



The Coverage and Reception of
the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict



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The Role of Photography in Shaping the Female Imaginary during Military Conflicts

AUTHOR: Iulia-Maria **TICĂRĂU**

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Outline



- ❑ the use of photography in the news coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict that discusses aspects of the female imaginary and its role: shaping the image of women in terms of the role they play in military conflicts;
- ❑ a review on the aspects used to represent the female imaginary in the social news (sexual violence, resistance to military aggression, changes due to forced migration, philanthropy).
- ❑ the hegemonic relationship between women and men and how the use of multimodality helps to illustrate this type of power relation.

Methodology

☐ Visual rhetorical analysis

“rhetorical interpretation is about what we are entitled to believe about the sender, about the receiver, in accordance with the conventions and context of discourse, which we need to know.” (Grancea 93)

☐ Content Analysis

“how visual symbols are processed in thought, as well as explore how images are produced, used, and interpreted in consumer culture.” (Scott 268)

☐ comparative analysis

“The circumstances of war forcefully highlight human vulnerability, but the media's presentation of this vulnerability tends to be gendered. The media generally depict women as recipients of suffering, as beings acted upon by hegemonic forces which render them agentless.” (Chetty 38)

Methodology

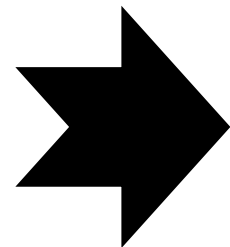


- ❑ individual or group representations;
- ❑ roles fulfilled;
- ❑ biological and cultural traits;
- ❑ techniques of image making (frame, colour, arrangement of elements) (David Machin, "Multimodal analysis of photography of the Iraq occupation" in the volume *Discourse, War and Terrorism*)

Data



2022



hotnews.ro, stirileprotv.ro, libertatea.ro, stiripesurse.ro,
romaniatv.net și digi24.ro,

War-induced changes in daily life



<https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/externe/cum-se-traieste-la-kiev-dupa-sase-luni-de-razboi-marturia-unei-tinere-de-fiecare-data-ies-din-casa-cu-trei-lucruri-esentiale-2060195>



<https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/barbati-moscova-scazut-4318670>

“In the face of war, fear focuses the mind on meeting threats and enhancing self-preservation. A general fear may act to unite a people. However, fear may also create distortions in information collection and belief-formation.” (Petersen, Evangelos 320)

