The University of Sheffield.

CHINED VI
The Social Implications of Genre in Historical News Language
21-23 June 2017
The University of Sheffield, UK
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CHINED takes its name from the series of conferences devoted to the study of historical news discourse. The first Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED I) was held in Florence on 2-3 September 2004. The broad aim of this first conference, as with successive conferences, was to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of recent research in the field of news discourse written in English. News discourse was considered inclusive of not just the hard news of daily newspapers but also other forms of news language in genres preceding or existing alongside the creation and development of the traditional press. We therefore understand news texts to include not just serial publications, such as newspapers and scholarly transactions, and non-serial publications, such as pamphlets, but also manuscript transmission of news.

This sixth conference which we are proud to host in Sheffield concentrates on the varieties of genre within news language that have enabled it to retain a vitality which has kept readers interested in consuming the products of printed news for centuries. Beyond providing variety of representation, genre is a highly social, even ideological category. It is an integral aspect of the compact between writer and reader of news. Readers not only know what to expect within different news genres but beyond this they are enabled to locate themselves within a wide range of social and political contexts. Different generic strategies within news discourse draw particular social groups into historically specific styles of representation. Contributions have been selected that explore the specific linguistic construction of genre in news language 1625-1945.

The Organizing Committee of CHINED VI
Keynote Speakers

Susan Fitzmaurice is Professor and Chair of English Language in the School of English at the University of Sheffield. She serves on the Council of the Philological Society as the Society’s Honorary Secretary for Publications (Monographs). She co-edits the Journal of Historical Pragmatics with Professor Dawn Archer. She is also a member of the editorial board of the Cambridge University Press Studies in English Language series and a founder editorial board member of the Journal of Historical Sociolinguistics.

Fitzmaurice’s research centres on the history of the English language, using methodological perspectives provided by historical pragmatics and historical sociolinguistics. She is particularly interested in exploring the methods and kinds of evidence employed in historical approaches to language study.

Colleen Cotter is a Reader in Media Linguistics at Queen Mary, University of London. Her research areas include news media language, endangered languages (Irish), and the ethnographic dimensions of written discourse and language style. She was a daily newspaper reporter and editor in the US before studying Linguistics, and taught full-time in Linguistics and Journalism departments in California and Washington, DC, before relocating to London. She is the author of News Talk: Investigating the Language of Journalism (2010; Cambridge) and co-editor of the forthcoming Routledge Handbook of Language and Media.

For the past five years she has organized a series of “Professional Divides” roundtables at the American Anthropological Association annual meetings – in San Francisco, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Washington, DC – bringing working journalists together with linguists and anthropologists to discuss their different views of media, language, and social justice. This year’s topic at the conference in DC will be, naturally, “fake news.”

Marcel Broersma is Professor of Journalism Studies and Media. He studied History and Journalism in Groningen and then worked as a freelance journalist and editor for the Leeuwarder Courant. He was awarded his PhD cum laude in 2002 for a historiography of the Leeuwarder Courant. His publications include books on regional journalism, the development of journalistic forms and styles in Europe, most recently Rethinking Journalism Again: Societal Role and Public Relevance in a Digital Age and Retelling Journalism: Conveying Stories in a Digital Age.

Broersma’s research covers the forms and styles of reporting, the relationship between press and politics, and regional journalism. Currently he is leading the research project ‘Reporting at the Boundaries of the Public Sphere. Form, Style and Strategy of European Journalism, 1880-2005’, for which he was awarded a VIDI grant by NWO. The project investigates how form and style changes contributed to the growth of journalism into an autonomous profession and the consequences thereof for the public sphere. Broersma is also a member of the Netherlands Press Council, editor of the Tijdschrift voor Mediageschiedenis [Media History Journal] and a reviewer for the Leeuwarder Courant.
Conference Schedule

**Wednesday, 21 June**

19.00 Informal gathering and meal

**Thursday, 22 June**

9.00 Registration and welcome

9.30 – 10.30 Keynote 1: Susan Fitzmaurice

“Reading the signs of the times: seeking meaning in historical news genres”

Howkeyness (from corpus linguistics) aids the investigation of the concerns of discourse communities working in periodicals such as the Review at the beginning of the eighteenth century and how this compares with the ways in which concept modelling enables us to discover the key discursive concepts that are alive in 'news' or public discourse, as reflected in some of the Thomason Tracts from the 17th century.

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30 Session One: The Orient and the Exotic

Minyao Tang (University of Sheffield): China in the financial press

Roberta Facchinetti and Valerio Fidenzi (University of Verona): “A country which none of us completely understand”: The Economist’s viewpoint on China between 1800 and 1900

Nicholas Brownlees (University of Florence): Tracking down the popularisation of exploration

Udo Fries (University of Zurich): Writing about the weather: North China Herald

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 Session Two: Outsider Discourses

Elisabetta Cecconi (University of Florence): Trial Proceedings recast as news discourse in eighteenth-century British Newspapers.

