Charting the Progression of a Journalism Subarea: A Meta-Analysis of Peace Journalism Scholarship

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Over the past 2 decades, peace journalism (PJ) has been embraced by reporters as well as activists around the world in their coverage of war and conflict. As a result, it has earned a considerable amount of scholarly attention from academics. Despite that, no study has measured the progression of this field. For this reason, this study aims to conduct a systematic literature review to investigate the PJ research scholarship. The result shows that PJ scholarship is an evolving, qualitative method; content analysis, interviews, were the most used kind of method and specific analytical methods. PJ theory and framing theory were the most used theories. Television-focused studies earned more scholarly attention, while scholars from Asia and North America dominated first author affiliation. Pakistan, Kenya, Fiji, Cyprus, Nigeria, and the Central African Republic are the countries with the most PJ-focused studies. *Media, War and Conflict* and *Journalism Studies* published more articles.

Keywords: peace journalism, meta-analysis, content analysis, systematic literature review

The term "peace journalism" (PJ) can be traced and has been credited to Johan Galtung's and Mari Holmboe Ruge's (1965) milestone study titled "The Structure of Foreign News," where they assessed the Norwegian media's coverage of the crisis in Cyprus, Congo, and Cuba. In the article, Galtung and Ruge

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(1965) explored many issues within international news reporting that form the foundation of what PJ is today. One of which is the repudiation of chaos, crisis, or disaster as a fundamental news value (Galtung & Ruge, 1965). According to Hackett (2017), at its core, PJ highlights the circumstances surrounding certain behaviors and attitudes that emanate from different issues, people, and events. To him, "if War Journalism (WJ) presents conflict as a tug-of-war between two parties in which one side's gain is the other's loss, PJ invites journalists to re-frame conflict as a cat's cradle of relationships between multiple stakeholders" (Hackett, 2017, p. 15). This approach weakens sensationalism, "us" versus "them" discourses, overstating fatalities or dearth of material resources, one-sided tone of victory for politicians and armed forces and, a weak storyline that lacks empathy (Knightley, 2000). The dearth of the aforenamed elements leads to inclusivity in news coverage—for example, moving beyond authorities to interview or include other sources and excogitating resourceful and nonviolent solutions in the coverage of news stories (Hackett, 2017).

Over the past few decades, there has been a growing interest in understanding the tenets of Galtung's revolutionary ideation of PJ. Moreso, in academia, with communities and debates built in and around it, there is an increase in PJ professional organizations and centers such as the Center for Global Peace Journalism (CGPJ) at Park University, a center founded by Steven Youngblood, a renowned professor within PJ studies. The CGPJ hosts workshops, PJ-focused events, and hosts a blog on PJ, "Peace Journalism Insights." It also publishes reports and covers crises and wars to reflect the core statements and principles of PJ. The emerging field has also enjoyed special issues in journals such as *Global Media and Communication* (Lynch, 2015) as well as a handful of focused studies throughout *Journalism and Mass Communication*, international communication, and related area books, chapters, and conference proceedings.

In the educational context, it is safe to say that PJ has been exhaustively explored across different aspects and perspectives in academia. While it is evident that a body of PJ studies exists, no study has examined the peer-reviewed bibliometric information of PJ research. To map PJ scholarship, the primary purpose of the current study is to conduct an empirical examination of the progression of PJ communication scholarship by reviewing methods and, theories, regions, journals, first author affiliation, media genre, and platforms adopted within the PJ field. In addition, by way of text mining, this study will also examine the most used words within the PJ scholarship to determine the major perspectives explored within PJ research.

In general, this study would make important contributions. First, it would provide a comprehensive metaknowledge of PJ-focused articles covered by journal articles within media and communication studies. Second, it would identify the major gaps and areas that lack scholarly attention within PJ research. Third, it would identify the patterns and trends across the body of PJ literature. Fourth, this study would map the field's area of concentration as well as its laxity. Finally, this study would provide a unique window to understanding the current state of the PJ field for peace journalists and academics whose research interest is PJ, solutions journalism, human rights journalism, among others.

Literature Review

Peace Journalism: An Overview

PJ is an area with diverse understanding and sometimes with interdisciplinary approaches. To capture the essence of the literature in an all-encompassing way, this study addresses and is guided by questions that Wallace (1986) attributes to Aristotle: (1) What is it? (2) Who creates it? Considering that this study is a meta-analysis, this study extends Aristotle's guide to answer (3) What does its body of scholarship entail?

