

**THE IMPACT OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURTROOM TRIALS: AGENDAS
AND PERCEPTION**

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by

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Abstract

In this study, the researcher evaluated whether the media could influence the public's perception of individuals, stories, or to and create controversy in some cases in our society; and how the media should act to prevent such issues. The research methodology used in this study to analyze the effect of media on individuals is comprised of both qualitative and quantitative methods. These methods are used to understand how individuals perceive different complexions and media coverage in court trials. Since vital factors are provided by both qualitative as well as quantitative market research, it is the main method being used in this research. The researcher worked on an experiment by distributing two different questionnaires to the same group, each having a visual of an individual having a light vs dark complexion. It is measured by having two different groups introduced to two different photos as the first group was introduced to the lighter complexion of individuals and the second group got exposed to the darker complexion visual.

To prove the core finding for Media Controversy – Light and Dark Complexions, the researcher asked the audiences exposed to the light complexion visual “Do you believe this individual would commit a crime?”. The majority were of the view that the person would not commit a crime while when the same question was asked by the audience exposed to the dark complexion visual, the majority believed that it is possible that he committed the crime.

Keywords: *Trial, Lebanon, courtroom, Media, Agenda setting theory, Influence.*

Introduction

There is no denying the fact that Lebanon is involved in the regional entanglement. Media is the fourth pillar of any country after the executive, judiciary, and legislature, and it is imperative that a country's media is independent, and its independence lies in its safety. In contemporary days, the media is an arena of political patronage as well as domestic & foreign influence peddling. The researcher has witnessed how the media has a huge impact on our societies. Newspapers, radio, and television, for example, not only do they can broadcast information and news to the public, but they also have the power to influence subjects, individuals, and stories that people discuss. Many court-crime cases are now receiving extensive media coverage, which jeopardizes the ability to conduct a fair trial (Grewal,2017). This occurs because, when a case is on trial, the juries must be preferably neutral no matter what coverage they have seen before the trial. As a result, the media coverage of a trial especially the tv cameras in the courtroom has been proven to be biased and manipulate the behavior of witnesses and jurors the researcher witnessed before OJ Simpson's case clearly showed how media has played a huge role in audience manipulation. This emphasizes the importance of understanding the media's power and influence on the public (Carr, 2021). On the other hand, media coverage might play a certain role in covering court cases by educating audiences, uncovering the truth, and avoiding a misleading trial. The media is a critical tool in the hands of every movement.

Many societies obtain and distribute information solely through the media because, unfortunately, many people rely on and believe that the media shows us things for what they truly are and does base on their agenda. Furthermore, the importance of the media today cannot be overstated. It has become embedded in our lives. They report on various aspects of life and shape

and influence public opinion. Covering courtroom trials as Justice Douglas stated: "A trial is a public event. What transpires in the courtroom is a public property." (Marcus,1982). As the research question above stated, "Could the presence of the media in a courtroom trial affect the fairness and justice of a high-profile case?"

Media coverage in the courtroom trial can be beneficial for the public audience as it raises awareness of criminal charges and by showcasing that the law is intended to protect people from criminal acts. However, in the 1990s, Hollywood figured out that the best soap opera is real life as every television show deal with ratings as it would be used for some sort of entertainment. The way Ted Bundy used the cameras in the courtroom to create a "Court circus" (Chaney,2022).

It could appear that judicial matters have received tremendous attention in Lebanon over the past twenty years. The Samir Geagea trials (1994–1999), the closing of MTV (September 2002), and the judicial appointments dilemma, which was resolved after roughly four years, are just a few of the topics that have received extensive coverage in newspapers and television programs between 2005 & 2009 (Mayissian,2007). Close examination, however, reveals that this media coverage has largely ignored the legal and social aspects of these issues and has instead concentrated on the political side of them, particularly the central concerns of bolstering the judiciary, safeguarding its independence, and improving the efficiency of the work of the judicial institution.

This study explores the topic of Media's Impact on Courtroom Trials: Does the Media Have the Power to Alter People's Perspectives to Fulfill Their Agenda? Many people witnessed

plenty of courtroom trials covered by the media in the Arab region and internationally for instance Saddam Hussein's trial, OJ Simpson's trial, Ted Bundy's trial, and recently Johnny Depp VS Amber Heard. Ted Bundy's trial coverage is among the most watched trials in history leaving an indelible mark on the world regarding criminal cases. The trial was covered by over 250 journalists from 5 continents. Due to his heinous crimes, Bundy became a trending topic in the media (Carr, 2021). Since he was being broadcasted most of the time, it was assumed that media had a love affair with him. This sort of coverage can influence the public not only in their perspectives but in creating something called a copycat crime is one that is patterned after or is often inspired by a crime that was already committed. It is most noticeable following exposure to media content depicting said crimes and/or a live criminal model as people would view serial killers as role models or someone to look up to and would do anything to grab the media's attention (Johnston,2021).

After the execution of Saddam Hussein on December 30, 2006, a huge controversy was created as audiences believed that the trial was just for propaganda as the American government wanted to get rid of Saddam with or without a trial. In 2007, the United nation issued an article "Tragic mistakes made in the trial and execution of Saddam Hussein must not be repeated as some believed that the trial was unfair due to American control over the judges and courtroom while some stated that you can't give a criminal that killed hundreds of people a chance to show the world that he is innocent. (Nation,2007)

Research's main concern is how Graduate students and Employed citizens viewed courtroom coverage and how were they influenced. Focusing on how graduate students and employed Lebanese people living abroad or locally believe that "The Media Impact on Courtroom Trials: Does the Media Have the Power to Alter People's Perspectives to Fulfill Their Agenda?" Graduate students from Notre Dame University established in 1987, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) is a private, non-profit, Catholic school of higher learning in Lebanon that follows the American system. Three campuses make up NDU, and they are located in the following locations: the main campus in Zouk Mosbeh, the North campus in Barsa, & the Shouf Campus in DeirEl Kamar. (University of Notre Dame, 2007–2008).

As hypothesis 2 states People who are exposed to dark complexion content of an individual, are more likely to perceive him as a criminal than people who were shown light complexion content. As an experiment will be held to understand the concept, the researcher measured it by having (between-subject) two different groups introduced to two different photos as the first group would be introduced to the lighter complexion of individuals, and the second group will be exposed to the darker complexion photo.

Media coverage of legal matters is drastically decreasing today as political and security problems gain importance. As a result of this reduction, most judicial parts in newspapers have been eliminated or combined with other sections. The judiciary, meanwhile, exercises caution when speaking with the media. This warning underscores the media's propensity to report judicial topics superficially, such as "by adopting itinerary-type coverage (who met whom)" for the Supreme Judicial Council's work (Yanus,2009).

Literature Review

This study provides an overview of the concept of the impact of the coverage of media on the trials in a courtroom. The public's interest in high-profile court cases has resulted in a greater media presence in the courtroom. During the trials of 'OJ' Simpson, any American had access to turn the television on and watch the trial as the case proceeded. The influence it had on the public's opinion is indescribable. Our main objective is to prove how effective mass media is in influencing the public's opinion by using their agenda in changing individual perspectives on a specific topic or issue. Based on the courtroom, different policies are followed. In countries such as Japan, Germany & France, it is strictly prohibited to broadcast courtroom trials on international platforms (Code of Criminal Procedure of France, 2006; Jin, 2018; Courts Constitution Act, 2019). Since a lot of the public experience about the judicial system of a country apart from public knowledge about laws, the legal system of countries is heavily influenced by media representations. Based on research, an avg. American household has a TV on for 7 hrs. when among which, 3 hours is watched with family. Incidental knowledge about the legal system is provided to the citizens by crime dramas, police & television news (Dee, 1991).

This contribution examines and analyzes the public's reaction to this legal coverage. To begin, the researcher examined how crime, law & justice are portrayed by the media. Our examination of the content & style of legal coverage in the media leads us to the conclusion that the mirror of media is linked to the provision of a distorted view of the law. The thesis discusses the role of these media misrepresentations on the knowledge & attitude of people towards law & crime. The researcher concluded with a look at how media coverage of courtroom trials affects juries and the public.

To have a better understanding of the nature of media in Lebanon, it is essential to first acknowledge the nature of Lebanon state along with its historical, cultural & geographical specificities. These factors lead to a safe country having a unique political system & culture. The research primarily discusses confessionalism, which has become the dominant national ideology or political culture in the country ever since "Greater Lebanon" was established. This is true notwithstanding the terms of the Second Republic's new constitution, that which for the elimination of confessionalism as part of a general strategy to bring the nation's conflict to an end. An outsider might conclude that Lebanon's democratic values of justice and pluralism are partially reflected in this system, setting it apart from its neighbors. Nonetheless, this system doesn't signify democratization/equivalent opportunities for all to the typical Lebanese citizen. (Mikhael, n.d.).

The paper analyzes how the coverage of a trial by the media can influence the courtroom and how the media creates controversy through their different interpretations of the situation based on their agenda; and how the pretrial publicity also affects the trial and the outcome of the verdict. Understanding how individuals are manipulated by the media showcasing certain visuals or pointing out information that would influence the mass audience based on their agenda the medium has. The researcher will be looking into Media coverage in the courtroom, Pretrial publicity, media controversy- Dark vs light complexion, courtroom circus, Copycat killer, and social media influence towards the mass audience.

Media coverage in the courtroom

The term media coverage in the courtroom has been going on for ages ago. There is a controversy about media coverage in the courtroom as the researcher will be analyzing the pros and cons about the media coverage. The criminal trial of Ted Bundy was the first to be broadcasted in the country on television in 1979. Ted Bundy, a serial rapist, was tried and convicted in Tallahassee, Florida, of bludgeoning, mutilating, & crushing 4 sorority sisters. When it is in the public interest, journalists attend court proceedings. The role of the media is to hold people in power accountable & to report & explain stories of public curiosity & interest. This will frequently include coverage of court proceedings. It could be for anything from a minor traffic violation committed by a celebrity to murder or political corruption trials. The media also covers shocking cases such as murder trials as they attract the viewers & public attention. Once enough public attention is grasped, the cases continue for weeks, often months. However, in some cases, the case may go on for a year (McDonald,n.d). if the media is permitted in the courtroom, it means that pictures can be clicked from within the courtroom. Journalists can run to people on the streets to get a statement. This level of media scrutiny is typically reserved for high-profile cases with significant media coverage, so most people will not be subjected to it.

Media coverage in the courtroom aids in educating the public and restoring confidence in the court as opinion polls and panel studies conducted in 1973-81 clarify that courtrooms were considered overloaded, lenient, unpredictable & accountable to returning criminals to society. Courts were plagued by corruption, delays, inadequate sentencing & orders based on technicalities (Barber, 1985) as the public doesn't have enough trust in the courtroom media coverage would aid

in retaining it. This would be very helpful in a country such as Lebanon as we have this issue in every court trial, as we have doubts about what's going on in the courtroom trials cause a deterrent to criminals as under the rubric of "educational value," it was recommended that media alerts people about the consequences related to a crime. This way it acts as a deterrence for people who consider criminal activities (Barber,1985).

Nonetheless, another study found in the article titled "Media Influence on Courts: Evidence from Civil Case Adjudge" by Claire S. H. Lim, states that media coverage of trials significantly reduces disparities in damage awards across political orientations of districts, and this finding implies that active media coverage may improve uniformity in the civil justice system. In addition, Cameras in the courtroom are also beneficial since they get forced to ensure a fair trial since they are aware that they are being watched by the entire public (Johnson, 2003).