Birte Bös (University of Duisburg-Essen): Elements of crime – Representations of verbal misconduct in The Illustrated Police News

Isabel Ermida (University of Minho): Representing Motherhood in Early 20th-century Newspapers: Forms and Mechanisms of Anti-feminist Discourse

Oksana Anossova (RUDN University, Moscow and Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology): Romantic Essay as a genre in British and Russian periodicals of the epoch

15.00 – 15.15 Mini break
15.15 – 16.30 Session Three: War: Civil, Mutinous and Other

Laura Skouvig (University of Copenhagen): Stories of war: broadsides, ballads and newspapers in Copenhagen in 1801 and 1807

Carla Baptista (FCSH-UNL): First World War press coverage in Portugal: the birth of war reporting genre

Christina Samson (University of Florence): “The whole of Bengal is in revolt”... A corpus based analysis of letters from the Cawnpore mutiny (India)

16.30 – 17.30 Keynote 2: Marcel Broersma

“Genre Confusions. Exploring "genre" in Anglo-American and European Journalism”

19.30 to late-ish: Conference evening meal at Zizzi’s

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Friday, 23 June

9.00 – 10.00 Keynote 3: Colleen Cotter

“Telling tales: 'Fake news' - then and now”
10.00 – 11.30 Session 4: Genre and Representations of Everyday Life

Michael Farrelly (University of Hull): 'Owner, Controller, Producer, Consumer: social and economic class in news media representations of the nationalisation of the British gas industry'

Christopher Shoop-Worrall (University of Sheffield): "Know your Audience": The Working-Class Reader in the early Labour Press

Jorge Pedro Sousa (University Fernando Pessoa and CIC Digital): Mediators of news watching - wood engravers and graphic news reporting in Portuguese illustrated magazines in the late 19th century

Frank Harbers and Marcel Broersma (University of Groningen): Studying the historical development of journalism’s modal forms of expression: Automating genre classification of historical newspaper articles

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 – 13.30 Session 5: Early Genre

Mairi McLaughlin (University of California, Berkeley): Style and Genre in the Early French Press

Rebecca Hasler (University of St Andrews): ‘to satisfy the Readers expectations’: Forming Genre and Guiding Interpretation in the News from Ireland Pamphlets (1608)

Marcus Nevitt (University of Sheffield): Andrew Marvell, Verse Satire, and the Genres of News

Carmen Espejo and Francisco Baena (University of Seville): The discourse of gazettes and the emergence of public opinion in seventeenth-century Europe

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 15.30 Closing comments and CHINED announcements

19.30 onwards additional meal for anyone staying in Sheffield after the conference
This paper will take as its case study the metaphorical representations of China in British financial news in the contemporary era and assess the extent to which this coverage is based upon older stereotypes of China. The power of stereotypical metaphors of China lies in the adept utilization and application of our shared understanding and nationally specific imaginations of China. Metaphors conceptualizing China as prototypical exemplification of the Western concept of the Other are systematically associated with ideological justifications for national imaginations and memories of China in Western media. With the upsurge of Chinese nationalism boosted by economic growth, especially after the 2008 financial crisis, understanding of China in news discourse has shifted from exclusive “otherness” to a proximity to the cultural logic of Western ideologies. In this case, metaphorical language is able to function as a catalyst for transforming a configuration of descriptive/narrative news genre into a covertly argumentative one, producing a particular ideological stance to the issue reported. Therefore, metaphorical representation will generate ideological effects. This research intends to fill a research gap by exploring how metaphor is applied in economic discourse towards ideological ends in reporting China’s national images. Does the West still live by the images inherent in stereotypical metaphorical conceptualizations of China? Does the current metaphorical representation of China help forge emerging ideologies and China’s contemporary global status, or reproduce and perpetuate existing ideological contexts? How do metaphors contribute in reconstructing our knowledge of China in economic news texts? Do metaphors offer dynamic and constructive ways to interpret the relations between media representation of China and Western intellectual/political culture?

The essential research base will be metaphors relating to representations of China in *The Economist* and the *Financial Times* from the outbreak of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis in August, 2008 to August, 2015. Metaphors representing contemporary images of China will be reinterpreted in the light of collective Western memories related to historical perceptions of China’s history from Mao to Deng’s reform eras, from the Great Leap Forward to Chinese economic reform of 1978, and to other representative news texts about China’s past. The choice of media is of particular interest as financial journalism is often viewed as more quantitative, more scientific than other more general forms of news and therefore the presence of metaphors will inform us not only about the primary research questions but also the place of metaphor in professionalized discourse on the global economy. This corpus-based research will employ a hybrid of traditional research methods that synthesize Critical Metaphor Theory (CMT), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and quantitative and qualitative corpus-linguistic approaches. This methodology provides possibilities to examine the proactivity of metaphorical choices in constructing a socially significant representation of China and the discourse function of metaphors that permits us to uncover the ideological motivation of such textual choices.

“A country which none of us completely understand”: *The Economist*’s viewpoint on China between 1800 and 1900

Roberta Facchinetti and Valerio Fidenzi  *University of Verona, Italy*

The second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century are a pivotal period of time in world history, a time of hectic changes and great
turmoil both in the East and in the West. In Asia, with special reference to China, a number of events occurred that cast this country into its current socio-political shape: from the fluctuating and at times highly troubled international relationships with Britain, US and Japan, to the internal uprising against the Monarchy and the subsequent revolutions leading to the birth of the Republic of China. In the West, with special focus on Europe, society was reshaped by the quick pace of industrialization, by the frenzy of colonization for overseas territories, including Asia, and by increasing nationalistic forces, that triggered two world conflicts. Finally the end of the Second World War and the birth of the United Nations planted the seeds of dialogue between East and West.

