The Fifth International Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED V) in Porto, Portugal, 11-13 June 2015

ABSTRACTS

Plenary session
Udo Fries (University of Zurich):

From Shanghai to London and back: 1850 - 1900

On 3 August 1850 an English-language weekly, the *North China Herald*, first appeared in Shanghai, and it survived for the next 100 years. Right from its beginnings it was a quality paper written for English-speaking businessmen in Shanghai, the Far East and beyond.

In the first part of my presentation I want to take a look at the first 50 years of this publication and I want to show what was special about this paper and how it managed to attract a growing readership. My focus will be on the relationship between editors, contributors, and readers, on the material published, and on the gradual introduction of structural markers, like datelines and headlines.

In the second part I will look at the ways news travelled from China to Britain and the other way round, how European news were presented to the readers in Shanghai in a period of the rapid development of the speed of travel, the invention of the telegraph, and the rise of news-agencies. All these developments influenced the shape of the news reports in the *North China Herald*, and transformed it eventually into a modern international newspaper.

Roberta Facchinetti (University of Verona)
Europe in the eyes of the early *New York Times*

Recent studies have challenged the traditional pillars of 'impartiality' and 'objectivity' widely given for granted as intrinsic of news reporting, and have moved towards considerations on 'perspective' and 'subjectivity', often rooted in the socio-geographical backgrounds against which the news discourse is produced. Moreover, scholars have also started to investigate how far technological developments have impinged on 'the new face' of news-writing; thus, they have abandoned the notion of the news report as the exclusively linguistic output of the news-making process and have focused on co-textual aspects as well, particularly the interrelations between image and verbiage.

Starting from the above considerations, the aim of the present paper is to carry out a study on the *The New York Times*, focussing on how far it dealt with Europe in its first 20 years of publication. Specifically, all the issues of *The New York Times* published between 1851 and 1871 will be screened for the keyword 'euro', including, for example, 'Europe', 'European', and 'Eur'. The main focus will be on news reports, but features and commentaries will be discussed as well. For each piece, all items will be taken into consideration, including headlines, sub-headlines, and body text.

The analysis of these data will highlight the angle taken by *The New York Times* in its news reports, features and commentaries related to Europe, bearing in mind also the interrelation between (sub-)headline and text, which adds to the factual and evaluative information of the news reports and also, in certain cases, helps framing and articulating ideological messages.

Isabel Ermida (University of Minho)
Edgar Allan Poe and newspaper hoaxes: Sensationalism in the mid-nineteenth century Press

An early form of satire in the American Press, news hoaxes were both a way to ridicule people and events of the day and a strategy to increase newspaper sales by circulating sensational stories. No matter how farfetched or outrageous the invented accounts were, many readers actually believed them, and the newspapers often failed to admit their falsity, letting them go unretracted. One author of such fake news reports was Edgar Allan Poe, who in June 1835 published a short story entitled "Hans Phaall – A Tale" in the *Southern Literary Messenger*. Intended as a hoax, it described a voyage to the Moon in a hot-air balloon, but its comical and flippant tone made it less successful than another Moon hoax soon to follow: that of Richard A. Locke, a Cambridge-educated reporter who upstaged (and plagiarized) Poe two months later by writing six articles for the New York *Sun* entitled *Great Astronomical Discoveries Lately Made By Sir John Herschel*. Poe's plans to continue his own hoax in further installments thus fell flat, but his contribution to spoof news reporting did not end there. In 1844 he wrote, also for *The Sun*, the much more successful "Balloon Hoax", which was enthusiastically received – and believed.

This paper aims at analyzing these early manifestations of sensationalism in the Press – which was later (at the dawn of the twentieth century) to be dubbed "yellow journalism" – in terms of their linguistic, structural, discursive and ideological construction. How does humour work in these fake news accounts? What lexical, stylistic and compositional features do they boast? How do they reveal the satirical purpose that drives them? And, crucially, what do they show of American society in the middle of the nineteenth century?