Definition of Peace Journalism

According to Lynch and McGoldrick (2005), "PJ is when editors and reporters make choices—of what to report and how to report it—that create opportunities for society at large to consider and value nonviolent responses to conflict" (p. 5). At its core, PJ looks to focus its attention on revolutionizing the lines of disputes, and it does this by attending and looking to voices that are nonviolent and/or voices that are not magnifying or using conflict-oriented tonalities such as "our causalities," "their attackers." Beyond that, it looks at the underlying level of physical violence (physical violence may include the use of weapons, burning, or even killing) to explore cultural issues such as racism, economic gain, religion, nationalism, and revenge (Hackett, 2006; Hackett & Schroeder, 2017). According to Hanitzsch (2004),

> Peace journalism inherits a normative impetus; it prioritizes "peace" as its central value and analytical starting point. Peace journalism, as a special mode of socially responsible journalism, can be defined as a program or frame of journalistic news coverage which contributes to the process of making and keeping peace respectively to the non-violent settlement of conflicts. (p. 482)

Lynch and McGoldrick (2005) went beyond the conceptual definition to define PJ as a method. In their words, "PJ is an analytical method for evaluating reportage of conflicts, a set of practices and ethical norms that journalism could employ to improve itself, and a rallying call for change" (p. 5). The PJ approach proposes the use of dispute management to overhaul the long-standing tenets of journalism, which are accuracy, balance, and nonpartisanship candor in reporting (Lynch & McGoldrick, 2005). In addition, PJ allows audience members and news receivers to anticipate, look forward, and see the value in nonviolence (Lynch & McGoldrick, 2005). Furthermore, Lynch and McGoldrick (2005) suggest that PJ creates a novel part that connects storytellers, their sources, the stories they tell, and their consequences. Also, it incorporates a sensitivity to nonviolence for editors and newsmakers.

In PJ practice, "'peace'—intended as an end—and 'nonviolence'—intended as a means or practice—are considered as both the organizing principles of news-making and the fundamental moral codes all societies should aim towards, nationally and globally" (De Michelis, 2018, p. 7), as expressed by Christian, Glasser, McQuail, Nordenstreng, and White (2009). For precisely that reason, PJ can be viewed as both a methodical tool for communication and media studies focused research. "It constitutes a *medium* for exploring the aspects and dynamics of physical, cultural, and structural violence, an exploration that is

considered vital for the orientation of knowledge and production of actions, which are needed to build more peaceful societies" (De Michelis, 2018, p. 7; emphasis in original).

In describing what PJ is, Galtung (2003) analogizes it as a form of journalism that gives journalists and scholars leeway to look at conflict in two great dimensions: the "high road" and the "low road." The former is the focus of attention on the possibilities of peace surrounding a specific conflict situation, and the latter means the focus of attention on the conflict situations that emerges from one conflict. The "low road" saturates news reportage of people, issues, and events. And, in many cases, oppositions are reduced to two individuals or collectives who are in a constant struggle to be the victor or to overpower the other. This style of reporting replicates army instructions because it involves numericalization of losses, wounded, and destruction of property. The zero-sum approach adopted in war journalism (WJ) is rather sporting coverage oriented where winning is not the leeway.

According to Galtung (2003), PJ is the high road, and the high road is the road of PJ. Conflicts are inevitable in human life; individuals and collectives will continue to impede each other's process, which speaks to an obvious hazard of violence. To Galtung (2003), "there is also a clear opportunity for human progress, using the conflict to find new ways, being imaginative, creative and transforming the conflict so that opportunities take the upper hand without violence" (p.177).

History of Peace Journalism

PJ has multiple faith-cum-ethical roots: First, it trails a tradition of news journals, emanating from the nonsectarian Christian peace communities of the 19th century. These organizations published peace-focused news articles as their way of evangelism and promoting peaceful coexistence among individuals and collectives. Some other faith-oriented groups—such as the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC; now a member of the Global Forum for Media Development) and the World Council of Churches, an interchurch group founded in 1948 to promote unity and justice—also practiced what can be called early PJ (Roberts, 2008).

Galtung's approach is heavily influenced by Gandhian ethics. One of Galtung's earliest works with Arne Naess, his teacher and propounder of deep ecology, was related to the ethics of Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolence (Galtung & Naess, 1955). Galtung (1998) highlighted the tasks of peace workers. He stated that the primary duty of peace workers is to make the nonviolence approach his priority; however, to achieve this, the individual or collective must have an underlying spiritual orientation. According to Galtung (1998), "The peace worker who has done work in reconciliation will find much overlap in orientation; particularly the exculpatory perspectives, the codependent origination, the basis in facts, the constructive approaches" (p. 99). In his words, all of the aforenamed "is all vintage Gandhi" (Galtung, 1998, p. 99).

Beyond its history in the faith and ethics, PJ has a long history that dates to 1965 with Johan Galtung and Mari Ruge's (1965) exploration of international news credence. Writers, scholars, and journalists, and now renowned PJ advocates and authorities, Jake Lynch and Johan Galtung (2010) advanced the ideation and core of PJ. They opined that the WJ style of reporting wars and conflicts required a facelift. Lynch and Galtung (2010) believed that the war journalist reporting approach did not allow a new

opportunity for conflict resolution because it was biased, and hence gave priority reporting to one party over the other.