Western news on the East published in England during the abovementioned period of time necessarily went beyond the sheer reporting and contributed to shaping the socio-political image of the Eastern world, notably China, in the eyes of the West, notably England. Bearing this in mind, the aim of the present paper is to bring to the fore such image and viewpoint as they transpire from the news pieces published by The Economist between 1843 (its first issue) and 1945. Specifically, the paper attempts to understand how the Chinese social group and China as a whole are represented in a genre (foreign news) that can leave room for ideological and mediated interpretation of facts, and where the writer acts as a filter between the reader, with his western background and worldview, and a foreign culture that may at times be difficult to understand.

To this aim, a corpus has been compiled drawing on The Economist Historical Archive 1843-2012; all the archive texts under the headings “news” and “business and finance” published between 1843 and 1945 have been screened for the keywords Asia*, Chin*, East* in each title/variant title according to the search criteria provided by the archive. The screening has yielded 149 texts for a total of 300,000 running words. The analysis of the corpus has been carried out with two software tools, Wordsmith Tools and Sketch Engine, allowing for different search specificities and thus leading to cross-checking and complementing results.

Overall the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data (with special reference to reporting verbs, modal patterns, and evaluative adjectives and adverbs) shows on the one hand a strong interrelationship between national and international historical events and the emerging picture of China; on the other hand, the results also exhibit a strong tendency towards a subjective presentation of the economic, social and political facts pertaining to China and to its relationships with the West. Interestingly, while acknowledging the need to learn more on the Chinese world, writers make great use of evaluative language, bringing to the fore prejudices and stereotypes with reference to the Chinese political attitude and social habits.

Tracking Down the Popularisation of Exploration

Nicholas Brownlees  University of Florence, Italy

In my paper I shall examine the recounting of exploration in Late Modern news. In particular, I shall focus on how journeys and geographical discovery were journalistically narrated from the time of the Pacific and South Seas explorations in the eighteenth century up until the press fever generated by the disappearance and eventual tracking down of Dr Livingstone in central Africa in 1871. The celebrity status that the popular press of the day gave voice to and constructed around the British explorer heralded an important development in the newspaper representation of exploration. Eschewing the essentially factual, impersonal mode of narration that had characterised much of the eighteenth century reporting of exploration, newspapers such as the Daily Telegraph recounted Dr Livingstone’s travels and whereabouts with much greater stylistic variety, and in a more oral popularising manner, than had been common in earlier press representations of the genre. This news style went on to influence much of the reporting of exploration in the following decades and up until the close of the great age of British exploration in the early twentieth century.
Writing About the Weather

Udo Fries  University of Zurich, Switzerland

Weather reports or weather forecasts are a regular feature of modern newspapers. This has not always been the case. In this paper I want to investigate the development of news items about the weather, both for a preceding period of days and an outlook for the development of the weather.

I am going to restrict my analysis to a period of 90 years from 1850 to 1940: a period during which my favourite East Asian weekly, the North China Herald was published and I want to see what the specific situation was like in China for a European, mostly English readers and what the differences were to newspapers published in England at the period.

Reports on the Weather appeared in the North China Herald (called “Atmospherical Changes” or “Meteorological Reports”), right from the beginning, both in tabular form and in descriptions of the current weather; but readers had to wait for a decade or two before a weather forecast proper was published, when a table called “READINGS OF THE WEEK” with the low and high temperatures of the preceding week was followed or preceded by a description cum forecast from the Jesuit-run observatory in Sicawei, a suburb of Shanghai.

I will draw my material from The North China Herald Online and the newspapers collected in the British Newspaper Archive.

Proceedings Recast as News Discourse in Eighteenth-Century British Newspapers

Elisabetta Cecconi  University of Florence, Italy

Eighteenth-century newspapers played a major role in disseminating law and order news in society. Crime and trial reports were often brief and chaotic but constituted a recurring entry in the periodical publications which circulated in London and the provinces throughout the century. Though the sources of information were many, newspapers generally relied on the publication of trial proceedings which guaranteed a constant supply of criminal court cases to report on. In this regard, the aim of my paper is to carry out a comparative discourse analysis of eighteenth-century trial proceedings and newspapers as two distinct genres which show degrees of textual and contextual interrelatedness as periodical forms of crime and justice literature. As representative of the trial proceedings genre I shall be looking at The Old Bailey Proceedings On-line, whereas newspaper evidence will be drawn from the British Newspapers Archive. The data selected for analysis cover the period from 1710 to 1779.

A preliminary quantitative search reveals a steady increase in the number of references to the Old Bailey trials in newspapers, from 52 occurrences in the decade 1710-1719 to 5,342 instances in the period 1770-1779. The result is indicative of people’s growing appetite for trial reports in a century dominated by anxieties about crime and worries about the justice of the punishment.

