

## **Abstract**

Due to the advent of the internet, growing financial pressures, and a shifting global news industry, alternative forms of foreign correspondence have entered the media landscape, posing a threat to the future existence of the traditional foreign correspondent (TFC). Expectations about the nearing end of the profession have been tempered in recent years, prompting this research to explore the current position of TFCs within a Dutch context

It does so through fifteen semi-structured interviews with professionals, both TFCs and chiefs of the foreign desk, working for five selected Dutch news outlets. The outcome of these interviews points at an increased usage of non-traditional forms of foreign correspondence, which in certain cases, has taken over part of the tasks of their traditional counterpart. Only in one instance did it lead to a full replacement of the TFC. Overall, the relationship between alternative foreign correspondents and TFCs is not characterized as competitive but more as collaborative. Dutch TFCs, therefore, do not feel threatened by the rise of new forms of foreign correspondence. The adoption of certain tasks by non-traditional foreign correspondents has allowed the TFC to evolve from a news transmitter into a new role, marked by mediation, interpretation and contextualization of those news events. Other significant findings of this research: a drop in the number of Dutch TFC positions, a higher prevalence of freelance TFCs, and an increased working pressure among TFCs. Although these developments parallel the emergence of alternative forms of foreign correspondence, more research is needed to establish a possible direct link between them.