Born in 1930, in Oslo, Johan Galtung, who is the initiator of peace studies scholarship, launched the foremost research center on peace in Oslo, named the International Peace Research Institute, in 1959. In 1964, the *Journal of Peace Research* (1964) was launched. Serving in different capacities during his historic life, Galtung helped launch many peace-oriented endeavors, such as peace centers, across the globe. He also served as an academic in various institutes of higher learning around the world. Some of the notable ones are Alicante (Spain), Oslo, Berlin, Princeton, Hawaii, Tromsoe, Bern, Columbia (New York), and Ritsumeikan (Japan), to mention but a few (Transcend, 2021).

Johan Galtung has also helped mediate many conflicts between collectives and individuals. As noted in Transcend (2021), "his contributions to peace theory and practice include conceptualization of peacebuilding, conflict mediation, reconciliation, nonviolence, theory of structural violence, theorizing about negative vs. positive peace, peace education and PJ" (para. 3). This gave Galtung the impetus to publish articles within governmental orientations such as federalism, generic concepts such as globalization, theory of discourse, peace as it relates to religions, social science research methods, and sociology (Transcend, 2021).

Peace Journalism Scholarship

As a subject of academic inquiry, PJ entered into the field of mass communication via peace studies around the early 1990s. According to Hanitzsch (2004), "developments in war reporting, triggered by the Gulf War of 1991, played a crucial role in raising a critical debate on conflict and war coverage" (p. 484). Since then, PJ research has enjoyed rapid growth and an ample amount of research in the last few decades. And, as rightly highlighted by Lynch (2013), "from this beginning, a globally distributed advocacy and reform movement grew, with its activities chiefly taking the form of exhortatory and pedagogical initiatives, again aimed predominantly at journalists" (para. 2). Research within the field of PJ has largely addressed three major areas: First, questioning the existence of PJ as a feasible practice. Second, the region where PJ is practiced and how impactful it is. Finally, the possibility of incorporating the tenets of PJ into everyday reporting of WJ.

Early studies such as Hackett (2006) adopted Herman and Chomsky's (1988) propaganda model, Shoemaker and Reese's (1996) "hierarchy of influences" model, and Pierre Bourdieu's (1998) notion of journalism as a field to discuss the challenges of PJ as a feasible practice within journalism. Because of the long-standing debates about its feasibility, newer studies, such as Filibeli and İnceoğlu (2018), have highlighted why PJ is almost impossible because of the political economy of the media, media control, ownership structure, and job security of reporters, among other issues.

Second, following Lynch (2013), research within the field has also explored the use of PJ in regional conflict in Africa (Abdulbaqi & Ariemu, 2017), Middle East (Abdul-Nabi, 2015); Asia (Lee & Maslog, 2005), and the Americas (Cortés-Martínez & Thomas, 2020). Existing literature within PJ scholarship has taken a

certain shape. The field is believed to have covered many areas, which makes the field due for a systematic literature review.

Given the foregoing and considering that no study has comprehensively assessed and identified the state of the PJ scholarship, this study asks the following PJ-scholarship-focused research questions to research papers published between 2000 and 2020:

RQ1:   *How has PJ-focused research evolved over the years?*

RQ2:   *What research method is adopted the most within PJ scholarship?*

RQ3:   *What theories are adopted the most within PJ scholarship?*

RQ4:   *What specific analytical methods were adopted the most within the PJ scholarship?*

RQ5:   *What media genres are researched the most within PJ scholarship?*

RQ6:   *What media platforms are researched the most within PJ scholarship?*

RQ 7:   *What are the first-author affiliations of PJ studies?*

RQ 8:   *What is the geospatial distribution of PJ studies over the years?*

RQ 9:   *What journals published the most PJ studies over the years?*

RQ 10:   *What are the most used words used within PJ scholarship over the years?*

RQ 11:   *What are the dominant issues discussed within PJ studies over the years?*

Method

Sample

To comprehensively understand the current trends, patterns, discussed issues, and developments in PJ research, the present study conducts a quantitative content analysis that helps to explore the journals, progression, theories, methodologies, media genres and media platforms, geospatial distribution, major categories\themes, and most used words in PJ published research between 2000 and 2020.

Data Collection Method

Since acquiring a sizeable number of empirical peer-review PJ-focused research, PJ articles published in the following databases: EBSCO's Communication & Mass Media Complete, Elsevier Science Direct, SAGE Journals, ProQuest Central, Taylor & Francis Online, Web of Science, Springer, and Wiley Online

Library, were sought after. These databases were explored based on reputability and publication of high-impact journals that publish quality empirical peer-review studies in the field of communication and media studies (Arqoub, Özad, & Elega, 2019).

