



# The Nature Relationship Between Journalists and Politicians and its impact on objectivity

Lect. Dr. Barham Khalid Ahmed

Media department, College of humanity Sciences, Univeristy of Sulaimany

Barham.ahmed@univsul.edu.iq

## Abstract

This study explores the relationship between journalists and their sources particularly the politician's news sources. The study attempts to highlight the nature relationship between that two parties. The journalist-politician interplay In Kurdistan region is questionable and complicated in consequence to public sphere in the region. The study's finding is that there is a large degree of interplay between these parts, an outdome that strengthens the findings of previous research in this field. The conclusions are also support recent research arguing that the certain variables such as trust and common control governed this relationship as well as recognising the importance of professional norms journalist-politician. Additionally, both sides must keep the distance between them as they require manoeuvring space in which they can create and uphold a balance of power in the relationship to serve the professionalism values. The interplay between the two groups is motely uncharacteristic, both groups attempt to utilize other side to their interests.

**Keywords:** Relationship bewteen Journalists, politicians Source, objectivity,

Recieved: 11/11/2022

Accepted: 19/12/2022



## Introduction

The differentiation between journalists and politicians and the nature of the relationship between them has become the one of the most controversial issues in the political communication sphere. Despite the different roles and interests' journalists and politicians have in society, they also have mutual interests. This situation shapes their relationship in the form of a circular loop.

Politicians need the publicity the media provides and journalists need information from politicians in order to inform the people. Each side needs the other so as to improve its professional interest. They have to cooperate with and support each other. Gans views this relationship as symbiotic: 'the relationship between sources and journalists resembles a dance, for sources seek access to journalists, and journalists seek access to sources, although it takes two to tango' (1980:116). However, there are those in each group who see the necessity of reconsidering the nature of this relationship and developing a suitable mechanism for the sake of the public.

Regardless of that, the relationship should be one of reciprocal rights between politicians and journalists based on a commitment to those rights and to the citizen, more than on a commitment towards each other. The balance in the relationship relies on how completely they control their own and each other's resources and interests.

This paper will examine the nature of the relationship between politicians and journalists, the gap between them, and whether they really are 'frenemies. Additionally, other questions will be asked. Can a journalist who has been a friend to a politician then criticise him/her? What happens when a politician gives information to a journalist?

In response to these variations, the dynamic relationship between journalists and sources is in a state of instability. Through argument of key literature, this paper provides an outline of the nature of the reporter-source association in the age of mass media. Additionally, examines the impact of the growth of digital media on journalist-source relations, followed by critical reflections on the changing nature of this crucial relationship and impending directions for research.

## Literature review and Conceptual framework

Politicians and journalists have very different functions in society. They have special missions and professional social interests. McNair (2011) claims that the journalist's role in a democratic society is fulfilled by the reporter's faithfulness to the professional principles of neutrality in covering the facts of public affairs. The role of the journalist in the political process and the process itself should be separate.

Journalists should play their role as professionals and perform objectively to present a clear journalistic distance from the bias or opinions expressed in political debate. That said, however, political developments, policies, parliament and the government are now in a new era and have to be reported, covered, analyzed and commented upon by the media channels.

Davis (2009) stipulates that politicians have a message to articulate and transfer to the people, one which should be transmitted as unambiguously as possible. Nowadays, in many developed systems, political reporting has become almost as organised as of the political institutional themselves. For instance, in Westminster,



the White House and on Capitol Hill, reporters have on-site offices, attend social functions with politicians, and enjoy structured access to information.

Both sides are trying hard to achieve certain aims for their audience. Nevertheless, it seems impossible to reach that goal without securing a mechanism which allows them to work together without interfering in other's affairs.

Journalists aim principally to attract the attention of their audience through media messages such as news and entertainment. Similarly, politicians try to influence members of society members to approve the particular views of their parties or factions to achieve their political aims. Each side needs the other to offer the access it requires to realise its principles.

Blumer and Gurevitch (1995) state that for the media the political arena is the prospective source of many news stories. This source is vital for reporters, while for politicians' journalists provide publicity and give them a platform to speak to people. Thus, the development of this mutually dependent relationship can benefit both sides. 'The central issue in the relationship between media and political institutions revolves around the media's relative degree of autonomy and to what extent and by what means this is allowed to be constrained' (Blumer and Gurevitch, 1995:12).

