain attributes and ignoring others." (McCombs, 2011)

The level one was introduced in 1968, level two in 1976, while the third was introduced more recently in 2010, and it infers the digital media agenda sets the public agenda, though the analysis do not pretend to continue the exploration of this level, it do pretend exploring the agenda of objects and attributes of a program based on the user-generated contents in order to understand how the citizen journalism in social media can influence criteria for covering the facts.

Methodologies

First of all, the data describing the media agenda in The Stream should be collected. The approach of quantitative research by means of content analysis can be used in order to study and represent the objects of the TV show. A number of definitions of content analysis are available, but according to Berelson, "a content analysis is a research technique for the objective, systematic, and quantitative description of the manifest content of communication." (Berelson, 1952) In the traditional agenda-setting researches, the content analysis has been carried out with a list of objects and/or attributes for coding. For example, in 1972 McCombs and Shaw gathered the news and editorial comments appearing between September 12 and October 6 in the sampled newspapers, magazines, and new broadcasts, then they coded the information into categories representing the key issues; "media news content also was divided into 'major' and 'minor' levels to see whether there was any

substantial difference in mass media emphasis across topics. For the print media, this major/minor division was in terms of space and position." (Protess & McCombs, 1991)

The principal goal of this study is to describe the agenda of the covered topics in The Stream, so an exploration related to which objects make the stories up for the emissions and how often they appear is required. The first step in order to do the content analysis was determining the universe to be analyzed, that is the The Stream. The second step was defining the sample; it was the emissions of the entire month of March, then the third step was coding the data specifying units of analysis which in this case corresponded to the objects of analysis which are depicted as topics and issues of media concerned, furthermore, as attributes characterizing the treatment of those objects. Finally, a system of quantification was selected: the frequency count of each one of the topics, issues and attributes.

In order to code the topics, issues and attributes, different categories of analysis were established. They lied in the themes and issues of the episodes for providing a list of the objects, thus the transcription and examination of the 16 chapters from the show in March were carried out. The content analysis posed the necessity of an examination tool, therefore, a chart with columns 'Date,' 'Show,' 'Country,' 'Topics,' 'Issues' and 'Attributes' was accurate, in the light of the objects of study were not the narratives, they were the subjects and attributes of stories instead.

The Stream is divided into two parts: the first 30 minutes are dedicated to the main show and the last 15 to the post show, which corresponds to the continuation on the Internet. Moreover, it has exclusive chapters for the Web, they are stories made through Storyfi with multimedia and social media resources. Researcher gathered emissions appearing between March 3 and March 31 and coded them into 10 categories representing the key topics, then identified issues, furthermore, different from general subjects, since it is understood by 'theme,' 'subject' or 'topic' the general name of the matter such as "the economy", or "the government", but 'issue' is a name referring a specific problem such as "high food prices," "bad weather conditions", or "gas rationing."

There are several conditions describing media prominence of issues, "for example, the distinction between obtrusive issues — those with which citizens have direct experience —

and unobtrusive issues — those with which citizens have little or no direct experience — is critical with regard to media issue priorities." (McCombs, The news and public opinion media effects on civic life, 2011) Moreover, they are not only divided because of the distance between audiences and their knowledge of facts, to a great extent, issues have both substantive and affective elements: "Substantive elements include sub-areas — for example, unemployment and economic stimulus programs as sub-areas of the economic problem, as well as such aspects of the issue as proposed solutions. In contrast, affective elements deal with the positive, neutral, or negative tone present in communication messages." (McCombs, The news and public opinion media effects on civic life, 2011) In that way, issues were determined by sub-areas of the themes and the tone with which they were described in the TV emissions.

Immediately, investigator recognized attributes due to its description of the issues, and classified the subjects in order from most-important to least according to relevance criterion, which is defined in terms of topics' repeat. "The most common approach for measuring media salience is by attention. From this perspective, salience is akin to media awareness of an object, usually gauged by the sheer volume of stories or space dedicated to various topics in newspapers, television news, and so on." (McCombs, The news and public opinion media effects on civic life, 2011) In other words, a hierarchy of salient subjects in The Stream was determined through the number of emissions dedicated to each topic in March since day after day the repetition of themes is the most-powerful message indicating its importance.

The present study puts emphasis on objects as "themes of public interest, that is to say, the thing we address our attention, have an attitude or opinion." (McCombs, Estableciendo la agenda el impacto de los medios en la opinión pública y en el conocimiento, 2006) Nevertheless, there is another level of agenda setting we ought to consider, owing to the features or attributes each object has, which, in fact, complete its picture. "Attribute is the generic term encompasses the whole set of traits typifying an object" (McCombs, Estableciendo la agenda el impacto de los medios en la opinión pública y en el conocimiento, 2006), then the way those attributes of informative products influence the public agenda constitutes the second level of agenda setting theory. In sum, the first level corresponds to the relevance transmission of an object, and the second to the relevance

transmission of an attribute. Besides, some of the aspects or attributes of the objects receive accent in the emissions and news. The descriptions of people, themes of public concern and other objects inside reports go from the simplest attributes, like the age of someone to the most complex, like being conservative or a Labor Party member, consequently, the stories produced by media are made up of a wide variety of attributes, which go from 'micro' to 'macro' aspects. For the examination of the attributes qualifying the emissions of The Stream, determine the sort of attributes was going to be studied was a duty, then considering attributes may shed light on macro aspects of subjects. "Frame is a definite attribute of the object in question, because describes it. Nonetheless, not all attributes are frames, but all frames are attributes. If frames are defined as dominant viewpoints of objects —prevalent descriptions of objects—, then they are set out like special class of attributes." (McCombs, Estableciendo la agenda el impacto de los medios en la opinión pública y en el conocimiento, 2006) Therefore, frames have traits distinguishing from other attributes, they are in the extreme pole of complexity in the wide range, because involve lower level aspects; as a result, frames accentuate certain micro-attributes, "they serve as bundling devices of micro-attributes and in turn, can be thought of as macro-attributes. A stereotype is an example of a macro-attribute that bundles together a number of micro-attributes." (McCombs & Ghanem, The convergence of agenda-setting and framing, 2001)

Content Analysis

3th of March

> *How is the faith's struggle with homosexuality playing out in the US and overseas?*
>
> US Christians are facing a culture clash within their faith over gay rights. In the past few months, seven states have ruled bans on gay marriage as unconstitutional. Growing support for gay rights across the country has Christian churches divided over how to respond. On Monday, The Stream looks at the internal tensions and how they're playing out in the US and overseas. (Al Jazeera English, 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke to:

Jay Bakker @jaybakker
Pastor, Revolution Church

Nancy Wilson @RevNancyWilson
Global leader, Metropolitan Community Churches

Skye Jethani @skye_jethani
Executive Editor of the Leadership Journal

Wayne Grudem @PhoenixSeminary
Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies at Phoenix Seminary

The coding unit, *Christianity's culture clash*, had as a general matter of media concern the gay rights in the United States, so the topic was coded into G*ay rights* category of analysis. The subject's sub-area was related to judicial court's decision over the gay marriage; issue was perceived as the 7 states' verdict about bans on homosexual marriage: They are unconstitutional. Proscriptions over gay marriage involve a direct experience of citizens, due to concern many relationships in the daily life, then the issue was identified as an obtrusive one. They were found 4 frames by their definition of the problem among the attributes:

1.	Christians who do not support LGBT rights in equality do not understand what the Christian message is.
2.	Equal rights and identity should be guaranteed by the law to all Americans, in spite of sexual orientation.
3.	Growing support for gay rights has divided Christian churches.
4.	Christianity and homosexuality are not compatible.

Skye Jethani, executive editor of the Leadership Journal, and Nancy Wilson, a global leader of Metropolitan Community Churches, made points in favor of court's decision and Jay Bakker, Pastor of the Revolution Church, and Wayne Grudem, Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies at Phoenix Seminary, against, whose views were radical regarding the Christian doctrine. Wilson agreed with gay union and argued that the church worldwide needs to be as Christ was, because he never would condemn people for being gay, the church should be open to all, that is to say, Christians must support LGBT rights in equality. Nevertheless, this frame is linked with a religious standpoint, which its main idea consists in Jesus Christ's love; we are brothers and we should love each other as Christ did no matter sexual orientation, skin color, nationality, and so on.

There is a frame within the content which also presents the issue in favor of gay marriage, and deals with the secular nature of law, instead of religion. Jethani attempted to show people have dignity regardless of gender, race, religious, tradition or sexual orientation, therefore, homosexuals should not be discriminated, and equal rights and identity should be guaranteed by the law; legislation should act in the benefit of all people. Besides, another frame was found, and it is related to the outcome of growing support for gay rights; it has divided Christian churches, due to the legal acceptance of same-sex marriage has become the law in the United States, but on the contrary, evangelicals want legislation to allow business denying services to gay people. Bakker asserted, churches' negative stand on gay rights has pushed many young people out of the pews, so the church has an internal debate.

For the last frame, it was found homosexual's rights and Christianity are two extreme poles that cannot converge, according to Grudem, homosexual conduct is contrary to God's moral

standards, due to the Bible is clear about marriage, and those who support homosexual union are not true God evangelists. In fact, one of the attributes related to this frame involved the lay nature of law, thus, religious communities do not have to accept imposed ideas by her. Nonetheless, three of four frames of the emission put emphasis on supporting stands for gay marriage and for the ruling over the bans, on the whole, the message had a positive tone.

4th of March

> *The Stream looks at how political differences could impact the country's post-revolution outlook*
>
> How deep do Ukraine's political divisions run and what effect could they have on the country's future? With Russia building up its military presence around Crimea, many are wondering how the newly appointed government will handle the ongoing crisis. We'll hear from people in Kiev and Crimea about which post-revolution direction their country should take. (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke to:

Dasha Karpenko
Ukrainian citizen in Crimea

Valentin Yakushik
Political science professor, Kiev Mohyla Academy

Vasiliy Malkin
Ukrainian citizen in Crimea

Oleksiy Melnyk
Co-director, Foreign Relations and International Security Programs

The coding unit, *Divided over Ukraine's future*, had as a general subject the crisis in Ukraine, the topic was coded into *War/Crisis* category of analysis then. The sub-area of the subject was in connection with a possible solution for the unstable state of affairs, issue was seen as the fact that Russia was building up its' military presence around Crimea. Military actions in Ukraine are part of Ukrainian's routine, yet they are not part of many audiences' life, so the issue was conceived as unobtrusive one, because of the indirect experience

spectators of The Stream have in the rest of the world. They were found three frames by their definition of the problem:

1.	Pro-Russian security forces have moved into Crimea just for support and help citizens.
2.	Putin's main excuse for invading Crimea is to protect Russians speakers in the region, but there's no evidence of any kind of threats to them.
3.	Ukraine is polarized.