Nicholas Brownlees (University of Florence)
"Translated out of the Dutch coppies verbatim": Translation Strategies in Seventeenth-Century English Print News

From the second half of the sixteenth century English print news played an ever-increasing role in forming the English reader's knowledge and understanding of people, places, events and cultures. With domestic news the information was generally supplied by native English speakers, whilst with foreign news the information was not just based on the speech or written texts of English speakers living or travelling abroad, but also on the translation of manuscript or print news that had originally been written, for example, in French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Italian or Latin. Translation had a fundamental role in the dissemination and shaping of foreign news among the English reading public. It was through translation that much of what was happening abroad was brought to the English reader's attention.

However, despite the importance of translation in news dissemination in England and Europe at that time, up until recently little research has been carried out into translation strategies of news texts. In my paper I shall examine this topic in relation to metatextual comment that English translators themselves provide regarding their manner of translation. Through this analysis, I shall set out some of the parameters that appear to have influenced translators in their choice of translation strategy and journalistic style.

Sara Barker (School of History, University of Leeds)
True Histories? Reading and re-reading the French Wars of Religion through news pamphlets and histories

The idea that news is the "first rough draft of history", often attributed to Alan Barth, has come to be something of a cultural commonplace. In reality, the distinction between event reporting and the development of historical narratives is formed by various concerns, not least of which are the demands of format and reader expectation. It is difficult to know at the time of reporting an event, particularly an ongoing situation such as a war or conflict, which individual happenings will come to be of particular significance, or have lasting effects, and which will turn out to have limited repercussions. Thus reading news accounts can give a very different impression of a historical episode than reading a subsequent history, even a history produced at a relatively small remove from the events in question. This becomes even more complicated when issues of translations are included in the mix, where concerns about domestication, reader interest, political alliances and censorship can all affect the presentation of the factual narrative which lies at the heart of news.

This paper will use the reporting of the events of the French Wars of Religion as a case study to investigate how event narratives might shift over time and also between nations. It will start with an overview of how the French Wars of Religion were reported in France, before examining how the same events, and sometimes the same pamphlets, were covered in England. It will consider the events being reported, the details included and those involved in the writing and transmitting of such reports. Finally, it will compare these with those established by later historical works in both French and English, in order to chart changing priorities and interests.

Birte Bös (University of Duisburg-Essen)
Strategies and effects of self- and other-presentations of 18th-century newsmakers

This study takes a critical discourse perspective at the self-presentation of 18th-century newsmakers and their (de-)construction of contemporary competitors, political opponents and other adversaries. Drawing on Reisigl/Wodak (2001), this paper investigates the use of discursive strategies of image construction employed by newsmakers in their editorial comments. It looks at person references and deals with the traits and qualities assigned to the parties involved, all of which typically contribute to a positive self-presentation and a negative other-presentation.

Furthermore, a case study of the adversarial separation of Edward Topham and John Bell, the makers of the highly successful newspaper *The World and Fashionable Advertiser*, will reveal the complexities of interdiscursive and intertextual practices in negotiating positions and responsibilities. Bell released his own newspaper, *The Oracle*, only a fortnight after *The World* had been withdrawn from him by Topham in May 1789 (cf. Morison 1930, 1932). Their struggle was made public in various comments, which influenced the formation of public opinion and had probably well-calculated marketing effects.

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Martin Conboy (University of Sheffield)
Writing Social Class: Radical Departures

'Audience design' as Allan Bell (1991) has termed it, is a fundamental part of the construction of commercially viable readerships for newspapers; matching content to an identifiable demographic. However, most early newspapers assumed a relatively homogenous bourgeois readership and it was only in the early nineteenth century that radical publishers and writers began to actively seek out readerships that could be addressed in terms of non-bourgeois political concerns and to experiment with style, rhetoric and appeal which did much to create a distinctive sense of class identification for working people. Smith (1984) has argued that the newspapers of this era did much to validate the voice and experience of the emergent working classes in print. Beyond the commercially oriented designing of an audience attractive to advertisers, shaping the reality of working class readers through news reporting became one of the major political contributions to the formation of a self-aware working class through the highpoint of the radical press in England (Thompson, 1967). By the time of the mid-century such discourses had become incorporated into more commercialized models of working class appeal in the Sunday press. This paper will explore the variety of rhetorical appeal to the working classes in a selection *Cobbett's Political Register* (1816-1819) at the high point of its radicalism before the imposition of the punitive 'Six Acts' and the Chartist Reynolds' paper *Reynolds's Weekly News* in its early editions from 1850 when perhaps its hybrid combination of radical rhetoric and commercial appeal was at its most complex. This comparison will illuminate how different stylings of the news refracted the changed circumstances of newspapers appealing to the working classes in mid-century England. This is arguably a critical moment in the discursive shaping of a working class readership that still marks popular media to this day.