The Impact that Media has on Judges Internationally

Everyone may agree that the greatest way for the public to learn about the legal system is through the media. This might be written down, just like with newspapers. Radio, television, recorded videotapes, and other media can never be ignored; these media mostly use set frequencies. All these media outlets have anonymous, comparatively diverse audiences with a range of interests. Some people are interested in the issue for their academic research, while others wish to evaluate the justice system's institutions in a particular nation. The way the media covers a story, however, could distort this perception. According to how the cases are portrayed in the media, the public is made to feel a sense of urgency. In the proceeding discussion, the research overviews several national and international cases showing the impact that media has on judges. Several cases in Lebanon are observed where the judges are highly impacted by the coverage of media however,

when the wider scope of international judges are observed, they were shown to be impacted by media as well. As evidenced in the Rodney King case, the media has the power to influence the public to, for example, support the accused. Rodney King is used as an illustration of how the media can affect the outcome of justice in a legal proceeding. This was based on footage of cops assaulting him while he was emissive and unarmed (Cannon, 1999). This reportage helped to shape the perception that the accused was being treated unfairly precisely because of extrajudicial acts of racism.

Without an independent court and an independent media that report on judicial processes professionally and provide accurate information to the public, free from the influence of political agendas, the rule of law & justice cannot be achieved.

The Impact that Media Has on Judges in Lebanon

The Alternative Press Syndicate's journalist Ilda Ghossein made the following declaration in a statement: "Since the Beirut Port Explosion on August 4, 2020, the greatest crime scene since the Civil War, the legal inquiry has been met with infinite impediments". Under various pretenses, some journalists, media leaders, and politicians even attempted to discredit the truth and foster a culture of impunity (Shebaya,2022).

"Having followed this catastrophe, in addition to the hardship that we have experienced as families of martyrs of the Beirut Port explosion, we have tended our wounds and put our faith in the judiciary to hold perpetrators accountable and bring justice to the victims' bereaved parents and orphaned children," said Rima Zahed in the statement made on behalf of the Committee of

Families of Victims of the Beirut Port Explosion. We used the media and our right to free speech to protect the country's remaining sovereignty after political meddling in the judiciary and investigations to conceal the truth weakened it. Our only hope is the judiciary, with its independence and dedication to pursuing justice. We think that if criminals are not punished now, nothing will be left of the nation tomorrow (NNA, 2023).

Media has a positive role on judges since it empowers the judges to come out clean in instances when they are being threatened or asked to commit something illegal. The judges can easily approach the media and be fair to the citizens and the country about the happenings around them. Judges were complaining about attempts to "submit them to the demands of the ruling class and concoct files against them," a court insider claimed. "Lebanese judges are qualified, but the political elite is utilizing its position to subordinate them to their interests," the judicial source continued. One of the most prominent examples is what happened in the case of the explosion at Beirut port and the dismissal of Judge Tarek Bitar for no other reason than that he had accused politicians of carelessness (Najia Houssari, 2022). Examples like this indicate that politicians try to bend the rules for their own bet but due to the influence of media. The public became cognizant of it.

A few legislators have turned down invitations to hearings. Others are opposing the appointment of additional judges to the court, which Bitar needs to carry out his duties. As this is going on, most of the Lebanese society agrees that the probe is crucial for the future of the nation (Najia Houssari, 2022). Abboud recently remarked to the newly minted judges, "There is no independent judiciary without activating the work of the courts and prosecution, and without concluding the inquiry into the Beirut port explosion.

Legal Framework & Structure of Lebanese Judiciary

Any country needs to have an independent judiciary since it allows the provision of justice within society & protects the rights of citizens. Not having an independent judiciary jeopardizes the freedom and fundamental rights of citizens & makes them vulnerable to any violation that is committed by the legislature, or other executive branches of the government. An independent judiciary is related to ensuring non-interference. Moreover, it upholds the rights of citizens. This is only possible if the courtrooms are filled with rational, honest & competent judges who can make judgments according to the laws applicable in the country. Judges should not be under any influence whether it is internal or external. An Independent judiciary distances itself from suspicion & establishes justice & equality in society (Boutros,2015). The independence of the judiciary is often maintained by the media which is considered the fourth pillar of the state. The constitution of Lebanon and several legislative texts are the sources that relate to the independence & impartiality of the judiciary.

Institutions of the Lebanese media are a continuation of sectarian politics and partisan public officials. Rather media outlets are the megaphone of political leaders and a potent weapon for sectarian provocation and polarization at the social, political, ideological, and socioeconomic levels rather than developing an issue-based accountability and participation culture. Despite the emphasis on freedom of belief and expression in Lebanon's Constitution and ratified international treaties, the country's current political structures prevent the public from having any access to or control over the media (Boutros,2015). The media must be changed to reflect public interests and promote public engagement because it is a foundational element of democratic liberty and civil society. Three issues, nevertheless, stand in the way of this: a shaky legal system, a poor internet speed and usage infrastructure, and General Security's ambiguous censoring practices. There is a

chance to mobilize national and local activities aimed at breaking the monopoly over the media scene in Lebanon with the introduction of social media and rising demands for youth and civil society participation.

Biased-Media Accusations over Lebanon Beirut Explosion

Once a former minister requested interrogation as a suspect questioned the objectivity of the main investigator, the investigation into the August 2020 blast that destroyed a large portion of Beirut was put on hold. According to a legal source, Nohad Machnouk, a former interior minister and current member of parliament, complained about Judge Tarek Bitar, who oversees the investigation into the explosion on August 4 that resulted in more than 200 fatalities and thousands of injuries. The source stated that the sessions would now be canceled, and Judge Bitar would halt reviewing the file until the court of cassation decided to regather to accept the case (Najia Houssari, 2022). Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanese group Hezbollah, said that the investigation into the explosion at the Beirut port was biased. The blast that destroyed major portions of the city and claimed more than 200 lives was commemorated in Beirut on Thursday. Tarek Bitar, a judge, oversees the investigation of what took place. Nasrallah added, "I am officially informing the families of the martyrs that this judicial investigator is playing politics, that this is a politicized probe. He clarified that he was not requesting Bitar's immediate dismissal but rather that he adhered to one standard and make the findings of a technical probe public (Shebaya,2022). In addition, Nasrallah chastised those he did not name for attributing the blast's ammonium nitrate-caused explosion to Hezbollah. "Where is your support for this repulsive, vile accusation? There isn't any, " he added.

This explosion proved to be another problem to the already hump of existing problems in the country. The nation is enduring a devastating economic downturn. Iran recently went into default on its debts; as a result, its currency has fallen precipitously, & negotiations for an international aid package have come to a standstill. Late last year, Saad Hariri, who was the prime minister at the time, was compelled to quit because of the worsening economic situation, which also fed a longer-term cycle of political upheaval. A decision on that extremely sensitive issue was expected this week. Rafic Hariri, another former prime minister who was slain in 2005, is the father of Hariri. A fifth or so of the population of Lebanon are refugees, many of whom left the civil conflict in neighboring Syria (Shebaya,2022). They have shown themselves to be particularly susceptible to the financial and health repercussions of the pandemic. The port that the bomb destroyed was a vital route for grain imports, on which Lebanon is largely dependent, further complicating everything.

The investigation has been frequently suspended while the cases are decided because the politicians implicated in the case have submitted more than 25 petitions to remove Judge Bitar and other judges participating in the case. The investigation was put on hold on December 23, 2021, because of the most recent round of legal complaints made against Judge Bitar. The Human Rights Council ought to adopt a resolution mandating the immediate establishment and deployment of an impartial fact-finding team for the Beirut explosion. To prove state and individual culpability and promote justice and compensation for the victims, the mission should determine the facts and circumstances of the explosion, including the underlying causes. No one has been punished or even convicted for the man-made disaster more than two years later. Judge Tarek Bitar is the

second judge designated to investigate the case, and the political elite has been meddling and interfering to stop him (Najia Houssari, 2022).

A few legislators have turned down invitations to hearings. Others are opposing the appointment of additional judges to the court, which Bitar needs to carry out his duties. As this is going on, most of the Lebanese society agrees that the probe is crucial for the future of the nation. Abboud recently remarked to the newly minted judges, "There is no independent judiciary without activating the work of the courts and prosecution, and without concluding the inquiry into the Beirut port explosion.

Judges have expressed the urgent need for adjustments in many forums. "The absence of independence is a significant issue, a constitutional issue that can't be rectified unless we have a new and genuine statute on the independence related to the nomination of judges and their rotation. Judges must be chosen exclusively based on their qualifications, not their connection, and without the influence of any other party or individual. "This is crucial for the society and its citizens as a whole, not just the judges, to increase their resistance to intrusion,"

According to local media and a judicial source, a Lebanese military court has indicted Christian politician Samir Geagea with involvement in deadly confrontations in Beirut last October. This development might ratchet up political tension two months before parliamentary elections. The accusation against Geagea and the investigation into the violence, according to a Lebanese Forces (LF) party official, was made for political reasons. According to Judge Fadi Akiki, who spoke to Al-Jadeed TV on Thursday, Geagea was accused two days prior based on "new information" on

the Tayouneh incidents, Beirut's bloodiest street violence in ten years. The October 14 skirmishes along a former front line of the 1975–1990 civil war resulted in the deaths of seven persons, all of whom were supporters of the Iran-backed Shia Muslim organization Hezbollah and its Shia ally the Amal Movement (Mikhael, n.d.).

Only two months before the parliamentary election, any move to arrest Geagea would probably be met with resistance from his party, raising the possibility of unrest, according to Carnegie Middle East Center's Mohanad Hage Ali. Last October, Geagea was called to a hearing at military intelligence regarding the violence, but he chose not to go. Geagea charged Hezbollah with seeking to create a government that resembled the one that was already in place, notably by pushing for the appointment of its Christian friend Gebran Bassil, the foreign minister and son-in-law of President Michel Aoun. The Lebanese Forces would back Hariri as prime minister if he were able to establish an independent administration, according to Geagea, who also stated that the only way out of the problem was for Hariri to assemble a neutral cabinet of experts. He said, however, that there had been no advancement and that it appeared that those involved were acting as though nothing had occurred in Lebanon.

Laws in Lebanon Granting Independence to Media

The research is based on the influence of media on judges. The judiciary system of a country is the most important part of the government, and its independence determines the fate of a nation. If the judges are not independent, they are likely to be influenced by a political party or by international sources. To stop it from happening, the media must be provided with the

independence that it needs. For this purpose, it is imperative that the media of a country usually considered the fourth pillar of a government- is independent. An independent media ensures that the judiciary is also independent. Following laws are in place in Lebanon that protect the independence of media. The laws are crucial for this research since it is based on the influence of media coverage of courtroom trials. To cover a courtroom trial fairly, the media must be independent and fearless of any consequence. The following law ensures that the media is given the independence it solely requires (Mayissian,2007).

"Freedom of expression, whether oral or written and publishing...are protected within the limits prescribed by law," according to Article 13 of the Lebanese Constitution. Although the Constitution expressly declares these freedoms of the press, it is important to keep in mind that they are only set forth as a general principle and are in fact subject to restrictions found in a number of laws passed by Parliament, including the Penal Code, the Press Law of 1962, and the Broadcast Law of 1994 (details of the majority of these restrictions will be covered later).

Law 531 of July 24, 1996, provides no pretension to protect the freedom of satellite broadcasting, in contrast to the Press Law of 1962 (Article 1) & the Broadcast Law of 1994 (Article 3), which clearly indicate that the Press & broadcasting are free but "limited" by (other) existing laws. Lebanese satellite broadcasters are instead tasked with "maintaining the good relations of their country with other countries," "showing a stable picture of the country from a political and security perspective," & "encouraging Lebanese immigrants to have a stable and secure investment" in their country of origin, according to law no. 531/1996's preamble or rationale (Mayissian, 2007)

In short, this law imposes on satellite broadcasters transmitting from Lebanon positive content requirements that are intended to promote the nation and gives them a nationalistic, propagandistic mission (these and other content requirements are also mentioned in Article 3, Paragraph 4; see also section 1.3.2.). This law does not explicitly guarantee the freedom of expression of satellite broadcasters. However, unlike the protections provided by the constitution and other laws ensuring freedom of the press & terrestrial broadcasting, the cinema & theatre were (& still) not covered by these provisions.

