Violence in Latvian news reports: Affective reporting and reactions

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Methodology

News reports

Written articles and comments

Visual representations

- Māra

Quantitative and qualitative content analysis of the most commented articles about violence

- Kristians

Qualitative content analysis of images that accompany articles about violence

Affect – theory and practice

Emotions

(Callard, Populias, 2010)

- Distinct categorizations of experience related to a self

- Individual experiences

Affect

(Von Scheve, 2018)

- Relations practiced between individuals

- Embodied

- Non-conscious

- Pre-linguistic

- Precognitive

Research guidelines, questions (for the written text)

- What types of articles provoke most written reactions and most intensive virtual discussions in the comments section?

- Which issues concern people the most; what motivates people to express themselves on the 'electronic wall'; what makes the reader want to be heard?

- Which articles trigger the stepping out of indifference and what gives the impulse to make the effort of writing a comment at all?

- Or in other words: What AFFECTS people? What topics seem to intensify the interaction between the media message and the perceiving reader?

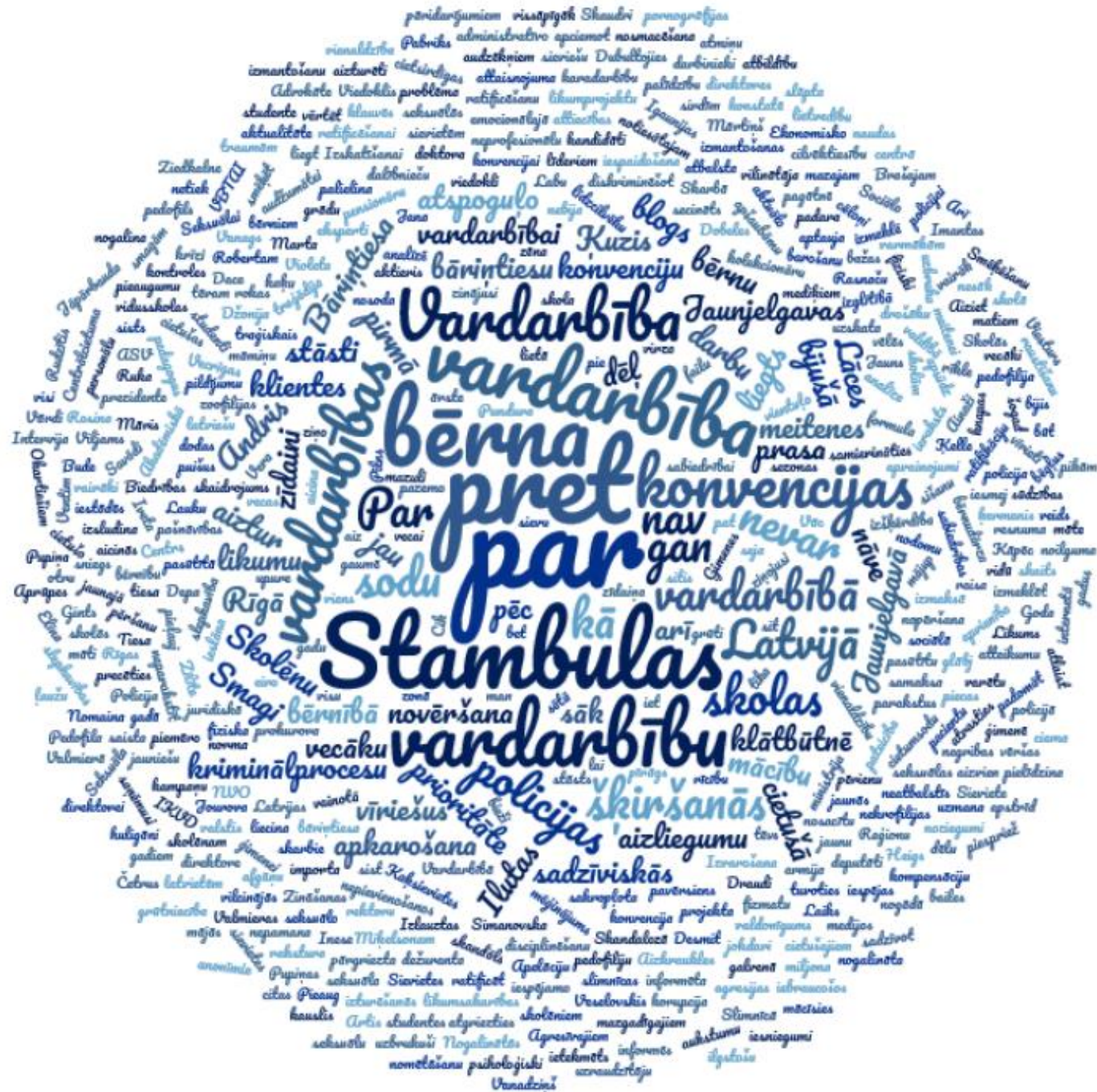| DELFI	
Number of comments	**Articles**
Above 300 (max. number 553)	12
Above 200	20
Above 100	33
50 - 99	79
30 - 49	70

