

## Abstract

The Corona pandemic challenged media professionals to navigate large amounts of complex information and to portray it in a way that was comprehensible to the audience. An important contribution was made by data journalists, whose work was in greater demand and who were more closely involved than before in the daily reporting of editorial offices. These current changes in data journalism

are systematically analyzed in this study. Specifically, it examines, whether these changes in the work of data journalists will persist in the long term.

In addition, this study sheds light on how data literacy is developing across journalism and how the perceptions of data journalism has changed among media managers and audiences. The used methodology of qualitative interviews includes eight data journalists from Germany and one from Austria, who work for private media, public broadcasters and data agencies. The results show that most of the data journalists interviewed have experienced changes in their workload, content focus and perception of their work. In addition, they expect that in the future all central topic complexes (e.g., the supply of raw materials or climate change) will be covered by data journalism. However, the results also show differences between the experiences and evaluations of the interviewed data journalists. These can be understood (among other things) through different types of employment relationships and employers. Finally, the limitations of the study and directions for further research are discussed.