

Abstract

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Online Journalists and Bloggers in Russia under the New Legal Regulations: Current Changes and New Practices

With the establishment of the Internet as a new media and its increasing penetration, a new era began in the Russian media system, followed by a number of domestic and foreign research projects. However, there are only a few empirical studies that focus on the current transformations in Russian online practices, not only as a result of technological changes, but also as an adaptation to new laws. The topic of this paper addresses the first findings of my PhD project with the main research question "How does the change in legal and media frameworks after the 2011/2012 political elections influence journalistic practices on the Russian Internet?"

Qualitative interviews with Russian bloggers and online journalists from liberal and independent media were conducted in 2016 and used as the methodology for the project. The first findings of this research explore the different kinds of reactions, as well as the "strategies" used in Russian media and the Russian cyberspace under the new legal and media frameworks. In particular, self-censorship, the use of the language adaptations, as well as structural changes in editorial offices are the most common reactions to the new regulations. At the same time, there are some significant differences in journalists' and bloggers' strategies, depending on their thematic specialization, and these are and often being used "unconsciously".