With regard to the first frame, the viewpoints of Vasiliy Malkin, Ukrainian citizen in Crimea, and Oleksiy Melnyk, Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programs, provided an explanation for Pro-Russian security forces movement into Crimea; Putin is right and protecting Russians, but some citizens have welcomed the military presence of Russia, others have not, because they see a potential conflict, therefore, the second frame showed mainly the contrary citizen's stand, who believe it is an excuse from the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, for invading Crimea. Putin just wants to start a warfare, there are not real threats to Russian speakers there. However, all of guests were agree referring the gap between Pro-Russian's and Pro-European's Ukrainians; some civilians want Ukraine to join Russia and some others do not.

According to Karpenko, those who support Russia did not want a fair referendum, they wanted a fast process, and thus it took place the 30th of March. The opposition to the right-wing wanted a fair referendum; "they are pro-European, just to ensure and to guard Ukraine's autonomy" Yakushik asserted. In other words, Ukraine is polarized, and it may account for the prominence of the third frame allowing identify the tone of the whole message, which is neutral.

5th of March

> *Is Nigeria's government doing enough to put an end to the violence?*
>
> It's been a bloody year in northern Nigeria after a series of alleged attacks by Boko Haram that have killed more than 300. President

Goodluck Jonathan maintains his offensive against the group has been a success, and normalcy will return to the troubled region by May. But critics say he is losing ground to an insurgency that is now better armed, and more motivated than the military. Is lasting peace in northern Nigeria possible? What will it take? (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke to:

Aminu Gamawa @AminuGamawa
Co-ordinator, Harvard Law School Graduate Forum

Reuben Abati @abati1990
Presidential Spokesman

Ahmad Zannah Khalifa
Senator, Borno State

Babatunde Rosanwo @rosanwo
Human rights activist

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *Boko Haram bloodshed intensifies*, was the violence in Nigeria, the subject was coded into *Violence* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was related to a series of attacks perpetrated by the terrorist organization, Boko Haram; the onslaughts killed more than 300 people, so escalation of violence in Northern Nigeria was identified as an issue. In connection with worldwide audience of The Stream, whereas actions executing Boko Haram, as the abduction of over 200 schoolgirls in that country, concern directly people from Nigeria, because of their direct experience with facts, civilians watching the emission in different countries have an indirect knowledge of violence there, the issue was assumed as unobtrusive one. They were found four frames among the attributes by their definition of the problem:

1.	The government of Nigeria is no longer able to protect its citizens. Boko Haram is stronger and more motivated than Nigerian troops.
2.	Some Nigerians are even taking it upon themselves to fight back.
3.	The Nigerian military is responsible for abusing its power during the offensive against Boko Haram.
4.	Nigeria has also alleged that Boko Haram is operating from the neighboring borders of Chad, Cameroon and Niger, where the Nigerian army cannot target them.

With reference to the first frame, the macro-attribute showed the counter-argument to the official stand of Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan, who maintains his offensive against the group has been a success and believes the state of affairs is satisfactory, in spite of the bloody activity of the Islamist group. However, the governor of Borno province that has been worst hit by the conflict, recently said that Boko Haram is stronger and more motivated than Nigerian troops, even critics and guests (Aminu Gamawa, Co-ordinator at Harvard Law School Graduate Forum, and Babatunde Rosanwo, human rights activist), have said President is losing ground to an insurgency that is now better armed; the government is no longer able to protect its citizens.

In fact, this frame account for the background to examine the next one, because of the ineffectiveness of Nigerian government fighting against, some Nigerians are even taking it upon themselves to fight back, and the Civilian Joint Task Force Units have been set up in Maiduguri to fight against Boko Haram. Ahmad Zannah Khalifa, Senator at Borno State, claimed in some regions civilians have managed to reduce violence, while in others they were reportedly involved in clashes with soldiers and exacerbated the conflict. As far as the action of citizens and governments' failure is concerned, Rosanwo cast doubt on military action, the next frame presents the abuse of power from the Nigerian army during the offensive; military has fired at and even killed many civilians, and also, they are accused of conniving with Boko Haram, since they give way for them to perform massacres.

Quite the opposite, the last frame gave an alleged explanation from the government for his fruitless offensive against the Islamist group, Reuben Abati, Presidential Spokesman, stated Boko Haram operates also in the borders with Chad, Cameroon and Niger, where military

cannot target them, to tackle Boko Haram, Nigerian army needs the cooperation of the neighboring countries then. Yet, Gamawa, Rosanwo and Zannah Khalifa maintained dialogue is the only option.

Three over four frames emphasized the governmental inefficiency counteracting the escalation of the violence, due to Boko Haram bloody actions, so as far as the tone of the message, the TV emission describes the problem in a negative way.

6th of March

> *Besieged Syrians battle with starvation and sickness as they try to survive the country's civil war.*
> Hungry Syrians are eating grass, weeds and normally forbidden animals like cats, dogs and donkeys to survive. Hundreds of thousands are under sieges imposed by both the government and the rebels, many starving or stricken by disease. In the besieged Yarmouk Camp alone, about 100 people, mostly children, died this year. Clashes and attacks on humanitarian convoys are preventing basic goods from reaching trapped civilians. At 19:30 GMT, we discuss the challenges of delivering aid inside Syria. (Al Jazeera, 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke to:

Jomana Qaddour @jomanaqaddour
Co-founder, Syria Relief & Development

Christopher Gunness @ChrisGunness
UNRWA Spokesperson

Nabih Bulos @nabihbulos
Special correspondent, Los Angeles Times

The coding unit, *Syria's humanitarian crisis*, has as a general subject the humanitarian crisis in Syria, the topic was coded into *War/Crisis* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was related to civilian's situation there and the tragedy they are living; Syrians battle with starvation and sickness as they try to survive the country's civil war, so the critical and

inhumane situation they are facing, since the warfare, was perceived as an issue. As far as experience of the users and from the people who watch live The Stream is concerned, viewers have not direct knowledge of the armed conflict in Syria; they consume information in connection with that fact on the Network, by television, radio, and even by social media, nonetheless, they do not so in a direct way, then the issue could be classified as unobtrusive one. They were found four frames among attributes by their definition of the issue:

1.	Civilians are under siege imposed by both the government and the rebels, many starving or stricken by disease.
2.	There are challenges in delivering humanitarian aid inside Syria.
3.	The solution would be in the negotiations of Geneva, the cease-fire will guarantee the delivery of minimal aid.
4.	The Assad regime is clearly to blame for blocking the majority of humanitarian aid.

With reference to the first frame, Jomana Qaddour, Co-founder of Syria Relief & Development, and Christopher Gunness, UNRWA Spokesperson, describe the circumstances with which Syrians must live daily, warfare's outcome is a moral outrage and a conflict of choice too, on account of the siege, which is imposed either by the government or by the rebels, and hundreds of thousands are suffering a profound and tragic situations; people are sick and hungry, thus, they are eating grass and animals like cats, dogs and donkeys to survive. The role of both actors, government and rebels, in conflict provides an explanation for the blockages in order to deliver aid. The second frame stands for current challenges in delivering war relief in Syria, Qaddour and Gunness agreed with Nabih Bulos, special correspondent for Los Angeles Times, referring to UN Relief and Works Agency official description of the situation in the refugee camps as apocalyptic. There are 10 million people who need humanitarian assistance about half of those are children, and 12 refugee camps, where there are Palestinians, but also ordinary civilians.

Qaddour declared the ONG's can distribute aid for years, but they cannot do it everything; what they are doing can be destroyed in a matter of seconds with one bomb. Challenges in delivering humanitarian aid are related to clashes and attacks, they prevent the delivery of

basic goods to trapped civilians; extremist rebel groups and government have different checkpoints, moreover, there are snipers in hotspots, the single limiting factor is safe and regular access then. However, Gunness suggested a solution for guaranteeing the delivery and it is exactly the third frame: The answer would be in the negotiations of Geneva, the cease-fire will guarantee the delivery of minimal aid, due to the eastern part of the country is under direction of the Islamic State of Iraq, which has caused a lot of problems for the humanitarian workers, there's a constant tension between the rebel factions and the government.

Finally, the last frame describes the core cause of the blockage, according to Bulos, the Assad regime is clearly to blame for blocking the majority of humanitarian aid; the international community must compel the judgment of the regime into UN Security Council resolution for humanitarian aid before more people die. Nonetheless, the arms groups are also preventing access for aid workers on the ground. To a great extent, only one of the frames put emphasis on a tentative resolution to the warfare in order to guarantee the delivery of aid, then the last frame as two others stressed the obstacles humanitarian workers have and the subhuman conditions that Syrians have faced during the civil war, so the tone of the whole message was identified as negative.

10th of March

> *The Stream uncovers the roots of Sri Lanka's violent, hardline Buddhists*
>
> Hardline Buddhist monks are targeting Muslims and Christians in Sri Lanka, where the civil war's end has spurred a new wave of sectarianism bent on preserving Sinhalese culture. Since the conflict ended nearly five years ago, groups like Bodu Bala Sena have emerged as Sri Lanka's self-appointed watchdogs of Buddhism. At 19:30 GMT, we discuss the violent side of Sri Lankan Buddhism. (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke to:

Dilanthe Withanage @dilanthe
Executive member and coordinator of the Bodu Bala Sana

Mahinda Deegalle @mdeegalle
Reader in Study of Religions, Philosophies and Ethics at Bath Spa University

Palitha Kohona
Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

Mohamed Hisham @mhmhisham
Co-spokesperson for Rally for Unity

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *The violent side of Sri Lankan Buddhism*, was the Buddhism in the island country, the topic was coded into *Religion* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was related to the hardline of Buddhism; Buddhist monks are targeting Muslims and Christians, so the violence against Muslims and Christians was identified as an issue. The religion concerns many people all over the world, their daily routine, their customs, their beliefs and mainly their viewpoints about life depend on it. Nonetheless, The Stream viewers are not just Buddhist monks, Muslims or Christians and they have not direct knowledge about those communities; they have not direct experience with religion. As far as violent actions from members of one religion against those of another is concerned, the issue was identified as unobtrusive. They were found five frames by their definition of the problem:

1.	Self-appointed groups as watchdogs of Buddhism have campaigned against religious minorities.
2.	Buddhist supremacy is fueling religious tensions.
3.	The lack of response from the government has empowered nationalists groups.
4.	Violence in religious societies is inevitable.
5.	Violence and Buddhism do not go together.