Media and communication studies' journals are those that identify themselves as communication journals or publishers of articles on communication research, theories, journalism, media studies, public relations, mass media, semiotics, political communication, public opinion, new media, social media, digital media, communication, media education, international communication, mass media ethics, cultural communication, and related fields (Arqoub, Elega, Özad, Dwikat, & Oloyede, 2020). It must be acknowledged that PJ has gained considerable attention in many fields of study.

For articles to qualify as PJ-focused research that will be added to our sample frame, these articles have to be full-text empirical studies written in English and Turkish language and they have to be published in the field of communication and media studies.

The keyword "peace journalism/peace-conflict journalism" was used to search for PJ-centered research and the following set of inclusion and exclusion criteria were adopted. First, for articles to qualify as PJ research, the term "peace journalism/peace-conflict journalism" had to be mentioned in their titles, keywords, or abstracts of the articles. In addition, this study excluded other kinds of publications such as conference proceedings, reports, articles in a proceeding, book or book section, and duplicated articles. To explain the systematic search method and criteria, Table 1 shows the number of articles in each database and the strict criteria of inclusion and exclusion of PJ-focused articles.

Table 1. Database Search Outcomes and Final Selected Papers.

N.	Databases	Search Outcome	Final Selected Articles
1.	EBSCO's Communication & Mass Media Complete	59	38
2.	SAGE Journals	123	35
3.	ProQuest Central	71	15
4.	Taylor & Francis Online	195	34
5.	Springer	2	2
6.	Web of Science	115	39
7.	Willy Online Library	13	2
	Total	578	165

The criteria incorporated to exclude and include articles based on article titles, abstracts, keywords, and the body of the articles are explained in Table 2.

Table 2. Exclusion and Inclusion Criteria of Peace Journalism Search Stages.

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria	Total *N*
Keywords: Peace journalism, Peace-conflict journalism Peace journalism must be mentioned in either the titles, keywords or abstracts of the articles	Articles did not contain Peace journalism, Peace-conflict journalism Keywords in their titles, keywords or abstracts	578
Journal articles Peered reviewed Full-text articles Contained in one of the academic databases explored Only articles are written in English and Turkish languages Articles published only within journalism or broader fields such as mass communication, communication and media studies	Conference papers, books and book chapters, and other academic resources The articles that researchers could not access even from the library remote access Other languages Other fields that are not communication, especially developmental study, political science Short papers that have no analysis and references list and are not peace-journalism focused Book reviews Biographical articles	233
Qualified after duplicated files were removed	Repeated and duplicated articles	165

Overall, our search result generated 578 articles but after applying our inclusion and exclusion criteria, out of the search results, a total of 165 PJ articles qualified and were therefore included in our sample frame.

Coding Scheme

To ascertain the content of PJ research, the yearly progression, journals, continents and countries discussed, theories, first author affiliation, and geospatial distribution discussed were analyzed to provide a holistic image of the topics contained in the articles from several scientific perspectives (Abu rqoub, Elega, Özad, Dwikat, & Oloyede, 2020; Fuchs, Pernul, & Sandhu, 2011). The following section shows how categories and definitions were coded.

Progression of Peace Journalism Research

To review the yearly progression of PJ-related research in the past 21 years, the researchers coded the years of published articles from 2000 to 2020.

Theory

To review most theories that PJ-related research used and examine in the past 21 years, the following categories were coded based on our search and identification: PJ theory, framing theory, agenda-

setting theory, gatekeeping theory, critical discourse theory, discourse theory, feminist theory, no theory, other theories, and multiple theories.

Media Genres

To understand the content of media genres, based on Arquob and colleagues (2020), the following categories were coded: (1) Traditional media (television, newspapers, and radio); (2) digital media (online news websites and blogs); (3) social media (Twitter, Facebook, and WhatsApp); (4) multiple media genres; (5) no media genre.

Media Platforms

To understand the content of individual media platforms, based on Arquob and colleagues (2020), the following categories were coded: (1) television, (2) radio, (3) newspapers, (4) magazines, (5) Facebook, (6) Twitter, (7) blogs, (8) online news websites, (9) forums, (10) WhatsApp, (11) websites of traditional media platforms, (12) multiple media platforms, and (13) no media platforms.

Kind of Methods

To ascertain patterns in PJ research kind of methods, based on Elega and Özad (2018) and Baxter and Connolly's (2013), the following categories were coded: (1) qualitative methods, (2) quantitative methods, (3) mixed methods, and (4) others.

Specific Analytical Methods

As for the specific analytical methods, Baxter and Connolly's (2013) and Wasike's (2017) coding for the data gathering method were adopted and revised. As a result, the following categories were applied: (1) case study, (2) rhetoric analysis, (3) content analysis, (4) survey, (5) mixed methods, (6) document analysis, (7) in-depth interviews, (8) secondary data, (9) experimental, (10) phenomenology, (11) ethnography, (12) focus groups, (13) textual analysis, (14) review, (15) framing analysis, (16) discourse analysis, and (17) others.

