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Research Paper

Framing networks of violence in the press from 2019 to 2022

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ABSTRACT

Violence that spreads through the media and socio-digital networks during the COVID-19 era has been observed as a process of transition from the public to the private sphere. In this regard, the present study proposed to contrast the hypothesis related to the transition of violence. A documentary, cross-sectional, retrospective and exploratory investigation was carried out using the national circulation press which published notes on violence during the period of 2019 to 2022 and was selected through a keyword search. A neural network for learning violence was established with a focus on the neighborhood. The implications of this finding for violence prevention suggest a shared responsibility for self-care and the promotion of nonviolent relationships.

Key words: Agenda, grouping, centrality, COVID-19, networks, violence.

INTRODUCTION

The epidemiological traffic light has been the instrument from which anti-COVID-19 strategies are established, such as the confinement and distancing of people in public spaces (Molina et al., 2021). The mitigation and containment policies of the pandemic have redirected violence towards the interior of residences. Consequently, the study of violence has become a central axis of the research agenda on the problem. In this way, the theoretical and conceptual approach to the mediatization of violence has been generated from the theories of agenda setting, framing, impact, and participation.

The perspective of setting the agenda warns that the frequency of information on violence produces needs and expectations that guide the consumption of news, opinions and behaviors in the face of crises and risks (Carreón et al., 2018). As a result, violence is symbolized as a scenario of imminent risk or threat. Immediately afterwards, the digital media and networks intensify the spread of infections, diseases and deaths from COVID-19 as the pandemic continues.

The framing perspective warns that violence is a central axis in the investigative agenda (García et al., 2017). Unlike the agenda, related to propaganda, the framing is a response against propagandists. That is to say, the State promotes its policies through the official media and networks, but the opposition specifically or relativizes the propaganda in order to be able to dissolve its effect in the hearings. Therefore, violence can be on the agenda as a public security issue to be resolved, but also as evidence of ungovernability.

Both agenda and framing effects delimit the effect of intensity exerted by the media and socio-digital networks on the preferences, needs and expectations of audiences (Mejía and García, 2016). The violence scheduled as an indicator of public safety and framed as evidence of ungovernability, favors the intensification of risks associated with the pandemic. Even the intensification effect anticipates risk aversion or risk appetite scenarios.

In this scenario of aversion or propensity to risk, the media participation of the audiences is oriented from the setting of the agenda, the framing and the intensity (Sánchez et al., 2018). Digital media and social networks are transformed into Empowerment and Participation Technologies (TEP). While audiences are passive to the influence of Information and Communication Technologies in setting the agenda, framing and intensification, the effect of audience media participation is more prone to socio-digital platforms that allow search, translation, production
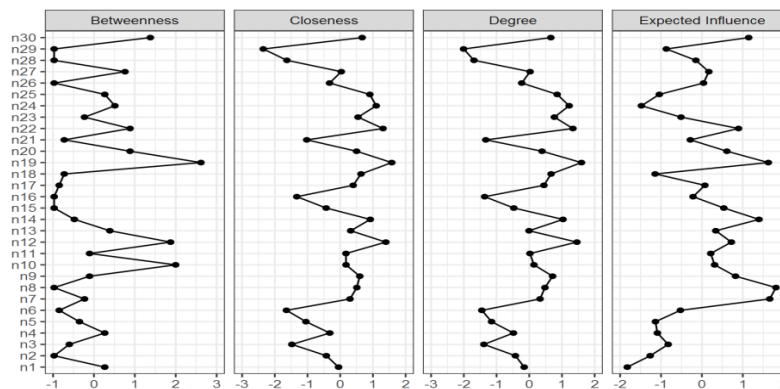
Figure 1: Grouping of press releases related to violence from 2019 to 2022.
Source: Prepared with study data.

and dissemination of information. In other words, violence is mediated in the agenda, the framing and the intensification, but it is instrumented in the media participation of the audiences.

The objective of this study was to establish the neural learning networks of observable violence in national circulation press releases from December 2019 to December 2022.

Are there significant differences between the structures of press releases reported from 2019 to 2022 with respect to the criteria of expert judges in matters of violence?

The premises that guide the study warn that the pandemic impacted family relationships through confinement and distancing policies (Coronado et al., 2022). The transfer of public violence to the intra-family sphere shows the influence of the pandemic on inter subjective relationships. Therefore, significant differences between the press releases and the criteria of the expert judges regarding public violence that moved into the family are expected.