The first frame is related to the core cause of violence against religious minorities in Sri Lanka; Mahinda Deegalle, reader in Study of Religions, Philosophies and Ethics at Bath Spa University, and Palitha Kohona, permanent representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations mentioned that since the civil war ended nearly five years ago, nationalist groups such as Bodu Bala Sena, BBS, and Ravana Balaya have emerged as Sri Lanka's self-appointed watchdogs of Buddhism; they have campaigned against religious minorities. In

27

fact, Buddhists mobs attacked nearly 20 mosques last year, according to Sri Lanka's capital police, and more than three Christian places of worship were reportedly targeted this year, however the BBS denies involvement in sectarian violence, they say, on the other hand, that they are non-violent. Mohamed Hisham, co-spokesperson for Rally for Unity, maintained feeling of superiority from Buddhists has exacerbated violence, it is exactly the description belonging to the second frame; Buddhists supremacy is fueling religious tensions, in fact, rise in religious nationalism has been fueled by state-sponsored Sinhala Buddhist.

Certainly, if Sri Lanka State sponsors the hardline of Buddhism, it does not execute any actions in order to stop aggressions against religious minorities; third frame pinpoints the lack of response from the government precisely. Dilanthe Withanage, executive member and coordinator of the Bodu Bala Sana, declared fruitlessness from the government has empowered nationalist groups; Sri Lanka's repeated failure to establish law and order has made it exposed to credible allegations and critiques. Regardless, the matter is linked to the relationship between religion and violence; description for the next frame corresponds with one guest's standpoint, Hisham commented that the relationship is direct, violence in religious societies is inevitable then. Religion has always been an excuse for people to tear each other apart, however, Deegalle claimed all religions have the best intent to preach and do well, so instead of religion as responsible for the assaults, practitioners are who give religions a bad name.

Quite the opposite, the last frame put forward the peace-loving character of the Buddhists; violence and Buddhism do not go together. Deegalle asserted Buddhism is a religion of peace, self-denying; if some monk turn violent he is no longer Buddhist monk, Buddhists are peaceful in nature then. On the whole, just the last frame suggests a favorable description of Buddhism, four over five frames cast doubt on its peaceful nature, especially in connection with its hardline, with which government has a relation of complicity, and which, in fact, has been pointed out as the guilty of diverse aggressions against Muslims and Christians in Sri Lanka, the whole tone of the message was perceived as negative then.

11th of March

> *The Stream speaks to Paralympians about sports and breaking stereotypes*
>
> How are the Paralympics changing the way we view disabilities? In 1980, Russia did not host the Paralympics and declared there were no disabled people in their country. Thirty-four years later, the nation is holding the largest Winter Paralympic Games in history. We'll speak to Paralympians on the games' impact and how adaptive sports are redefining ideas of ability and disability around the world. (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Victoria Nolan @blindrower
Paralympian rower

Anjali Forber-Pratt @anjalifp
Paralympic sprinter

Martin Wuerz
Paralympian alpine skier

Joshua George @jsgeorge
Paralympian wheelchair racer

The coding unit, *Are the Paralympics redefining ability?* , has as a general subject the Paralympic games in Sochi, Russia; the topic was coded into *Sports* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was the adaptive sports, how they are changing the mindset of people regarding disabilities was identified as an issue. Citizens in different countries know disabled people, have friends, relatives or acquaintances living with any disability, yet people have not much knowledge about adaptive sports and handicap athletes, they have little experience regarding Paralympics, even their knowledge about disabilities is indirect in more cases, so the issue was classified as unobtrusive. It was found one frame by its definition of the issue:

1.	Paralympics have changed the mindset of people about disabilities, it has become a platform for social change.

The present emission was the only exception over 16 coding units which have one frame for defining the issue, any counter-argument or an opposed stand among guests was seen. To some extent, the tone was positive; all of the guests agreed declaring athletes with disabilities are astonishing, people do not think about them as they did before, Victoria Nolan, Paralympian rower said now they see adaptive sports as one way with which society can be inclusive; that is why Paralympics have become a platform for social change, in fact, in some cases it is the first time individuals with disabilities are taken seriously by their own family and community.

In 1980, Russia did not host the Paralympics and declared there were no disabled people in the country, nonetheless, 34 years later, the nation held the largest Winter Paralympic Games in history. The games have over the years become more inclusive allowing athletes with physical lesions and mental disabilities to compete at highest level of sport, Martin Wuerz, Paralympian alpine skier asserted they are elite athletes, but not because of their disability, it is because of their achievement of the athletic standards and that is a great accomplishment; they train like Olympic athletes and reach a goal like they do, their accomplishments are unbelievable then, it is no easy to get a location to train and an adaptive equipment; they have challenges like the mental preparation, besides the physical pain.

Anjali Forber-Pratt, Paralympic sprinter, and Joshua George, Paralympian wheelchair racer agreed explaining *athletes with disabilities* does not mean being at a disadvantage, people should understand that disability is just a characteristic; it is really no more depressed than the color of skin, the gender or the sexual orientation, Nolan contended that it is to keep disability as part of who you are. The able-bodied people can play adaptive sports even, in fact, in Canada there are some curriculums for art students in school, which are going to be nationwide. They learn adaptive sports, but also how to use the equipment.

12th of March

Killing of a student reignites debate over missing and murdered First Nations women

Aboriginal women make up three per cent of Canada's female population but 10 per cent of all female homicides. A recent report by the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women makes 16 recommendations on how the government can address this problem. Victims' families and activists, however, say studies repeatedly highlight the severity of this issue, but lead to no genuine solutions. Will this report bring anything new? (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Carolyn Bennett @Carolyn_Bennett
Member of Parliament, Liberal Party

Holly Jarrett @HollyforChange
Native women's rights activist
Michèle Taïna Audette @NWAC_CA
President, Native Women's Association of Canada

Meghan Rhoad @MGRhoad
Researcher, Human Rights Watch

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *Protecting Canada's indigenous*, was the violence against First Nations women in Canada, so the topic was coded into *Racial Discrimination* category of analysis. The subject's sub-area was related to female homicides; aboriginal women making 10% up of all female homicides. A recent report by the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women made 16 recommendations on how the government can address this problem, advices in order to execute actions stopping violence against indigenous women were perceived as an issue. Viewers have little knowledge and no direct experience about violence against First Nations, in fact, some of them have ever treated indigenous; the issue was identified as unobtrusive then. They were found four frames by their definition of the problem:

1.	Over the years multiple reports have highlighted the severity of the problem, however, victims' families and activists say studies lead to no genuine solutions.
2.	The reasons of the violence against indigenous women are the ignorance, the colonialism, the racism.
3.	Police failed to respond adequately when women and girls went missing or when they were victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.
4.	Canadian government is completely aloof from this problem.

The first frame provides an explanation over the core problem, the juncture of the recent report made by the Special Committee On Violence showed what has been happened the last years, different institutions have given reports highlighting the severity of assaults against, yet the families of the victims and activists state studies and recommendations they give do not help in order to find genuine solutions; First Nations are five times more likely to die from violence than non-natives. Michèle Taïna Audette, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, asserted Canada has an international legal obligation to exercise due diligence in preventing, investigating, prosecuting, and punishing the people responsible for this violence, but after many UN reports that still is not happening. Furthermore, those 16 recommendations are not useful since they were made according to the interests from the members of the committee in preserving the status quo, Holly Jarrett, native women's rights activist, argued that the report was hijacked. "The truth is we need action not further studies, not further examinations at the problems, we know what the problems are, we need actions and that involves more than just legislative response, it involves programming and working with all levels of government and the private sector" declared Jarrett.

Among guests, the dominant stance about the trigger reasons of violence against First Nations is linked with the racial discrimination. The second frame pinpoints the ignorance, the colonialism and the racism as the root of the problem; Meghan Rhoad, researcher at Human Rights Watch, explains being aboriginal woman means not being taken seriously and marginalized, moreover, "poverty really feeds the violence," she said. However, the problem is not only a matter of discrimination, it is related to failed response from the police when aboriginal women go missing, are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. The third frame emphasized the ineptitude of the officers, in fact, Audette maintained in British

Columbia there is evidence of First Nation's serial killer, but because the victims were indigent, they were not listened, "policemen thought that they were prostitutes, drug addicts or alcoholics" she stated.

There are circumstances that exacerbate the violence against aboriginal women, the fourth frame attributes to the government the escalation of the problem; it is aloof from the issue, First Nation people are not asset for them as a white government. Carolyn Bennett, Member of Parliament for Liberal Party, stressed government programs and services are not at all culturally adequate for them, in the political level there is a lack of willingness in order to deal with the problem. "We've not even consult for the design of the next policy or the next legislation and right now the strategy is saying that they do so much for us" Jarrett asserted. The Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Leach, was asked for a statement for the program and she said: "We've committed $25 million Canadian dollars to actual helping with this issue," yet the money they give for "missing and murdered aboriginal women" is in reality for the International Center where they have a database of all missing people; Canadian men and women. Indigenous women need to be on top of the priority for the government.

To a great extent, the tone of the emission was negative, all frames provide a worrisome outlook over violence against aboriginals in Canada. It is not enough to give reports and statistics, the government must execute actions in order to protect First Nations, moreover, the police must work for reducing attacks and violence; genuine solutions are needed.

