

## Abstract

German local journalism is in any case a little studied phenomenon. With the Covid-19 pandemic, the question of not only the importance of the local newspaper market but also the location of actors in space received further impetus. This paper links these two issues and examines what spatial effects the restrictions imposed to contain the Covid-19 pandemic had on German local news coverage. In doing so, it adopts a spatial sociological perspective to trace both the importance of place and the construction of space. In a triangulation of qualitative guided interviews with local journalists and a qualitative content analysis of newspaper articles, a case study of the Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung (MAZ) during the so-called "lockdown" in April 2020 will be drawn. The effects of the spatial restrictions due to distance bans and contact restrictions, local journalism is countering them with a variety of temporary spatial replacement options.

This paper finds no evidence of a permanent restructuring of local spaces through journalistic coverage during the Covid- 19 pandemic.