Sexual violence



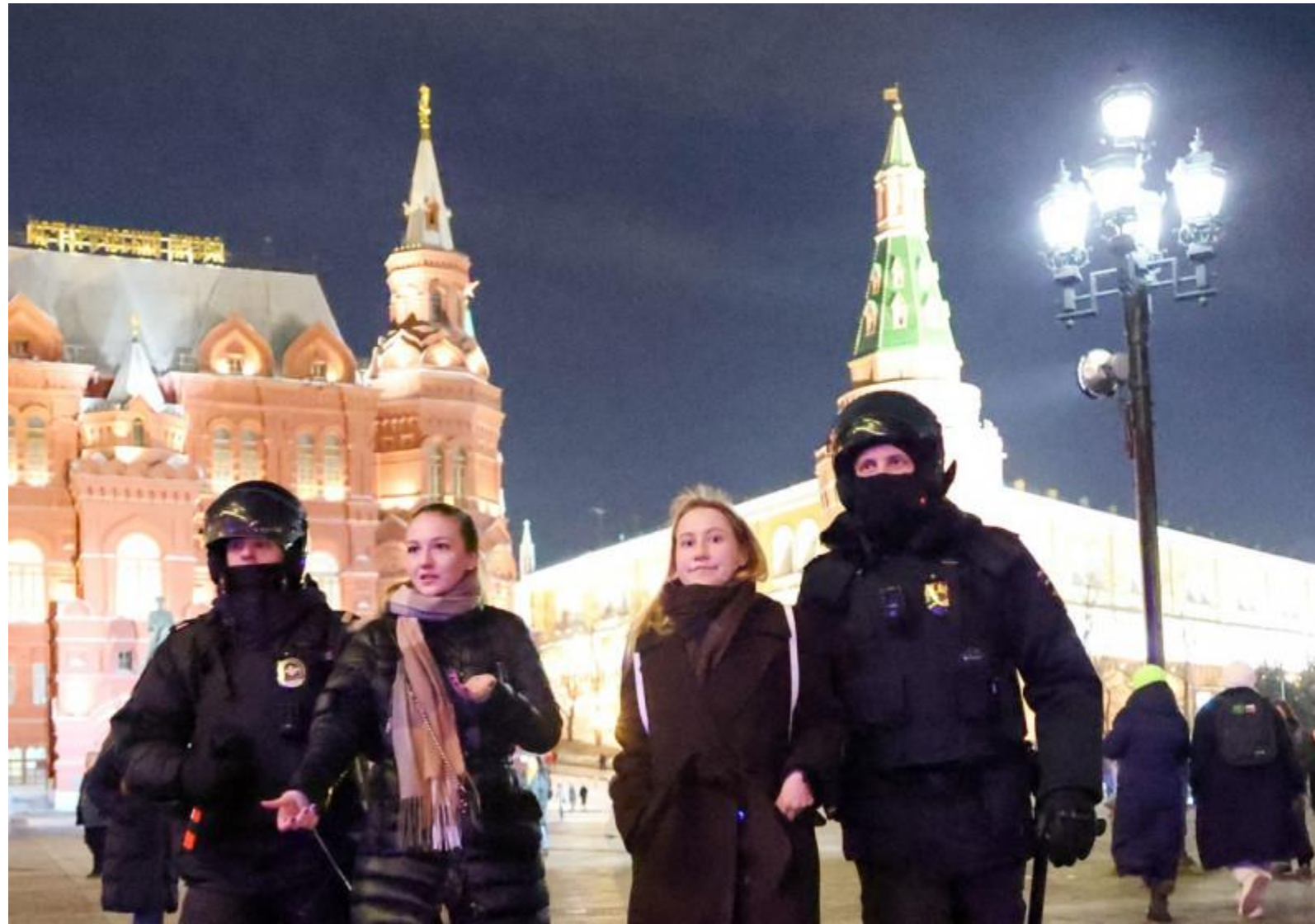
<https://stirileprotv.ro/stiri/international/povestea-unei-ucrainence-violate-si-torturate-de-un-soldat-rus-mi-a-spus-sa-fac-ce-spune-daca-vreau-sa-imi-mai-vad-copilul.html>



<https://stirileprotv.ro/stiri/international/trei-soldati-rusi-care-au-violat-o-mama-si-pe-fiica-acesteia-in-ucraina-batuti-cu-scaunele-de-proprii-camarazi-si-superiori.html>

"the circumstances of war forcefully highlight human vulnerability, but the media's presentation of this vulnerability tends to be gendered. The media generally depict women as recipients of suffering, as beings acted upon by hegemonic forces which render them agentless" (Chetty 38).

Women as protesters



The stereotype about women lacking the ability to rebel and lacking courage is invalidated.

"Hence, the dominant image that women and children lack the capacity to rebel, resist and shape their own history, persists in the media and news reports and are reflective of a discourse of silent agentless women suspended in a historical, social and economic vacuum" (Chetty 39).

<https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/externe/rusia/cum-a-fost-demascat-barbatul-in-negru-politistul-care-a-terorizat-mai-multe-femei-ce-protestau-impotriva-razboiului-din-ucraina-2075711>

Philanthropists



<https://stirileprotv.ro/divers/jurnalista-gabriela-vlasceanu-care-i-a-ajutat-pe-refugiatii-din-ucraina-a-fost-gasita-moarta-a-uitat-complet-de-ea.html>



https://www.stiripesurse.ro/fosta-iubita-a-lui-fuego-ajunsa-subprefect-pnl-isi-doneaza-salariul-pentru-refugiatii-ucraineni_2265040.html

Individual Philanthropy

"The individual philanthropy frame of the popular paper and the news website embedded an instrumental role. After publishing moving stories of individual philanthropists' experiences, they directly called on individuals to donate and support the besieged population." (Shani, Eytan, 2018, p. 283)

Results



- There is a complementarity between the image and the message conveyed, mirroring the social realities caused by the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict.
 - The female identity is depicted in the images from the social news we analyzed, especially as a victim.
 - The feminine identity is represented as an exponent of the Ukrainian or Russian collectivity, a symbol of the struggle for freedom, an aspect reinforced by the images accompanying the texts of the analyzed news.
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Contact

 grants.ulbsibiu.ro/corecon

 grant.corecon@ulbsibiu.ro

 iulia.deaconu@ulbsibiu.ro

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