17th of March

> *The Stream examines the aims of the anarchist movement*
>
> Anti-government protest movements around the world are increasingly being described as having anarchist influences. But what does "anarchy" mean to an anarchist? We'll examine how their ideas are challenging traditional frameworks in government and society. (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Crispin Sartwell @CrispinSartwell
Associate professor of philosophy at Dickinson College

Cindy Milstein @CindyMilstein
Anarchist writer and organiser

Federico Campagna @FedCampagna
Individualist anarchist

Waqas Ahmed @Waqas_X
Member of the Anarchist Party of Pakistan

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *Organising towards anarchy*, was the anti-government protests in the United States, the subject was coded into *Protests* category of analysis then. The topic's sub-area was linked with the description of anti-government movements which have been increasingly described as groups basing on anarchist influences, so the trend of identifying gathered people around protests with the anarchy was perceived as an issue. Citizens around the world and Web users are familiarized with manifestations, in fact, many of them are activists and participate enthusiastically in protests; they reclaim their rights and have direct experience with anti-government movements, so the issue was classified as obtrusive. They were found three frames by their definition of the issue:

1.	"Anarchy" means no rules, no boundaries and no laws.
2.	Many agree in its simplest form that anarchy is "striving towards a free society of free individuals."
3.	There are several misconceptions surrounding the anarchy.

In the first place, the stereotype about what "Anarchy" means is frequently associated with the absence of rules and laws; the first frame of the emission is related to what people answered for The Stream in social media. *What does anarchy means?* "Freedom, revolution and anonymous" one viewer said on Twitter, in fact, according to Federico Campagna, an individualist anarchist, it means "Wreaking havoc, fighting cops and trying to destroy society." In the second place, Crispin Sartwell, associate professor of philosophy at

Dickinson College, noted there are many definitions, some of them are more complex than others, but there is a simple description which people share: Anarchy is "striving towards a free society of free individuals," in other words, it is the rejection of the state and of coercive government; Waqas Ahmed, member of the Anarchist Party of Pakistan, commented that Anarchy focuses on the problems of hierarchy and exploitation. Using forms of direct democracy and inspiring participation of the citizens to work together in order to insure the people, the animals and the planet are in good order for now and future generations.

Nonetheless, *freedom* is a misleading term, "free society of free individuals" is not equal to irresponsibility; in the third place, there are several misconceptions surrounding the anarchy, in fact, it involves a self-responsibility increase from the citizens. Cindy Milstein, anarchist writer and organizer, explained that it is a complex topic; interpretation and media exposure is often of violent behavior which is not representative of anarchists at all, furthermore, many think it strictly applies to society without laws and rules which it does not. "It is all about chaos, yet anarchy has nothing to do with chaos" Milstein asserted. In response to such misconceptions, anarchists argued there is an order in anarchy, but in a non-hierarchical decentralized way and violence should be rejected, it should be only used as a last resort.

On the whole, two over three frames reflect the idea of chaos in connection with anarchy, but it is the most-basic description that exists and, in fact, one of the most negatives, because involves mistakes and causes misunderstanding amid people, so the tone of the episode was identified as negative, in spite of the last frame which suggests rethinking the general definition.

18th of March

> *Viral campaign highlights the experiences of black students at the Ivy League school*
>
> What's it like to be a minority student at an elite university? A student-led photo campaign titled "I, Too, Am Harvard" is highlighting the experiences of black students who are tired of people suggesting they don't belong. The campaign has spread to other schools and is renewing

discussions about race and campus diversity. With the help of four Harvard students we look at #ITooAmHarvard and the conversations it has generated. (Al Jazeera, 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Dennis Ojogho @dojogho
Editor, The Harvard Crimson

Sarah Siskind @srsiskind
Columnist, The Harvard Crimson

Rahsaan King
Student, Harvard University

Sarah Cole @_missfransis
Board member, Black Students Association

The coding unit, *I, Too, Am Harvard*, has as a general subject the discrimination of black students at the Ivy League school; the topic was coded into *Racial Discrimination* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was the racism against minorities; what does mean to be a minority student at an elite university? White students isolate black students, thus, the segregation because of the skin color was identified as an issue. Studying at Harvard is a privilege, few people are familiarized with things that happen there, yet racial minorities are marginalized everywhere; the citizens discriminate others, the civilians are discriminated or even they fight the discrimination in movements of protest, but everybody has a role inside the problem, so the issue was classified as obtrusive. They were found three frames by their definition of the issue:

1.	The black students are tired of people suggesting they don't belong, "I, Too, Am Harvard" highlights their experiences at the Ivy League school.
2.	The campaign has spread to other schools and is renewing discussions about race and campus diversity.
3.	Discrimination and racism are embedded in the culture.

With reference to the meaning of being a minority student at Harvard, the first frame stresses the black students are tired of people suggesting they do not belong. "I, Too, Am Harvard" is a social media photo campaign led by minority students in order to express their experiences inside the Ivy League School. Sarah Cole, board member of the Black Students Association of Harvard, stated that some of them describe their experience with words like *alienation* and *isolation*, and even some students often have spoken about being the only black person in the classes; other students say they hear from their classmates' racial insensitive remarks, thus, the organizers of the campaign have posted photos in Tumblr with some of those comments. However, "this is not a movement to say that Harvard is a bad place, but it is about leaving the university a better place than we found it" Rahsaan King, Ivy Leaguer, asserted.

The campaign has gone viral receiving a lot of attention from various news outlets, but it is also spread to other schools, both in the United States and abroad, generating similar initiatives, as well as opposing ones. The second frame provides an outlook over racism inside the academic circles; it is renewing discussions about race and campus diversity, since black students have declared that when they have tried to initiate conversations about race, 'white' students and professors just disregard it, so "if they really want to overcome those issues, they should have these discussions as part of the change" Dennis Ojogho, editor of The Harvard Crimson, claimed. "I, Too, Am Harvard" has spread to Oxford and Cambridge, because micro-aggressions happen everywhere even in the top British universities, these just comments that people at universities make and they might not realize the impact that they can have on the other students. As far as the third frame is concerned, the racial segregation is not an isolated phenomenon, though there is a few respect for racial diversity on campus, it is not the sole issue inside the Ivy League Schools; top universities are just one among various scenes where discrimination take place, racism is embedded in the culture then. "Race and socioeconomic status are two sides of the same thing, the universities need to consider both" Sarah Siskind, columnist of The Harvard Crimson, asserted.

To a great extent, all frames give a worrisome description over the black student's status inside the elite universities and not only in the United States, due to "I, Too, Am Harvard"

has become viral in other top institutions in the United Kingdom, then racial segregation is the fact that scholars, students, professors and the entire society should discuss and tackle in order to make the academic institutions places of social inclusion; the whole tone of the episode was perceived as negative then.

19th of March

> *William Easterly tells The Stream how he thinks foreign aid experts and dictators are keeping people poor*
>
> Are foreign aid policy makers keeping people poor? That's the theory economist William Easterly is touting in his new book, "The Tyranny of Experts". On Wednesday, Easterly joins The Stream to explain why he thinks western donors need a new attitude toward the developing world: No democracy, no aid. Is he right, or out of touch? (Al Jazeera English, 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

William Easterly @bill_easterly
Author, The Tyranny of Experts

Daniel Kaufmann @kaufpost
President, Revenue Watch Institute

Ken Opalo @Kopalo
Ph.D in Political Science, Stanford University

Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven @ingridharvold
Graduate student, The New School

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *No democracy, no aid?* Was the poverty in underdeveloped countries, so the topic was coded into *Poverty* category of analysis. The subject's sub-area was related to different foreign policies for tackling it; experts say that foreign aid policies keep people poor, Western donors need a new attitude toward the developing world: No democracy, no aid; democracy as requirement for developing countries in order to receive aid was identified as an issue then. The aid policies keep people poor because donors impose political structures of adjustment, but it backfire

when populous government took power inside and reject all of this, so they are anti-growth policies really; international affairs, foreign aid, development and economy are subjects with which citizens do not have direct knowledge, in fact, civilians who are familiarized with these topics are people whose studies are related with these areas of interest, though they are specialized media audiences, that is to say, citizens do not have direct experience with aid policies for dealing with poverty, so the issue was perceived as unobtrusive. They were found three frames by their definition of the problem:

1.	Power progress against poverty.
2.	Change happens when citizens are in power democratically to decide what the solution is for themselves.
3.	There is very little empirical evidence that democracy freedoms have a causal relationship with economic growth.

In the first place, World Bank, IMF, and other foreign agencies impose conditions for giving aid, it is a matter of coercion, they pressure the countries to do what they want, but this is not the way that beneficial change happens, progress does not happen by external coercion. The first frame provides an overlook regarding the foreign policies for tackling the poverty; the power progress against poverty, then programs of aid from industrialized countries are strategies for keeping the power, due to the idea that autocratic governments and dictators are part of the solution implementing good technical changes financed by Western aid agencies to make their countries develop is a "good justification" that dictators use to stay in power. According to William Easterly, author of The Tyranny of Experts, the UN and other Western funded bodies provide technical assistance to autocratic government to reduce poverty, but dictators just want to stay in power, so they take the money to pay the roads, but they keep citizens downtrodden and they cannot challenge authority, furthermore, potentates repress the citizen's rights, they do not let civilians speak up in protest, so what is the alternative? Free development, if foreign countries stop funding autocrat, people would be free to dream up marketable ideas.

In other words, aid is being used to stifle democratic values, since "the governments take it and use it in a way that is not improving for the citizens, for instance, the 30 percent of money in the budget of South African government gets wasted for corruption" Daniel Kaufmann, president of the Revenue Watch Institute, declared.

In the second place, change involves debate and consultation instead of coercion, thus, the second frame describes the circumstance that could guarantee the development of genuine projects or policies in developing countries in order to deal with poverty, and then change really happens when citizens are in power democratically to decide what the solution is for themselves, for instance, if Latin American country wants to implement measures reducing the gap between rich and poor, it has to be done with a lot of consultation using the democratic institutions of power, in fact, "the solution is already happening all over the world, it is coming from people around the world asserting on democratic rights, asserting on economic rights, thanks to resistance movements and protests. We do not respect the rights of the poor, but good things will happen when we do recognize their rights" Ken Opalo, Ph.D in Political Science of the Stanford University, contended. As a result, democracy should be a prerequisite for foreign aid, civilians need to have local solutions to the problems afflicting the developing want.