In accordance with legislative decision no. 55/1967, any leaflets that are not published in periodicals require prior approval from the General Directorate of the Sûreté Générale, regardless of their content (or General Security police). The screening of both foreign and domestic films was subject to prior control or censorship under a law governing cinema that was passed on November 27, 1947. The Sûreté Générale shall also exercise this censorship in order to uphold the basic rules

(Article 4):

- Respect for morality, decency, and the rule of law.

- Respect for the viewers' sentiments and emotions and a commitment to preventing the emergence of racial and confessional conflict.

- Upholding the legitimacy of public institutions.

- Refusal of (or resistance to) all calls detrimental to Lebanon's interests

This law also creates a committee made up of several public officials to decide whether to show, forbid, or partially censor every film that is to be screened in Lebanon. It's interesting to note that there is no legislative language that mandates previous censorship of movies that are sold on video (in specialized stores) or are broadcast on local television (Boutros 1991). Between 1926 (the year the Lebanese Republic's constitution was established) and 1977, when legislative decree No. 2 of January 1, 1977, was enacted to empower the General Directorate of the Sûreté Générale to conduct prior censorship, the theatre was not subject to any prior restraint. Any violation of these previous censorship laws here, as in the case of film, results in the show being banned, the theatre being shut down, and the imposition of fines and prison sentences (for those engaged in the production), as determined by the courts (Mayissian, 2007). Legislative decree number 1 of January 1, 1977, which was introduced on the same day to impose restraint on the print media as well, was eventually abolished by law number 14/1986 of February 25, 1986. Theater and film are still subject to previous restrictions, even though Tarek Mitri, the current minister of culture, has stated repeatedly that he wants to end the prior censorship that is given to both (1).

Article 13 of the constitution guarantees everyone in Lebanon, including journalists, the right to freedom of association as well as freedom of speech and the press. Yet, the same article states that this freedom is "protected within the framework of the law" and is not unrestricted. The freedom of expression and association in Lebanon has historically and frequently been hindered by this provision of Article 13. Demonstrations, for instance, need to be approved in advance by the Lebanese government and are occasionally prohibited for reasons of national security. Like this, the establishment of associations in Lebanon calls for prior "permission" by administrative authorities; however, in practice, this approval has come to mean a license, which is against the provisions of Article 2 of the Law for Associations and its revisions.

This law, which was passed on August 3, 1909, is frequently referred to by its detractors as "the Ottoman Law," and it only applies to associations that are not covered by another law; for example, it has no bearing on press unions, cooperatives, or trade unions, all of which are covered by other laws. Clubs, NGOs, centers, and political parties are examples of associations governed by the Law for Associations.

Article 2 of this legislation states that no prior authorization is needed to form an association. An alternative is that a new organization must "notify the government following its creation" (Article 6). The law is clear that an association is created when its founders agree to form it and sign its internal rules or bylaws, but the official practice has gone against the letter of the law. The conditions of this law and the more general constitutional protection of freedom of expression and association have been repeatedly broken by the Ministry of the Interior, which also converted the procedure into a barrier that amounted to "quasi prior licensing" (Mukhaiber 2004).

Simply failing to reply to a notification sent by a new NGO or association seeking official status, has been accomplished by refusing to grant registration numbers to new associations. Helem is one instance of how the Ministry of the Interior unlawfully and administratively denied several NGOs' formal status. This Lebanese NGO, whose name is an acronym for Himaya Lubnaniyya lil-Mithliyyin (the "Lebanese Protection for Homosexuals"), was founded about a year before the research phase for this report. It is the only publicly operating gay and lesbian organization in the Arab world. Yet, it continues to be denied an official status in the nation for the aforementioned "bureaucratic reasons" (reasons that most likely conceal homophobic views or attitudes among government employees) (Mayissian, 2007).

The research has so far examined the current legal provisions and constitutional provisions that ensure Lebanon's freedom of association, freedom of the press, and freedom of expression. Although there are theoretically constitutional protections for the freedom of the press, terrestrial broadcasting, and expression, it should be noted that these protections are rarely put into practice. No matter how insufficient, as we will show later, existing legal protections are frequently nothing more than writing on paper. A more comprehensive and conflicting picture of the Lebanese media landscape can be obtained during the implementation phase of these protections, which is the "missing link" of policy analysis in the instance of Lebanon.

These are the laws that ensure that the media of Lebanon is independent. An independent media would result in fair and accurate coverage of courtroom trials that can yield positive results. The media is considered the fourth pillar of a government, and its independence is linked to the independence of judges.

If the media is not free and independent, then the judges can be pressurized and manipulated by the fascist rulers for their own benefit. However, if the media is fair, then the judges would know that for a wrong trial, they will be found guilty and will lose all the respect therefore, it is more likely to indulge them in a fair trial.

Pretrial Publicity internationally

Each era brings with it unique high-profile cases of individuals & businesses. Examples of high-profile cases include Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Roger Stone, Timothy McVeigh, and John Mitchell. Simpson, Patty Hearst, Sacco & Sam Shepperd, etc. The most media attention is given to crime trials & trials of celebrities. Due to this media attention, the civil defendants will be operated on to detriment crimes.

If a trial receives too much attention, trial courts can limit its pre-trial publicity by issuing gag orders, limiting media coverage, or closing courtrooms altogether. The tension between pretrial publicity & conducting a fair trial puts trial courts to the test. Defendants enjoy significant constitutional rights, but open courts are also an essential component of the judicial system. Jurors' choices can be influenced by pre-trial publicity. The courts frequently believe that jury discussions may alleviate or eliminate such prejudice. This brings the question of whether the jurors are potentially influenced by TV media (such as news programs/televised hearings) than print media such as newspaper & magazine articles (Vidmar,1994).

It influences pre-deliberation verdicts, with antidefendant PTP jurors being the most likely to find the defendant guilty and anti-prosecution PTP juries being the least likely. Only the pure anti-prosecution jurors demonstrated PTP prejudice by being the least likely to award guilty verdicts (Ruva, 1970).

The technical publicity was successfully treated by delaying access over several days before attending the trial, but the emotional publicity was not (Kramer,1990). Nonetheless,

members of the jury pool may become so flooded with information after the occurrence of the issue but before the trial that they are unable to adequately assess the evidence. Large jury pools rarely become totally biased because of media coverage, & the effects of publicity have a very minor impact on juries in practice. In these cases, trial courts' obligation of secrecy can be an overextending solution.

If substantiated, such a claim would imply a constitutional violation; "A fair trial in a fair tribunal is a basic requirement of due process," "The theory of the law is that a juror who has formed an opinion cannot be impartial," (Marcus, 1982). It is feared that the significant PTP may sway potential jurors against the accused & lead to a judgment that is based more on the PTP than the evidence presented in the trial (Penrod,2021).

Media Controversy – Light and Dark Complexions

Media covering courtroom trials might create a controversy in society between people for example *The People of the State of California vs. Orenthal James Simpson* is remembered as the trial of the century. O.J. Simpson, a former NFL running back, was indicted with two counts of murder in the 1994 slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, along with her friend, Ron Goldman. The “Bad is Black” Effect According to research, darker skin is affiliated with negative perceptions of guilt. In 1994, it was observed that Time magazine broadcasted a controversial picture of O’J’ Simpson that led to readers believing that it has been deliberately changed to make him look darker. It was complemented by a headline, ‘An American tragedy’. Due to this stunt,

Time Magazine faced severe criticism for manipulating his appearance to make him look dull portraying that he is guilty of the crimes he is being accused of (Grewal, 2017).

Simpson went on trial in 1995, after 7 months of his Bronco ride down the 405 Freeway was examined by an estimated 95 million people. He was exemplified by a high-profile defense team (dubbed "The Dream Team" at the time), but the case also obtained unparalleled media attention. This intense coverage caused numerous delays in the trial, which ended up lasting 11 months. During his trial, Black people in the states started protesting the state as some media outlets based on their agenda wanted to create propaganda in the society that the state is charging him because he is black, and he wouldn't commit such a crime. This shows us the impact the media can have on people through the projections and perceptions they show us the information.

Here the news is in favor of OJ Simpson and projecting him in the image of being a victim of a racist system, and that he is a loveable family man who wouldn't commit such an act, and this is how the media uses light complexions portray this individual as a good person, for them to fulfill their own agenda. According to research, the substance of television news and entertainment programming supports perceptions of social reality and attitudes about the importance of issues. If this is the case, televised trials may intensify public fears about crime, which have been developed by a vast amount of crime-related entertainment programming and reinforced by exaggerated crime news reporting; "result in stronger negative attitudes toward criminal defendants," (Barber, 1985).

Court room circus

By having excessive media coverage, criminals will use this by creating their own show on air as the best example is Ted Bundy. The defiantly enigmatic killer loved being the national attention as he characterized himself in court. His trial is among one of the most-watched cases in history (Carr, 2021). The presence of media in the courtroom & bias in the verdict and the actions of the jury. For instance, according to Johnson, witnesses may act anxiously in front of cameras, making them appear untrustworthy to the jury. Some witnesses, such as Kato Kaelin in the O.J. Simpson trial, may look arrogant and desperate for attention. Witnesses may also be reluctant to testify because they are concerned about the national publicity of their testimony. “Further, witnesses may be encouraged to lie to protect themselves or loved ones from media ridicule,” (Johnson, 2003).

Judges are tremendously impacted by cameras because they may focus on the cameras rather than the trial. The way witnesses respond to cameras may cause jurors to dismiss them as untrustworthy, hampering their capacity to properly examine the evidence (Johnson, 2003). Furthermore, a general sense of unease that can lead to distraction may overpower members of the jury, severely impacting the trial process. Concerns regarding trial coverage arise in part from previous media circuses, such as the “Media circus” around Lindbergh's baby kidnapping. The trial of Bruno Hauptmann drew 700 journalists, including 120 cameramen, all of whom played a role in leading the accused to have an unfair trial as juries and judges were prejudiced due to the coverage that took over the trial (Strickland, 2009). The Depp v. Heard case has been a tremendous win for the Law & Crime Network YouTube channel, which has been airing court footage along with a live conversation that is replete with rumors and pro-Depp enthusiasm. More than 300,000

people are watching it at once, making it the most-watched trial stream on YouTube (Strickland, 2009). The videos which created a courtroom circus as Amber Heard vs Depp videos, pictures, and reactions were the talk of all social media platforms as well. People's reactions and Amber's facial expression created a circus in the courtroom trial. Considering the absurdity of alleged abuse read aloud in court & troubled relationship, this whole trial is bizarre (Luna,2022).

Copycat Killer

It is the crime that finds its inspiration in the crimes that have already been committed. It is the man to adapt to others and mimics their role. The same can be said for crime, which can be influenced by the media. Recently, with the broadcasting of the series "The Squid Game", it is being seen how alarming news is being heard regarding its portrayal in various schools (Garcia,2022).

It is often observed that copycat crimes are the exact duplicate of the crime they were inspired from. The extensive media coverage and attention given to serial killers on media platforms would lead to the copycat effect refers to the alleged tendency of sensational media coverage of violent murders or suicides to encourage more of the same through imitation. The term was first used around 1916 in reference to the crimes inspired by Jack the Ripper. Due to an increase in replica crimes, criminal law experts believe that media has inspired other criminals to commit the crime in the same manner & it has even impacted the non-criminals to participate in the crime. For example, Derek Brown was 48 when he was found guilty in 2008 of murdering two women in the same manner as followed by Jack the Ripper. He targeted them one being the prostitute & other a vendor, believing that no one would notice that they were missing. Although

the bodies were never found it is believed that women were dismembered in the bathtub & then were disposed of (Johnston,2021).