METHODS

A documentary, cross-sectional, exploratory and retrospective study was carried out with a selection of press releases related to public violence transferred to the family environment. The sample was selected considering the period from December 2019 to December 2022, as well as the national circulation and the search for keywords with Booleans: "violence" and "COVID-19" (see Table 1).

The systematic review inventory was used, which includes the registry of the main and peripheral analysis category (Martínez et al., 2019). Based on the theory of social representation, the prevalence of the central category ("intra-family violence") over the peripheral category ("public violence") was considered as a maximum value. On the contrary, the higher frequency of the peripheral category over the central one was assumed as a minimum value.

The judges were contacted through their institutional mail. They were informed about the objective and those responsible for the project (García et al., 2016). The confidentiality and anonymity of the qualifications to the frequency relations between the central and peripheral categories are guaranteed in writing. The homogenization of concepts was carried out through a prior focus group. Based on the Delphi technique, the judges assigned maximum and minimum scores to the central categories in relation to frequencies with the peripheral categories. In the first phase, preliminary qualifications were assigned. In the second phase, the averages were compared with the initial qualifications. In the third phase, the initial qualification is reconsidered or reiterated.

Records and scores were captured in Excel and processed in JASP 16.0. The coefficients of centrality, grouping and structuring were estimated in order to be able to test the hypothesis regarding the significant differences between the records and the qualifications (Carreón et al., 2014). Values close to unity were considered as evidence for the rejection of the hypothesis.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the values that explain the degree of centrality of the nodes. Note 19 is more closely related to the other notes. In other words, note 19 shows the differences between the press coverage and the criteria of the evaluating judges based on the social representation of the violence disseminated from 2019 to 2022. Thus, note
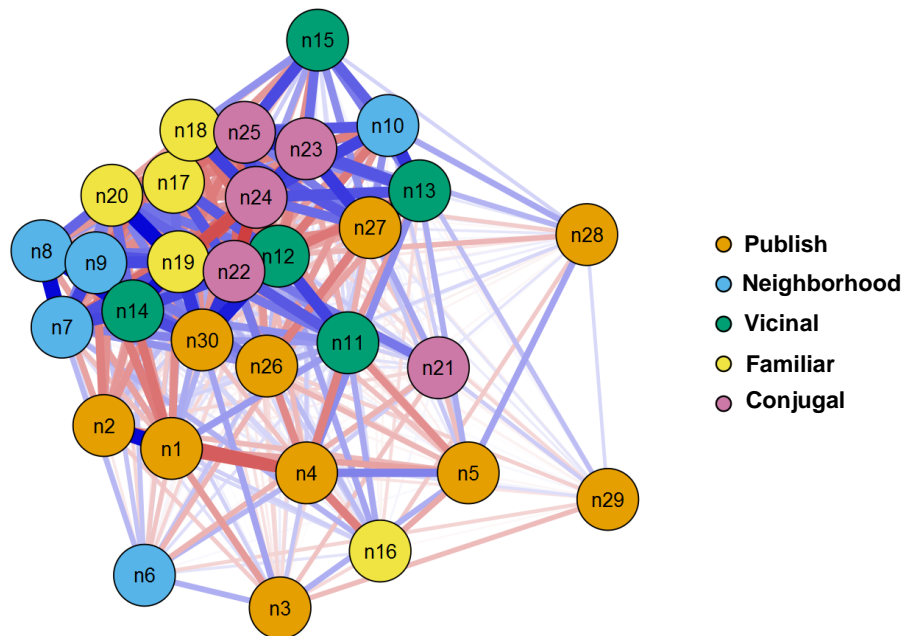
Table 1: Descriptions of the sample.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Universal	5	6	3	6
Jornada	4	7	5	2
Reforma	6	4	4	8
País	3	8	9	7

Source: Prepared with study data.

Figure 2: Networks of press releases related to violence from 2019 to 2022.
Source: Prepared with study data.

19 is the central representation of the violence. The title of the note says: "Alert for possible increase in violence against women in quarantine." The content of note 19 suggests that public violence extends to the domestic sphere. Includes data related to the increase in cases during quarantine. Consequently, the framing of note 19 is more oriented towards the verifiability of information and the peripheral representation of violence.