In the third place and quite the opposite, there is a counter-argument for the whole idea of a required democratic system for receiving foreign aid; there is very little empirical evidence that democracy freedoms have a causal relationship with economic growth. Some economic historians assert that governments promoting certain policies in the East Asian and American countries led them to have high growth and development and that individual freedoms actually came into place well into this process or even after, so there might even be a different causal relationship; there are government policies causing development and not necessarily individual freedom, in fact, those historians claim that it has been giving an exaggerated importance to a few small protective legislation and eastern policies. "William Easterly is overselling the idea that democracy is the answer, because when the industrial revolution really takes up in Europe, and then after that in the United States, these countries were not real democracies, they still suffered limitations," Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven, a graduate student from The New School, declared.

On the contrary, Easterly said: "What I'm trying to sell as you start with an ideal you know in the Declaration of Independence unalienable rights we hold, these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, even though those ideals were not honored at the time, they were more honored in the US and a few other democratic places, and that's where the Industrial revolution started, and then it got more life as freedom expanded, it's a gradual process of the growth of freedom that translates into the growth and development, these two things go together." In other words, growth miracles are associated with big increases in both economic and political freedom, so evidence is stronger at the freedom side that on the autocracy side.

As far as the tone of the emission is concerned, one over three frames highlights the progress of power, that is to say the strengthening of dictatorships and autocrat systems throughout aid policies over the fight for reducing poverty in developing countries; first frame gives a negative viewpoint in regard to foreign aid policies for tackling the issue, nevertheless, the other two frames provide a neutral standpoint related to the causal relationship between a democratic system and economic growth, in other words, democracy could guarantee or not the development, if so it would be a prerequisite for applying aid policies facing the poverty, thus, the tone of the episode was identified as neutral to some extent.

20th of March

> *Could adopting unconditional basic income end poverty?*
>
> Switzerland could soon adopt an Unconditional Basic Income or UBI which means every adult national would receive a monthly paycheck of approximately $2,800 from the government. The money is guaranteed regardless of employment status. Proponents say UBI would end poverty. Opponents worry it would harm Switzerland's competitiveness. (Al Jazeera English, 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Stanislas Jourdan @basicincomeEU
Coordinator, Unconditional Basic Income Europe

Ash Navabi @ashnavabi
Blogger, Mises Institute Canada

Enno Schmidt
Co-founder, Basic Income Initiative, Switzerland

Francine Mestrum @FMestrum
Founder, Global Social Justice

The coding unit, *Income for all*, has as a general subject the adoption of an Unconditional Basic Income, UBI, in order to end poverty in Switzerland; the topic was coded into *Poverty* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was related to the UBI as the solution for ending poverty; every national adult would receive a monthly paycheck of approximately $2,800 from the government regardless of the employment status, thus, the UBI seen as the answer to the problem was identified as an issue. Working conditions, unemployment, and cost of living are daily topics with which citizens and viewers around the world, not only in Switzerland, have direct knowledge; civilians are familiarized with jobs and incomes, if somebody is out of work, it will be more difficult to fulfill the basic needs, an unconditional basic income could help people in order to improve their standard of living then, and even it could also finish the poverty in the country, so the issue was classified as obtrusive. They were found two frames by their description of the problem:

| 1. | Proponents say UBI would end poverty. |
| 2. | Opponents worry it would harm Switzerland's competitiveness. |

With reference to the first frame, it is related with the proponent's insight, they maintained that an Unconditional Basic Income would end poverty, even though it does not depend on the economic situation in Switzerland; it does not mean that it works only in a wealthy nation, the most-important point is that Switzerland is a democratic country. "We need proper working conditions, with a UBI, then you are strong enough to negotiate yourself and to look for good job conditions" Stanislas Jourdan, coordinator of the Unconditional Basic Income in Europe, observed. Moreover, a reduction of the cost of living is necessary, so an Unconditional Basic Income and a cheaper cost of living both things go together. Civilians argue that the UBI is not a matter of governmental funding, the idea is citizens would

finance the basic income of others, for example, with taxes, so "We do not ask to the state or the government to give us money, we are people we want to give each other a basic income, because we think that we all would be better, we can live better" Enno Schmidt, co-founder of the Basic Income Initiative in Switzerland, pinpointed, thus, the UBI will actually start to close the gap between rich and poor; poor people have aspirations, but they are deprived of any kind of opportunity due to widening inequality.

Furthermore, guest who were agree with the UBI stated it is a wrong idea to imagine that basic income will replace all the welfare system because it actually means to improve it, but not to destroy it, so a basic income will change the entire society since the citizens will be more proactive, nonetheless, opponents claimed it could disincentive people to work, moreover, it will get more money to the rich, so the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The second frame gives a description of the contrary side of the issue, opponents worry the UBI would harm Switzerland's competitiveness since it will promote laziness, that is to say, it will take people out of the workforce: if you can make a certain income without doing any labor, then you are not going to work and that is going to reduce the tax base right. "The Unconditional Basic Income will make inequalities grow, we need a decent universal social protection system that works all redistributing incomes, because that is also a problem with the UBI, if people leave their jobs there are many jobless people who will take them, but they do not have the same experience at least as the people who were working there" Francine Mestrum, founder of Global Social Justice, stressed.

To some extent, one over two frames gave a negative description in regard to the UBI as the answer to the poverty in Switzerland, it could make bigger the gap between rich and poor, but also it would make the people lazier, and that is to say, the competitiveness of the country can be harmed. Quite the opposite, the other frame provided a positive viewpoint over the UBI, because it could end the poverty and could make people more active; in terms of coverage, both frames are similar, there are two stands with contrary arguments, yet the positive frame was more emphatic, in fact, the title of the emission reflects its prominence in a certain way, thus, the tone of the episode was perceived as positive.

24th of March

> *Could the country's first census in 30 years cause more tension between ethnic groups?*
>
> In Myanmar, could new census data deepen the country's ethnic divisions? It's been more than 30 years since the nation has conducted a population census, but some minority and human rights organizations are worried that having a clearer picture of racial and religious groups will worsen already tense relations, particularly between Buddhists and Muslims. The census is expected to begin March 30, and those who support it say the country needs accurate data to plan its economic future. (Al Jazeera, 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Myra Dahgaypaw @myradah
Campaign Co-ordinator, US Campaign for Burma

U Khin Maung Myint
Head of the Foreign Relations Committee, National Democratic Party for Development

Khon Ja
Founder and co-ordinator, Kachin Peace Network

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *Myanmar population count comes with controversy,* was the country's first census in 30 years, it has been controversial because it could cause more tension between ethnic groups, so the topic was coded into *Racial Discrimination* category of analysis. The subject's sub-area was related to the trigger effect of the population count, it could increase aggressions between Buddhists and Muslims; the census seen as one source of racial segregation was perceived as an issue then. It is the first time in 30 years the population of Myanmar, Southeast Asia, have a chance to being listened to, yet many fear the census questions about race and religion exacerbate decades on unresolved conflicts. In spite of the result, the census is an activity that concerns all citizens around the world, it is a tool allowing one government to know the features and needs of the

population; civilians have a direct experience with the count, in fact, it is about their own lives, furthermore, the tensions existing between ethnic groups affect the routine of many, since being part of one ethnic group or one religion involves different ways of living; the issue was classified as obtrusive then. They were found three frames by their description of the problem:

1.	The census could cause more tension between ethnic groups.
2.	Those who support it say the country needs accurate data to plan its economic future.
3.	The census should be postponed.

In the first place, some minority and human rights organizations are worried that having a clearer picture of racial and religious groups will worsen already tense relations, particularly between Buddhists and Muslims. "The census will provide ammunition to the ethnic armed groups to further marginalize and weed out the minority groups" Myra Dahgaypaw, coordinator of the US Campaign for Burma, declared. Since 2011, the country has been on the path to perform a transition from a military structure to a civilian government, which implies debate, dialogue, tolerance and peace among citizens, though population count questions about race and religion have many minority groups concerned, they fear it will worsen the conflicts; Rohingya members (ethnic group who practice Islam) are facing threats from extremists.

In other words, census starts splitting people into smaller groups, that is why it is going to create more ethnic tensions and it is not fair for the ethnic minorities, their number is going down; the government wants to reduce ethnic minorities into very small portion, Khon Ja, founder and coordinator of the Kachin Peace Network, explained. For instance, Burma's government provides codes to the ethnic groups for the census, but Rohingya population does not officially exist on its records, so they do not have a code, Rohingya members were forgotten, they were ignored. According to Dahgaypaw, "Burmese authority would get rid of Rohingyan's, otherwise, they will stick around into the Burmese Muslim population, so authority is afraid of the overpopulated number of Muslims in Burma," that is to say, Rohingyan's are a threat to them.

In the second place, those who support the population count say the country needs accurate data to plan its economic future. The census should be done in a properly way everybody could participate and without any discrimination, nevertheless, lot of people are not optimistic, since the racial discrimination based on the ethnic groups and religions has been a source of conflicts for a long time. According to the UN: "This is the first time people are being asked about the future of the country, about the health and education. That is really important, because it means that the people matter and is the way that the nation-states and the government can say we really want to know what your situation is and we wanted to go on record, it will be confidential, but the data and the statistics behind the information will be gathered and will be compiled to be analyzed."

Finally, and in the third place, the last frame gives an alternative insight over the problem; the census should be postponed, "timing is not appropriate because a reconciliation among all ethnic groups should be taking place first" U Khin Maung Myint, head of the Foreign Relations Committee, mentioned. Timing is wrong because everybody must be included in the census list, nevertheless, it has not happened. Government says the information will be confidential, but people mistrust, because nobody can guarantee the safety, then if authority wants to do a good job, they have to go step-by-step making sure that everyone knows what is going on.

In summary, two over three frames provided an unfavorable viewpoint about the population count, mainly because of the tensions and racial segregation among ethnic groups, but also because of the inaccurate timing, all civilians must be informed and included, yet it has not taken place, just one frame gives a favorable stand and it is related with the necessity of data and statistics in order to plan the economic development of Myanmar, thus, the whole tone of the emission was identified as negative.

25th of March

Have Dutch-Moroccans handed the far-right its most serious crisis yet?