The corpus-based comparative analysis will be carried out at the level of discourse structure and lexical choices. The concordance search will unravel discourse patterns in newspaper reports, which zoom out of the detailed account of the corresponding Old Bailey Proceedings. Indeed news printers mostly opt for a brief and formulaic trial report where charges, verdicts and sentences of several trials are condensed in one single paragraph. An interesting change
is registered from the 1770s when newspapers progressively zoom in on the
different phases of the individual trial proceeding and provide more detailed
accounts of the defendant’s examination. The closer resemblance of newspaper
reports to the Old Bailey Proceedings was such that the writer-publishers of
the latter attributed the collapse of the genre at the end of the century to the
enormous expansion of newspapers supplying detailed accounts of the trial.
Regarding lexical choices the paper will focus on the descriptors used in
newspaper reports to refer to the accused and will compare them to the naming
system found in the Old Bailey Proceedings. The analysis of reference terms
across the century will reveal ideological changes in the way in which news-
writers conceive of the accused. In particular, the quantitative findings will attest
a lexical drift from evaluative to objective descriptors throughout the decades.

The text analysis of the two genres will be placed within their larger contextual
framework by taking into account: 1) the socio-cultural context in which law
and order literature developed, 2) the readers’ expectations and demands and
3) the publishers’ intent to provide an account which was reliable, didactic and
derential to the Court and its judgement.

Elements of Crime – Representations of Verbal
Misconduct in The Illustrated Police News

Birte Bös  University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Victorian papers are notorious for their obsession with offensive conduct,
whose coverage was “justified by claims to expose such conduct for the good of
society, as a warning to the respectable and innocent” (Rowbotham/Stevenson
the most sensational newspaper of the mid and late-Victorian era” (Jones 2001:
1), quenched the Victorian desire for scandal, crime and moral orientation in
unparalleled ways.
This study investigates how inappropriate verbal behaviour is represented
in The Illustrated Police News, either as an element of crime or a crime
in itself, as established by the Metropolitan Police Act (1839). Based on
material from the British Newspaper Archive, metalinguistic labels of the
type ADJ + language (e.g. bad/disgusting/foul language) are categorized
with a multidimensional coding system including the type of offence, position
of label, formal realisation, semantic-pragmatic types of verbal misconduct
and referents. This classification allows for a differentiated mapping of these
metalinguistic labels in the conceptual space of verbal misconduct (cf. Culpeper
2011, Jucker/Taavitsainen 2000), carving out the dimensions of publicness/
privateness and gravity of offence, aspects of salience, intensification and
specification, and processes of identity construction. The study thus provides
insights into conceptualisations of verbal misconduct as an important ingredient
of Victorian police news, which highlight contemporary norms, expectations
and stereotypes.

Representing Motherhood in Early 20th-century
Newspapers: Forms and Mechanisms of Anti-
feminist Discourse

Isabel Ermida  University of Minho, Portugal

The genre of newspaper opinion articles typically allows for a variety of
personal views on social issues and events to be conveyed publicly without
much editorial constraint. But it is interesting to examine how far these views
actually mirror dominant – and therefore possibly the very newspaper’s –
ideological representations of certain historically oppressed subjects. Early
twentieth-century British newspapers, concomitant with a very challenging period of women’s liberation movement (i.e. the suffragettes’ struggle), provide a rich source of analysis of reactionary ideological expression. In particular, the question of motherhood and the freedom to choose it, one of the quintessential issues of feminist discourse, invites strong and outspoken backlash in the 1900s and 1910s Press. Many illuminating titles, such as “Motherhood, a Blessing: A Man’s Opinion of Mistaken Women”, signal a trend of criticism of women’s emancipation which reveals conservative and even bigoted representations of femaleness. This paper aims at analysing these texts, taken from a variety of newspapers ranging from *The Daily Record* to *The Yorkshire Post*, as discoursal constructs that convey an anti-feminist ideology. It will resort to a linguistic, discourse-analytic framework to appraise the lexical, semantic and pragmatic mechanisms that transmit gendered prejudice, discriminatory social attitudes, and a male-centred rhetoric.

The Romantic Essay as a Genre in British and Russian Periodicals

Oksana Anossova  
*RUDN University, Moscow, Russia and Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia*

When an English Essay was flourishing in multiple journals and reviews (1800-1830), when it was shimmering with new facets of its power – political, critical, aesthetic, philosophic, familiar and intimate. When an English reader was taught to choose between different politically oriented opinions on theatre, painting, poetry, society, French Revolution, immigration, monarchism, public libraries and women’s education, etc, when “Blackwood Magazine” together with “Quarterly Review” against “Edinburgh Review” were in the political and cultural ‘tumult’ epicentre. Russian periodicals made their first steps slowly. It is indisputable that Russian Romantic poets of the period were as passionate and numerous as the European ones. Russian Romantic Gothic Story writers were as prolific and inventive as the English ones. Russian critical thought appeared on the pages of Diaries and Albums, Keepsakes and Epistles, and even in the pilot-issues of the “Russian Museum” (Russky Museum, 1815). Russian essay writers were one or even two steps back the English and Scottish ones. It is in 1830s when literary critics indicate the first proper Russian journals as literary or political ones. Periodicals – Reviews and Quarterlies, Almanacs and Magazines had to appear on any intellectual ground to discuss and analyse, to enlighten and promote, to broaden horizons and persuade, both countries periodicals of the time assisted the reader thinking critically though historically the countries’ readers, writers, their journals, political and social conditions and cultural or literary boosting periods were incongruent. Speaking about both countries’ periodicals specific journal language could be compared, and the readers’ audience attitude towards the journal should be discussed. As the journal represents its own aesthetic space, its own intimate dialogue and implicit message to be decoded.
Stories of War: Broadsides, Ballads and Newspapers in Copenhagen in 1801 and 1807

