

CHARLES UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism

MA THESIS REVIEW

NOTE: Only the grey fields should be filled out!

Review type (choose one):

Review by thesis supervisor

Review by opponent

Thesis author:

Surname and given name: Camille Gasnier

Thesis title: Impact of AI-Generated Images in the Work Field of Journalism

Reviewer:

Surname and given name: Sandra Lábová

Affiliation: IKSŽ

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND THESIS (mark one box for each row)

		Conforms to approved research proposal	Changes are well explained and appropriate	Changes are explained but are inappropriate	Changes are not explained and are inappropriate	Does not conform to approved research proposal
1.1	Research objective(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Methodology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Thesis structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTARY (description of the relationship between the research proposal and the thesis. If there are problems, please be specific):

2. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS CONTENT

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
2.1	Quality and appropriateness of the theoretical framework	C
2.2	Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature	B
2.3	Quality and soundness of the empirical research	D
2.4	Ability to select the appropriate methods and to use them correctly	C
2.5	Quality of the conclusion	D
2.6	Thesis originality and its contribution to academic knowledge production	C

Camille Gasnier's thesis addresses a novel and promising topic with the potential to contribute to academic knowledge.

Quality and Appropriateness of the Theoretical Framework – The theoretical framework covers essential concepts of photojournalism and journalism ethics. However, it would benefit from further development, particularly by including a discussion on the relationship between photography and reality. Additionally, the analysis of AI-generated photo-realistic images is basic and should be expanded. To enhance this chapter, greater attention should be given to the normative nature of journalistic ethics, the role and impact of images (mainly photographs) in news media, and their integrity.

Ability to Critically Evaluate and Apply the Literature – Compared to the previous version, this thesis shows some improvements in the literature review section. While the thesis introduces a novel topic, the scarcity of relevant sources is expected. However, this should not hinder the connection of contemporary knowledge to contextual sources. Camille Gasnier expanded the literature review by adding a subchapter that considers ongoing changes in the media market tied to digitization and the adoption of new technologies. It

would be wise to explore this transition within the context of photojournalism and to examine the impact of these changes on photojournalism at various phases, including production, photo content characteristics, ethics, and the job market.

Ability to critically evaluate and apply the literature – Compared to the previous version, this thesis sees some improvements in the literature review section. While the thesis introduces a novel topic, the scarcity of relevant sources is expected. However, this should not hinder the connection of contemporary knowledge to contextual sources. Camille Gasnier expanded the literature review by adding a subchapter that considers ongoing changes in the media market tied to digitization and the adoption of new technologies. Still it would be wise to explore this transition on the background of photojournalism and to examine the impact of these changes on photojournalism at various phases, including production, characteristics of photos' content, ethics, and the job market.

Camille Gasnier's thesis addresses a novel and promising topic with the potential to significantly contribute to academic knowledge.

Quality and Appropriateness of the Theoretical Framework – The theoretical framework covers essential concepts of photojournalism and journalism ethics. However, it would benefit from further development, particularly by including a discussion on the relationship between photography and reality. Additionally, the analysis of AI-generated photo-realistic images is basic and should be expanded. To enhance this chapter, greater attention should be given to the normative nature of journalistic ethics, the role and impact of images (mainly photographs) in news media, and their integrity.

Ability to Critically Evaluate and Apply the Literature - Compared to the previous version, this thesis shows some improvements in the literature review section. While the thesis introduces a novel topic, the scarcity of relevant sources is expected. However, this should not hinder the connection of contemporary knowledge to contextual sources. Camille Gasnier expanded the literature review by adding a subchapter that considers ongoing changes in the media market tied to digitization and the adoption of new technologies. It would be wise to explore this transition within the context of photojournalism and to examine the impact of these changes on photojournalism at various phases, including production, photo content characteristics, ethics, and the job market.