Is the Dutch far-right turning against outspoken politician Geert Wilders? Several high-profile politicians resigned from his Freedom Party (PVV) after he promised supporters "fewer Moroccans" in the Netherlands. Outraged Dutch-Moroccans filed thousands of discrimination complaints and launched the #BornHere social media campaign where they posted selfies with their Dutch passports. (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode, we speak to:

Joost Niemoller @JoostNiemoller
Journalist and blogger

Mariam El-Maslouhi @mariammaslouhi
Dutch-Moroccan Foundation

Femke Kaulingfreks
Researcher

Tofik Dibi @TofikDibi
Former Member of Parliament, The Netherlands

The coding unit, *Rising against the right in the Netherlands*, has as a general subject the racial segregation against Dutch-Moroccans, the topic was coded into *Racial Discrimination* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was related to a controversial remark from Geert Wilders, the leader of the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV), at an election rally. Wilders asked his supporters if they wanted "fewer or more Moroccans," when they chanted "fewer," he responded by saying that he would "arrange for that"; the spreading of discriminatory ideas taking advantage of the status of leading figure in politics was perceived as an issue then. There are racial minorities in each country and for a long time they have been alienated from the different social circles, yet it has emerged current movements of protest and groups claiming rights and equality; it is a historic truth racial minorities have been segregated always, even though civilians do not have a direct

knowledge about minorities, people have a role in the problem of discrimination: citizens discriminate, they are isolated or even they fight discrimination, but everybody have to do with it, therefore, the issue was classified as obtrusive. They were found three frames by their description of the problem:

1.	The bigotry against Dutch Moroccans is a reality.
2.	Citizens react, they support the fight against institutional racism.
3.	Geert Wilders is facing the most-serious backlash.

The first frame presents the cultural environment Dutch Moroccans face daily; the bigotry against them is a reality. Geert Wilders promised fewer Moroccans in Netherlands and what he said means discrimination and racism, he attacked an ethnic group, though people have normalized racist slurs. Wilders is trying to keep minorities out in the country and he is relating that exclusion to certain ethnic backgrounds, he is not speaking about a social phenomenon like criminality, Joost Niemoller, journalist and blogger, noted, however, Wilder's supporters argued he wants fewer Moroccans in the country, since they are guilty of the rise on crime rate: "It is extreme that he targeted a certain group, but I do not blame him, because crime stats do not lie; I agree with him, they must report immigrants who have a criminal record," Femke Kaulingfreks, researcher, claimed.

Quite the opposite, the second frame provides an overlook about the fight of minorities, Dutch-Moroccans fight institutional racism and citizens are supporting them. Civilians are reacting, people do not accept racist comments. "These statements cannot be said in this society where everyone lives together" Mariam El-Maslouhi, member of the Dutch-Moroccan Foundation, stated; an active solidarity is taking place in Netherlands, citizens show their frustration about this continuous hate speech and racism. According to Tofik Dibi, former member of the Parliament in Netherlands, promoting the reduction of the members of an ethnic group in order to reduce crime rate is not a normal government policy, Wilders wants to lessen the amount of Dutch-Moroccans, though they were born there; they are citizens and have the right to be part of the Dutch society in equality. "A recurrent resource is to blame lower-class groups for the social problems, but this is a poor conservative politic agenda" Niemoller argued, the racial segregation is bigger than a

nationwide issue, it is a worldwide races issue. The next step not only for the Netherlands, but for every country, is accepting hybrid citizens, since populations are cultural blending's: "We must accept the fact that our identity have different parts and we cannot divide them" El-Maslouhi observed.

As regards the third frame is concerned, Geert Wilders confronts the most serious backlash after his racist comments at a rally in The Hague. The leading figure in politics ignited a storm of protest, moreover, six members of the European Parliament delegation resigned after his remarks. In spite of the controversy, this is not the first time Wilders make inflammatory comments, he did racist remarks about Muslims in the past; "The PVV is a racist party" Dibi asserted, thought it seems that it is a tactic he always uses, according to him, "if he want to say criminal Moroccans, he says criminal Moroccans, because he knows that it would get a backlash."

In sum, just one over three frames gives an unfavorable insight about the racism against Dutch-Moroccans citizens in Netherlands, in few words it has been normalized, yet the other two provide an optimistic overlook regarding the issue; civilians and some politicians are not tolerant with racist remarks and, in fact, citizens support the fight of minorities against racial discrimination, but also Wilders is facing a backlash for his hate speech, so the whole tone of the episode was perceived as positive.

26th of March

> *Stalking is on the rise in Japan. The Stream examines why*
>
> Stalking cases in Japan hit a record high in 2013. For victims, the constant emails, phone calls and "gifts" are a terrifying reminder that someone is watching and waiting, even when they've been told to go away. Now, a former beauty queen is lobbying to strengthen laws to stop acts of obsession that can be dangerous and even deadly. But is society ready or willing to help? (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Joyce Gelb
Professor Emeritus, City University of New York

Ikumi Yoshimatsu @ikumiyoshimatsu
Actress & activist

Jake Adelstein @jakeadelstein
Investigative journalist

Emmy Suzuki Harris @suzuk_e
Social activist

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *Persistent danger,* was the stalking in Japan, so the topic was coded into *Crime* category of analysis. The subject's sub-area was related to the increase of complaints about stalking, then the rise on this crime was identified as an issue. Ikumi Yoshimatsu, Miss International 2012, filed criminal charges against one of Japan's most-influential talent agency executives, Genichi Taniguchi, for allegedly harassing and threatening her after refusing to join his agency, yet he denies the allegations and says Yoshimatsu's manager owes him money.

Stalking includes "physical following; contacting, or attempting to contact a person by any means (this may be through friends, work colleagues, family or technology); or, other intrusions into the victim's privacy such as loitering in a particular place or watching or spying on a person." (The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), 2012) Whilst, it involves legal consequences and the affectation of somebody's daily routines, civilians are uninformed, even many do not know that stalking is a serious crime; people do not have a direct knowledge about it, that is to say, there is a distance between the citizens and their experience over the matter, then the issue was classified as unobtrusive. They were found one frame by the definition of the problem:

1.	The stalking is the "culture of silence" against women.

With reference to the only found frame, Yoshimatsu has initiated a petition to draw attention to the problem demanding Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, to end what she calls the

"culture of silence" against women; the petition has garnered over 130,000 signatures. As far as the authority's stand is concerned, the police attribute the growing number of reported cases of stalking to growing public awareness, mostly because not everyone is convinced that stalking is a major problem for Japan. However, supporters of Yoshimatsu's petition speak to the problem of gender equity and women's safety in a country ranked 105 out 136 in the latest Global Gender Gap report. "Stalking and threats are unacceptable and the police should do more to protect the rights of all victims" Emmy Suzuki Harris, social activist, maintained.

Japan tightened the law penalizing the stalking in 2013, when it made stalking through e-mail a criminal offense, the reform came after the killing of a woman by her former boyfriend. Despite the recent efforts to fight stalking, victims' advocates believe the law is still flawed, because it maintains that stalking is a domestic issue, and that leaves out victims who may not necessarily be involved in a romantic relationship. "Victims of stalking need much more than 'tips' or a piece of paper. They need training volunteers and staff to work with them and the police to help document and record the stalking activity and hold stalkers accountable before damages and/or violence occur" Joyce Gelb, professor emeritus at City University of New York, emphasized.

On the whole, the frame provides a worrisome overlook about the stalking in Japan, women are victims of abuse, yet many still think it is not a serious problem, therefore, the tone of the emission was identified as negative.

27th of March

> *How can the country tackle its suicide epidemic?*
>
> South Korea has the highest suicide rate among OECD members with more than 40 Koreans committing suicide every day. It's the leading cause of death among young people and a recent poll found more than half of teens have suicidal thoughts. While the government has taken steps to curb the epidemic, there seems to be no signs the rate is declining. (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke to:

Jooyea Lee @crea_pass
Activist

Geoffrey Cain @geoffrey_cain
Correspondent, Global Post

JuneYoung Lee @junelee558
Program Officer, Rainbow Teen Safe Space

B.C. Ben Park
Sociologist, Penn State University at Brandywine

The coding unit, *Shining a light on South Korean suicides*, has as a general subject the rise on the suicide rate in South Korea, the topic was coded into *Health* category of analysis then. The subject's sub-area was related to the fact that the country has the highest suicide rate of any developed nation, at least 40 South Koreans kill themselves every day. As suicide rates across much of the developing world have started to fall, in South Korea they continue to trend upward, thus, the suicide epidemic was identified as an issue. Furthermore, the suicide epidemic is a public health problem, though people are oblivious to the concern; citizens think that the suicide is an isolated issue, therefore, they do not have direct experience and knowledge about it, the issue was perceived as unobtrusive then. They were found four frames by their description of the problem:

1.	Outranking car accidents, suicide is the leading cause of death among young people in South Korea.
2.	Others felt the level of attention paid to one's physical appearance has led to the high rates of suicide among youth.
3.	In light the of the high rates among the youth and elderly, some feel society has become numb to the problem.
4.	Several initiatives have been implemented to combat the suicide epidemic facing the country.

With reference to the first frame, over half of the country's youth experience suicidal thoughts; outranking car accidents, suicide is the leading cause of death among young

people in South Korea. Therapists and researchers attribute this to the enormous amount of pressure that students face to succeed in school; many studies for more than 12 hours a day in hopes of getting into top universities. According to JuneYoung Lee, program officer of the Rainbow Teen Safe Space, competitive pressure makes education a life and death question, in fact, for much success is only going to a prestigious school and working for a conglomerate, yet not all can do it. The pressure to perform academically is huge in South Korea, there are probably a few other big factors, but that is the primary motive for suicide by their youth.

As regards the second frame is concerned, while many attribute to the academic pressure the high rate, others felt the level of attention paid to one's physical appearance has led to the high rates of suicide among youth. "South Koreans teens think they are ugly without plastic surgery done in their face and body, and this thought forces them to commit suicide, due to low self-esteem and inferiority complex leading to depression" Jooyea Lee, activist, argued; teenagers are too stressed out seeking perfection in looks, especially social standing and relationships. Nonetheless, the suicide epidemic is not the sole phenomenon among adolescents, the third frame is related to the health concern among old citizens; with half of South Korea's elderly in relative poverty, the suicide rate among Korea's older generation is even higher and "this is attributed to their economic combined with changing cultural values in the country" Geoffrey Cain, correspondent of the Global Post, asserted. In the light of the high rates among the youth and elderly, some feel society has become numb to the problem, mainly because of most have accepted this behavior as routine, there is no outrage or call for real change, thus, the rate stays high.