Laura Skouvig  University of Copenhagen, Denmark

In 1801 and again in 1807 the citizens of Copenhagen directly witnessed the brutality of war. These two incidents, known as the 1st and 2nd battle of Copenhagen had different outcomes: the 1st battle was inconclusive politically and militarily yet it was celebrated as a Danish victory. The 2nd battle was supported by landed British landed troops, the city was surrounded and under siege. After a bombing the commander in chief surrendered and had to give up the Danish naval ships to the British – a total defeat. Before, during and after these two battles people in the city followed the events and got information from official announcements, rumors, newspapers and broadsides. These genres formed and presented information as news in different ways and gave their audiences varying aspects and explanations of the incidents. In this paper, I'll analyze some of these different stories of wars with a particular focus on how upper-class discourses on patriotism were negotiated and communicated to the lower classes in the streets. My starting point are two broadsides from 1801 and two ballads from 1807. These ballads are unique in the way they represent a strategy for negotiating an understanding the outcome of these battles.

The reliability of broadsides and particularly ballads has for a long time been debated among historians (Ohrt 1935) resulting in a view of the ballads as questionable sources. Within the field of literature, the ballads have been devalued due to their poor poetic ability and lack of aesthetic elegance. The broadsides (in prose or verse) are however of unique value for cultural and social historians since they can be viewed as remains of popular culture and thus work as levers for later historians to grasp expectations and feeling of an often silent part of past cultures (Hammar 2013). The broadside ballads were not merely providers of sensational (and unreliable) information about the actual events during the battles but crucial ways of negotiating feelings and establishing ways of interpretation for the lower classes. In this way, they were means for the authorities to influence the main population with the correct attitudes.

In this presentation, I will work along the lines of rhetorical genre theory (see e.g. Bazerman 2001) in order to investigate how the broadside ballads packed and formed the contained information in a very unique way blending fact and fiction. I will in particular focus on how they directed their audience (a reading or a listening) towards objects of pride, anger, grief and revenge, events of courage, treason and military engagements and how they defined agents as king, mariners, friend and foe. In this way, I'll use the ballads to draw a sketch of what kind of discourse (Foucault 2001) that characterized the public opinion about war in the streets of Copenhagen.

First World War Press Coverage in Portugal: The Birth of a War Reporting Genre

Carla Baptista  FCSH-UNL, Portugal and CIC Digital, Portugal

This paper will present and analyse how press coverage of First World War (WW1) evolved in Portugal, focusing in the war reportages produced between 1917-1918 in the western front in northern France. WW1 represents the first opportunity Portuguese reporters had to cover a global conflict. The country becomes belligerent in 1916 after Germany declaration of war following the seizure of its vessels in Portuguese harbours.

Portuguese reporters struggled against civil and military censorship but, after the Portuguese Expeditionary Force disembarked in Brest in 1917, few were authorized to travel to the war front, constrained by the same regulations
imposed to war reporters: they had to be escorted by a military officer and subject their texts to war censors.

Our paper will translate these war reportages into the news war narrative of the time, identifying similarities but also specificities of the Portuguese war reporting. We will also compare it with other Portuguese discourses rendering testimony of the war, namely from writers, artists and militaries that produced a wide range of narratives about such a traumatic event in both individual lives and collective memory. We will look at textual frames, recurrent themes and images, characters presentation, the use of description, narration and dialogues to convey a specific journalistic look of the war front and its protagonists.

WW1 represents a landmark in the history of war reporting, changing the former status of the war reporter as a “lonely wolf”, mostly travelling on its own and producing an independent and critical account of the war realities. The extent of the conflict and the initial hostile attitudes of the allied army commanders towards the presence of journalist caused public opinion to be misinformed, manipulated and ultimately sceptical about the press role during the conflict. As the war evolved, the press become part of the military propaganda apparel and faced criticism due to exaggerated, distorted and biased reports. War reportage, usually framed as the eyewitness account of the war, became the centre of multiple ethical and professional dilemmas that continue to shape war journalism until today. Our paper will try to articulate three levels of analysis regarding the war reporting of WW1, in order to address the following question: how a new journalistic genre was experienced by the Portuguese reporters in articulation with the domestic media and political landscape in the context of a global conflict.

