

Title Page

Summary

Declaration

Acknowledgements

Dedication

CHAPTER ONE

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A contextual background on global news flows	12
1.2 Background to the study	17
1.3 Problem statement and the rationale	20
1.3.1 <i>The importance of news flows in the development of the (global) public sphere</i>	24
1.4 Objectives of the study	26
1.5 Research Questions	27
1.6 Theoretical approach	28
1.7 Methodological design	29
1.8 Outline of chapters	31

CHAPTER TWO

2 INFORMATION FLOWS IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

2.1 Contextualising and conceptualising globalisation and information flows	34
2.1.1 <i>Sceptics, globalist, and transformationalist definitions of globalisation</i>	34
2.1.2 <i>The influence of global market capitalism in the globalisation of news and on News agencies</i>	41
2.2 Studies on news agencies and “global imbalances” in news flows	45
2.2.1 <i>An ‘international relations’ perspective</i>	47
2.2.2 <i>World system theory and ‘glo-cal’ news exchanges</i>	51
2.2.3 <i>News imbalances and the (global) public sphere</i>	55
2.3 Internal and external pressures on news agencies in the global flow of news	61
2.3.1 <i>News flows in developing contexts and in Africa</i>	65
2.3.2 <i>State control and government ownership of news agencies in Africa</i>	70

2.4 Theoretical perspectives relevant in the 21st century	72
2.4.1 Michael Schudson on “the sociology of news production (revisited again)”	73
2.4.2 Vincent Mosco and the integrated political economy of communication	81
2.4.3 Critical political economy according to Golding and Murdock’s integrated approach	86
2.5 Conclusion	94

CHAPTER THREE

3 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

3.1 Introduction: the qualitative research paradigm	98
3.2 Data collection and analysis: the inductive approach	101
3.2.1 In-depth, open-ended interviews	103
3.2.2 Secondary data	104
3.2.3 Purposive sampling (or theoretical sampling)	106
3.2.4 Field interview procedure	107
3.2.5 Reliability and validity	109
3.3 Data processing and secondary analysis: open coding and the “constant comparative method” in developing thematic questions	110
3.3.1 Theoretical sensitivity	112
3.3.2 Axial coding: a process of re-integrating categories and subcategories	113
3.3.3 Selective coding and the use of memos and computer technology in integrating categories	115
3.3.4 The procedure for data coding and analysis: (phase I)	116
3.3.5 Procedure for coding and analysis (phase II)	118
3.4 Conclusion	119

CHAPTER FOUR

4 ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES OF NEWS AGENCIES: NICHE AREAS IN NEWS EXCHANGE

4.1 Ownership, structure, and operations at various news agencies	121
4.1.1 A brief history of ownership at SAPA	123
4.1.2 The Associated Press operations, ownership, and control	133
4.1.3 Reuters’ structure, ownership, and news operation	136
4.1.4 Agence France-Presse (AFP) operations	140
4.1.5 Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA): ownership and structure	141
4.1.6 The Pan-African News Agency (PANA): a brief introduction	144

4.1.7 <i>The Inter Press Service (IPS)</i>	146
4.2 The significance of niche areas of news production in the exchange relationships among news agencies	150
4.2.1 <i>A niche for SAPA and the relations of news exchange with the global news agencies</i>	150
4.2.2 <i>The ‘success’ of the global news agencies in developing niche areas of news production</i>	158
4.2.3 <i>A niche for PANA and its news exchange in Africa</i>	163
4.2.4 <i>Development: a key focus and niche of IPS</i>	167
4.3 An analysis and conclusion	171

CHAPTER FIVE

5 THE REGIONALISATION OF NEWS AGENCIES AS AN ADAPTIVE STRATEGY IN GLOBAL NEWS FLOWS	182
5.1 Competition for news markets and “media models” resulting from the activities of news agencies	183
5.1.1 <i>Monopolisation and the competitive drive for global news markets</i>	193
5.1.2 <i>The main client base of global news agencies</i>	197
5.2 The regionalisation of bureaus and the fragmentation of news in the operations of news agencies: revisiting debates on monopolisation	200
5.2.1 <i>The regionalisation of news flows and news bureaus</i>	200
5.2.2 <i>Regionalisation and the sceptics’ and globalists’ positions in relation to globalisation</i>	203
5.2.3 <i>Fragmentation of news: a concomitant effect of the expansion of global news agencies</i>	206
5.3 News exchange agreements in the developing South Africa context	207
5.3.1 <i>News exchange agreements between the global news agencies and the local South African Press Association</i>	208
5.4 The activities of the global news agencies, SAPA, and PANA in Africa	218
5.4.1 <i>Are continental news agencies worldwide in decline?</i>	219
5.4.2 <i>The role of SAPA in Africa in relation to the African news agencies</i>	221
5.4.3 <i>Global news agencies: debating “negative” reporting in Africa</i>	227
5.5 Conclusion	239