Finally, the fourth frame gives a general insight about actions taken by the government in order to tackle the problem. Several initiatives have been implemented to combat the suicide epidemic, for instance, in 2012 the government outlawed the sale and storage of Gramoxone, an herbicide linked to suicides; the ban was credited with cutting the suicide rate by 11. Other Koreans experience "fake funerals" in an effort to "die" in order to learn how to live, some say the experience teaches them how to better appreciate life. In short, the government and society need to do more to improve mental health services, "Korean psychiatrists, therapists and counselors need to become more inclusive of teen health;

cultural barriers exist from getting help from professionals and this must also be addressed"
B.C. Ben Park, sociologist from the Penn State University at Brandywine, proposed.

To some extent, just one over three frames gives a favorable perception about the issue, it presents the different efforts in order to confront the suicide epidemic, however, the other three frames provided a worrisome description, the problem have been exacerbate and civilians seem to be numb, they disregard it is a public health concern, therefore, the whole tone of the issue was perceived as negative.

31st of March

> *A free-trade pact with China has Taiwanese student protesters concerned over the future of the island*
>
> In what's been dubbed the "sunflower student movement", hundreds of youths in Taipei have occupied parliament to oppose a China-Taiwan trade pact and to call for greater government transparency. Protesters say the trade deal will cost Taiwan jobs and economic independence, while those who support the measure believe more business with China will keep the island economically competitive. Anger over the trade agreement also speaks to the larger issue on the minds of many Taiwanese – the growing dominance of China over the island. (Al Jazeera English , 2014)

In this episode The Stream spoke with:

Lin Chu-Chia
Deputy Minister of the Mainland Affairs Council

Roy Chun Lee
Deputy Director of the Taiwan WTO Center

Lin Fei-fan
Student leader of the Sunflower Movement

Wu Rui-Ren
Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica

The general topic of media concern from the coding unit, *Taiwan's 'sunflower movement' wary of Chinese ties,* was the movements of protest against a trade deal between Taiwan and China, so the topic was coded into *Protests* category of analysis. The subject's sub-area was related to the citizen's disagreement with the pact; protesters say the trade deal will cost the economic independence of Taiwan, the public opposition to the pact was identified as an issue then. As far as citizens' knowledge is concerned, civilians are familiarized with manifestations in order to claim for their rights, but they do not like having something to complain about, they protest about injustices, unreasonable taxes or rises on services, moreover, they do so for detrimental economic trade deals, so the issue was identified as obtrusive. They were found three frames by their description of the problem:

1.	The trade deal will cost Taiwan jobs and its economic independence,
2.	Opponents criticized what they saw as a lack of transparency in ratifying the trade deal.
3.	Who support the measure believe more business with China will keep the island economically competitive.

In the first place, the trade deal between Taiwan and China has made emerge movements of protests like the "Sunflower Student Movement," who occupied the parliament in order to oppose the trade pact. Protesters assert the deal will cost Taiwan jobs and its economic independence since any type of economic deal with China would mean some kind of influence over the country, and "the country is doing very well on its own" Lin Fei-fan, the student leader of the Sunflower Movement, declared; Taiwanese are concerned for the growing dominance of China over the island. Moreover, and in the second place, opponents criticized what they saw as a lack of transparency in ratifying the trade deal; the pact was pushed through parliament by the ruling Kuomintang Party, KMT, without debate, thus "China's intervention in the free market has been undermining the democracy" Roy Chun Lee, deputy director of the Taiwan WTO Center, emphasized.

Quite the opposite, the same way there is the "Sunflower Student Movement," there are also counter protest groups, who support the signing of the treaty; they demanded the exit of students from the parliament. In the third place, those that support the measure believe more

business with China will keep the island economically competitive. The President of Taiwan, Ma Ying-Jeou, said the trade deal is vital for the island to pass "for the sake of the country's economic future"; the trade would open up 80 of China's service sectors to Taiwan, and 64 Taiwanese sectors to China. "It would create more jobs, boost the Taiwanese economy to some extent, and allow further economic integration with China" Lin Chu-Chia, Deputy Minister of the Mainland Affairs Council, pointed out.

On the whole, only one over three frames gives a favorable insight about the signing of the treaty, on the contrary, two frames provide an unfavorable overlook about the consequences of the trade deal between both countries, in few words, it will affect the competitiveness of Taiwan, therefore, the tone of the episode was identified as negative.

Findings

The results of the content analysis point to an interesting trend; as far as the thematic saliency is concerned, the scale determined by repetition of the categories of analysis shows which topics were covered the most and where. In the first place, Racial Discrimination was identified as the most-salient topic, due to 4 over 16 episodes were related to it, that is to say, 25% of the monthly covering corresponded to ethnic or racial segregation in Canada, United States, Myanmar and Netherlands. Regarding the kind of issues treated into this category of analysis, only one was related to the answer to the problem: Advices in order to execute actions stopping violence against indigenous women in Canada, whereas, the other issues were linked with actions of discrimination: What does mean to be a minority student at an elite university? White students isolate black students in Harvard, the country's first census in 30 years is the source of racial segregation in Myanmar and Geert Wilders, the leader of the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV), made a controversial remark about Dutch-Moroccans.

In the second place, there were found 3 subjects with the same number of assigned shows for its coverage: War/Crisis, Poverty and Protests were covered during 2 episodes; each one of those topics accounted for 12.5% of the media covering. The geographic location related to War/Crisis category agreed with Ukraine and Syria; both of them have an ongoing armed conflict that is part of the current media agenda, although, there is a difference on the treated issues inside this subject: in order to solve the crisis in Ukraine, Russia is building up its

military presence around Crimea, that is, it deals with an answer to the problem, while, as regards armed conflict in Syria, civilians battle with starvation and sickness; it is about the humanitarian crisis there. As regards media treatment of Poverty, the subject was covered for Switzerland and developing countries; poverty was treated in both cases from a view of a resolution to the problem that deals with the UBI in Switzerland and with the democracy in developing countries as a requirement for receiving foreign aid. With reference to the third category, the geographic locations of covered Protests were the United States and Taiwan, although, both cases were different: In US, citizens discussed around the stereotype of identifying gathered people around protests with the anarchy. However, in Taiwan, people complained against a trade deal that is related to the country's economy, then, the issues were not connected.

In the third place, 6 subjects were covered just during 1 episode, in other words, each one of them constituted 6.25% of the coverage in March; Gay Rights, Violence, Religion, Sports, Crime and Health were the less salient themes in the United States, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Russia, Japan and South Korea. As far as the kind of issues of the themes is concerned, issues were not connected: According to seven states' verdict in US about bans on homosexual marriage, prohibitions are unconstitutional, so it deals with a gay rights claim. As regards Violence category, escalation of violence, because of alleged attacks carried through Boko Haram in Nigeria, is related to insurgent forces. In addition, Religion category is linked with the fact that Buddhists monks are targeting Muslims and Christians in Sri Lanka, it is about the hardline of Buddhism then. With reference to Sports category, it deals with the insight that adaptive sports are changing the mindset of people regarding disabilities in Russia, that is to say, with a new understanding on disabilities. Nevertheless, treated issues into Crime and Health categories have one aspect in common; the increase of complaints about stalking in Japan and the suicide epidemic in South Korea deal with the aggravation of both problems.

Table 1. Scale of Thematic Saliency during March

	Category of Analysis	Number of Episodes	Percentage of Coverage	Geographic Location
1.	Racial Discrimination	4	25%	Canada, United States, Myanmar, Netherlands
2.	War/Crisis	2	12.5%	Ukraine, Syria
	Poverty	2	12.5%	Developing Countries, Switzerland
	Protests	2	12.5%	United States, Taiwan
3.	Gay Rights	1	6.25%	United States
	Violence	1	6.25%	Nigeria
	Religion	1	6.25%	Sri Lanka
	Sports	1	6.25%	Russia
	Crime	1	6.25%	Japan
	Health	1	6.25%	South Korea
	Total episodes	16	100%	

The scale of topics' prominence according to the geographic location provides a useful insight into the description of The Streams' agenda. In the first place, the most-salient region was Asia; the set made up of Myanmar, Syria, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Japan, and North Korea accounted for 43.45% of the covering with 7 episodes for the treatment of Racial Discrimination, War/Crisis, Protests, Religion, Sports, Crime and Health. In the second place, the next region most covered was North America that constituted 25% of the monthly coverage; Racial Discrimination, Protest and Gay Rights were covered in Canada and United States with 4 shows. In the third place, as far as Europe is concerned, only 3 episodes were assigned for covering the subjects Racial Discrimination, War/Crisis and Poverty in Netherlands, Ukraine and Switzerland that accounted just for 18.75% of the coverage. Finally, the less covered regions were Africa and Developing Countries: Violence was reported in Nigeria during 1 show only; Africa constituted 6.25% of the monthly covering, and Poverty was covered in the developing countries with 1 episode; it also accounted for 6.25% of the covering.

Table 2. Scale of Thematic Saliency by Geographic Coverage

	Categories of Analysis	Continent	Countries	Number of Episodes by Continent	Percentage of Coverage
1.	Racial Discrimination, War/Crisis, Protests, Religion, Sports, Crime, Health.	Asia	Myanmar, Syria, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Japan, North Korea.	7	43.45%
2.	Racial Discrimination, Protests, Gay Rights, Racial Discrimination.	North America	Canada, United States, United States, United States.	4	25%
3.	Racial Discrimination, War/Crisis, Poverty.	Europe	Netherlands, Ukraine, Switzerland.	3	18.75%
4.	Violence.	Africa	Nigeria.	1	6.25%
5.	Poverty.	Unspecified	Developing Countries.	1	6.25%
Total Episodes				16	100%

On the basis of selected conditions in order to describe media prominence of issues, their saliency was determined by the distinction between obtrusive and unobtrusive issues; it was related to audiences' knowledge and experience with reported facts. Moreover, issue prominence was also identified by one of their affective elements: The tone. Therefore, each one of the emissions had covered issues with different noteworthiness and tone. It is absolutely critical to highlight that 9 episodes accounted for unobtrusive issues, that is to say, 56.25% of monthly covering matched with issues with which civilians have not direct experience or knowledge. In addition, 7 emissions were identified as obtrusive; 43.75% of covering matched with issues with which citizens do have direct experience and knowledge. In other words, unobtrusive issues prevailed against obtrusive with 12.5% of a difference. With reference to affective element, emissions with a negative tone prevailed over episodes with positive or neutral tones: 10 emissions over 16, that is to say 62.5% of covering, matched with negative views, whereas, those with positive or neutral tones constituted an 18.75% of the coverage; only 3 episodes had a positive tone and 3 others a neutral one.