“The whole of Bengal is in revolt”... A Corpus Based Analysis of Letters from the Cawnpore Mutiny (India)

Christina Samson  University of Florence, Italy

Letter writing is a very ancient practice which has facilitated the development of states and empires, but it has also helped destroy them (Goodman 2005). The letter as a genre has attracted consistent attention from literary scholars since at least the eighteenth century. More recently, the relationship between historical letters and letter writing has given rise to several studies which explore the culture of epistolarity through the analysis of different documents from diverse perspectives. Linguists have devoted much attention to the correspondence of immigrants (Dossena 2012), business letters and notes (Del Lungo 2014), circulars and memos (Earle 2010; Pahtae et al. 2010) held in private collections or stored in libraries and archives, as the data, given their private and exclusive information, enable us to analyse everyday men and women in society, their linguistic knowledge and behaviour, as well as their social inscription. Although they are written texts, letters are very close to the informal tenor of spoken utterance and are, thus, seen as ‘frail papers’ (Marquilhas 2014) which are written to convey information, make appeals, or just ‘chat’ with relatives and friends without any apparent thought to publication. This paper extends extant studies by focusing on letters written by British women and men during the period of the Cawnpore 1857-1858 mutiny in India. The letters were published in the British press and were mainly downloaded from the British Newspaper Archive to form a small specialised corpus. The aim of the study is to shed light on the writers’ repeated use of lexis and phraseology which construe a sense of class and a point of view which varies according to gender. The methodology adopted is a mixed one. It starts with a quantitative analysis of the data emerging from the corpora and it proceeds with a qualitative interpretation of the recurring lexis and phraseology typifying the authors’ letters in a dramatic historical period.
The nationalisation of public utilities in the 1940s appears to provide contemporary public debate with discursive resources with which to construe dissatisfaction with energy provision in the UK; media reports suggest that energy prices and profit for energy companies are too high and that re-nationalisation of the gas and electricity industries is the solution. Academic literature addresses some of the historical successes and failures both of nationalisation and privatisation in terms of political strategy, policy outcomes and economic performance (Kelf-Cohen, 1958; Parker, 2009, for example). However, there is a major gap in the literature on the public and media debate which preceded these nationalisations and little understanding of how that discourse may have shaped the structures and priorities given to national ownership.

This paper begins to address this gap with particular reference to the representation of social and economic class in news reports and leading articles on the nationalisation of the British gas industry in the UK news media. Specifically, the paper will examine a corpus of political reporting and of leading articles taken from The Times, The Sunday Times, The Manchester Guardian and The Observer which report or comment on the UK gas industry in the 1930s and 40s, before the nationalisation of the industry in 1948. To assess the representation of social and economic class in this corpus the analysis draws on critical discourse analysis and applies van Leeuwen’s (2008) framework for categorising the representation of social actors. It categorises the representation of social actors present in the corpus of texts by their relation to the production and consumption of gas, and by their relation to the ownership and control of the industry.

I argue that, even at a moment at which ownership of a means of production was at stake, the news media de-emphasised social and economic class in its contribution to the public debate over the nationalisation of the British gas industry. Through close examination of the representation of social actors in the historical nationalisation discourse of the news media, this project opens up questions over the way in which nationalisation was understood and implemented in the 1940s, and raises important questions for contemporary media representations of a re-nationalised British gas industry.

"Know your Audience": The Working-Class Reader in the Early Labour Press

Christopher Shoop-Worrall    University of Sheffield, UK

This paper will explore the ways in which the Labour press of the early twentieth century used language to construct the desired qualities of a socialist newspaper reader. Drawing on coverage from several prominent leftist publications such as the Clarion and the Labour Leader, this paper will argue that this genre of newspaper constructed its intended readers as people who demanded rigorous, 'serious' content from their newspapers. More specifically, readers of a 'socialist' press were distinct from the readers of the newly-emerged daily popular press, who (through regular critiques of popular titles such as the Daily Mail) preferred frivolous, morally-questionable content such as salacious crime reporting, high-society scandal and sport.

This paper will draw on a key case study – the short-lived, Labour-operated Daily Citizen – to underline this divide between two genres of newspaper aiming to speak to similar audiences of working-class and lower-middle class people. The Citizen occupied an uncomfortable middle ground by being a popular daily...
newspaper that wished to continue speaking to the sort of reader constructed in the language of traditional socialist publications. By looking at this clash of genres – best underlined by a serialised section in the Citizen entitled 'Their Views and Ours' - it will be contended that early left-wing news language of expected readers' interests betrayed a gap between early socialist understandings of working-class interests, and the realities of lived working-class experiences.

Mediators of News Watching: Wood Engravers and Graphic News Reporting in Portuguese Illustrated Magazines in the Late 19th Century

Jorge Pedro Sousa

In the 19th century, illustrated magazines became pivotal towards the graphic coverage of current events. Wood engravers were among the first producers of regular informative iconography, and to some extent, they were also among the first reporters. Pragmatically, considering the journalistic, ideological, social and cultural context, this paper presents the key results from a recent research on the production language and rhetoric of wood engravings. The study targeted Portuguese illustrated magazines of current events, disseminated and produced in Portugal in the last quarter of the 19th century, in order to understand the intentions of wood engravers, the consequences of their practice and the framing of the world conveyed by engravings (and respective wording).