Coding Process

A single PJ-focused article is the unit of analysis in the present study. Using Cohen's kappa coefficient formula (Cohen, 1960), two researchers in the field of communication and media studies performed the coding process for this study. The interrater agreement between the two researchers of (165) articles occurred at $K=$ (95.5%), with the full agreement percentage being (1). According to Cohen (1960) and Fleiss (1971), values from (0.81) to (1.00) are believed to be excellent, and hence ours is highly reliable.

Text-Mining Approach

As Fayyad, Piatetsky-Shapiro, and Smyth (1996) and Hung and Zhang (2012) opine, and for the Knowledge Discovery in Database (KDD) aspect of this study, and to interpret the most frequently used words within PJ research within the major thematic perspectives, this study aims to facilitate and identify clear patterns from our articles sets of texts. Within PJ-targeted research, NVivo 12 was used to elicit the most commonly used words and significant categories, as well as assess the content of the articles. The Word Frequency Test was performed to determine the most frequently used words, and a list of the most frequently used terms was obtained from the most frequently used words in our sample (word tag cloud diagram). Furthermore, the study interpreted the primary categories by inspecting the most used words to see if there was a relationship between keywords and the context in which they were explored in the PJ-focused articles. Similar terms were classified after evaluating these keywords, resulting in the categories presented (nodes).

Analyses

Text-Mining of Peace Journalism Research

Zubair Haider and Dilshad (2015) state that a word cloud is a sophisticated technique used in discovering and exploring word frequency by arranging the frequency of words in a descending order, making the largest words the most frequently used words. Table 4 presents an ordered depiction of keyword metadata (tags) within PJ scholarship from the highest to lowest in the measure of weighted percentages, counts and length.

Figure 1. Word frequency of peace journalism articles (top 100 words).

Figure 1 shows the most used words within PJ research published between 2000 and 2020 from large to small.

Major Categories/Themes of Peace Journalism Research

Table 4 presents answers to RQ about the most used words within the PJ scholarship. NVivo's word frequency distribution shows that the four most repeated words are "journalism," "media," "peace," "conflict" by (4.51%). Other words in the top words are "news," "war," "journalists," "communication," "coverage," "reporting," "political," "press," "violence," "stories," "international," "public," "people," "social," "framing," and "government."

Table 4. Major Categories/Themes of Peace Journalism Research.

Category	Definition	Related Terms
Mass Communication	PJ has been studied under the mass communication umbrella and from two main sides as a profession and as a theoretical framework.	"communication," "mass," "content," "media," "journalists," "news," "newspaper."
Peace & War Journalism Model	Peace & War Journalism research focuses on the role of PJ in spreading peace and solution during wars and ongoing conflicts, which contributed to the establishment of the PJ theoretical framework (model), principles, and approach.	"peace," "war," "journalism," "analysis," "role," "approach," "process," "oriented," "critical," "resolution," "model," "press."
Conflict & War Zones	It shows the focus of PJ research in analyzing conflicts and wars from a PJ perspective, while most studies used war zones, military, political, and media conflicts as a case of studies.	"conflict," "war," "violence," "military," "security," "Israel," "Pakistan," "crisis," "Palestine," "government."
Media Framing & Coverage	Focuses on how media and journalism coverage are framing publics by peace and solutions perspective. Also, most studies used the terms framing and coverage to examine how conflicts were framed and represented in media to the public.	"media," "news," "conflict," "coverage," "stories," "public," "framing," "newspapers," "information," "reporting," "people."
The Role of Politics	This theme focuses on the effects of politics in conflicts and on PJ practices, which is related to the governments, power holders, and decision makers in times of conflicts and wars more than journalists. Also, because conflicts emerge mostly for political aims, we cannot isolate politics and political communication from the field.	"government," "political," "international," "power," "parties," "social," "world," "national," "state," "global," "process," "policy," "countries."

To understand the context of PJ research, each context holds five major categories based on the most frequently used words which explain the contexts that were discussed in the articles. This study investigated the most used words to determine the relationship between keywords and the context in which they were mentioned in the articles, thus our operational definition, to comprehend the broad categories within PJ-targeted research. Although these categories are not derived directly from a single PJ article, they do represent some of the most important concerns surrounding PJ and its discourse. This study defined the categories in the following sections based on the most related articles and how publications employ categories in their context (Arqoub et al., 2019). As shown in Table 4, PJ-focused articles fit into these different categories. This process produced the following initiative categories: Mass Communication, Peace & War Journalism Model, Conflict & War Zones, Media Framing & Coverage, The Role of Politics. Although these categories do not directly come from the PJ definition, they represent some of the main issues within

the PJ research and discourse. Therefore, it should be noted that most PJ-focused articles overlap across different categories.

