

Abstract

The empirical investigation of journalists' self-perception of their role is an important area of journalism research. Several studies postulate a reciprocal relationship between the self-expectations of journalists and the external perceptions and expectations they assume on the part of readers.

On the basis of nine qualitative interviews, this study examines the extent to which the journalistic self-perception of journalists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland has changed in times of the pandemic.

Due to different COVID-19 policies in each case country, it is assumed that the perception of, and thus the expectations of journalists have changed accordingly or at least become more acute. This is attributed, among other things, to the protest movements and the increasing violence against journalists since the beginning of the pandemic, which have expressed dissatisfaction with the government and/or journalism.

Even if no significant differences to previous research on journalistic role self-perception can be identified, it is still assumed that possible changes or intensifications cannot be ruled out and that further research on the topic is needed in the future.