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OUT OF AFRICA — GLOBAL NEWS ANALYSIS 26–27

Project Summary

Draft · 6 November 2026

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Purpose

Out of Africa studies how six global broadcasters cover East Africa: TRT (Türkiye), CGTN (China), RT (Russia) and Press TV (Iran), set against CNN International and Al Jazeera English.

Foreign news once had one center. Today East Africa is a periphery to several. Each center selects much the same crises. Each tells them differently: whom it quotes, whom it blames, and what it leaves out. The project asks whether these rival voices give East Africans more say over their own story, or only more narrators.

Research questions

1. **Selection.** Do Galtung and Ruge's news factors, especially negativity, personification and reference to the outlet's own sponsor state, explain which East African events each outlet covers?
2. **Framing.** How do the outlets attribute cause and blame for shared events, and does attribution follow the sponsor's strategic narrative?
3. **Change and norms.** How stable are frames over time, and does any outlet approach peace journalism?

Theory in brief

The global news order has not been decentered. It has been re-centered, several times over. The framework calls this condition the *polycentric periphery*. Selection converges; attribution diverges. Facts still travel on Western wire services; difference lies in the layer each outlet adds. The normative yardsticks are communicative sovereignty, epistemological resilience and peace journalism.

Design

Element	Choice
Outlets	TRT, CGTN, RT, Press TV, CNN International, Al Jazeera English
Region	East Africa and the Horn: Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Somalia and Somaliland, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania
Period	June–November 2026, with possible extension through 2027
Core logic	Same-event comparison: the same event, covered by different outlets within days
Methods	Quantitative content analysis; critical discourse analysis in three strands (Foucault, Fairclough and Wodak, van Dijk); computational text analysis in R
The page as data	Desktop and mobile screenshots and the links around each article, coded alongside the text
AI-assisted coding	Claude as a validated third coder for article-level variables, admitted variable by variable against human coders
Tools	MAXQDA, R, Claude

Status, November 2026

- Theoretical framework, methodology paper, codebook (version 1.1) and handbook drafted.

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- Collection script for text, screenshots and link environments built and tested on a mock page.
- Coding pilot of 13 articles completed; blind human comparison pending.
- Clearances to be obtained before data collection: copyright, personal data (Sikt), AI services, and access to RT under sanctions.

Work plan

Placeholder: work packages, milestones and timeline for 2026–27.

Team and partners

Placeholder. Project lead: Oddgeir Tveiten, University of Agder.

Budget and funding

Placeholder.

Dissemination

Placeholder: planned articles, conference papers and public outreach.

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