

Abstract

Sylwia Męcfal

**Journalists under pressure on the
local level – case studies from
Poland.**

The paper will be based on qualitative case studies which were conducted as a part of my PhD project. The main goal was to explore the complexity of the relationships between local media and local key actors, and identify the level of involvement of local journalists and local media owners in local networks. I will show the dynamics of the relations and I will use the framework of symmetrical and non-symmetrical links (Dobek-Ostrowska, 2004) to interpret the data concerning the media-political relations. For example: Non-symmetrical relations emerge when: 1. There are strong authorities and weak media – this leads to a situation where political actors are dominant and try to influence and control the media (e.g. by blocking information, blocking entry into the media market etc.); 2. There are weak authorities and strong media – which can lead to a situation where media actors can become political subjects, able to influence political life, political decisions and freely realize their own interests. I will also try to compare the situation of the selected local weeklies.