## **Journalists and Politicians; Symmetrical relationships**

In the new political communications sphere the relationship between journalists and politicians contains both cooperation and conflict; they can behave as both friends and foes. Randall (2011) suggests that while recently political institutions have found a new way to treat the media there have been many complaints from journalists about the iniquities of news management and spin doctors.

Political bodies have also started to utilise press spokespeople who are more sophisticated than before. Randall also emphasises the need for journalists to have good relations with their sources: 'Journalism is quite a lot like real life. From this flows the devastating truth that if you want sources to help you, then being friendly, honest and treating them fairly works a lot better than bullying' (2011:64).

McNair (2001) strongly denies that this type of relationship affects the media's function in a democratic society. He explains that the one of the media's roles is to make public politicians themselves and political institutions generally.

This role is exemplified perfectly by the performance of the US media during the Watergate episode and more recently by The Guardian's coverage of the cash-for-questions scandal. Alan Rusbridger stated that 'A free press is important to ensure free speech. It is a love-hate relationship between us, but politicians and the media need to be honest and not indulge in spin to interest people in politics' (Guardian, 2021). Thus, this type of relationship between journalists and their political sources is called the Symmetrical relationships. The Symmetrical relationships are those in which partners' behaviours parallel one another (Watzwalick et al. 1967).

The fact that the behaviour of individuals in symmetrical relationships is identical implies neither health nor dysfunction in the relationship. This implies on this type of relationship between journalists and politicians as they take benefits from each other through exchanging information and publicity in this a symmetrical rela-



tionship.

The media's role in a democratic system allows for a partnership in the political arena. However, the balance of the correlation depends on how they control or assume an interest in their own and each other's resources. According to Aula (1989), politicians have recently seemed to assume that journalism has a powerful and robust impact on the public, so they can transmit their views in the context of media messages. 'They can for example control their public image, control the amount and quality of the information they provide to the media, attract the public's attention by "media tricks" or directly criticize the media's actions' (Aula, 1989:16-23, cited in valt.helsinki.fi, 2021).

Within the framework of mutual dependence between these two players, there is also scope for divergent thought and behaviour. Negrine and Stanyer conclude that they have characterized both sides as being sheltered in a complex set of communications, and that, 'though mutually beneficial, disputes are certainly role-related, and therefore abiding, sources of conflict, ones that continually arise because they are part and parcel of the system of interacting role partners whose purposes to some extent diverge' (2007:50).

In that case, each side relies on the other in the relationship, and neither wholly dominates. As Strömbäck and Nord (2006:149) claim, journalists and politicians alike hail from at least partly autonomous institutions that command distinct and unique resources.

Sometimes that can lead to conflict between them in terms of controlling news and its capacity to impact on how the media covers different events. Also, Davis (2007) points out that the news media and its reporters can perform a crucial social role in which they are alternative feasible resources through which agreement can be reached on issues and policy clarification.

Although the relationship between journalists and politicians involves some conflict and separation in the new political communications sphere, Voltmer and Dobрева (2009) claim that the most significant aspect of this relationship is one of professionalism, which relates to how they perform their role and an assessment of their personality, motive and morals.

However, Blumer and Gurevitch (1995) claim that despite the different professional and social functions of journalists and politicians, now civic conflicts between them are fairly common. This depiction shows politicians as initiators and journalists as accusers. Politicians are unhappy with the media's power in society and journalists say they play an essential role as the "essence of freedom of expression." (1995:17).

## News Sources and Journalist Interaction

Adam Boulton (2003), the political editor of Sky News, believes that problems originate from both sides; tabloid values belong neither in Downing Street nor broadcasting. However, politicians and their staff will use whatever means they have to defend themselves in a tight corner. 'So, we do need a robust, confident media. We ought to try to re-establish a viable working relationship. The government ought to be willing to be held to account by the media as a matter of right, not of favour and spin' (Guardian, 2021).

This power struggle is one of the aspects of the interdependence between politicians and journalists. It can affect the nature of relationship whether it is friendly or combative. According to Campbell (2021), journalists



and newspaper owners are involved in the political arena and act as a political player as well as its audience, using news media either to encourage their own interests (as often happens in the Murdoch and Desmond papers' coverage of issues related to their broadcast interests, for example) or to promote their own political agenda.