The research proved that Portugal generally followed the path of British and French wood engravers and illustrated magazines. The visual representation of the world in Portuguese illustrated magazines widened since 1845, from topics concerning nature, ethnography, architectural heritage and portraits of people from the elite to public ceremonies, politics, spectacles, fashion, protests, wars, crimes, accidents, sports and everyday life. The research also proved that Portuguese wood engravers, manufacturers of visual information, cultivated realistic and naturalistic standards of visual representation of visible reality. In a context dominated by doctrines such as positivism, materialism, the scientific "culture of facts" solidified.

Additionally, the standardization of production brought by the Industrial Revolution led Portuguese wood engravers towards a graphic coverage of current issues with an intention of truth, even when they had not witnessed the events translated onto engravings. In fact, Portuguese wood engravers sought to picture an iconic representation of reality, incorporating in their production routines the culture of truth, value conveyed from historiography to journalism since the 17th century. This may have been an implicit strategy to reduce ambiguity, conveying meanings through wood engravings that would be easily deciphered through reading.

Portuguese wood engravers pursued what might be considered a pragmatic-objective visual approach to reality. Based on a holistic, naturalistic and realistic graphic interpretation of current issues, predominantly narrative (rarely conceptual), it was nevertheless compositionally guided by expressive and aesthetic standards familiar to painting. This contact with the fine arts justifies the self-representation of wood engravers as artists instead of news reporters or journalists.

Accordingly, engravers often revealed an expressive and aesthetic freedom more akin to arts than to journalism, although accepting in their routine and everyday praxis the role of 'technical', 'automatic' agents of realistic, naturalistic transposition onto woodcuts of photographs, drawings, oral and written reports. Digressing from reality, wood engravers would delete or add details to the represented scenes, sacrificing content in favor of composition. From a holistic point of view, however, their action was typically a pursuit of an exact and candid visual representation, whether narrative or descriptive, as patent in the realistic, naturalistic portrait of current issues through wood
The practices of wood engravers and their materialization in illustrated magazines also contributed to the emergence of new journalistic genres, namely graphic reporting, characterized by an abundance of images and different visual perspectives on a given subject matter. Ultimately, this was a contribution to strengthening the identity of illustrated magazines among other journalistic devices.

Studying the Historical Development of Journalism’s Modal Forms of Expression: Automating Genre Classification of Historical Newspaper Articles

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This paper will discuss the value and challenges of adopting a genre approach to study the historical development of newspaper journalism. Moreover, with the rapidly growing amount of digitized historical newspaper material, it will argue that media history in our current ‘age of abundance’ is in need of a digital humanities approach that enables us to deal with these ‘big data’. As such, this paper will outline an approach to automate the genre classification of historical newspapers, which was recently developed in collaboration with the Dutch National Library and resulted in the creation of a beta version of a genre classification tool for Dutch newspaper articles.

Studying historical newspaper articles for their genre offers important insights into the way newspaper journalism has developed as a practice. Deviating from conceiving genre as a specific journalistic ‘beat’, we define it as “language use in a conventionalized communicative setting in order to give expression to a specific set of communicative goals of a disciplinary or social institution, which give rise to stable structural forms”. A genre, then, does not relate to a particular topic, but refers to the specific form journalists use to address a range of topics and reflects underlying communicative goals, norms and practices. Studying the use of genres in newspapers historically therefore allows us to analyze the development of the underlying conception and practice of newspaper journalism.

A genre approach to study journalism history is not unproblematic, however. Genres are, as modal forms of expression, inherently dynamic concepts, which can differ between cultures and change over time. Moreover, genres are ideal-typical constructs that never manifest themselves in their ‘pure’ form. Consequently, genres are not stable research categories when it comes to journalism history and texts cannot always be categorized for genre in a clear-cut way.

These conceptual traits raise issues on a methodological level. On the one hand, qualitative approaches to genre analysis are well-equipped to deal with this variation, but are unable to cover the vast amount of available historical material. In turn, quantitative approaches are better able to deal with large amounts of material, but the demands for a rigid categorization of genres makes it hard to take into account the historical variation in genre concepts.

What is more, even traditional quantitative content analyses remain highly time-consuming and can only cover a small fraction of the available historical material. We therefore outline a digital humanities approach to study the history of newspaper journalism that automatically classifies the genre of historical newspaper articles, while critically discussing its limitations as well. The accompanying tool, we argue, offers a promising additional research approach that is able to deal with large amounts of historical material.
The aim of this paper is to reflect on style and genre in the early French press. The research is part of a larger project called The Origins and Evolution of Journalistic French: The History of a Genre and the History of the Language. Until this project, there had been only isolated analyses of historical periodicals by historians of the French language (e.g. Ayres-Bennett 1996: 207-11, 2004: 82-108, Lodge 2004: 171-90). This project was therefore designed as the first large-scale systematic linguistic study of historical French news discourse. It is based on quantitative and qualitative analyses of a 500,000-word corpus that was compiled specifically for this study. The corpus covers the period from the publication of the first French-language periodical to have had long-term success (the Gazette de France founded in 1631) to the French Revolution (1789). It consists of five publications, all of which can be considered generalist: two gazettes (the Gazette de France and the Gazette d’Amsterdam), the first learned periodical (the Journal des savans), a lighter review (the Mercure galant) and the first daily newspaper (the Journal de Paris). This project makes contributions to two different fields: historical genre studies and historical (French) linguistics. The paper that I will present starts with an overview of the larger project, outlining both its aims and its methodology. I then present summaries of the results of a series of case studies that I have carried out concerning the use of different linguistic features in the corpus. The features concerned come from a variety of different linguistic levels. Strikingly, however, the results of all of the case studies point to what have emerged as two important features of historical French newswriting as represented by my corpus. The first is that at the very outset, with the appearance of the first periodical publications, there was great stylistic uniformity in the journalistic genre. The second is that the middle of the eighteenth century saw a notable diversification of both journalistic style and the journalistic genre. I therefore use the final section of the paper to expand the perspective from the linguistic data to include the socio-cultural context in order to attempt to explain both of these crucial observations.

