Media system's logic Operating <information/not information>?

DIJ

Prof. Udo Di Fabio "How does modern society work?

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Prof. Di Fabio's proposal

"build a bridge between the description of the functioning of modern society and the discussion of how a society should be constituted.

The description of the functioning of modern society is based on modern social science findings, above all on the systems theory approach of German sociologist Niklas Luhmann."

Mass Media System according to Luhmann

Operate with the code: <information/not information>

• It is an autopoietic (self-reproducing), closed system.

Mass Media System according to Luhmann

 Operate in a closed system with the code: information/not information

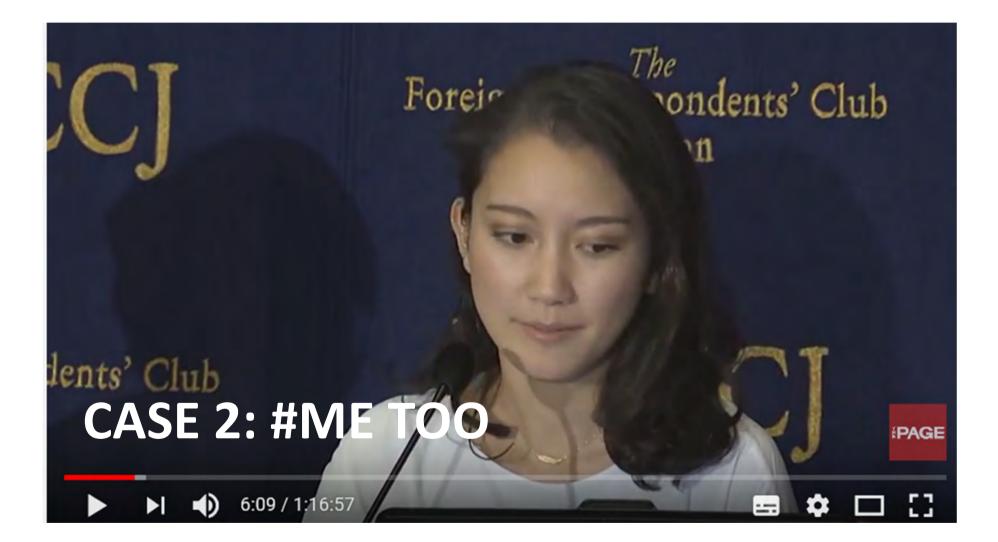
CASE 1: REPORTS FROM FUKUSHIMA



Journalists' ethics?

- How to deal with stories on radiation risks that has no standard scientific guildelines.
- Journalists cannot bracket their values and commitments that guide their personal lives and beliefs in reporting on Fukushima
- Framing stories as conflicts between "calm scientists/authorities vs. hysteric mothers" is a too easy way in describing the situation.

→reporting on Fukushima requires more than value-free, truth-telling, objective model of journalism.



 In 2017, Journalist Shiori Ito came forward to the public and accused a prominent journalist Noriyuki Yamaguchi of rape.

 Yamaguchi, a US correspondent for the Tokyo Broadcasting System and a biographer of Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, denied the charge.

#MeToo news reports in Japan (2017.5.1~2019.6.17)

| Country (Period) | Keyword | Newspaper | Number of articles |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Japan | 伊藤詩織 (Shiori Ito) | Yomiuri | 2 |
| | | Sankei | 2 |
| | | Nikkei | 2 |
| | | Asahi | 45 |
| | | Mainichi | 26 |
| | | (total) | 77 |

#MeToo in South Korea



- Triggering moment TV Interview News
- Prosecutor Suh, Ji-hyun
 - 8 years ago (groped by a senior colleague)
 - Problematizing Sexual harassment and
 - Improper treatments in the organization
 - To be public with media to say all the victims

"You were not wrong" "You did nothing wrong"



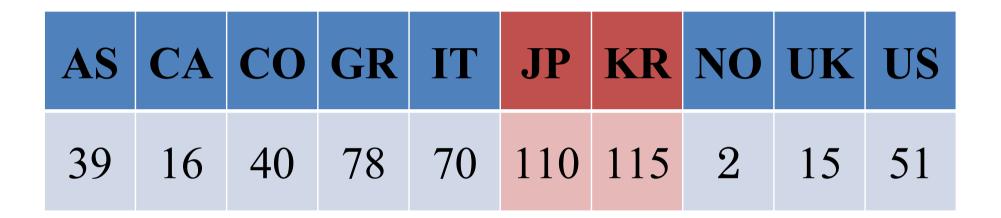
Sexual harassment and sexual assault including silencing victims is occurring everywhere in power relation structured in gendered way