Table 3. Media Issue Prominence

	Show	Noteworthiness		Tone		
		Obtrusive	Unobtrusive	Positive	Neutral	Negative
1.	Christianity's culture clash	x		x		
2.	Divided over Ukraine's future		x		x	
3.	Boko Haram bloodshed intensifies		x			x
4.	Syria's humanitarian crisis		x			x
5.	The violent side of Sri Lankan Buddhism		x			x
6.	Are the Paralympics redefining ability?		x	x		
7.	Protecting Canada's indigenous		x			x
8.	Organizing towards anarchy	x				x
9.	I, Too, Am Harvard	x				x
10.	No democracy, no aid?		x		x	
11.	Income for all	x			x	
12.	Myanmar population count comes with controversy	x				x
13.	Rising against the right in the Netherlands	x		x		
14.	Persistent danger		x			x
15.	Shining a light on South Korean suicides		x			x
16.	Taiwan's 'sunflower movement' wary of Chinese ties	x				x
Total		7	9	3	3	10
Episodes		16		16		

Table 4. Percentage of Coverage by Issue Saliency

Noteworthiness		Tone		
Obtrusive	Unobtrusive	Positive	Neutral	Negative
43.75%	56.25%	18.75%	18.75%	62.5%

Conclusions

On balance, the overall picture seems to be that the most-salient topic on The Stream's agenda in March was the Racial Discrimination; to put it briefly, it concurs with 25% of monthly covering. The topic depicted as one category of analysis was followed in the scale of thematic saliency by three others with 12.5% of the coverage: War/Crisis, Poverty and Protests. The Stream, as a TV show powered by social media and user-generated content, enables citizens to make their voice heard: "What's making news where you live? Tell us what you'd like to see covered this week in a comment below" its community manager posts daily on Twitter and Facebook. If the most-salient subjects are connected with ethnic segregation, wars, poverty and protests, there is some evidence to suggest that they could be some of main citizen concerns in the public agenda on the Web, although they are not part of prominent matters for worldwide leaders of breaking news (except for wars).

Citizens want media to cover underreported topics and regions: the most-salient region in the scale of thematic saliency was Asia; the set made up of Myanmar, Syria, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Japan, and North Korea accounted for 43.45% of the covering. Citizens want to know about stories or facts that have not got enough coverage in media outlets; 56.25% of monthly covering matched with issues with which civilians have not direct experience or knowledge, then, users have an attitude or opinion on current affairs and they could be addressing the media attention, therefore, social networks could transfer their agenda to the media. In conclusion, newsworthy criteria in the light of participatory journalism could be changing, thus, citizen journalism through social networks could influence criteria for covering and framing facts.

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Appendix

1. Content Analysis

Date	Show	Country	Topics	Issues	Attributes
3th March	Christianity's culture clash	United States	Gay rights	Seven states have ruled bans on gay marriage are unconstitutional	Christians who do not support LGBT rights in equality do not understand what the Christian message is.
					Equal rights and identity should be guaranteed by the law to all Americans, in spite of sexual orientation.
					Growing support for gay rights has divided Christian churches.
					Christianity and homosexuality are not compatible.
4th March	Divided over Ukraine's future	Ukraine	War/Crisis	Russia is building up its military presence around Crimea	Pro-Russian security forces have moved into Crimea just for support and help citizens.
					Putin's main excuse for invading Crimea is to protect Russians speakers in the region, but there's no evidence of any kind of threats to them.
					Ukraine is polarized.
5th March	Boko Haram bloodshed intensifies	Nigeria	Violence	A series of alleged attacks by Boko Haram have killed more than 300 people	The government of Nigeria is no longer able to protect its citizens. Boko Haram is stronger and more motivated than Nigerian troops.
					Some Nigerians are even taking it upon themselves to fight back.
					The Nigerian military is responsible for abusing its power during the offensive against Boko Haram.
					Nigeria has also alleged that Boko Haram is operating from the neighboring borders of Chad, Cameroon and Niger, where the Nigerian army cannot target them.

6th March	Syria's humanitarian crisis	Syria	War/Crisis	Besieged Syrians battle with starvation and sickness as they try to survive the country's civil war.	Civilians are under siege imposed by both the government and the rebels, many starving or stricken by disease.
					There are challenges in delivering humanitarian aid inside Syria.
					The solution would be in the negotiations of Geneva, the cease-fire will guarantee the delivery of minimal aid.
					The Assad regime is clearly to blame for blocking the majority of humanitarian aid.
10th March	The violent side of Sri Lankan Buddhism	Sri Lanka	Religion	Hardline Buddhist monks are targeting Muslims and Christians	Self-appointed groups as watchdogs of Buddhism have campaigned against religious minorities.
					Buddhist supremacy is fueling religious tensions.
					The lack of response from the government has empowered nationalists groups.
					Violence in religious societies is inevitable
					Violence and Buddhism do not go together
11th March	Are the Paralympics redefining ability?	Russia	Sports	Sochi Paralympics games	Paralympics have changed the mindset of people about disabilities, it has become a platform for social change.

Date	Title	Country	Topic	Summary	Key Points
12th March	Protecting Canada's indigenous	Canada	Racial discrimination	Aboriginal women make up 10 per cent of all female homicides. A recent report by the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women makes 16 recommendations on how the government can address this problem	Over the years multiple reports have highlighted the severity of the problem, however, victims' families and activists say studies lead to no genuine solutions.
					The reasons of the violence against indigenous women are the ignorance, the colonialism, the racism.
					Police failed to respond adequately when women and girls went missing or when they were victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.
					Canadian government is completely aloof from this problem.
17th March	Organizing towards anarchy	United States	Protests	Anti-government protest movements are increasingly being described as having anarchist influences	"Anarchy" means no rules, no boundaries and no laws.
					Many agree in its simplest form that anarchy is "striving towards a free society of free individuals."
					There are several misconceptions surrounding anarchy.
18th March	I, Too, Am Harvard	United States	Racial Discrimination	A viral student-led photo campaign titled "I, Too, Am Harvard" highlights the experiences of black students at the Ivy League school.	The black students are tired of people suggesting they don't belong, "I, Too, Am Harvard" highlights their experiences at the Ivy League school.
					The campaign has spread to other schools and is renewing discussions about race and campus diversity.
					Discrimination and racism are embedded in the culture.
19th March	No democracy, no aid?	Developing countries	Poverty	Foreign aid policies keep people poor	Power progress against poverty.
					Change happens when citizens are in power democratically to decide what the solution is for themselves.
					There is very little empirical evidence that democracy freedoms have a causal relationship with economic growth.

					Proponents say UBI would end poverty.
20th March	Income for all	Switzerland	Poverty	Adopting unconditional basic income in order to end poverty	
					Opponents worry it would harm Switzerland's competitiveness.
24th March	Myanmar population count comes with controversy	Myanmar, Southeast Asia	Racial Discrimination	The country's first census in 30 years	The census could cause more tension between ethnic groups.
					Those who support it say the country needs accurate data to plan its economic future.
					The census should be postponed.
25th March	Rising against the right in the Netherlands	Netherlands	Racial Discrimination	While speaking at an election rally Geert Wilders, the leader of the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV), made a controversial remark about Dutch-Moroccans. Wilders asked his supporters if they wanted "fewer or more Moroccans". When they chanted "fewer", he responded by saying that he would "arrange for that"	The bigotry against Dutch Moroccans is a reality.
					Citizens react, they support the fight against institutional racism.
					Geert Wilders is facing the most serious backlash.
26th March	Persistent danger	Japan	Crime	Stalking is on the rise	The stalking is the "culture of silence" against women.
27th March	Shining a light on South Korean suicides	South Korea	Health	Suicide epidemic	Outranking car accidents, suicide is the leading cause of death among young people in South Korea.
					Others felt the level of attention paid to one's physical appearance has led to the high rates of suicide among youth.
					In light of the high rates among the youth and elderly, some feel society has become numb to the problem.
					Several initiatives have been implemented to combat the suicide epidemic facing the country.

					The trade deal will cost Taiwan jobs and its economic independence.
31th March	Taiwan's 'sunflower movement' wary of Chinese ties	Taiwan	Protests	The "sunflower student movement" occupied parliament to oppose a China-Taiwan trade pact	Opponents criticized what they saw as a lack of transparency in ratifying the trade deal.
					Who support the measure believe more business with China will keep the island economically competitive.

2. Treated issues by topics

Category of Analysis	Issues
Racial Discrimination	Advices in order to execute actions stopping violence against indigenous women in Canada.
	Racism against minorities; what does mean to be a minority student at an elite university? White students isolate black students in Harvard.
	The country's first census in 30 years is source of racial segregation in Myanmar.
	Geert Wilders, the leader of the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV), made a controversial remark about Dutch-Moroccans. Wilders asked his supporters if they wanted "fewer or more Moroccans". When they chanted "fewer", he responded by saying that he would "arrange for that".
War/Crisis	In order to solve the crisis in Ukraine, Russia is building up its military presence around Crimea.
	Syrians battle with starvation and sickness as they try to survive the country's civil war.
Poverty	Foreign aid for tackling the poverty in developing countries involves democracy as requirement.
	Unconditional Basic Income, UBI, for ending poverty in Switzerland.
Protests	The trend of identifying gathered people around protests with the anarchy in the United States.
	Public opposition to a trade deal between China and Taiwan.
Gay Rights	Seven states' verdict in US about bans on homosexual marriage: They are unconstitutional.
Violence	Escalation of violence, because of series of alleged attacks carried through Boko Haram in Nigeria.
Religion	Buddhist monks are targeting Muslims and Christians in Sri Lanka.
Sports	Adaptive sports are changing the mindset of people regarding disabilities in Russia.
Crime	Increase of complaints for stalking in Japan.
Health	Suicide epidemic in South Korea.