Generally, important findings are emanated from the topic modelling process. First, it indicated that PJ has been studied in the mass communication field. It explains the role of the media and journalism profession in stereotyping—raising the value of peace culture, understanding the role of the media in conflict zones, reporting and covering military, violent, and political conflicts from a peace perspective—and also indicates that PJ is an important potential factor that contribute to state-building and development (Ahmed, 2016; Shaw, 2012). Second, articles that studied PJ from the peace and WJ model and perspective focus on the PJ principles, methods, models, approaches, aspects, best practices, and case studies. Also, articles that look to PJ as a paradigm shift in traditional media approach, analyzed the conceptual framework and term development (Aslam, 2011; Youngblood, 2017).

Another major theme of PJ articles focuses on conflict and war zones, in terms of how media-oriented ideologically during conflicts, presenting cases that are mostly about conflicts, wars, crisis, violence, power, and political problems, and also it appears in specific regions such as Pakistan, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, and Syria (Alozieuwa, 2015; Barrios, 2017). Furthermore, PJ-focused research focuses on analyzing media coverage, framing process of publics toward the conflicts, conflict and conflict sides' representation, such as Al Jazeera's coverage of Bahrain's uprising and Syria's chemical attack (Abdul-Nabi, 2015), Turkish media coverage of the Armenian–Turkish normalization process (Karanfil, Yörük, & Akan, 2013), visual framing of the Syrian conflict (Greenwood & Jenkins, 2015), and African and Asian conflicts (Chung, Lessman, & Fan, 2014).

Finally, because PJ talks about conflicts, wars, power problems, democracy, election processes, politics, and biased coverage, the final theme that is elicited here is the political perspective within PJ studies. Studies have tried to focus on the relations between political communication and PJ, involving the role of governments and decision makers in media coverage orientation (Gunawan, 2015; Hyde-Clarke, 2011).
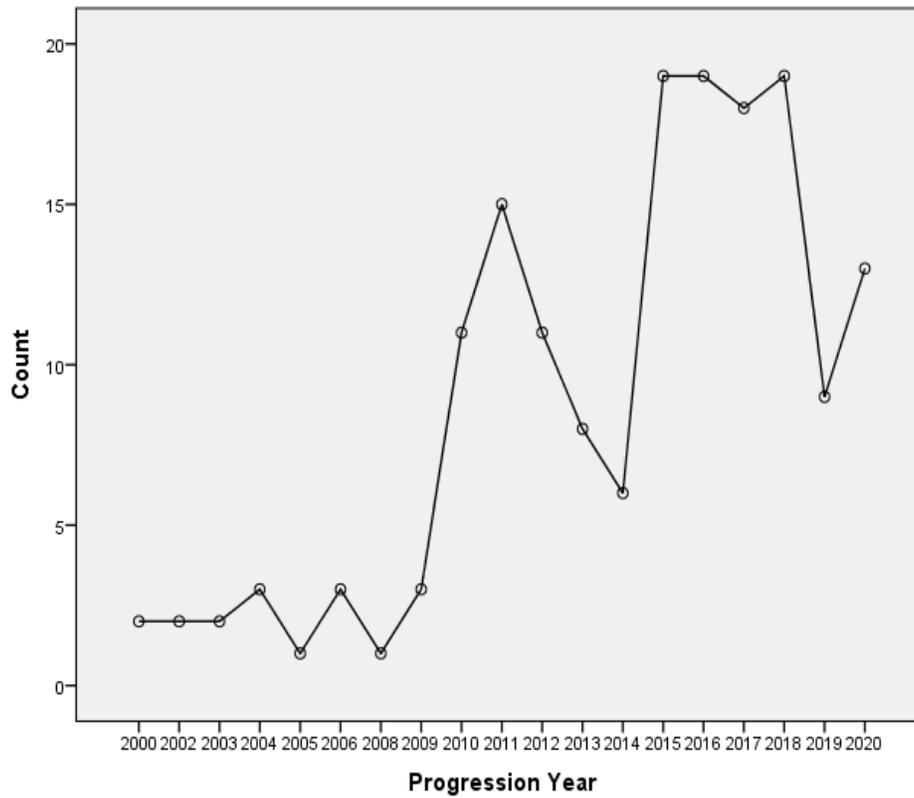
Figure 2. Progression of peace journalism articles.

The progression years of the PJ articles show that after 2010 there is a significant number of publications ($n = 148$). Figure 2 shows that 2015 ($n = 19$), 2016 ($n = 19$), and 2018 ($n = 19$) have highest publication numbers. As we know, the Arab Spring started in 2010 and spread across most of the Arab countries in the early 2010s. It can be said that these protests and uprisings can be an effect on the number of PJ articles.