Quality and Soundness of the Empirical Research; Ability to Select the Appropriate Methods and Use Them Correctly - The introduction and research design require more attention, necessitating a discussion of the primary rationale behind selecting the topic and clarifying the research's primary objectives and aims. Specifically, the structure of Chapter 3 (Methodology) is somewhat chaotic, with the explanation of the main objectives being somewhat lost. While the chosen methods seem appropriate, there is a lack of explanation regarding why some of them were chosen for the specific aim of the study. This is particularly relevant for photo-elicitation, which is mentioned but not discussed or explained. Additionally, Gasnier uses the term in two different versions: "photoelicitation" and "photo-elicitation." This should be unified and clarified.

Both in the Methodology and Findings chapters, the process of thematic analysis remains unclear, and the application of information indicated in Figure 4 to the data is not well-explained. As a result, the data analysis appears chaotic, with significant themes not identified and described. On the other hand, the structure of the findings has improved compared to the previous thesis version and now better reflects the research questions. Nevertheless, some findings are repetitively presented, which diminishes their impact. Conclusive remarks remain scattered throughout the findings chapter.

Quality of the Conclusion - Compared to the previous version, this thesis now presents a brief discussion. However, the discussion is somewhat chaotic, addressing only partial findings. Furthermore, neither the Discussion nor the Conclusion sections clearly answer the research questions.

Thesis Originality and Contribution to Academic Knowledge Production - While the MA thesis holds the promise of an exciting topic that could yield valuable findings, issues are limiting the validity of the research. Specifically, its disconnection from the theoretical framework and inconsistencies in presenting and discussing findings diminish the overall quality.

3. EVALUATION OF THE THESIS FORM

Use letters A – B – C – D – E – F (A=best, F= failed)

		Grade
3.1	Quality of the structure	B
3.2	Quality of the argumentation	D
3.3	Appropriate use of academic terminology	C
3.4	Quality, quantity, and appropriateness of the citations (both in the theory part and in the empirical part)	B
3.5	Conformity to quotation standards (*)	D
3.6	Use of an academic writing style and correct use of language (both grammar and spelling)	C
3.6	Quality of the textual lay-outing and appendices	C

(*) in case the text contains quotations without references, the grade is F; in case the text contains plagiarised parts, do not recommend the thesis for defence and suggest disciplinary action against the author instead.

<p>COMMENTARY (description of thesis form and the main problems): Structure - The structure of Chapter 3 (Methodology) is chaotic. Quotation Standards - Gasnier frequently does not indicate page numbers in both direct quotations and paraphrases. Text Quality - The text requires thorough proofreading, as there are typographical errors and stylistic inconsistencies.</p>

4. OVERALL EVALUATION (provide a summarizing list of the thesis's strengths and weaknesses):

The thesis shows several weaknesses described in this review. Therefore, I suggest grading between C-D with the final grade being decided after the defense.

5. QUESTIONS OR TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE THESIS DEFENSE:

5.1	What are the perceived benefits of using AI-generated images in journalistic practices, according to the respondents?
5.2	What specific threats do AI-generated images pose to the credibility of news organizations?
5.3	What legal concerns are associated with the use of AI-generated images in journalism, and how are these currently being managed by news organizations?
5.4	How do AI-generated images contribute to the proliferation of misinformation and deep fakes, according to journalists?

6. ANTIPLAGIARISM CHECK

The reviewer is familiar with the thesis' URKUND score.

If the score is above 5%, please evaluate and indicate problems:

6.1	The overall similarity in Turnitin is 15%, most of which are included in the theoretical part of the thesis. All sources and citations are correctly cited

6. SUGGESTED GRADE OF THE THESIS AS A WHOLE (choose one or two)

- A** excellent
B very good (above average but with some weaknesses)
C good (average with some important weaknesses)
D satisfactory (below average with significant weaknesses)
E marginal pass (meeting minimal requirements)
F not recommended for defense

If the mark is an "F", please provide your reasons for not recommending the thesis for defence:

--

Date: 10 June, 2024

Signature:

