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| **Title** | Protecting the Threatened People? Hybrid Mediation of Anti-Immigrant and Anti-EU Narratives in the Aftermath of the Cologne Incident and the Establishment of Soldiers of Odin |
| **Abstract** | The drastically increase volume of refugees arriving over the Mediterranean in 2015 roused an intense debate on immigrant reception and integration on the national and EU-level. The rapid politicization of the “refugee crisis” in public debates translates to several challenges to the capabilities for devising practicable policy-responses both on the level of individual membership countries as well as through various EU-level measures for burden sharing. In this paper, we examine the mediation of this politicization by analyzing two transnationally reported, high-profile news events. The so-called “Cologne rape incident” and the establishment of the Soldiers of Odin vigilante group in Finland both coincided with, and contributed to, the politicization of the question of asylum-seeking and forced migration outside the receiving countries in the Mediterranean. Using news frame analysis, we look into two types of transference in how these news-framed media events were narrated to various types of public transnationally. On the one hand, we analyze the extent to which critical media reporting on these two events converged between Finland, France and the UK. Moreover, we examine the produsage of journalistic content by the new and old media outlets, especially concerning their interplay in the so-called hybrid media system. This entails a two-fold analysis. Firstly, we assess how various countermedia outlets reinterpreted and reframed reports in the mainstream for their own online audiences. Secondly, we study how mainstream outlets used various scandal frames that brought salient media exposure to the radically nationalist narratives on refugees and burden-sharing that originated in countermedia.This allows a concluding discussion on how the dynamics in the hybrid media space realized as both promotion of anti-immigration sentiment and opposition to union-level burden sharing measures aimed at developing long-term solutions for forced migration. |