Marianna Hintikka (University of Turku) and Minna Nevala (University of Helsinki)
Fallen women and public bodies in late 19th-century English newspapers

In the 19th century the popular press was directed towards the heterogenic working class, and therefore the information contents were often mixed with entertaining characteristics (Conboy 2010). Newspapers feasted on such topics as the corruption of the upper classes, but even more so that of the social margins.
There is a rich terminology in Late Modern English that relates to prostitution, a vast share of which requires specific cultural knowledge to be transparent. In this paper, we will, firstly, chart the lexico-semantic field of prostitution and focus on the conceptual relations between terms for prostitutes and metaphorically related concepts in certain, relevant fields of social discourse in England during the late 19th century (for more on conceptual metaphor in discourse, see Cameron & Deignan 2006 and Rakova 2003). One of our aims is to look at a set of terms used for prostitutes and determine how and to what extent these culturally mediated

vehicles map conceptual parallelisms within the larger social tapestry, or network, of value relations, and whether these conceptual relations display a discernible regularity.

Secondly, our aim is to study the terms from a socio-pragmatic perspective by looking at how the social status and character of these "fallen women" are expressed in public writings of the time. Moreover, we will focus on how the terms invented are strategically used to oppose the crime of prostitution and keep the wrong-doers as a group of their own outside respectable society.

We will look at the terminology relating to prostitutes in English newspapers published between 1850 and 1900 (*19th Century British Library Newspapers Database*). The study is a continuation to our previous research on the semantic and pragmatic variation and change in the terms used of common prostitutes in Early and Late Modern English pamphlets (Nevala & Hintikka 2009).

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Francisco Baena, Carmen Espejo and Carlota Fernández Travieso (Research Group IBEMNEWS ¬ University of Seville, University Pompeu-Fabra, University of Coruña)
Emerging journalistic discourse in Spain: a proposal for xml-tei encoding of Early Modern gazettes

This paper presents preliminary results obtained by the Research Group on Early Modern Iberian News (IBEMNEWS). This group studies the emergence of journalistic discourse in Spain and Portugal, more precisely, the evolution from occasional news pamphlets to serial and periodic news books. For this purpose, the study analyzes printed news sheets published on the peninsula in the late sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth century. The present study is based on a corpus of news sheets which had been catalogued to date as independent sheets - that is, news pamphlets - published by several printers working in the same city (Seville) and around the same time (the second and third decade of the seventeenth century). The resulting transcript of the corpus was transcribed with an encoding scheme using XML-TEI language, developed by the group IBEMNEWS which we claim to be a valid scheme for analyzing the gazettes of the Modern Age. As a result, the analysis has revealed common features in the design of the cover and regularities in the writing. This leads us to state that, despite their never having been acknowledged to be related, these sheets are part of series of (quasi) periodical news books which pioneered the Iberian news market of the Modern period, while offering the public a new format based on visual continuity, regularity in the structure of the text and standardization in the reporting of news.

Ester Amaral de Paula Minga (New University of Lisbon)
The historical evolution of journalistic ethics and the moral challenges to the profession nowadays

This paper focuses on the historical trajectory of journalistic ethics, with special emphasis on its relationship with the emergence of the bourgeois public sphere, as described by Jürgen Habermas (1984), and the consolidation of journalism as an autonomous discursive field in the second half of the nineteenth century. This resulted from the economic disputes seen there, which allowed the emergence of ethical-discursive values, such as the objective news style. By means of this historical analysis, the paper will demonstrate the challenges imposed today on journalism, with the popularization of the internet and news content produced by non-journalists, and will indicate the need to re-discuss a new ethical model for journalism (Ward, 2008), that is more global. I shall propose paths to be followed in the reconstruction of this ethical model.