The Copycat Effect, a book written by Loren Coleman, describes the role that media plays in crimes & suicides that are often inspired by events that are broadly covered by media. The author is of the view that the constant coverage of crimes by the media makes criminals believe that they are celebrities. Although most crime is repeated within 2 years, often similar crimes are observed even after 4-5 years. At least 74 plots or attacks across 30 states have been inspired by two teenage boys who fatally shot 13 people & injured 24 others at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado on April 20, 1999 (Johnston,2021).

The media must show more clips about the grieving families who just became a victim of a crime (without glorifying the death), highlight the positive & alternative messages against crimes, & alert people of the possible traits that led an event to the deadly end. The event should not be put in a way as if it is done to solve a problem rather it should be shown in a way to alert people about the horrible consequences of the situation (Coleman,2004). Taking everything into consideration, it can be concluded that the media plays a very strong role in influencing people to adopt certain habits. However, it is just one factor that leads to the other such as their previous motivation, individual predisposition, or the social context in which they develop.

Social Media influence internationally

Although the agenda-setting theory was originally developed for mainstream media such as television & newspapers, in the twenty-first century, social media platforms & video sharing apps have begun to replace traditional news media.

The most recent trial covered was Johnny Depp Vs Amber Heard videos from the domestic abuse and offense trial of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, whose marriage ended in 2016, have flooded social media. This case became one of the most popular topics on the internet due to TikTok and YouTube users. As social media became a Jury as people started debating some stood with Johnny Depp while others stood with Amber Heard and many people started publishing Memes about both individuals. Social media coverage, for example, the hashtag #justiceforjohnnydepp has nearly 20 billion views on TikTok, while #justiceforamberheard has over 80 million, as of Friday morning. Hashtags like #amberheardisguilty have 900 million views on social media. Memes and mainstream media littered images of Heard on the stand all over social media, freeze-framing her expressions to make her look as horrified as possible. One of the leaked videos where she can clearly be seen touching her nose using a tissue is described by the Depp supporters as evidence that Amber was high on cocaine on the day that she was being interrogated (Chaney,2022). Meanwhile, they were concerned that the focus had shifted from mocking celebrities to encouraging harassment of abuse victims. The judges can take help from social media regarding the trial other than the evidence that they presented. This way they can collect facts based on inadmissible evidence (Innovation and Technology,2022)

While this case had social media where there are way fewer gatekeepers and much less control over how information flows whether it's fake or true between users as any tweet or post

could go viral and it's very hard to be stopped (Innovation and Technology,2022). As some personal information is private and shouldn't be shared with mass audiences where it should stay between specific individuals, However, in certain mediums all they care about is rating and creating sort of trend to increase their shares, likes, comments, and reach. No matter what the consequences are to individuals, for example, according to the actor's former agent, Disney dropped Depp from the 'Pirates of the Caribbean franchise due to Amber Heard's abuse allegations once it went viral over platforms.

The jury in the Depp/Heard case was never confiscated. They were told not to absorb media coverage about the proceedings, but if you're living in this world, how could you not? (Chaney,2022). Avoiding such huge influence is impossible in this age where all over social media the topic was covered affecting all sorts of people involved directly and indirectly in the case.

Having such huge coverage isn't something new as Millions of people across the country were glued to their televisions in 1995 to watch football star O.J. Simpson's murder trial, and in 2005 to watch pop star Michael Jackson's molestation trial (Chaney,2022). In 2022, the High Court of Australia universally suppressed the convictions of a tutor suspected of sexual offenses against children & ordered a new trial since it was discovered that one of the judges had surveyed the case online before the turning in of the final verdict (Innovation and Technology,2022).

Theoretical Framework

Within this research, the theoretical framework of this study is Agenda Setting. The theory is used to understand and answer the research question. This chapter is the first step to understanding the way media showcases news, and its power to influence subjects, individuals, and stories that people discuss. The impact of media influences the presentation of news items and topics that affect the public psyche.

The audience will automatically assume that a particular news item is given to them to be the most important material when it is granted more importance & focus than other news. Depending on what the public believes and how big of an impact it has, the media determines which news items should be shown first and then the next. When the media chooses the agenda for which stories are deemed relevant, each media source has its own agenda setting (Alvernia,2018). Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw, two college professors who first proposed the concept in 1972, discovered that when polling North Carolina voters during the 1968 U.S. presidential election, people believed that the most crucial issues were those that the media had highlighted as being the most pressing (Alvernia,2018). Factors Influencing Agenda Setting are gatekeepers, editors, managers, and other outside influences in addition, to non-media sources, such as government officials and important individuals.

The media manipulates reality: Rather than reporting "reality," the mainstream media serves as a filter, letting some components of "reality" reach its audience while excluding others. The media emphasizes certain subjects: A given topic is more likely to be seen by the public as being more significant than others depending on how much media covers it.

First-Level Agenda Setting - This is the process by which the media determines which events are worthy of reporting. It is distinguished by object salience. In agenda-setting theory, an object is the thing to which our attention is drawn. Salience refers to an object's impotence in comparison to other objects. As a result, the more the media covers a particular issue, the greater its "object salience." And there is the Second-Level Agenda Setting - This is the process by which the media attempts to influence how people think about specific issues after articulating what to think about at the first level. For example, In August-September 2021, the most covered news item across the globe is the “humiliating” withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan. The news was reported in breathless coverage, with the urgency of impending doom. However, it was quite obvious that for most people in most countries of the world, the return of undemocratic rule in Afghanistan has little to no significance for their everyday lives (Drew,2022).

There are two types of agenda setting i.e., Priming and Framing. As for priming, the media's duty is to present ideals and criteria by which items get a certain level of attention that can be appraised. The media's content will devote enough time and space to specific topics, making them more vivid. While the process of framing is one of selective control. It has two interpretations. The normal way news material is formed and tailored within the same frame of reference. The audience accepts the frames of reference and sees the world in the same manner. This is how people value the news and interpret the context in which an issue is seen. In the instance of an assault, defeat, win, or loss, for example, the media frames the news in such a manner that people experience it from a different perspective, such as in the Beirut explosion. Every news station's news coverage on the matter was constructed in such a way that it portrayed

their own political party positively and the other negatively. People's perceptions will differ depending on whatever media they have access to.

Agenda-setting occurs when the media asks only a limited number of questions about a topic, thereby limiting the number of perspectives or angles from which an issue can be explored. A similar example is that of the Iraq War of 2003, in which widespread media coverage of the stance of the White House that the dictator Saddam Hussein was in possession of WMDs was used to build public opinion in favor of an invasion of Iraq by the US and its allies.

It turned out that Saddam Hussein did not possess any WMDs, nor did he pose any significant threat to Allied interests (Drew,2022).

In addition, in the twenty-first century, social media platforms and video-sharing apps have begun to replace traditional news media that introduced something called “Social Media Filtering” Media platforms like Facebook have been accused of filtering news posts in favor of specific ideologies, thereby shaping public opinion. As where Audiences that interact with political content on Facebook show an increased level of “issue salience”, believing that the issue shown prominently on Facebook is more important than others (Feezell, 2017).

In this paper, the researcher will be observing how the media portrays cases and individuals in ways that abide by their own agendas. As mentioned before, some media stations in Lebanon report a news story by criminalizing their opposition and glorifying their allies, this is an example of agenda-setting. Here, news stations and reporters may also portray certain victims as criminals to increase their viewers and keep them hooked to an interesting character in the media. In the case

of OJ. Simpson, reporters who have had their own agendas may have influenced people to perceive him as an innocent victim, whereas others may gain by portraying him in a dark complexion image of being a killer who needs to be held accountable. The media will always follow their own agendas for several reasons whether it was to support their allies or to increase their viewings, therefore, the researcher will be exploring how the media is able to do this and how it impacts all following aspects.

Hypothesis and Research Questions

The main purpose of this study is to examine how NDU graduate students and employed workers are affected by different complexions that the media use based on their agenda setting. Do they believe news based on its source or are they less likely to think critically and more likely to accept information that the media presents to them? Individual perceptions of cases can be altered by media coverage and involvement in updating the general public. In addition, Could the presence of the media in a courtroom trial affect the fairness and justice of a high-profile case? By studying specific questions, the researcher aimed to understand the perception of our target audience. Are they influenced by the media? Does it affect their mindset?

Research Question 1

Could the presence of the media in a courtroom trial affect the fairness and justice of a high-profile case?

Hypothesis 1

Having live media coverage in the courtroom would aid in conducting fair trials.

Research Question 2

Does the media can influence the publics perspective on individuals, stories, or cases by using different complexions?

Hypothesis 2

People who are exposed to dark complexion content of an individual, are more likely to perceive him as a criminal than people who were shown light complexion content.

Research Question 3

Having live media coverage leads to restriction in judicial corruption.

Hypothesis 3

Does the media can limit the judicial corruption just by monitoring the cases live?

Methodology

To answer the research questions qualitative and quantitative methods are used to understand how individuals perceive different complexions and media coverage in courtroom trials. Given that both qualitative and quantitative market research provides vital ingredients of the understanding you are looking for (the Why and the What), combining them should deliver significant benefits, enabling you to compare results and gain much deeper insights (Osbaldeston, 2021). The qualitative method is a type of research that examines information communicated by language and behavior in real situations, it is used to record expressive data. While the Quantitative method is typically collected for statistical analysis using surveys, polls, or questionnaires distributed to a specified segment of a population. The researcher worked on an experiment by distributing two different questionnaires to the same group, each having a certain vision of an individual light vs dark complexion.

Moreover, as a qualitative method, the research conducted a focus group with 6 different people with 5 specific questions regarding their perspective on media coverage in the courtroom. This paper will examine how graduate students and employed citizens will perceive a certain visual and how the media publicly broadcast a certain visual affects them. For example, the term "light complexion" refers to how the media portrays the individual in a positive light, whereas "dark complexion" refers to how the media portrays the individual in a negative light. To understand how individuals are affected by the media broadcasting a certain individual based on their agenda. The Media's Impact on Courtroom Trials has become a concern by the increase in publicity it has been taking during the last decade. In order to understand the way NDU graduate students react it is important to know how the media coverage is broadcasted to individuals.

Sample

The sample for this study involves NDU graduates and employed citizens within the age range of (25-35) as the questionnaires will be distributed using Google Forms, a non-probability sampling using convenience method. In addition, conducting a focus group with 6 people by using 5 question

Procedure

Questionnaires were distributed to 150 NDU graduates using 16 questions as an experiment will be held to understand the concept, the researcher measured it by having (between subjects) two different groups introduced to two different photos as the first group was introduced to the lighter complexion of individuals and the second group got exposed to the darker complexion photo. Where only 100 were used as 50 questionnaires were removed due to being not completed or biased.

To begin with the procedure, the researcher divided the audiences into two groups 75 are called LA which is Light audiences, and 75 other audiences were named DA as Dark audiences. Each group received the same set number of questions where the trick was in the question “Do you believe this individual would commit a crime?”- our LA received this question followed by a light complexion visual while our DA received this question with a dark complexion visual. In order to understand if our audiences would be influenced, the survey was distributed using Google Docs as each LA received the survey on the same day while DA audiences received the survey. The researcher received the survey responses within 5-7 days as he expected audiences to take their time to respond. The researcher analyzed the set of questions of each group by understating their perspective by the way they viewed the questionnaire based on the complexion visual.

In addition, the researcher conducted a focus group interview with 6 different individuals by means of using 5 questions to understand the perception of our interviewees on media coverage in courtroom trials. To analyze the data gained from the interviews, the researcher asked all interviewees the same set of five questions revolving around the media's presence in courtrooms in general. The group was invited to attend a Zoom meeting as some of the interviewees were not in the same country at the same time. The researcher asked the same set of questions to all 6 interviewees as each of them for example the researcher asked all 6 questions to Ruba El Amine, next started asking the same set of questions to Mirna Zahoui and so on. The meeting took around 3 hours to be conducted as interviewees took their time to answer their set of questions.