Figure 2 shows the relationships between the nodes. The prevalence of negative relationships (red lines) in the centrality and positive relationships (blue lines) in the periphery is observed. In addition, following the logic of learning from neural networks that are read from left to right, note 8 relating to the dimension of violence in the neighborhood and note 20 alluding to violence in the public sphere can be appreciated. In other words, the hypothesis regarding the significant differences between the violence published in the press and the violence evaluated by the judges may not be rejected from the network structure.

DISCUSSION

The contribution of this work lies in the establishment of a neural network for learning violence recorded in the press from 2019 to 2022 and observed by expert judges. The state of the art warns of the prevalence of public violence translated into kidnappings, assaults, homicides and extortions (García et al., 2017). The present work suggests that the evaluation of expert judges is oriented towards violence close to residences. The implications of the study for the prevention of violence indicate the promotion of relationships free of violence through learning and appropriation of public space.

The agenda setting theory indicates the bias of press releases around violence (García, 2022). This study warns that such a bias is oriented towards the dimension of the neighborhood as a space for public safety. In other words, the prevention of violence can be carried out from the establishment of neighborhood networks for self-care.

The framing theory reveals the propaganda of the State and the counter propaganda of the opposition (García, 2017). This study suggests that the security spread by the government and the insecurity spread by the opposition are general dimensions that are relativized in the neighborhood and neighborhood sphere. In this way, the prevention of violence can be disseminated in security propaganda and insecurity counter-propaganda through neighborhood care.

The intensification theory warns of the impact of the pandemic on violence (García et al., 2018). This study indicates that violence in the neighborhood coexists with the other dimensions of violence. The implications of the finding for the prevention of violence consist in the approach to neighborhood networks.

The theory of media participation suggests the emergence of citizenship in public security issues (Lirios et al., 2022). The present work indicates the prevalence of neighborhood violence and the promotion of co-responsible self-care. Lines of research related to the participation of neighbors in the prevention of violence, the promotion of self-care and relationships free of violence will reduce the cases and guide the discussion towards governance.

Conclusion

The objective of the study was to establish the structure of the violence reported in the press releases from 2019 to 2022. The results suggest the prevalence of violence in the neighborhood with implications for the prevention and promotion of violence-free relationships through self-control and self care.

Following the logic of implicit or internal and explicit or external violence to the profile of aggressor, victim and instigator, it would be expected that in a primary group the instigators would prevail and both the aggressor and the victim would be a minority. Consequently, the therapeutic intervention would focus on the aggressors and victims, but the academic intervention on the instigators because it is a majority that is violent in interaction with academic spaces and actors.

Bullying is a type of explicit violence that covers up the devastating effect of its implicit side on the victim. This is so because while the diagnoses have been spilled towards the prevention of violence in aggressors without attending to the victims who are also violent with themselves. Based on this distinction, the intervention in the classroom should be oriented towards the victim. It is not about blaming the victims for their self-congratulatory violence, but balancing their conventions towards self-control of their emotions.

Therefore, the intervention design would have at least three phases: 1) diagnosis of the degree of self-control of the aggressor, the victim and the instigators of bullying; 2) intervention for the balance of emotions that legitimize aggressiveness between peers; 3) evaluation of the effects of the intervention.

For such purposes it is necessary to select two groups, one control and the other experimental considering criteria such as; a) profile of aggressors, victims and instigators; b) micro history of internal and external violence; c) degree of emotional self-control.

Based on this information, a pedagogical sequence would be designed based on the observed data on self-control and exposure to internal and external violence.

Opening: The teacher can start with a dynamic to investigate the student's self-control. Some role play options would be those that reveal the level of dependency, independence and interdependence in the participants. The dynamics of the end of the world would reveal that level of relationship between the profiles of aggressors, victims and instigators.

Development: In this phase, it is necessary to dismantle the motives of the instigators, which may be more group-based than cultural or social, but which determine the asymmetries between aggressor and victim. As soon as these motives have been observed, it will be necessary to contrast them with other opposite ones such as kindness, respect or belonging. Some techniques for such purposes are those in which the role play shows, with the change of position, the disadvantages and advantages of being an instigator, as well as the risks of assuming an aggressor or victim role. One of the reasons these inciters are pigeonholed in this role is because they assume a low cost versus benefit in witnessing an assault and the suffering of the victim.

Closing: In this section, an exercise in empathy, trust and commitment is necessary to strengthen the self-esteem of the instigators and to find other reasons for coexistence with their peers. Some dynamics such as the end of the world would help to enhance the emotional intelligence of the participants.

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