Maija Stenvall (University of Helsinki)
Unnamed sources as rhetorical constructs in news agency reports – a diachronic view

In today's news agency reporting, "precise sourcing" (cf. Reuters handbook) is one of the values that can be directly linked to the ideals of objectivity and factuality. Paradoxically, this aim has led to an abundant use of *anonymous* sources. At the same time, both AP (the Associated Press) and Reuters, in their guidelines to journalists, clearly stress the 'weakness' of unnamed speakers, and, in June 2005, AP even sent a special reminder to its journalists, urging them to tell their readers the *reason* for anonymity, whenever possible (Silverman & Carroll 2005; see also Stenvall 2008).

The present paper looks into the past of sourcing routines of these two news agencies. My data are collected from *AP* and *Reuters* news reports in the ProQuest database of historical newspapers between 1850 and 1995: *the New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, and *the Manchester Guardian.* Even my limited data give evidence of the fact that the use of unnamed sources is a long-standing routine, involving special strategies. An unnamed speaker is presented as credible and newsworthy, the fact that the anonymity is the speaker's own choice is stressed, the reason for anonymity given. In 1892 (*MG,* May 24), a Reuters journalist wrote: "A respectable man, whose name is known but is not made public, has made a statement…". It is obvious that the journalist feels that he has to "claim standing" (cf. Bell 1991: 193) for this anonymous person. However, requirements for today's 'objective' style are not fulfilled. In contrast, AP's explanation (*WP* April 12, 1906) is totally in line with the present day guidelines: "This refugee would not give his name, as he feared persecution at the hands of the police."

All these strategies open up a wealth of rhetorical possibilities, and thus can undermine the alleged factuality/objectivity of news agency discourse.

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Elsa Simões and Sandra Tuna (Fernando Pessoa University)

A study in multimodality: captions, text and images in the Portuguese popular newspaper *António Maria* and in the British magazine *Punch*

One of the most famous and long-living Portuguese 'popular' newspapers of the 19th century was 'O António Maria', which was founded, written and illustrated by Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro, an extraordinarily multifaceted Portuguese artist.

The 'António Maria' had two series (1879-1885 and 1891-1898), which account for a total of fifteen years of intense journalistic activity, where its mentor undertakes a systematic, shrewd, incisive and often aggressive analysis of the different sectors of the Portuguese society. It strove to maintain its independence from the political powers, debating ideas and expressing opinions in a most original form, where text, illustration and cartoon established complex dialogic relationships, simultaneously conveying the factuality required of news items and stimulating laughter that provided a comment on what was being reported.

This play on multimodality – neither image nor text can function in isolation, and full meaning stems from their combined effects – is also a characteristic of a possible British counterpart of this Portuguese popular newspaper: in fact, in 'The Punch, or the London Charivari', we can find a very similar use of cartoons with satirical aims.

It is the purpose of this paper to undertake a linguistic analysis of the interweaving of voices pertaining to different modes in the above publications and the increased possibilities for satire and parody on the political situation both in Portugal and England provided by their masterly use of text and image in such close juxtaposition. It is clearly a situation where the message, i.e. the corrosive political comment, cannot be dissociated from the medium (the satirical cartoon and, ultimately, the very specific kind of newspaper where they are published). Their criticism could be conveyed otherwise, but it would not be as meaningful and striking as it always was in these two newspapers. Perhaps even more importantly, if their messages were only conveyed in words, it would be more difficult for these popular publications to remain unscathed or downright banned by the political parties in government for such long periods, as was the case.

Elsa Simões (Fernando Pessoa University)

Journalism in the works of P.G. Wodehouse and Dorothy L. Sayers: newspaper-men, sleuths and con-artists

> The editor believes the thing to be just a history of fact; neither is there any appearance of fiction in it.
>
> Robinson Crusoe (preface)

Ever since Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, the authors of literary works aiming at increased credibility and disguising the true nature of their work often masqueraded as 'editors' of

truthful stories or even as 'journalists', a sleight of hand which is based on the 'fact' vs 'fiction' (or 'journalism' vs 'literature') duality: the factual nature of 'real stories' would, in those cases, represent a safeguard against accusations of frivolity, fancifulness or downright lying to the readers, all of them features commonly to be found in 'mere novels'.