Table 3. Progression of Peace Journalism-Focused Research.

	Frequency	Percentage
2015	19	11.5
2016	19	11.5
2018	19	11.5
2017	18	11
2011	15	9.1
2020	13	7.9
2010	11	6.7
2012	11	6.7
2019	9	5.5
2013	8	4.8
2014	6	3.6
2006	3	1.8
2004	3	1.8
2009	3	1.8
2000	2	1.2
2002	2	1.2
2003	2	1.2
2005	1	.6
2008	1	.6
Total	165	100.0

Another important meaning of these numbers is that it suggests that the concept of "PJ" is universally accepted in the academic research literature. There is no significant number of publications between 2000 and 2009. According to Table 5, the total number of publications was 17 within these years.

Table 4. Kind of Methods and Specific Analytical Methods Within Peace Journalism Research.

Methods	Frequency	Percentage
Qualitative	96	58.2
Quantitative	50	30.3
Mixed	19	11.5
Total	165	100.0
Data collection techniques	Frequency	Percentage
Content analysis	52	31.5
None	24	14.5
Interviews	16	9.7
Review	12	7.3
Discourse analysis	11	6.7
Survey	9	5.5
Framing analysis	8	4.8
Experimental	6	3.6
Case study	4	2.4
Others	23	14
Total	165	100.0

The qualitative research method techniques ($n = 96$) are used almost twice more than quantitative ones ($n = 50$). Table 4 shows that 58.2% of articles were published with the qualitative research method technique. For specific analytical methods adopted, qualitative oriented data collection techniques such as qualitative content analysis ($n = 52$), interviews ($n = 16$), review ($n = 12$), and discourse analysis ($n = 11$) were used by researchers in the selected data. The survey analysis ($n = 9$) has the highest number among the quantitative research studies. The framing analysis ($n = 8$) is the second popular data collection technique in quantitative studies. Twenty-four publications had no method, and this number shows that there are statistically significant articles ($n = 24$) that published more theoretical and commentary-oriented studies in this field. Table 4 shows them in the "none" category.

Table 5. Theories of the Peace Journalism Articles.

	Frequency	Percentage
PJ theory	113	68.5
No Theory	16	9.7
Framing theory	10	6.1
Critical discourse theory	7	4.2
Discourse theory	6	3.6
Other theories	6	3.6
Agenda-setting theory	2	1.2
Gatekeeping theory	2	1.2
Multiple theories	2	1.2
Feminist theory	1	.7
Total	165	100.0

PJ-related articles used different theories from communication literature. However, Table 5 results indicate that 68.5% of articles used PJ as a theory in the literature part of the article. This number is also significant that PJ is on track to being recognized as a theory by the researchers. The framing theory ($n = 10$), critical discourse theory ($n = 7$), and discourse theory ($n = 6$) followed the use of PJ as a theory. About 15 articles did not have a theory and the trend was observed more in commentary and historical-oriented articles. In the "other theories" category, six articles used the following theories: contingency theory, theory of asymmetric conflict, grounded theory, human rights journalism, media conflict resolution model, and normative theory.

Table 6. Continents Discussed in the Peace Journalism Articles.

	Frequency	Percentage
Asia	63	38.2
Africa	26	15.8
No continent	26	15.8
Europe	16	9.7
Multiple continent	12	7.3
Australia	8	4.8
South America	8	4.8
North America	5	3.0
Others\more than one	1	.6
Total	165	100.0

Table 6 shows that the distribution of focus in terms of continents; Asia ($n = 63$), Africa ($n = 26$), and Europe ($n = 16$). These numbers are significant because they reveal the conflict map of the world. Thirty-eight percent of studies focused on the Asian continent which is also interesting because according to the Global Peace Index 2020 report, most of the world conflicts happen in the Middle East and North

Africa region. Twenty-six percent of articles did not specify any continent. These articles are especially theoretical and historically oriented.

Table 7. Countries Discussed in the Peace Journalism Articles.

	Frequency	Percentage
Multiple countries	34	20.6
Other countries	33	20.0
No country	24	14.6
Pakistan	13	8
Central African Republic	5	3.0
Nigeria	5	3.0
Cyprus	5	3.0
Kenya	5	3.0
Fiji	5	3.0
Afghanistan	4	2.4
Syria	4	2.4
Turkey	4	2.4
Israel	4	2.4
Colombia	4	2.4
Palestine	3	1.8
Mexico	3	1.8
Others	10	6.1
Total	165	100.0

According to Table 7, the highest number of discussed countries in the PJ articles are Pakistan (n = 13), Kenya (n = 5), Fiji (n = 5), Cyprus (n = 5), Nigeria (n = 5), and Central African Republic (n = 5). Turkey, Israel, Colombia, Afghanistan, and Syria were discussed four times in studies.