The interviewees are Yousef Diab, Mirna Zahoui, Ruba El Amine, Mohammad Mousa, Haya Liddawi, and George Maddah. all between the ages of 23 and 30. Yousef Diab is an LAU alumnus who graduated in 2017 with a bachelor's in law and he is currently doing his master's in criminology at the University of Manchester. Mirna Zahoui is 27 years old graduated from a Lebanese university and currently working as an associate at Al Askar law firm in Kuwait. Ruba El Amine is 24 years old and gained a bachelor's in international relations from the American University of Kuwait and currently doing her master's in International Law. Mohammed Mousa is 25 years old and currently operates as the CEO of Pegal general trading wholesale and retail and the president of Lebanese young youth in Kuwait. Haya Liddawi graduated from the American University of Beirut in 2018 gaining a bachelor's in International Affairs and currently working in Public Relations in Al-Shaya. Finally, George Maddah is 30 years old graduated in 2016 from the University of Manchester and currently working as a social media manager in Maya's cooperation.

Variables

The first hypothesis is that having live media coverage in the courtroom would aid in conducting a fair trial. The independent variable for the first hypothesis is media coverage and the dependent variable is fair trial. Individual perceptions of situations can be altered by media coverage and engagement in updating the broader audience.

For the second hypothesis, people who are exposed to dark complexion content of an individual are more likely to perceive him as a criminal than people who were shown light complexion content. The Independent variable for the second hypothesis is the individual visual and the dependent variable is an attitude as media coverage and portrayal of specific personalities. The term “light complexion” relates to how the media portrays the individual in a favorable light, whereas “dark complexion” refers to how the media portrays the individual in a negative light.

The third hypothesis outlooks judicial corruption which is the abuse of public power for one’s own benefit. Judicial corruption can occur at any stage of the process, from pre-trial activities to course decision enforcement. If a sector that is supposed to provide freedom and fundamental rights to its citizens gets involved in corruption, the whole environment of society gets disturbed therefore, media is considered as a tool to stop this mishap from happening. It is suspected that the courtrooms that provide live coverage of trials have fewer corrupt judges than those courts having no media coverage.

Data Gathering

The researcher analyzed the first hypothesis. Having live media coverage in the courtroom would aid in conducting fair trials. As aimed to research Could the presence of the media in a courtroom trial affect the fairness and justice of a high-profile case?

For our qualitative research using a focus group to gather the most accurate data and information, the researcher chose to conduct a focus group to obtain first-hand information directly from the sample the researcher selected. This allowed the researcher to gain better insights and have a one-on-one conversation with the interviewees to obtain their honest opinions without them being limited to specific answers, as in a questionnaire. The researcher targeted Lebanese people, Yousef Diab, Mirna Zahoui, Ruba El Amine, Mohammad Mousa, Haya Liddawi, and George Maddah. all between the ages of 23 and 30, to obtain the most accurate information about the media coverage of the Beirut explosion. This is because the researcher wanted to interview educated people with work experience who had lived through the Beirut explosion. Nonetheless, the researcher believed that his sample represents Lebanon's future and the people who can effect change.

The researcher sample consists of three females and three males, all of whom are familiar with and follow high-profile government cases, not just in Lebanon. As a result, the researcher believed the insights the researcher gained are valuable because the information is obtained from people who are familiar with such cases and are aware of the impact that the media can have when covering such situations. To analyze the information gathered from the interviews, The researcher asked each interviewee the same set of five questions about the media's presence in

courtrooms in general. I'll then compare the responses to see what the interviewees are most likely to say. I'll look at whether they believe the media should be present all the time or only in specific cases and compare it to the Beirut Port explosion trial.

The interview questions that were included are:

1. In your opinion, should the media cover courtroom trial?
2. Do you believe the media should cover every courtroom trial?
3. To what extent do you believe the media can influence the public's opinion?
4. Do you think media coverage in the courtroom helps with the integrity of the trial?
5. Based on your previous answer, how fair would the Beirut 4th of August explosion trial be if it was covered live?

For the results, the researcher has incorporated every question with the research questions and hypothesis the researcher has stated. Regarding research question 1, all interviewees gave the same answer to the first question asked in the interview, where they do believe that the media should cover courtroom trials, however in relation to the second question of the interview is also related to RQ1, they all stated that they do not think all courtroom trials should be covered, only the important high-profile cases that affect society and other people who are indirectly involved. As mentioned by one of the interviewees, "There are plenty of private trials that the public has no interest in covering" (Yousef Diab), this shows us that the media should cover cases that have influence and affect the population of its state. Therefore, trials that are private and do not involve government or state issues, do not have to be covered as it is of less importance to the public, only important and high-end cases should be covered by the media.

In addition, the fourth question in the interview relates also to RQ1, where the researcher asked the interviewees if the media could affect the integrity of the trial. The feedback and information the researcher got back were all similar, where they all stated that the media could have a big role in the justice and integrity of a trial depending on how the media covers the case. Ruba El-Amine, one of the researcher's interviewees, stated that "if you have bad media coverage then the trial could become biased and that would affect its integrity." This proves the importance of having the correct media outlet that covers the case as having a biased outlet that is choosing sides of a party may end up leading to an unfair trial and verdict. Therefore, it is important to know what media outlet or what kind of media should be used to cover such high-profile cases in order to show the correct information and have transparency instead of having a media outlet that is biased due to it being sided with a certain party.

The researcher asked the interviewees, based on the previous integrity question, whether they believe that the Beirut Port case should be covered by the media. Not surprisingly, the researcher got the same answer from all interviewees as they all believe that there should be media covering the courtroom trial as it would help aid in having a fair trial. This is due to the biased media in Lebanese history, where each outlet is bought a specific party and of course tries to portray their own party in a positive image instead of showing the truth.

"Such controversial cases should be covered by the media as the party being trialed is the government as they would do whatever it takes to show that they had nothing to do with it" (Mirna Zahoui), this shows us that specifically in Lebanon due to the corruption, there should be

media coverage in order for the people to see what is going on, however, it should be an unbiased media outlet in order for the public to see everything happening clearly, and not have the media portray the side they want in a positive image and negatively portray the parties they are not sided with. For instance, as stated by the researcher interviewee Mohammad Mousa “On the other hand Saddam Hussein’s trial was very successful as it aided to show the truth of such dictatorship leader,” this clearly proves that with the right media coverage, the truth could be exposed even more by the help of the media.

To understand the core media influence, which revolves around the ability of the media to change and influence people’s perspectives about any issue they want, the researcher asked interviewees to what extent they believe the media can influence people’s opinions, and they all stated that they believe the media has a very big role in influencing and shaping ideas or thoughts about issues in people’s minds. “With repetition of a specific topic can stick in an individual’s mind for ages without noticing” (Mirna Zahoui), the researcher interviewee stated that the media could have the power of influence over long periods of time and not just in a small phase. Therefore, we should be careful of how the media is used as it is a very powerful tool that can be used either to guide people or to control and manipulate them.

Hypothesis 4 deals with the research question that media is non-existent in the courts of Lebanon. The idea of legal media is still in its infancy because the judiciary is not regarded as an independent institution worthy of attention by the media, society, or institutions, according to a journalist who spoke with The Legal Agenda. There is now significantly less room for the legal

press than there formerly was. Only al-Mustqbal Daily has maintained a page for covering judicial activities ("Police Stations and Courts"), even though one of the journalists interviewed described this paper's coverage of judicial problems as "perfunctory" in a quick scan of Lebanon's major newspapers. On the other hand, al-Akhbar combined its "Society" and "Justice" sections, while Annahar did away with its page dedicated to legal matters (Boutros, 2015).

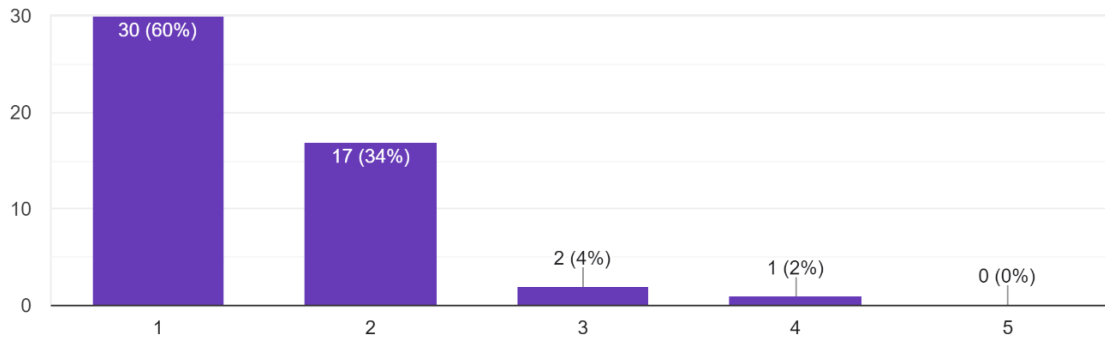
Survey

The researcher analyzed the second hypothesis People who are exposed to the dark complexion content of an individual are more likely to perceive him as a criminal than people who were shown light complexion content. As the researcher aimed to research Does the media can influence the public perspective on individuals, stories, or cases by using different complexions?

For our qualitative, the researcher distributed the questionnaire by having (between-subject) two different groups introduced to two different photos as the first group would be introduced to the lighter complexion of individuals and the second group will be exposed to the darker complexion photo. To prove the core finding for Media Controversy – Light and Dark Complexions mentioned in the literature review. Asked our Audience exposed to the light complexion visual “Do you believe this individual would commit a crime?” the researcher received 50 responses as 1=No of course 2= Probably not 3= Not sure 4=Probably yes 5=Of course. Audiences exposed to the light visual 60% 30/50 answered “No Of course” In addition 34% 17/50 answered probably not. While only 4% answered not sure and 1% answered Probably yes or of course combined.

Do you believe this individual would commit a crime?

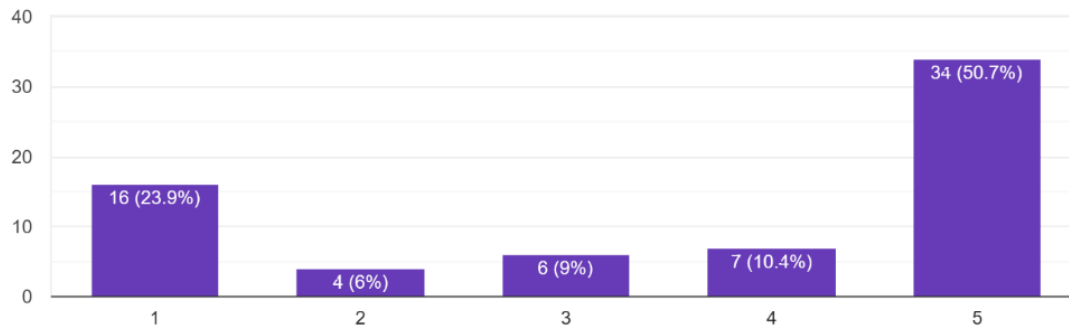
50 responses



On the other hand, In order to prove the core finding for **Media Controversy – Light and Dark Complexions** mentioned in the literature review the researcher asked our Audiences exposed to the dark complexion visual “Do you believe this individual would commit a crime?” the researcher received 67 in the below graph. Responses as 1=No, of course, 2= Probably not 3= Not sure 4=Probably yes 5=Of course Audiences exposed to the dark complexion visual answered 23% 16/67 answered “no of course” and 6% 4/67 answered “Probably not” as 9% 6/67 answered “Not sure”. While 10.4% 7/67 answered “probably yes” and 50.7% 34/67 answered, “Of course”.