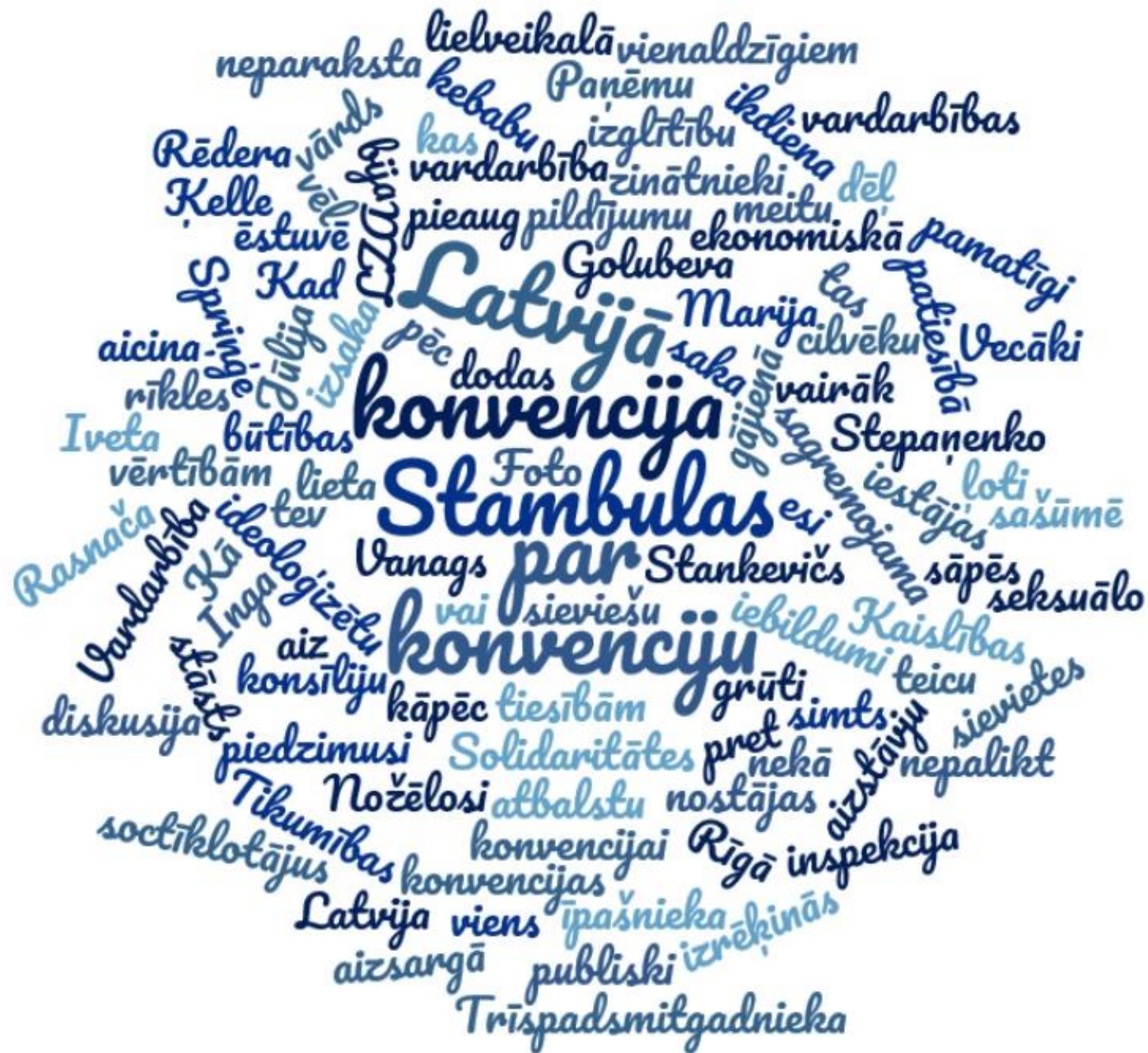**Above 200**

Examples:

- Whole school staff is changed after cruel mistreatment of students. (Nomaina visu skolas personālu pēc cietsirdīgas izturēšanās pret audzēkņiem) → institutional problems, children.

- The prohibition to smoke near children is there to make parents think more responsibly; it will be difficult to control it. (Ar aizliegumu smēķēt bērna klātbūtnē 'klauvēs pie vecāku sirdīm'; kontroles iespējas knapas.) → norm, bringing up children.