As indicated above, the media has the power to influence people's opinions and, to some extent, their political conduct. Consequently, it is natural that politicians want to communicate with journalists in order to take some control over the content of the news, but also, they often fear journalists.

According to the David Runciman (Guardian, 2021) "politicians' envy and fear journalism; it's what makes their relationship with editors and proprietors so different from their relationship with, say, the BBC, which has much more power to influence the views of its audience'. He likens a newspaper to an army where orders get obeyed, which is why politicians prefer to make connect with senior correspondents, and editors to chief constables. It allows them a sense of control.

Despite benefits for both sides from a friendly relationship, conflicts, mistrust and violation of unwritten rules are common and frequently harm the other side. That is because of the different functions and roles both sides possess. Journalists look to gather news and information and criticise politicians when they make mistakes.

On the other hand, politicians need journalists to approach their audience and acquire publicity. Thus, it is often almost impossible to find balance and continue the relationship. Hawkins (BBC, 2021) claims, "There is an irony here. Talk of cosiness between politicians and journalists raises eyebrows among some at Westminster. Those MPs who are regularly mocked and attacked by the papers feel their relationship with the press is anything but warm."

Therefore, for journalists to maintain close relationships with political sources can be one of the most problematic issues in the political process. A majority of journalists, as Davis (2009) affirms, feel that they need to make close contact with their political sources in order to gain "off-the-record" or behind the scenes information. Just under half spoke of the need to establish themselves within their own occupation by gaining impressive contacts, which that could lead to 'scoops'.

Thus, journalists should be aware of potential difficulties of such close contact with their news sources, as Blumer & Gurevitch (1995) explain. While reporters can regard the convenience of this contact as an even swap between information and publicity, others articulate concerns about the relationship's effect on the quality of the journalism and on the possibility of bias, and feel that becoming too close could lead to a decline in the reliability of journalism.

Sheila Gunn (Guardian, 2003) wrote that 'Politics needs to be less secretive. There is nothing wrong with people like Dr Kelly speaking to journalists. But I hate seeing so many sources not being attributed: it looks very suspicious. Campbell decides what to leak and to whom: journalists have to ask, why is this source giving me the story?'

In addition, the close relationship could threaten journalistic reliability because when journalists become too close to politicians maybe they cannot reprimand them when they are wrong or involved in scandal or corruption cases. However, if journalists stay far away from politicians that could affect their work, as it may be that the politicians will boycott them and refuse to give out important information.



Loewenstein (Antony Loewenstein, 2021) points out how the WikiLeaks documents challenged the entire corrupted relationship between media and political elites. Julian Assange was a stranger and did not attend exclusive and secret meetings where the furthering of US foreign policy goals was being discussed. He wanted to disrupt the dynamic. Many in the media hated not being leaked the information themselves and felt possessive of their closeness to governmental officials. Others had an aversion to a lone-wolf like Assange, someone extraordinarily tech-savvy, who threatened their positions.

However, the relationship has changed recently. Davis (2009:207) claims that many journalists accept being associated with politicians at higher levels who are usually closed off to the media, such as in several southern European states, and in other regions different media foundations are seen as institutionally and economically engineered.

However, in many rising democracies such as Mexico and Russia, 'patron-based' or 'client list' interaction between journalists and sources is regular, and it is an obvious situation in Anglo-American politics. Runci-man points out that politicians will not be released from this interaction. Newspapers characterize the type of influence that politicians have to recognize, appreciate and admire. However much they might criticize it, for now, 'the relationship between politicians and the press is more like two drowning men, clinging to each other for support' (Guardian, 2021).

## Research Questions

Based on the aim of the research, three research questions were formulated:

RQ1: What are the nature relationship between journalists and politicians?

RQ2: How journalists and politicians relationship affect reporter's career?

RQ3: How and why journalists must stay objective in news coverage?

Politician–Journalist Relations: research design and methodology

Based on paper's research questions; the study consists of assessment of reporters responds in Iraqi Kurdistan Region in which personal (in-depth) semi structured interviews were conducted with journalists and reporters. Different approaches were used including face-to-face meetings, phone calls and posting open questions via e-mails and social media platforms.