Do you believe this individual would commit a crime?

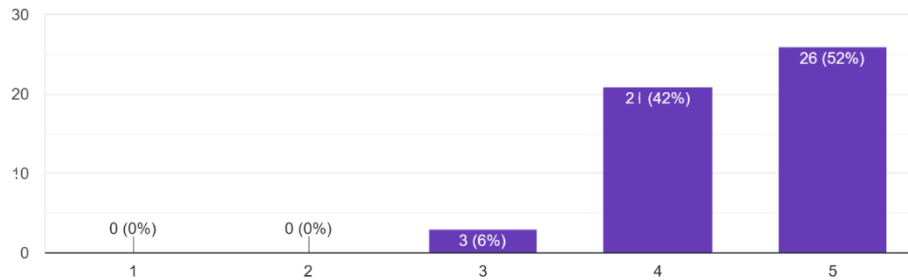
67 responses



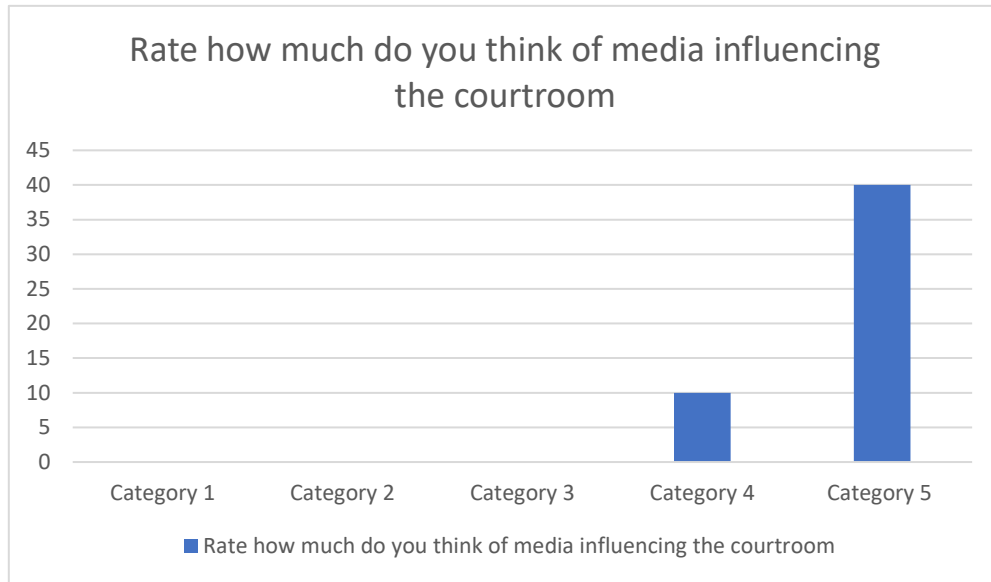
To compare both groups, Audiences exposed to Light complexion were pretty sure that the individual in the visual would not commit a crime due to the way the media portrayed his image to the public as **“1=No, of course, 2= Probably not”** received 84% of responses compared to **“Of course”** received 0%. On the other hand, Audiences exposed to the dark complexion were sure that individuals in the visual would commit a crime **“1=No, of course, 2= Probably not”** received 29% compared to **“4= Probably yes 5=Of course”** received 61.1%.

In addition, the researcher asked both audiences to “Rate how much do you think of media influencing the courtroom?” to understand if they believe that the media can influence the courtroom 1=No, of course, 2= Probably not 3= Not sure 4=Probably yes 5=Of course. In the first group, 76% answered 4=Probably yes 5=Of course that media has an impact on the courtroom. While no one answered 1=No of course 2= Probably not which shows that audiences truly believe that it has a huge influence.

Rate how much do you think of media influencing the courtroom?
50 responses



In the other group, the same question was asked: “Rate how much you think of media influencing the courtroom?” 1=No of course 2= Probably not 3= Not sure 4=Probably yes 5=Of course. Answers between the two groups were similar as 80% answered **5=Of course** which reflects audiences truly believe that media has a huge impact. The researcher believes that audiences truly see the media plays the biggest role once they cover such courtroom trials and create a sort of word of mouth among the mass. Some audiences view it as a soap opera where people would wait to watch the next trial it is literally like watching a series. As mentioned, based on the results analyzed in the survey media coverage plays a big role in covering cases as both audiences exposed to Light and Dark complexion answered very similarly to this question.



Researchers evaluated the third hypothesis whether the live coverage of courtrooms limited judicial corruption. The show used both live testimony and genuine court judgment records that awarded a former Lebanese minister two million dollars in compensation for closing the illegal quarries he owned as evidence against the corrupt courts. The episode follows no more than 50 different facets and causes of corruption in the nation that came after. Its host Ghada Eid claims that after dozens of programs on corruption in Lebanon, she concluded that "the problem is rooted in our legal system and that I had to deal with it." Eid was detained and appeared in court on allegations of defaming the judiciary shortly after the broadcast of this program on judicial corruption. Moreover, NTV was unable to broadcast the exact same episode the next day as planned. A few days later, knowing that she would air the second part of the show the following week, Eid was subjected to lengthy interrogation in a criminal court (and not a court for publications) and requested to make a written commitment not to "damage the courts" in the future.

The fourth hypothesis evaluated whether the media impacted the testimony of witnesses. Witnesses were made to watch videotaped crime in the first session, while in the next session, they testified about the crime in one of three settings: electronic media coverage (EMC), in which a video camera recorded the testimony; conventional coverage (CMC), in which a journalism student confederate took notes on live testimony; or control condition, in which no media were present. At each trial, a student judge presided over the proceedings, one student attorney handled direct questioning, and a second student attorney handled cross-examining witnesses. Each witness gave his or her testimony before going back to the waiting area while the next witness was brought into the courtroom. The post-experimental measures were finished by the prior witness as the following witness gave testimony. After completing the surveys, each witness had a debriefing before being let go.

Data Analysis

This proves that the way the media portrays a certain individual it can influence the public's opinion about a specific topic as the audience doesn't know if this individual is a criminal or not but by just portraying him in a specific way it managed to play the mass audiences minds. This study indicates that individuals that witnessed a dark complexion visually viewed the individual as a criminal while individuals that viewed the light complexion of the individual viewed him as an innocent person. The researcher believes that the way media alter an individual can manipulate people based on their agenda. Based on the data it proves the researcher's theory that people are manipulated by the media where they view people based on how the media portrays certain individuals to the mass public. Based on the research analyses it proves the core study as audiences exposed to Light complexion were pretty sure that the individual in the visual would not commit a crime due to the way the media portrayed his image to the public as **"1=No of course 2= Probably not"** received 84% of responses compared to **"Of course"** received 0%. On the other hand, Audiences exposed to the dark complexion were sure that individuals in the visual would commit a crime **"1=No, of course, 2= Probably not"** received 29% compared to **"4= Probably yes 5=Of course"** received 61.1%. Each media outlet has its own agenda setting as media agenda setting when the media determines the agenda for which stories are considered important (Alvernia,2018). Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman. The "Bad is Black" Effect According to research, darker skin is associated with negative perceptions of guilt. In 1994 Time magazine ran a controversial cover photo of O.J. Simpson's mugshot that, to some readers, seemed to have been intentionally altered to make Simpson's skin look darker than normal. Accompanied by the headline "An American Tragedy," Time was criticized for

manipulating Simpson's appearance to make him seem menacing, and therefore more likely to be guilty of his accused crimes (Grewal,2017).

The trial of Bruno Hauptmann drew 700 journalists, including 120 cameramen, all of whom played a role in leading the accused to have an unfair trial as juries and judges were prejudiced due to the coverage that took over the trial (Strickland, 2009). As Ruba El-Amine, one of the researcher interviewees, stated that "If you have bad media coverage then the trial could become biased and that would affect its integrity." This proves the importance of having the correct media outlet that covers the case as having a biased outlet that is choosing sides of a party may end up leading to having an unfair trial and verdict which exactly matches a previous study by Strickland. That huge media coverage would aid in having an unfair trial from the pressure the media puts on the courtroom.

Due to high media coverage, Witnesses may also be reluctant to testify because they are concerned about the national publicity of their testimony. "Further, witnesses may be encouraged to lie to protect themselves or loved ones from media ridicule," (Johnson, 2003). This clearly matches our study where the researcher asked our audiences to "Rate how much do you think of media influencing the courtroom?" in the first group 76% answered 4=Probably yes 5=Of course that media has an impact on the courtroom. While in the second group where similar as 80% answered **5=Of course** which reflects audiences truly believe that media has a huge impact which proves Johnson's where claims that media can influence witnesses in the courtroom. In addition, one of our interviewees Mirna believed this too as she stated to understand the core media influence, which revolves around the ability of the media to change and influence people's

perspectives about any issue they want, The researcher asked the interviewees what extent they believe the media can influence people's opinions, and they all stated that they believe the media has a very big role in influencing and shaping ideas or thoughts about issues in people's minds. "With repetition of a specific topic can stick in an individual's mind for ages without noticing" (Mirna Zahoui)

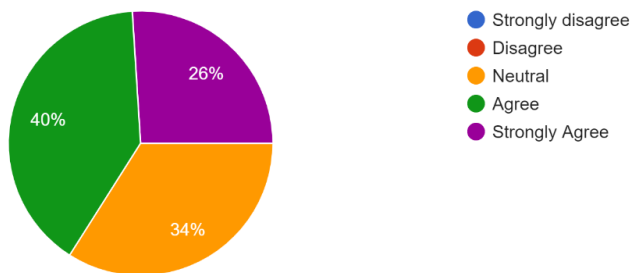
Media coverage in the courtroom aids in educating the public and restoring confidence in the court as opinion polls and panel studies conducted between 1973 & 1981 indicates that earlier the courts were viewed as overloaded, lenient, & unpredictable head of the government that was involved in corruption, gave inadequate sentences & to a return in the crime in society (Barber, 1985) as in some cases media coverage would be helpful in country such as Lebanon where there a lack of trust in judicial system as during the focus group interview one of them mentioned "Such controversial cases should be covered by the media as the party being trialed is the government as they would do whatever it takes to show that they had nothing to do with it" (Mirna Zahoui) which aids Barber's theory.

The researcher asked both groups if Media coverage would create controversy in society if the trial was unfair, where audiences were exposed to Light complexion visual figures that 26% strongly agreed, 40% agreed and 34% were neutral. where it was created during Saddam Hussien's trial in Iraqi society in general and grabbed the world's attention. A very familiar example is Iraq War (2003). The media provided widespread coverage where the white house claimed to have possession of Saddam Hussein saying that he possessed WMDs & this

manipulated public opinion in favor of the war, i.e., they agreed to the invasion by US & NATO.