Moving beyond this strict and judgemental divide, mixed forms of literature that entwined fact and fiction, (i.e. literary and journalistic methods) were being experimented with and eventually became widespread (Underwood 2008). Both journalism and literature are *exercises in writing* and they share a number of characteristics, which means that the thin frontiers between fact and fiction were often crossed. The concepts of 'journalism' and 'novel' were also shifting at Defoe's time. The designation of 'journalist-writer' could, in fact, apply to many literary figures of that time, since the simultaneous production of literary works and writing of news for a number of periodicals and newssheets on a variegated number of themes was common practice. 'Novels' were still to be defined as a separate genre, and at Defoe's time many of them presented realistic worldviews and fact-based stories which guaranteed the desired credibility to literary works, although they retained 'artistic' value due to the literary artifices and devices used to organise the narrative and develop the plot.

This symbiotic (and fruitful) relationship between journalism and literature is also visible at a more superficial level in works that present themselves as pure literary works. It is the purpose of this paper to look into three different forms of relationship between these two areas in three novels published in the early decades of the 20th century: P.G. Wodehouse's *Psmith, Journalist* (1915) and *Money for Nothing* (1928), and Dorothy L. Sayers' *Have His Carcase* (1932). In all these works, references to journalism and the inclusion of newspaper people in the plot are important catalysts for action. By using these three novels as the corpus for this work, three possibilities of intersection will be explored: (1) journalism as the theme of the literary work itself; (2) journalism and its sensationalist practices as plot enhancers and character-defining features; (3) exploration of journalistic paralinguistic features (in this case, letters to the editor) as an added source of humour.

Elisabetta Cecconi (University of Florence)

Shaping reality in English Civil War adversarial news discourse: a corpus-based lexical study of Royalist and Parliamentarian newsbooks and broadsides

In my paper I shall analyse 17th century Civil War propaganda discourse in two news genres which were very popular at the time: Civil War newsbooks and Civil War broadside ballads. As representatives of the former genre I shall examine the Royalist newsbook *Mercurius Aulicus* and the Parliamentarian *Mercurius Britanicus,* whereas a selection of news broadsides from *The Cavalier and Puritan: Ballads and Broadsides illustrating the period of the Great Rebellion (1640-1660)* will constitute evidence for the latter category. Each of the two news genres will be further subdivided into Royalist vs Parliamentarian news publications, in relation to their religious and political orientation. The four resulting subcorpora will be investigated in terms of frequent words and lexico-syntactic patterns by applying tools of corpus linguistics methodology. The different way in which the Royalist and the Parliamentarian press shape reality in discourse will cast light on the degree of lexical interrelatedness existing between news genres which share the same ideological stance.

A comparison of the frequency lists elaborated for each subcorpus singles out three major lexico-semantic fields which will be the object of a quantitative and qualitative analysis: religion, rebellion and loyalty. The three concepts are differently distributed and used in the Royalist as opposed to the Parliamentarian news publications. By means of illustration,

religious words referring to the Church as institution are more frequently employed in the godly propaganda discourse, both in the form of newsbook and broadside. *Mercurius Aulicus* and the Royalist ballads, on the other hand, tend to skip over controversial religious words (e.g. "Reformation", "Salvation", "Popery", "Bishops", "Prelates") and insist on the more secular concept of loyalty and obedience to the king. In the course of my analysis I shall seek to demonstrate how different lexical preferences in Civil War adversarial news discourse respond to the authors/editors' need to establish consensus around a vision of reality consciously construed to be interpreted as the orthodox one.

Corpora and primary sources
- *Florence Early English Newspapers (FEEN).* Compiled by Nicholas Brownlees and Francesca Benucci. Available through the *Lancaster Corpus Query Processor Web.*
- *Cavalier and Puritan: ballads and broadsides illustrating the period of the Great Rebellion, 1640-1660*; ed. with an introduction of Hyder E. Rollins. New York; New York U.P., 1923.