The different type of media organisations such as TV, digital media and Radio included in this study were chosen according to structural factors such as municipal size, municipal organisation, affiliated to political parties, ownership. The study design is based on a concept of "symmetrical", meaning that the study contains both interviews about routine contacts between reporters and news source/politicians and how they help each other.

Respondents were chosen according to several principles aimed at including a comprehensive mix of age, gender, media outlets and professional variables. The sample consisted of older journalists as well as younger and well-educated journalists and general reporter's male and female as well as from different type of media



organisations including partisan media, independent and private sectors media.

The purpose was both to simplify assessment and to achieve a check on their statements. To avoid expected “norm alters”—i.e. when respondents answer according to their professional norms rather than their “real” views—special efforts were made to ensure considerable trustworthiness in the interview situation as a precondition for frankness in the participants’ answers.

In terms of the interviews the sample consisted of 22 journalists based on snowball method as this research required as and qualitative study. Regarding interviewees demographic background most of journalists are middle aged between 25 to 35 years old as they have at least 3 years’ experience. In term of genders 17 of them are male and 5 of them are female. The interviews lasted between 15 and 30 minutes. Interviewees were asked several questions relating the nature of journalist-politician’s relationships in Kurdistan Region and how they manage their relationships with news-sources. Interviews were conducted in 2022 between May and June.

This has also enabled the use of another selection technique, namely initially to interview respondents that the author knows well in order to create the best possible interview guidelines and thereby be able to obtain the deepest possible understanding of the responses of the remaining interview subjects. The interviews were quite open. There were infrequently any problems in getting respondents to reveal internal thoughts or tactics (Young, JC, 2018). In only one case was there cause to suspect that an interviewee was providing misleading information—a politician was trying to project a very press- minded style, while journalists and other sources described him as just the opposite. Only two intended interviews were cancelled. In this instance, the politician in question failed to show up on the grounds that he reviled journalists. This was not surprising in light of the fact that they had criticised him harshly for arbitrary rule, nepotism and censorship. The second level of empiricism consists of an examination of

Many interviewees from the general interview series also featured in these case studies While some researchers advocate direct observation as a method of studying relationships (see, for example, Broom et al., 1997), observation alone runs the risk of locking onto only those characteristics that manifest themselves, such as pseudo-behaviours among actors and limited openness to the researcher by one actor in the presence of another. In terms of journalist-politician contact, this seems highly likely to occur, which is why interviews have been selected as the main method, though with various control instruments.

## Findings

The first research question inspects the nature relationship between journalists and politicians. To investigate this, we will first use the question “Generally speaking, what are the nature relationship between journalists and politicians in Iraqi Kurdistan Region?”. This question does not specify exactly what ‘influence’ or ‘politics’ refers to. that as both and political and news journalists would perceive the media to have great influence over politics.

As the result shows that most of the interviewee claims that the relationship between journalists and politicians in Kurdistan region is not a professional relationship as they exist in developing countries. In developed democratic systems journalists play a significant role as the foremost players in the political communications arena. Their words have a considerable influence on the public’s view of politics. Political decision makers are





also influenced by journalists. Journalism and its characters play an important role in spreading awareness and uncovering the hidden features of politics, limiting its presence by sharing content through existing media outlets. Nonetheless as most interviewee states that the media system in Kurdistan region have been politicized and divided into some parts as follow: the partisan media belongs directly to political parties, Shadow media that supported by political parties or politicians and using them for serve their agenda and policy, as well as some private sector media runs by some journalists that supported by companies and get some fund from international organisation. In this regard one interviewee said:

The relationship between journalists and politicians here in Kurdistan region are very complicated and not normal and does not follows professional standards. Some politicians use some reporters and journalist as their client or his spokesperson to get publicity and its personal interests.

(participant 3)

This problematic relationship between journalists and politicians have created unclear view about the journalism work environment. Hence journalists face several challenges in order to perform their job professionally. Some participants go far from this as they claim that politicians use some journalists as their employee against their rivals inside and outside their political parties.