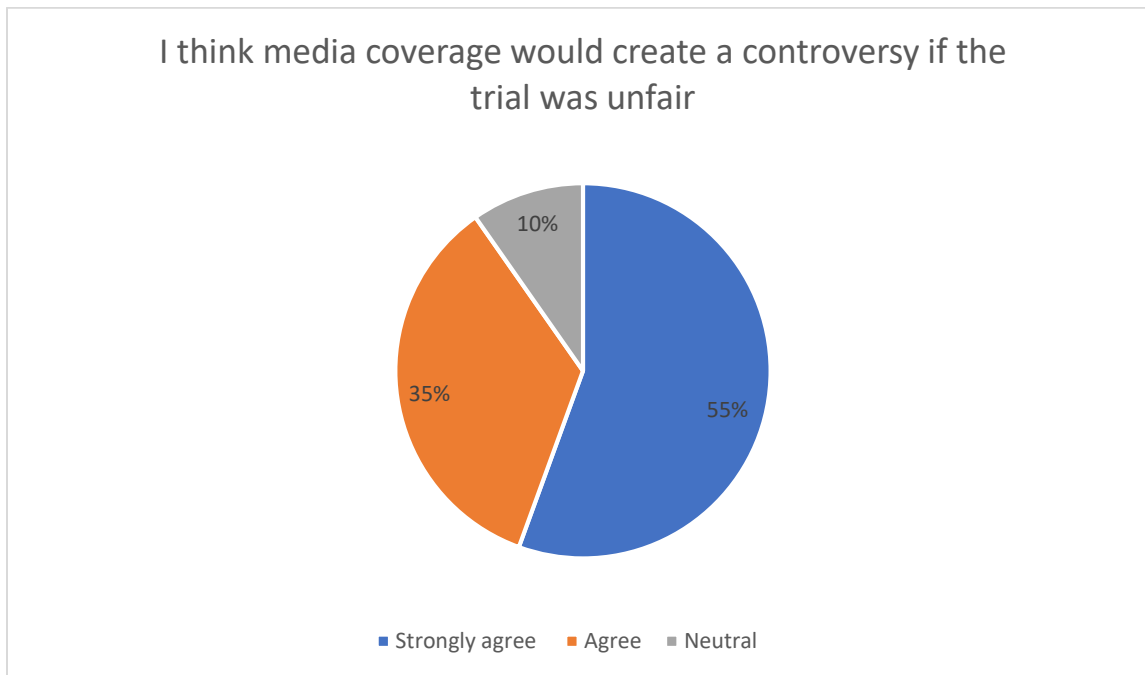
However, it was proven later that Saddam Hussein did not possess any WMDs nor was he causing any significant threats to America or its allies (Drew,2022). In addition, the United Nations article where after the execution of Saddam Hussein on December 30, 2006, created a huge controversy as audiences believed that the trial was just for propaganda as the American government wanted to get rid of Saddam with or without a trial. In 2007, the United nation issued an article “Tragic mistakes made in the trial and execution of Saddam Hussein must not be repeated” some believed that the trial was unfair due to American control over the judges and courtroom while some stated that you can’t give a criminal that killed hundreds of people a chance to show the world that he is innocent.

I think media covering port explosion trial would aid in creating a controversy in the society even if it was unfair
50 responses



In addition, the researcher asked the same question media coverage would create controversy in society if it was unfair to audiences exposed to Dark complexion visuals. Where

figures that 55% strongly agreed, 35% agreed and 10% were neutral. Both audiences believe that media would aid in controversy in society.



The study proves that the media coverage would create a controversy proved by the theory of Drew and the United nations article where both audiences believed that this would create an issue in the society between individuals.

The Copycat Effect, a book written by Loren Coleman, describes the role that media plays in crimes & suicides that are often inspired by events that are broadly covered by media. The author is of the view that the constant coverage of crimes by the media makes criminals believe that they are celebrities. Although most crime is repeated within 2 years, often similar crimes are observed even after 4-5 years. At least 74 plots or attacks across 30 states have been inspired by two teenage boys who fatally shot 13 people & injured 24 others at Columbine High School in

Littleton, Colorado on April 20, 1999 (Johnston,2021). “There are plenty of private trials that the public has no interest in covering” (Yousef Diab), this shows us that the media should cover cases that have influence and affect the population of its state. As creating some sort of celebrity and huge media coverage could create a mass influence something called “Copycat Killer” as with the huge coverage people are easily influenced by trying to get the same media attention and gratification. Take Derek Brown, for instance, who was 48 when he was found guilty in 2008 of killing two people in the same way as Jack the Ripper did (Johnston,2021).

Limitations

As with any research, there have been some limitations faced while conducting the study, such as the fact that the sample was distributed among the people living in Lebanon only, therefore, there might be different results if the research was broader as maybe people living in different situations might have different perspectives, as people in different regions might have several other beliefs or point of views that might influence the research.

In addition, the absence of prior study in the field the theoretical underpinnings for the study question the researcher examining is are provided by earlier investigations. However, the numerous research published earlier that are vital to the thesis may be limited depending on the extent of the research issue. Since the researcher created a research typology on which no past studies are present. Evaluation limitations in this situation may be considered an important chance to spot the gaps present in the literature & to highlight the need for more research in the field. Moreover, time limitations Academic researchers may have deadlines for submitting a manuscript to a journal or other time restrictions relating to their study in addition to the deadlines students must meet for submitting their class papers. These concerns may result in limiting the time that could be used in the exploration of a research problem & tracking of its development. Lack of resources, as the researcher did not have enough resources to interview more people. Nonetheless, the interviewees were only limited to 6-10 people as they might not be enough to represent such a big population and to hand the questionnaires to people face to face. Usually, studies are conducted using hundreds of people to attain the most precise or representative amount of data for a population.

In addition, the participants were limited only to a certain class of people in the country as all our participants for the study were university students or graduates and employed people; where different types of people may have different influences and perceptions from the media, and this is because not all people understand things from the media in the same way. If people from lower classes were involved in the study, the researcher would have been able to have a wider range of answers and a mixture of different perspectives to be able to represent a larger population.

Nonetheless, all participants chosen were between the ages of 25-35; this has also limited us to certain generations and mindsets as different ages have been exposed to and experienced different effects and influences from the media. Older people would have been able to give us past experiences with the media which would have helped us study whether the media's impact has been ongoing for a long time and study whether its' influence has changed over time and what strategies and tactics they've taken to adjust their approach to the people.

On the other hand, younger people are even more exposed to the media nowadays than most; people below the age of 25 are constantly active on the media and many have been exposed to the influence of it since they were born, these subjects would have also provided effective input and information to be able to compare the level of influence among different ages of people. People under the age of 25 rely significantly nowadays on the information and voice of the media as they were not exposed to depending on other sources of facts and data, for instance, they would resort to the internet and media rather than books.

Conclusion

According to constitutional law theory, the effective operation of various sources of power depends on the separation of each arm of government in liberal modern democracies. Courts demand more from the government than just their independence. They also call for independence, which keeps the exercise of judicial authority free from improper outside interference. The fourth estate, or the media, is a separate influence that operates outside the bounds of constitutional legislation (Scordato, 2002) In fact, Jeremy Bentham famously said that "Publicity is the very essence of justice" in reference to how important it is for the media to publicize the work of the courts (Bentham, 1843).

Media is impacting our society significantly. Along with publicizing information, newspapers, radio, television, & new media influence the subjects & news stories that are discussed. Often media proves to be fatal for litigation cases due to the attention it provides to certain crimes. No matter if the judges have seen the news before the verdict or not, they are obliged to provide an impartial decision. Police involvement is also inevitable in cases where the information is to be disclosed to the media. The way a witness or a juror act can be influenced by media especially when the television cameras are present in the courtroom since they manipulate the citizens in a way to manipulate them.

Media coverage always had a huge impact on individuals' perspectives and its influence stretches to judicial matters. It has the power and ability to convince people of an image about a case or an individual to achieve their own agenda. Therefore, it is important to understand whether the media should be present in courtroom trials or not. The influence of mass media is related to

the effect that the media has on the thoughts, actions & manners of individuals & audiences. The impact can either be positive or negative. If the influence is negative, it can lead to crimes, poverty, violence, nudity & harm to physical & mental health. For instance, often mobs are seen attacking innocent people based on rumors that they heard online. There are also instances where positivity results from mass media influence. People being there for each other in times of need, for example, foster humanity & empathy in children & adults, resulting in more volunteers coming forward to provide help to people in need. The researcher proved in the research paper that people are affected by how the media and they are influenced by how the media portrays certain individuals based on their agenda setting for example the war in Syria that started in 2011, channels that support the Syrian regime showcased how good is the Syrian regime is and the terrorists they are battling while channels that are against the Syrian regime showcased how the Syrian regime is killing innocent people and torturing poor children. This adds value to the fact that the media only showcases what their Agenda setting is.

The findings of the questions and hypothesis were reached after extensive research. The first hypothesis was determined through qualitative results that people believe that having live media coverage in a trial would aid in having a fair trial where justice would be served because it would be covered from multiple perspectives and would be transparent to the public to see. Furthermore, the second hypothesis demonstrated the significant impact that media has on people via the way they preview and paint individuals or cases.

People who were exposed to the individual's dark complexion content perceived him as competent to commit a crime, whereas showing a different lighter complexion image of the same

individual to another group of people caused them to conclude that he did not look like someone who would commit a crime; demonstrating the influence the media can have on us.

The media is an extremely powerful tool that should be used with caution, as I've clearly learned from the research about the impact a single photo can have. The media can paint any issue, topic, or person in any way they want the public to believe, and they will be successful because the public often believes and trusts the media. Therefore, to maintain the trust of the public, the media should always portray and present content accurately. This means that they must not be biased or edited; rather, they must simply present the truth to the public for the media to have a powerfully positive influence on them rather than a negative one. Without proper education about the media and an understanding of how it works, unfortunately, many individuals will be negatively impacted and influenced by the media as they would not have the realization of the media has its own agenda and trying to inflict its own ideas and opinions onto other people. I've grown to understand the influence the media can have on a single photo. The media can paint any issue, topic, or person, in any way they would want the people to believe, and they will be successful in reaching their goal as the public often believe the media and trust them. Therefore, to not betray the trust of the people, the media should make sure it is always portraying and showing content the way, it should be not edited, and not biased, they should simply show the public the truth in order for the media to be able to have a positive powerful influence on the public, and not influence them negatively.

Appendix

The questionnaire shared to TA:

Gender

Q1) Occupation

- Bachelors Student
- Master Student
- Un-employed
- Employed

Q2) Have you ever watched a trial live on TV?

- Yes
- No

Q3) if yes, how likely do you think the trial was fair?

- Very Unlikely
- Unlikely
- Neutral
- Likely
- Very likely

Q4) How often do you think the media should have access to the courtroom?

- Not often
- Often
- Very often

Q5) Rate how much do you think of media influencing the courtroom?

1: no influence

5: highly influenced

Q6) How likely do you think trial media coverage would help the society?

- Very unlikely
- Unlikely
- Neutral
- Likely
- Very Likely

Q7) Do you recognize this male individual?



- Yes
- No

Q8) If you recognize the individual kindly identify his name below:

Q9) Do you believe this individual would commit a murder? (Dark vs Light)



1; No ofcourse

5: definitely

Q10) Do you agree in OJ Simpson trial verdict?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Q11) Do you think the media played a huge role in OJ's Simpson trail?

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Q12) What do you believe personally influenced OJ Simpson's trail mostly?

- Lawyers
- Jury
- Judge
- Media
- OJ Simpson

Q13) Rate, if you think the media should the access courtroom in Lebanon

- 1: Strongly agree
- 2: Agree
- 3: Neutral
- 4: Disagree
- 5: Strongly disagree

Q14) Rate the level of agreement, if the media Should cover Beirut port explosion trial?

- 1: Strongly agree
- 2: Agree
- 3: Neutral
- 4: Disagree
- 5: Strongly disagree

Q15) How likely, do you believe that the trial will be biased?

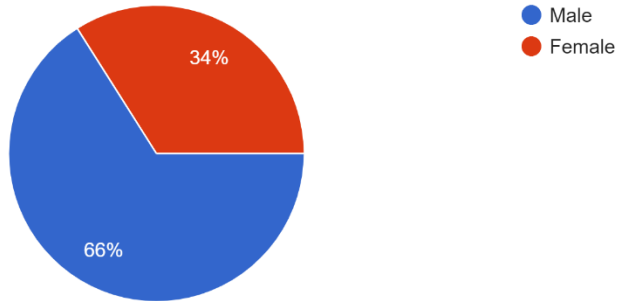
- 1: Most Likely
- 2: Somewhat likely
- 3: Likely
- 4: Somewhat unlikely
- 5: Most unlikely

Q16) if the media covered the trial, do you believe a bias might occur?

