

Unemployment and childhood in the media: an analysis of medicalization trends in German national daily newspapers from 1992 to 2019

Theoretical Background

The design of social policy depends on what is understood to be a social problem. Social science scholarship has shown that medicine and psychology have become increasingly important for how societies deal with various social problems. The media are one major actor in the public discourse, setting agendas, shaping perspectives or distributing share in the finite carrying capacities of public arenas. Newspapers play a prominent role in placing topics in the public discourse and creating a climate in which governmental actors are forced to participate in.

Data & Methods



- Time span: 1992-2019; Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ) & Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)
- Search terms (searched in German): *medici*/medica**, *practitioner/doctor**, *health*/sick*/ill**, *treat*/therap** and *psych**
- Adjustment for annual total number of articles and annual number of articles for unemployment or childhood

Results

- Results indicate an increasing medicalization/psychologization trend in the SZ, which is true for childhood and even stronger for unemployment
- An increasing trend is also visible in the FAZ, but to a lower degree
- Medical and psychological issues are getting more important in the field of unemployment and childhood