Just like authoritarian regimes in third world, including Arab ones, realize that the media is no less important than field armies, so political parties are keen to dominate them. Despite suffering from severe financial crisis, they spend money on them, and this is clearly shown in the majority of this countries including Kurdistan and Iraq.

(participant 1)

As many participants claims in Kurdistan region most of journalists and politicians mixed up their role in society. They do not play their role as they are in developed countries. For instance, in democratic countries, the relationship between the politician and the media has stabilized. Each part has been convinced of the role they play in serving their society in public sphere. The status of the media in developed countries is no less than that of the politician. In this context, one participant said:

Many politicians are keen to win the favour of journalists and media professionals to benefit from their platforms in marketing their policies and agenda, while at the same time avoiding their criticisms that may end or disrupt their political carrier and lives. There is a chaos in Kurdish media landscape most politicians use media to target their rivals and other groups.

(participant 6)

This comment states that there is no healthy relationship between journalists and politicians in Kurdistan region of Iraq as shows that the politicians who run the political parties and the country are still of high standing. The media professionals, including those who work in patrician media outlets, are keen to win the favour of politicians in order to avoid their evils, or to gain their satisfaction and enjoy in-kind and moral privileges that are not available to others.

Conversely, in democratic countries the media can overthrow a political leader or an entire party from power





when he publishes private information about him (the Watergate scandal as a model) and in totalitarian countries the politician with power can manage the media system. Completely via his mobile phone, which is what is happening in many of our countries as one of the participants claims that.

(Participant 8) argues that, like many distortions in our environment and in the Third World in general, the “distorted” relationship between the media and the politicians seems to be the relationship that allows the transformation of the media into a politician in one hand, and the transformation of the politician into a media person without knowledge of the rules of the profession on the other hand, so that distortion occurs in both, without being able to create a distinctive political or media class that competes with its counterpart in well-developed and democratic countries. As one of the participants said:

The last decades turmoil in Kurdistan and conflicts between political parties following the Arab Spring came to reinforce this distortion from where they did not intend, as the lights of freedom seduced many politicians with media work, and the atmosphere of political competitiveness seduced many media professionals with political work, and it can be said that this is normal in an unstable political and media environment.

(Participant 11)

As above comment suggests both politicians and journalists must play their own role in the society and do not invade in each other’s matter. Originally, the politician is the source for the media, but the weakness of many politicians here or even their absence from the scene pushes many media professionals to fill that vacuum by virtue of their political visions or network of relationships they have made during their journalism work, and some of these media professionals used their stardom in screens to pass them popularly in the electoral entitlements in recent years.

In that situation some journalists go far to play their role as a journalist, but also play activist role or political roles as well. In the last decade Some of the journalists and Anchors supported by political parties and won parliament seats in both Kurdistan and Iraqi parliament. In contrary some journalists claiming that the nature relationship between journalists and their political sources in Kurdistan region is in higher and professional level. Politicians provides reporters with new and detailed information when they needed. One participant said:

We are in very good relationship with politicians, they treat as very professionally when we call them to obtain information about issues. But some journalists misuse the information for some reasons, hence they make this relationship complicated for others. As a journalist we need to be more professional in order to rebuild the ruined image about source-journalist relations.

(Participant 14)

This comment states that there are a division between journalists in Kurdistan region regarding the relationship with politicians or their news sources. According to the media organisations and its ownership as most of the media outlets in Kurdistan region owned either directly and indirectly by political parties.

This is one of the manifestations of the political media distortion in the largest third-world countries including Iraq and Kurdistan region is the existence of the so-called partisan media and press, a formula allowed by the



state in the early nineties.

Each party had the right to publish one or more newspapers, TV stations, radio, web media, and these partisan media were a relative breakthrough at that time when the Kurdish citizen had only partisan newspapers and state television as well, a journalistic formula unparalleled in developed countries, as there is no one in Britain For example, a newspaper or channel for the Conservative Party or the Labour Party, which applies to the Republican and Democratic parties in the United States, and other parties in other countries, there are even newspapers and channels that are described as close to this or that party.

A skilled journalist is supposed to extract secrets and information from politicians to convey to the general public of the main consumer of that news, the task of the journalist is to enlighten society and provide it with information so that he can monitor the performance of his politicians and leaders, and so that he can form objective views on the facts and current events.