Sarah Ward (St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford)

"Both the printed, and my private intelligence": Newsgathering, allegiance and political action in North-East Wales on the eve of the English Civil War, c.1640-1642

The absence of a printing press and the distance from London has led many historians to conclude that Wales lacked a significant print culture and interest in the news, especially in the early-mid seventeenth century. This paper seeks to argue that this is far from the truth, and that in fact the North-East Welsh gentry were obsessively interested in the freshest political and religious news – both national and international. Evidence in existing correspondence collections makes it clear that, as well as gathering news to demonstrate status and connections, these gentlemen used it to determine their actions and responses to the events they read about. They purchased handwritten 'pure newsletters' and were sent newsbooks, but mostly relied on correspondents who were connected to them via kinship networks. Gentlemen such as Sir Thomas Salusbury of Llewenni received up to four letters a day at some points, including minutely detailed accounts of those events his correspondents believed him to be interested in. By using these mechanisms North-East Welsh gentlemen could determine the focus of the news they were sent. Reactions to this news material was varied. They took notes, wrote petitions and pamphlets, chose sides, raised money and regiments in the light of the information that was sent to them from London. Although their allegiance in the Civil War was most probably determined by their long-term political and social ideals the nature of their response to the crisis was influenced by the news. They critiqued the news and assembled a range of material to check veracity and compare accounts. By doing this they create a news discourse that conformed to their ideals and interests, a regional discourse that would help to shape both the social and political circumstances of North-East Wales for the next twenty years.

Jorge Pedro Sousa (Fernando Pessoa University) and Helena Lima (University of Porto)

***O Espelho*: Illustrated press as means of British propaganda for Portugal and Brazil**

One hundred years have passed since the deflagration of the Great War. The conflict was the peak of the rivalries between the major European powers but the battle field would be extended to other areas of the globe. Such was the American case, thanks to the propaganda machine assembled by President Wilson. Lasswell (1927) argued that propaganda in the Great War was a tool to change beliefs, attitudes and actions, and gave the term "magic bullets" to propagandistic messages. The press, in turn, rightly labeled as "paper bullets", has become a centerpiece in the symbolic struggle for the formation of opinion pro and against the war. Particularly, the illustrated press took a central role in this effort. Three illustrated magazines were published in France and England, written in Portuguese and aiming at the public opinion from Portugal and Brazil: *Portugal na Guerra* (printed in France); *O Espelho* (printed in England, was published under the British Office's control); *A Guerra Ilustrada* (translation of the British magazine *La Guerre Illustrée*).

This research aims to analyze how *O Espelho*, written in Portuguese and widespread in Portugal and Brazil, presented the First World War to readers. We seek to identify such discourse, and the meaningfulness for its readers, considering what is known of the historical context of the war period, but also through the magazine's discourse itself, both textual and iconographic. The images in *O Espelho* were part of an inter-textual frame, that included the graphical (design) and written languages. Results show that *O Espelho* was an important piece in the British propaganda's strategy to control public opinion in Portugal and Brazil, even if this propaganda effort was limited by the lack of resources and by the poor diffusion of *O Espelho* both in Portugal and in Brazil.

Nuno Bessa Moreira (University of Porto and CITCEM)
The news discourse in the *Revista de História* (1912-1928)

Theoretical studies on news and news discourse developed greatly in recent decades in Portugal and internationally, as seen in the Portuguese case, by the pioneering effort of Tito Cardoso e Cunha, who supervised several initiatives, located in various centers research on the subject. His work provides a review of relevant literature that frames the case study of my paper.

The *Revista de História* was founded in 1912 by the *Sociedade Nacional de História*, that had been established in 1911 by Christopher Ayres Magalhães Sepúlveda, David Lopes, Leite de Vasconcelos and Fidelino de Figueiredo, who always edited the publication. The journal served as the main vehicle of information and communication of the institution that originated it. It was published in 16 volumes, sixty-four numbers and had three publishers: *Clássica Editora*, mostly edited by AM Teixeira, *Universal* and *Fluminense*.

The *Revista de História* was organized around three sections: the articles, the facts and the notes, and bibliography. In our presentation we focus on the second section, comparing its nature and implications with the other two sections in order to assess their weight in the publication.

In this perspective, within the scientific field of history and historiography, it is interesting to understand how the events of the First Republic and the first years of military dictatorship were faced by the journal's editors and transformed into notes, or even news. We shall examine these two aspects and analyze the news discourses, their motivations, editorial objectives, the arguments, the rhetorical processes used and the results obtained, in order to discern the ideological profile of speakers.