‘to satisfie the Readers expectations’: Forming Genre and Guiding Interpretation in the News from Ireland Pamphlets (1608)

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In 1608, a series of pamphlets were published concerning the uprising of Sir Cahir O’Doherty against the English authorities in Ireland. O’Doherty ransacked the town of Derry, and killed its governor, Sir George Paulet, before being defeated in battle. In the pamphlets, the events of the rebellion are reported to an English audience. The tracts emphasise O’Doherty’s sensational violence, encouraging anti-Irish and anti-Catholic sentiments. This paper will examine the construction of genre in the pamphlets, arguing that, in attempting to both meet readers’ expectations and guide readers’ responses, they develop a mode of news reporting based on the definition of its readership as a community united against a common enemy.

Preceding the account of O’Doherty’s rebellion, the anonymous author of Newes from Lough-foyle in Ireland writes:

[T]osatisfie the Readers expectations of the trecherous attempts of Sir Cary Adougherty aforesaid, which is the onely purpose of this present relation, you shall understand, that [...] an enimie never intends more deepemischief and villany, then when he shadowes his purposes under the shewe and pretexe of friendship and amitie.
This declaration reveals several aspects of the pamphlet’s agenda. The reader is assumed to be interested in the actions of O’Doherty as newsworthy, with his ‘trecherous attempts’ providing the pamphlet’s central matter. That these attempts are ‘trecherous’ further suggests the sensationalist tone in which they are to be relayed. Finally, the account is to be mapped onto existing moralistic paradigms, such as the denunciation of deception and hypocrisy.

Throughout, the News from Ireland pamphlets combine the provision of detailed news reports and the indulgence of a perceived taste for the lurid with an attempt to guide readers’ interpretations. In balancing these three factors, the pamphleteers created a marketable formula for news writing: that the pamphlets were revised, reprinted, and updated demonstrates their ability to generate reader interest.

In addition to the moral framework quoted above, the News from Ireland tracts interpret the rebellion in paradigmatic anti-Irish and anti-Catholic terms. By relating O’Doherty’s ‘inhumane’ actions (through a combination of specific circumstantial detail and a sensationalist tone), the pamphleteers attest to the danger of England’s Catholic neighbours. In doing so, the pamphlets establish their readers as part of a united community of English Protestants that must stand firm against Catholic threats.

This paper will argue that the News from Ireland pamphlets are engaged in a process of generic definition that seeks simultaneously to satisfy readers’ interests in entertainment and to instruct them in their political and religious duty of obedience. In doing so, it reveals the use of news discourse as both a recreational commodity and an instrument of social control, even in a period pre-dating its formalised existence as a genre.
Throughout Europe during the first decades of century XVII, printers and publishers introduced a new editorial genre: the gazette. The gazette – only periodic from its onset in some places and mostly semi-periodic elsewhere until the end of the century – was, to the consumers’ eye, distinguishable from other news sheets of the time. To make gazettes look unique, several new design features were used. Also, the gazettes reset the discursive patterns commonly used by news pamphlets, on the one hand, and private avvisi, on the other hand, during the two previous centuries.

The gazettes introduce a modality of journalistic discourse in which some of the most visible features are continuity and self-reference: the reader must know the antecedents of each news item, since previous issues have narrated them, and must also be expectant to know the next events. This way, and even if it is not uncommon in the gazettes to appeal to the "curious reader" (the one to whom the news pamphlets were directed, especially the most sensationalist ones), the implicit reader now is the citizen concerned about national and international news. Although some gazettes adopt the epistolary template that underlies private avvisi, the relationship between gazetteer and reader is no longer a relationship marked by hierarchy or vassalage: it is now a professional relationship by which the gazetteer must prove that he knows the news items and these are the ones that the informed reader must know. Therefore, as some authors as Olivari (2014) have pointed out, gazettes are at the very origin of the development of public opinion in Europe, in the early seventeenth century.

Our paper will analyze a corpus of 30 semi-periodic gazettes published in Seville (Spain) in the first two decades of the seventeenth century, and will apply content analysis and historical pragmatics to observe the discursive features used by the gazette to be recognized as the first journalistic genre in Europe.
Members of the Organizing Committee

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CHINED VI

The Social Implications of Genre in Historical News Language