(Participant 17

)

According to the above comment the minority of journalists in Kurdish party media have maintained their political independence, i.e. they have not joined the membership of those parties, the phenomenon has produced a class of political journalists, i.e. those who combine the two journalistic and political qualities, which allowed many of them to occupy leading positions in those parties and run on their lists for parliamentary elections.

When private newspapers owned by joint stock companies appeared in Kurdistan two decades ago, they created greater political and media openness, and the journalists working in them seemed closer to the ideal case of the journalist who performs his professional role and does not aspire to a political position, but these newspapers and the subsequent private channels were very active after the emergence of first opposition party in Kurdistan region in 2009, media played a key political role in mobilizing against. Newspapers and TV channels are as if they were the heads of political parties leading the street movement in its demonstrations and sit-ins starting in 2011 following the Arab springs.

The majority of participants agreed that the distinction between the work of the politician and the work of the media is a necessity for the development of Kurdish society in general, where each of them will be forced to exercise his role with high professionalism, satisfied with this role, keen to develop his skills in it, and if it is true that this is the general rule in this matter, it does not mean at all to deprive any journalist who wishes to practice political work in accordance with the rules of the game, nor does it prevent any politician from switching to media work according to the rules of the profession, so that in the end the rules of “workmanship” become the ruling in the Every field

Furthermore, the research has tended to focus on this level of relationship, although research findings on the media has generated parallel results and is almost common in its judgement that the journalists and media generally supports political and governmental institutions and politicians themselves. Most journalists highlight that the press was in line with the municipal leadership and that politicians take benefits from media as they used the media to exercise their activity and services to society.

The strong relationship between journalists and politicians sometimes affect the news objectivity as reporters avoid to release some information about some politicians due to their friendship. I know some



journalists in very strong relationship with some politicians. He publishes information and news that support his friends against their rivals even within same political party. On the contrary they provide close journalists with fresh information and news.

(Participant 18)

Exploring the above statement, we can conclude that the normal relationship is judged mutually according to a number of morally oriented factors such as trust, respect for each other's roles and being treated impartially. Journalists appreciate the accessibility of reliable sources for their news story and daily news coverage, as well as their openness and media-logical adjustments. On the other hands, Politicians appreciate primarily what they perceive as being treated properly in the news media. The both groups seek mainly in a close relationship in terms of how often they meet, how easily they can get in touch with each other and how personally they can talk to each other and keep the distance between them.

The abnormal relationship between some journalists and politicians has affected both party's and the media landscape where some media outlets and its journalists are in some form of organic relationship with specific political parties either in funding or ideology that led them to seriously biased toward some cases in their coverage.

(Participant 21)

Another participant says that Since most media outlets in Kurdistan region are financed by politicians or parties directly or indirectly as they exist in so-called shadow media it makes sense that journalists utilized by politicians and media owners in order to publish what they want not what he or she think that serve the society.

(Participant 23)

This comments states that there is a bias in news media in Kurdistan region according to some factors such as the ownership, policy, political affiliation. This factor can turn media organisations into a platform for political popularity and propaganda machine instead of the media's original duty to play its watchdog role on government's wrongdoing.

Journalists can then find themselves beholden to politicians and parties that seek political interest. According to well-known journalistic standards, close interaction with news sources is considered nonprofessional and it is unacceptable. The journalist and media are supposed to stand free, keep distance in relation to politicians and independently monitor government and other organisations in society as well as cover the occurrences.

This sovereign role as a watchdog is a crucial element of the media's function as fourth estate that will support democracy as well. Nevertheless, the normal or rationale—namely that democracy possibly benefits from this common interest and interplay relationship between that two parties. The healthy, professional cooperation between politicians and reporters is essential for society and life sustaining not only for them both but also for the democracy in general. When this healthy relationship falls ill, so does democracy” (Merritt, 1997, p. 52).

The close interaction the news coverage process must be based on professional standards and people's needs. This interplay between the media and source including politicians can be seen as beneficial for development and democracy, provided it serves the needs of public. This relationship can also provide the preconditions for



accurate information and news as one of the main tasks of the media and for good public information about what happening around.