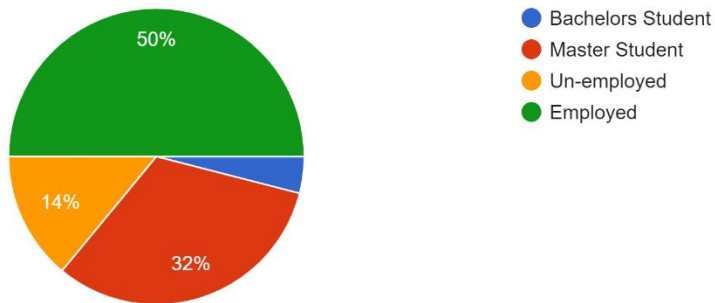
- 1: Most Likely
- 2: Somewhat likely
- 3: Likely
- 4: Somewhat unlikely
- 5: Most unlikely

Survey results

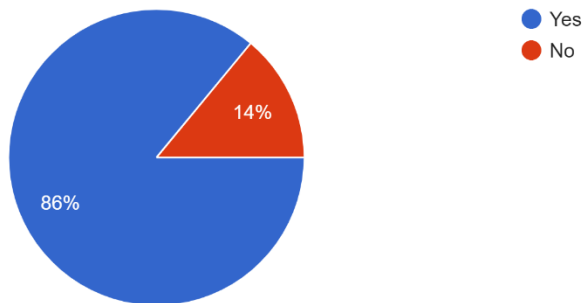
Gender
50 responses



Occupation
50 responses

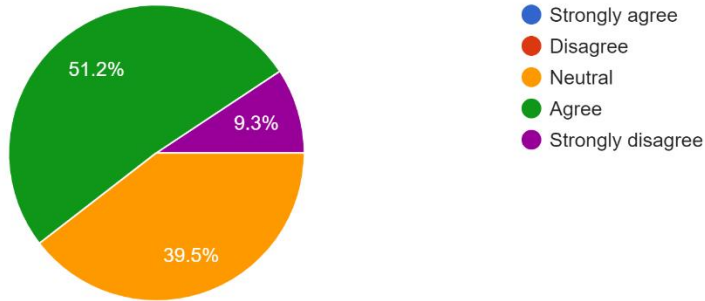


Have you ever watched a trial live on TV?
50 responses



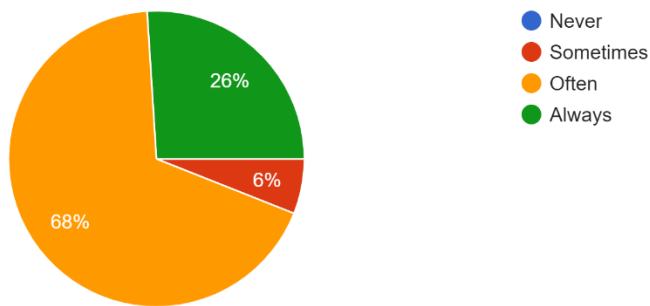
if yes, I think the trial was fair

43 responses



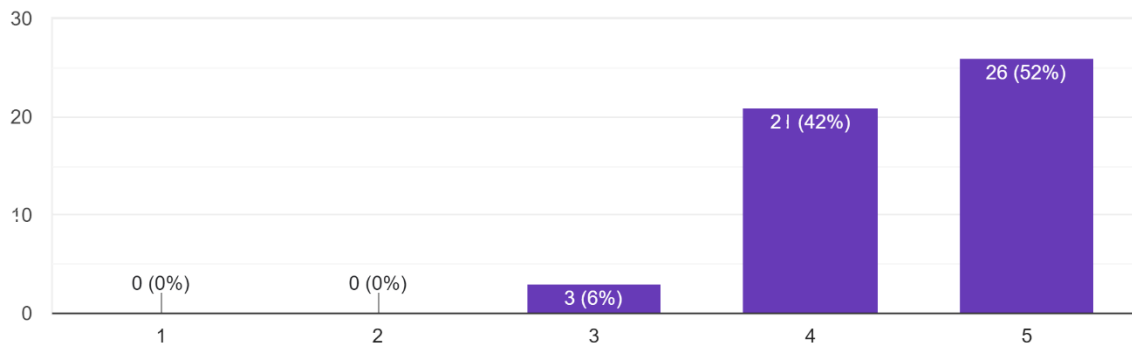
How often do you think the media should have access to the courtroom?

50 responses



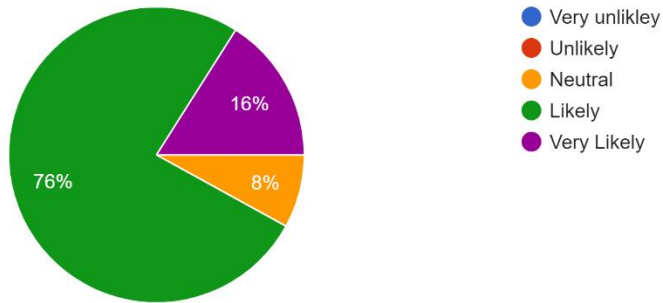
Rate how much do you think of media influencing the courtroom?

50 responses



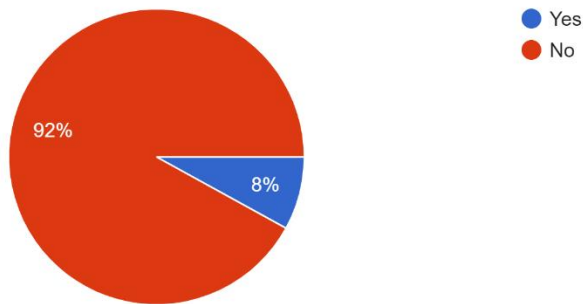
I think trial media coverage would help the society

50 responses



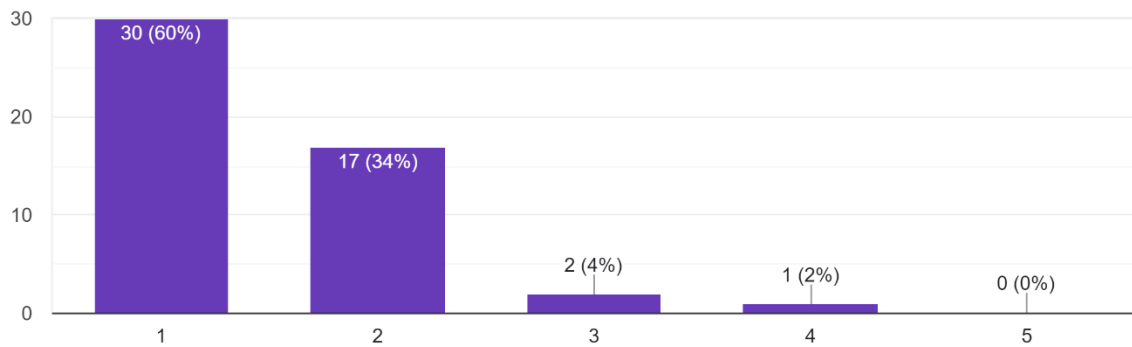
Do you recognize this male individual?

50 responses



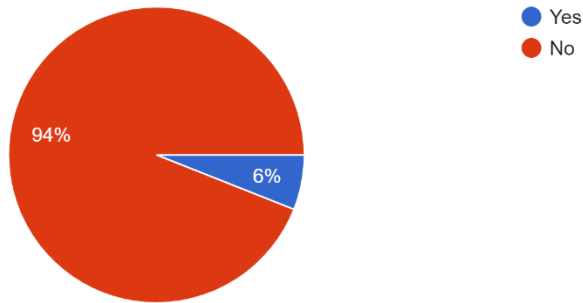
Do you believe this individual would commit a crime?

50 responses



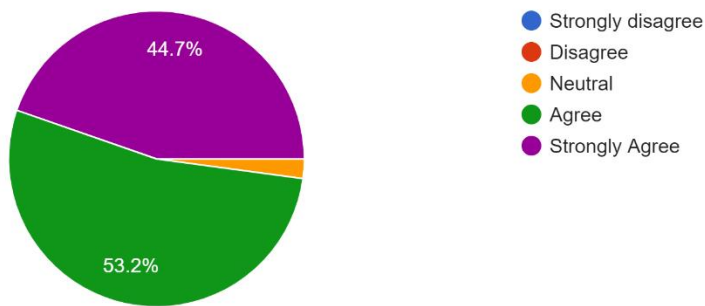
Have you watched OJ Simpson's trial?

50 responses



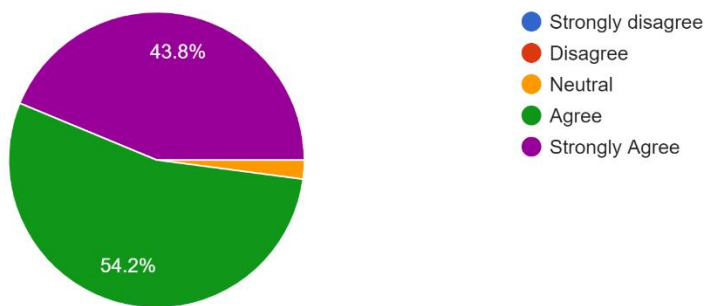
I think the media should have access to the courtroom in Lebanon

47 responses



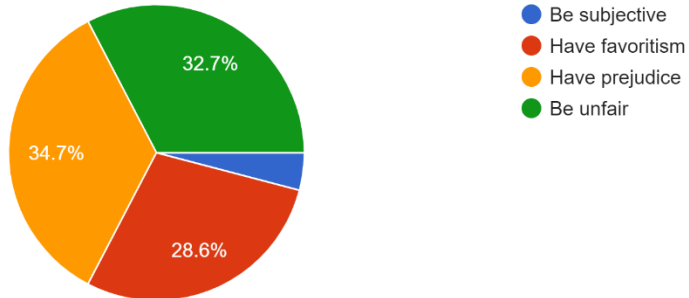
I think the media Should cover Beirut port explosion trial

48 responses



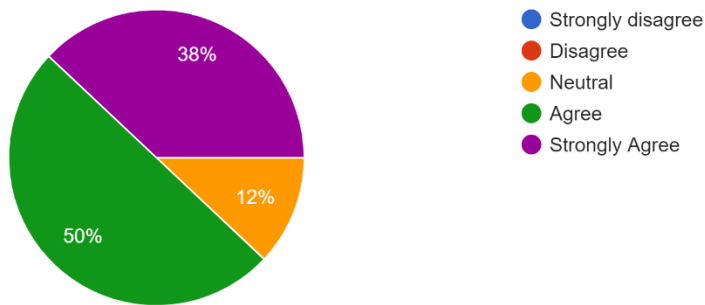
Rate the level of agreement to the following statements in relation to: "if the court trial did not have live coverage, I think that the trial will..."

49 responses



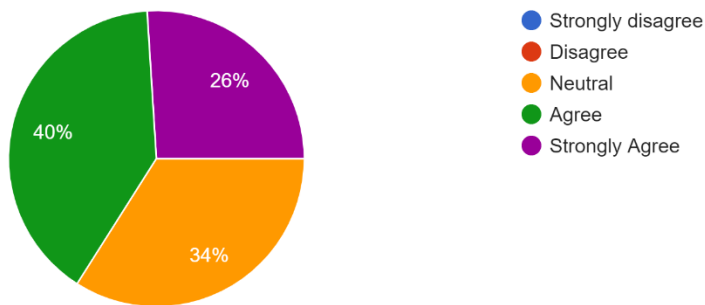
I think media covering port explosion trial would aid in creating a propaganda in the society even if it was unfair

50 responses



I think media covering port explosion trial would aid in creating a controversy in the society even if it was unfair

50 responses



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