Comments / Articles Topics	30-49 / 70	50-99 / 79	100-199 / 33	200-299 /20	300+ / 12
Family RELATIONSHIPS	17	17	5	2	0
Bringing up children	14	11	2	3	3
Children	20	29	3	2	1
Sexuality	8	10	8	2	1
Total:	59	67	18	9	5
NORMS	16	26	9	3	-
Responsibility	1	5	2	1	1
Stereotypes	-	4	3	-	-
Searching for a solution	5	2	-	1	-
Istanbul convention	2	8	3	8	5
Total:	24	45	17	13	6
SOCIETY	19 (women)	5	9	3	5
Cultural issues	3	2	2	1	1
Institutional problems	7	7	2	2	-
Individuals	13	18	10	7	5
Total:	42	32	23	13	11

Comments / Articles Journalistic tools	30-49 / 70	50-99 / 79	100-199 / 33	200-299 /20	300+ / 12
Emphasizing two sides	2	4	1	4	2
Play of words	-	2	1	-	1
Statistics	7	3	-	2	-
Progression	1	5	1	-	-
Total:	10	14	3	6	3

AGENDA

(Research in progress)

1. INITIAL INTEREST AND EXAMPLES

2. PICTURES IN NUMBERS

3. 3 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

4. FURTHER DIRECTIONS

Reporting of criminal facts

Reporting violence experience stories

Aim

- Identify and deconstruct affective imagery, text and the possible connection

Entry question

- Are some images more affective than others? What makes them so?

Notable characteristics of affect

- Inter-subjective (Herrmann, 2015:171);
- Pre-subjective (Abel, 2007:6);
- Pre-linguistic (Dzenovska, 2012:113).

Media analysis in numbers

7

3764

7

news portals

files
(articles or commentaries)

researchers

Images in numbers

199 objects

802 people

67 tools of violence

Tool of violence 67 (74)

- Belt 24
- Fist/hand 18
- Knife 14
- Gun 6
- Cigarette 5
- Baton 2
- Rope 2
- Other 3

1 General trends

Images of top 5 commented articles

Child molester sentenced to 15 years in prison pleads to shorten his prison term

Domestic violence ends tragically: Man beats his wife to death
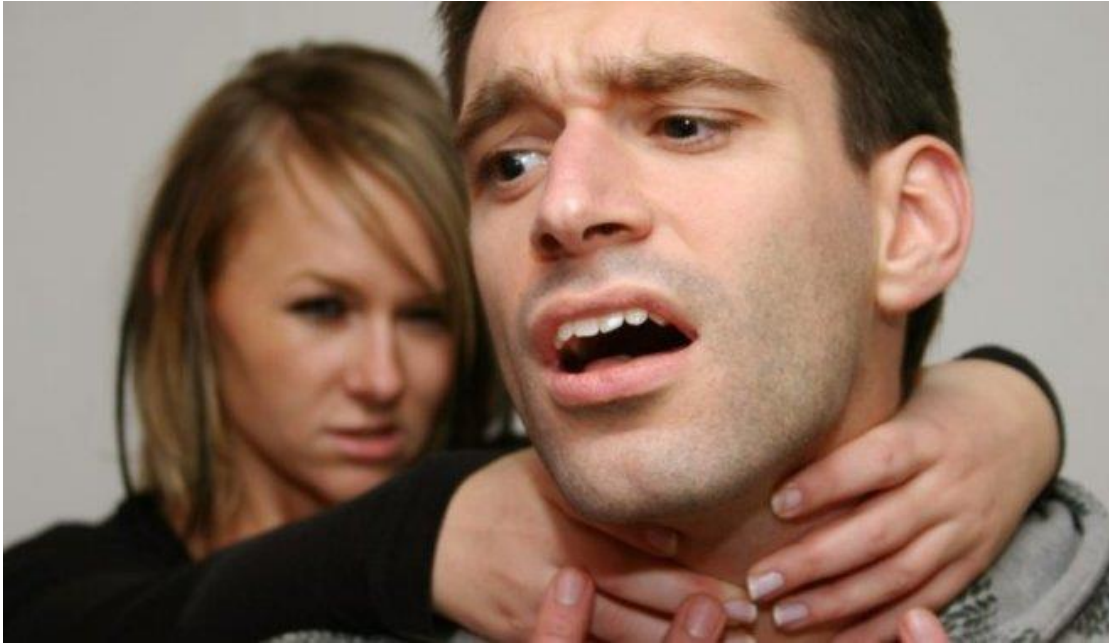
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Topics - images

3 Images - affect

Preliminary findings

- Experience stories – experience images
- Partial vision (not being able to see the cause of unease)
- Partial knowledge of past and future events

Possible directions

- Link between article types, topics and image characteristics
- +Link between image characteristics and article popularity
- ++Link between image elements and Internet agressiveness index for comments section

SUMMARY

(Research in progress)

1. **INITIAL INTEREST AND EXAMPLES**

2. **PICTURES IN NUMBERS**

3. **3 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

4. **FURTHER DIRECTIONS**

References:

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Thank you!

We would be glad to answer any questions