## Conclusion

In the view of this paper, in developed democratic systems journalists play a significant role as the foremost players in the political communications arena. Their words have a considerable influence on the public's view of politics. In some cases, Political decision makers are also influenced by journalists from specific media organisations. Currently the media can impact on the ideological and governmental power that political institutions possess. The relationship between politicians and journalists is at the heart of political coverage because both sides are important to society due to their distinct professional functions.

It should be possible for both sides to arrange a symbiotic relationship, perhaps by being pragmatic, as, in conventional democratic states, for an institutionalised relationship to work, both sides have to cooperate to achieve their respective aims. Politicians use the relationship to get their publicity and attempt to make use of journalists as sources of information. Journalists acquire enough information through that relationship to be able to inform the people and act as an extension of the news media's fourth estate function in this society. Their influence, gained through that relationship, on politics and the public may be as beneficial as it is detrimental. New insights into the exchange between journalists and politicians in democratic circumstances are needed.

Overall, the relationship between the two sides must respect the public interest and erase the worry that journalism might lose its integrity and independence. A balance relation should be seen in any cooperation between them, and closeness to politicians should never affect news content or reduce the amount of critical journalism.

In contrast, politicians have to understand the media's position in the political communications sphere by regarding journalists as partners in democracy, not as enemies. They must not rely on strategies of basic political pressure, such as intervening in the function of journalism through such forms of misbehaviour as threats and punishments.

## المخلص

تستكشف هذه الدراسة العلاقة بين الصحفيين ومصادرههم وخاصة مصادر أخبار السياسيين. تحاول الدراسة تسليط الضوء على طبيعة العلاقة بين هذين الطرفين. التفاعل بين الصحفيين والسياسيين في إقليم كردستان مشكوك فيه ومعقدة بعض الشيء نتيجة تأثير وضع السياسي و المجال العام في المنطقة. النتيجة التي توصلت إليها الدراسة هي أن هناك درجة كبيرة من التفاعل بين هذه الأطراف، وهي تدعم تفوق نتائج الأبحاث السابقة في هذا المجال. وتدعم الاستنتاجات أيضا الأبحاث الحديثة التي تجادل بأن بعض المتغيرات مثل الثقة والسيطرة المشتركة تحكم هذه العلاقة وكذلك الاعتراف بأهمية الاعتبار المعايير المهنية للصحفي والسياسي في هذه العلاقة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يجب على كلا الجانبين الحفاظ على المسافة بينهما لأنها تتطلب مساحة مناورة يمكنهم من خلالها خلق ودعم توازن القوى في العلاقة لخدمة قيم الاحترافية في المجالين الاعلامي و السياسي. لأن التفاعل بين المجموعتين غير مميز و منظمة، تحاول كلتا المجموعتين استخدام جانب آخر لمصالحهما الشخصية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: علاقة الاعلامي - السياسي المصدر الموضوعية



## پوختە

ئەم لىكۆلينيەوہىيە ھەولدىدات لە پەيوەندى نىوان رۆژنامەنووسان و سەرچاوەکانيان بکۆلينيەوہى، بەتايپەتى سياسىيەکان كە زۇرجار دەبنە سەرچاوەى ھەوالى رۆژنامەنووسان. توپژينەوہى كە تامانجىەتى كە پەيوەندى سروشتى نىوان ئەو دوو لايەنە دەستنيشان بکات لە سەر بنەماى پروفيتشئالى و ستانداردە جىھانيەکان و لە ريگەيەوہى ئاستى ئەو ئەو پەيوەنديە لە نىوان راگەيانداكار و سياسىيەکان لەھەرئىمى كوردستان بەرجەستە بکات كە خودى ئەو پەيوەنديە لەم ژينگەيەدا بابەتتىكى ئالۆزەو نيشانەى پرسىارى لەسەرە ئەوہى لە دەرەنجامى دۆخى سياسىيى و بواری گشتى لە ناوچەكە. توپژينەوہى كە گەيشتە بە چەند ئەنجامىك لەوانە بوونى پەيوەنديەكى قول لە نىوان ئەو دوولايەنە لەسەر ئاستىكى زۆر زۆر كە ئەمەش دەرەنجامەکانى توپژينەوہىكانى پيشوو لەم بواردەدا دەسەلمينيت. ئەنجامەکان پشستگىرى ئەو لىكۆلينيەوانە دەكەن كە گەيشتوون بەوہى چەند گۆراوئىكى ديارىكراو لە نمونەى متمانە و كۆنترۆلى ھاوبەش رۆليان ھەيە لەم پەيوەنديەدا و ھەرۋەھا بە گرنگىيەوہى باسى ستانداردە پيشەيەكانى رۆژنامەنووس- سياسىيەکان دەخەنەرۋو لە بواری خۆياندا. ۋەك ئەوہى دەبيت ھەردوولا دوورى نىوانيان بپاريزن و بتوانن ھاوسەنگى ھيز لە پەيوەنديدا دروست بکەن و پشستگىرى بکەن بۇ خزمەتکردن بە بەھا پيشەيەكان لە پيناو بە جىگەياندى ئەرکەکانى خويان لە كۆمەلگادا بە بى دەستۋەردان لە كاری بەكتر، چونكە لەم جۆرە پەيوەنديە زۆرە ھەردوولا ھەول دەدەن لايەكەى دىكە بەكاربىنن بەمەبەستى سوودى تايپەت و بەرژەوہىندى خۆى كە زۇرجار بەرژەوہىندى كەسيين.

