

Relationships between media and the terrorism are a subject of scientific interest for more than a dozen years. But, scientific publications which are a result of this interest are mostly based on simple analysis of mutual benefits and ethical aspects of a contemporary journalism. Some of them as only a popular scientific positions. The research project aims at deepening previous studies and observations. The theoretical concept of mediatization is a starting point for introduction of media studies' methodology into a field of political science and it was transformed into a question on a mediatization of politics. The project offers an unique attempt to use this category to analyze one of the most significant menaces of contemporary World and international security: the terrorism. It suggests that there is a process of mediatization of terrorism, which links two different areas of human actions. The main objective of the project is an investigation of interactive modeling and formatting of a message by terrorists and media, so it asks if in the 21st Century media influence how terrorists plan and realize their main messages – terrorist attacks. Final results of this project will show, if and how terrorists adapts in their terrorist actions to the logic of media communication. Moreover, it will also reveal how American television channels transform these messages send to the society by terrorist organizations.

Investigating the mediatization of terrorism is a chance not only to develop our knowledge on relationships between terrorism and media, but also to strengthen their empirical foundations. It is significant, because this type of research is hard and rarely realized in international practice – it requires specialized knowledge in three quite different disciplines: political science, media studies and security studies. Also, this approach is not so popular because academic interest in relationships between media and politics is rather new, and it causes dynamic changes in the theory, especially when we consider the concept of mediatization which is still developing and has not clear theoretical framework. Alike these relationships, also the terrorism is hard to catch in scientific description, and there are two main reasons of this state. On the one hand, the terrorism is dynamic, and it is changing year by year – new terrorist organizations makes a significant difference, as it was noticeable in the case of Al-Qaeda or is visible in the case of the Islamic State (as the ISIS oriented itself to communicate with international society via the Internet not traditional mass-media, and which has not been included in this study as it does not belong to the field of interest). On the other hand, information about the terrorism is not commonly accessible – we cannot access primary sources and confirm motivations of terrorists, their goal and objectives, we are not able to ask them relevant questions. Neither scientists, nor journalists have a possibility to write an e-mail and arrange an interview with famous terrorists or even ordinary members of well-known terrorist organizations, and their websites do not have a contact form.

The interest in relationships between terrorist organizations and media is a result of long-lasting leading investigator's research on links between the terrorism and media communication. She realized both bachelor and master project within this field, answering questions related to celebrityization of terrorists and an image of terrorists in Poland. The submitted project is another step into the world of media and terrorism, which will result in new answers (and new questions), but – what is the most important issue – it is a way to observe if we are living in times of symbiosis between terrorist organizations and media or these organizations are still independently deciding in what political game they are involved. As a result, the project will also answer if in the contemporary world, terrorists may survive without mass media, and especially nationwide television channels.