2018.1.29, Newsroom, JTBC

Comparison of #MeToo news reports between Japanese and Korean media

| Country (Period) | Keyword | Newspaper | Number of articles |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| South Korea (2018.1.1~2019.6.1 7) | 서지현 ^I (Seo Ji-Hyun) | Chosun Ilbo | 115 |
| | | Joongand Ilbo | 271 |
| | | Dong-A Ilbo | 119 |
| | | Hankyoreh | 229 |
| | | Kyunghyang Shinmun | 296 |
| | | (total) | 1030 |
| Japan (2017.5.1~2019.6.1 7) | 伊藤詩織 (Shiori Ito) | Yomiuri | 2 |
| | | Sankei | 2 |
| | | Nikkei | 2 |
| | | Asahi | 45 |
| | | Mainichi | 26 |
| | | (total) | 77 |

Global Gender Gap Index 2018



- Whose reality is the traditional media producing?
- Is mass media really an autonomic, autopoetic system?
- Why are there such a wide gap in reports between South Korea and Japan?

Problems of Luhmann's "description"

Blanket description of "system"

- Drastic changes taking place in the media landscape
- Luhmann theory fails to capture uninstitutionalized emerging phenomena.
- It endorses past/present modern systems that are firmly established.
- It indirectly stands for the autonomous, rational, male- and European-centric human image.

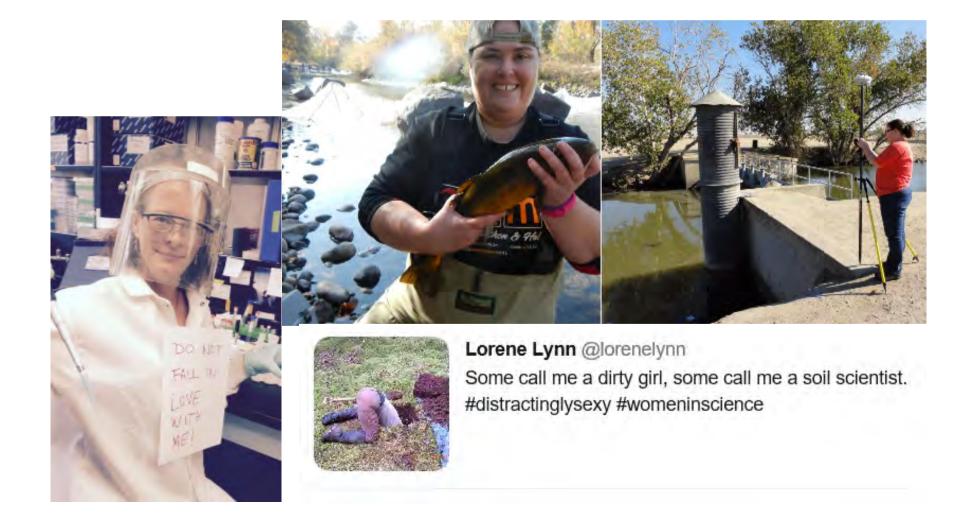
- Code <information/not information> does not explain any of the most important problems and acute phenomena in the present digital media culture
- <information/not information> is decided outside the media system.
- The concept "structural coupling" is too vague to start any meaningful analyses.

Recent code examples

 authentic/not authentic instead of information/not information (-> Fake news)

 creative/ not creative instead of professional/not professional (internet memes of #MeToo, #DistractedlySexy) Tim Hunt, "Three things happen when they (women) are in the lab. You fall in love with them, they fall in love with you, and when you criticise them, they cry."

-> He resigned from the honorary post at UCL and damaged its reputation.



INFORMATION DISORDER

FALSE

HARMFUL

Mis-Information

False Connection Misleading Content

Dis-Information

False Context Imposter Content Manipulated Content Fabricated Content

Mai-Information

Leaks Harassment Hate speech

2017 Wardle, Derakhshan, p5