كلييلە ووشەكان: پەيوەنديى رۆژنامەنووس - سياسىيى، سەرچاوە، بابەتیبوون

## References

- Blumer, J.G and Gurevitch, M. (1995). *The Crisis of Public Communication*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Broom, G., Casey, S. and Ritchey, J. (1997) "Towards a Concept and Theory of Organization-Public Relationships", *Journal of Public Relations Research* 9(2), pp. 83-98.
- Campbell, Alastair (2021). *The Leveson Inquiry Restriction Order*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/73905952/Campbell-Leveson-Text> [Accessed 27th August 2021].
- Davis, Aeron (2007). 'Investigating journalists' influence on political issues agendas at Westminster', *Political Communication*, 24: 2, 181-199.
- Davis, Aeron (2009). 'Journalist-Source Relations, Mediated Reflexivity and the Politics of Politics', *Journalism Studies*, 10:2,204-219.
- Gans, Herbert J. (1980) *Deciding What's News: A Study of CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, Newsweek and Time*. New York: Vintage.



Hawkins, Ross (2021). How politicians and the press became so close. [Online] Available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14111022> [Accessed 4 September 2021].

Loewenstein, Antony (2021). wikileaks-exposes-the-bromance-between-journalists-and-politics. [Online] Available at: <http://antonyloewenstein.com/2010/12/10/wikileaks-exposes-the-bromance-between-journalists-and-politics> [Accessed 29 July 2021].

McNair, Brian (2011) *An Introduction to Political Communication*. London and New York: Routledge.

Merritt, Davis (1997) *Public Journalism and Public Life. Why telling the news is not enough*, Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Negrine, R. and Stanyer, J. (2007). *The Political Communication Reader*. London and New York: Routledge.

Randall, David (2011). *The Universal Journalist*. London: Pluto Press.

Runciman, David (2021). 'Best frenemies: Politicians and the press'. [Online] Available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/nov/11/best-frenemies-politicians-press> [Accessed 26 August 2021].

Strömbäck, J. and Nord, L.W. (2006). 'Do politicians lead the tango?' *SAGE* 21(2), 147-164.

Sunder, Katwala et al, 2003. Politics and the media: is it time for change? [Online] Available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2021/Sep/2/media.davidkelly1> [Accessed 2 September 2021].

Voltmer, K. and Dobrev, A (2009). 'Friends or foes? Conflict and cooperation between journalists and politicians in post-communist Bulgaria', *Institute of Communication Studies, University of Leeds*.

Watzlawick, P., Beavin, J. H., & Jackson, D. D. (1967). *Pragmatics of human communication*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co..

No Author (2021). *The Relationship between Politicians and the Mass Media*. [Online] Available at: [http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/agathon/2591\\_4.htm](http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/agathon/2591_4.htm) [Accessed 25 November 2011].

Young, JC, Rose, DC, Mumby, HS, et al. A methodological guide to using and reporting on interviews in conservation science research. *Methods Ecol Evol*. 2018; 9: 10– 19.