CHAPTER SIX

6 PROCESSES OF NEWS SELECTION AND GATEKEEPING AT NEWS AGENCIES	242
6.1 The changing global news environment and its influence on the activities at news agencies and in the emergence of the global public sphere	246
<i>6.1.1 Defining “news sense” in the selection of news and the application of news values</i>	251
<i>6.1.2 Selection and production practices at SAPA</i>	256
<i>6.1.3 Reuters’ news selection practices emphasizing the centrality of their client markets</i>	268
<i>6.1.4 Associated Press news selection practices</i>	271
<i>6.1.5 AFP and news selection practices</i>	274
<i>6.1.6 News selection at DPA</i>	277
<i>6.1.7 IPS: selection influenced by its development focus</i>	280
6.2 Revising debates on imbalances in global news flows	282
<i>6.2.1 SAPA on imbalances in global news flows</i>	283
<i>6.2.2 Reuters on imbalances in global news flows</i>	295
<i>6.2.3 Associated Press on imbalances in global news flows</i>	297
<i>6.2.4 AFP on the issue of imbalances</i>	304
<i>6.2.5 IPS on imbalances in global news flows</i>	306
6.3 Analysis & conclusion	309

CHAPTER SEVEN

7 CONTINUITIES AND SHIFTS IN GLOBAL NEWS FLOWS: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS	313
7.1 Globalisation, news flow and the post-industrial society	316
<i>7.1.1 Global consciousness as the symbolic space for identity formation and knowledge production: Issues of power</i>	328
7.2. News agencies, the impact of societal influence and competing ‘cultures of news’	334
<i>7.2.1 Colonialism and the construction of ‘the nation’</i>	339
<i>7.2.2 The construction of global consciousness in the news media</i>	340
<i>7.2.3 Selection, gatekeepers and objectivity as central concerns in the flow of news and the impact on society</i>	342
<i>7.2.4 Objectivity and biases in new reporting?</i>	345
7.3 News agencies’ adaptations to global change and constraints on the formation of global consciousness	346
<i>7.3.1 Prospects for news agencies in a post-industrial society</i>	348

<i>7.3.2 The inability and inefficiency of the privately- and state- owned news media to reflect conscientious, critical thinking and change</i>	351
<i>7.3.3 Locating global consciousness in the public sphere, and the 'fragmentation of news'</i>	353
<i>7.3.4 Ownership of news agencies and the issue of power: social power versus media power</i>	361
<i>7.3.5 Competing for survival versus the traditional 'monopolisation of news markets' debate</i>	365
<i>7.3.6 News agencies as reputable news sources versus "citizen journalism" and the prevalence of "blogs" on the Internet</i>	371
7.4 Conclusion	373

CHAPTER EIGHT

8 CONCLUDING REMARKS

8.1 An overview of the study	381
8.2 The main findings and explanatory issues	384
<i>8.2.1 The 'adaptive responses' from (global) news agencies to a transforming global news environment</i>	389
<i>8.2.2 Regionalisation: the extension of global news agencies' operations across the globe</i>	392
<i>8.2.3 Innovative news production processes, new cultural formations and the future of news agencies in an emerging post-industrial world order</i>	396
8.3 Some methodological considerations and limitations of the study, and recommendations for future research	399

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1: A hierarchical arrangement of news agencies around the world
Figure 2-2: Centre-periphery global news flows and relationships amongst news agencies
Figure 5-1: Global news agency bureaus in regional context of a nation-state, in South Africa
Figure 6-1: An emerging global public sphere: the interfacing of news agencies and the changing social order
Figure 7-1: Global news flows in transition: changes in the structural position of news agencies
Figure 8-1: The cyclical and dialectical system of capitalism influencing the flow of information and changes at news agencies

Appendices and Tables	
Appendix 1: Table 1: List of interviewees	426
Appendix 2: News room diary pages (SAPA),	427
Appendix 3: Newsroom coding for daily diary activities	428
Appendix 4: Open data-coding using grounded theory approach	430
Appendix 5: Spreadsheet data coding samples	433
 Bibliography	 406