

Abstract

The thesis titled „Sources of distrust in public media in the Czech republic in context of illiberalism“ explores the factors leading respondents in this research to distrust Czech Television. Trust in the media has been steadily declining in recent years. One contributing factor is the rise of populism, which, with its anti-pluralist stance, creates opposition to public service media. These media face attacks from politicians, the public, and even other media outlets. Moreover, politicians with illiberal and populist views have long sought to restrict their funding, thereby weakening their position as much as possible. This thesis consists of a theoretical section, which explains key concepts and ideologies and situates them within the historical development of the region. It focuses primarily on the concepts of trust and distrust, illiberalism, and populism. The qualitative research is based on data obtained through semi-structured interviews. Using thematic analysis, key areas were identified that reveal the sources of respondents' distrust toward Czech Television. They are namely impartiality, lack of objectivity, and lack of transparency. This qualitative research builds on existing quantitative studies addressing media distrust.