Table 8. First Author Affiliations in the Peace Journalism Articles.

	Frequency	Percentage
United States	27	16.4
Pakistan	15	9.1
Australia	14	8.5
Canada	8	4.9
Cyprus	8	4.9
New Zealand	8	4.9
South Africa	8	4.9
United Kingdom	8	4.9
Germany	5	3.0
Israel	5	3.0
Norway	5	3.0
Sweden	5	3.0
Turkey	5	3.0
India	4	2.4
Colombia	3	1.8
Malaysia	3	1.8
No country	3	1.8
Costa Rica	2	1.2
Fiji	2	1.2
Greece	2	1.2
Kenya	2	1.2
Nigeria	2	1.2
North Cyprus	2	1.2
Singapore	2	1.2
Others	17	10.2
Total	165	100.0

According to Table 8, the first author affiliations of PJ articles are dominated by the United States (n = 27), Australia (n = 14), and Pakistan (n = 15). Countries with the least frequency are Canada (n = 8), Cyprus (n = 8), New Zealand (n = 8), South Africa (n = 8), United Kingdom (n = 8).

Table 9. First Author Affiliations by Continent in the Peace Journalism Articles.

	Frequency	Percentage
Asia	53	32.1
North America	37	22.4
Europe	28	17.0
Australia	25	15.2
Africa	16	9.7
South America	4	2.4
No continent	2	1.2
Total	165	100.0

As seen in Table 9 the first author affiliations by continent of PJ articles are dominated by Asia (*n* = 53), North America (*n* = 37), Europe (*n* = 28), and Australia (*n* = 25). South America is at the bottom of the list with four articles.
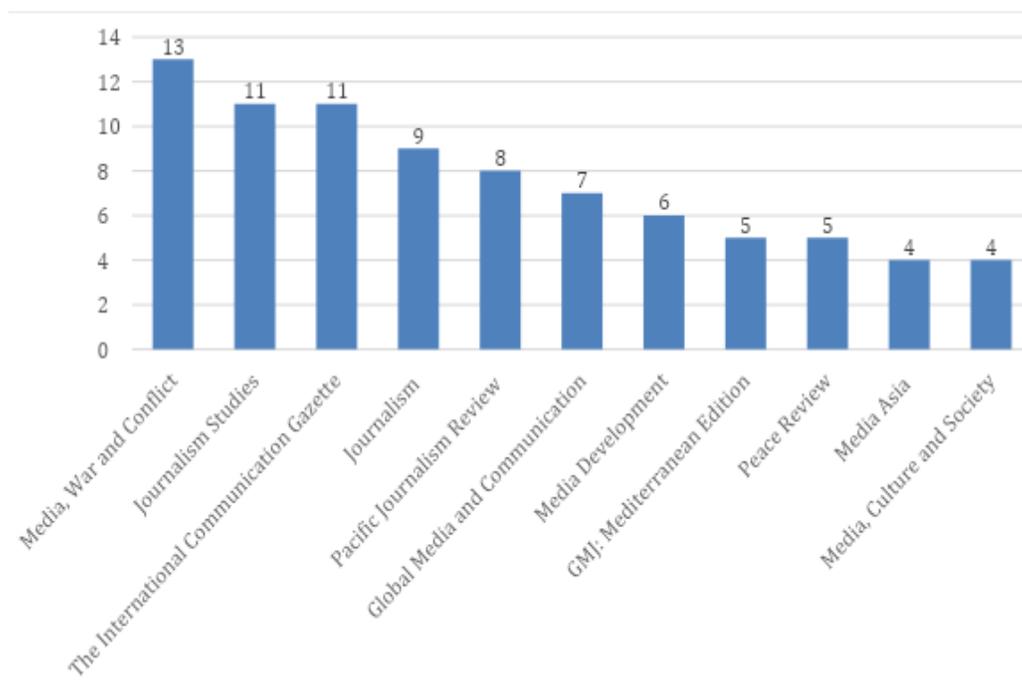

Figure 3. Highest peace journalism publications among the journals.

Figure 3 results indicate that *Media, War and Conflict* published (n = 13) PJ articles. *Journalism Studies* and the *International Communication Gazette* published (*n* = 11) articles. *Journalism* (*n* = 9), *Pacific Journalism Review* (*n* = 8), and *Global Media and Communication* published (*n* = 7) articles.

Table 10. Media Genre of Peace Journalism Articles.

	Frequency	Percentage
Traditional media	88	53.3
No media genre	52	31.5
Digital media	12	7.3
Multiple genre	9	5.5
Social media	4	2.4
Total	165	100.0

Traditional media research is popular within PJ. According to Table 10, 53.3% of studies were conducted on the traditional media (newspaper, television, and radio). According to Table 10 digital (n = 12) and social (n = 4), media platforms are not preferred media genres by the researchers. Thirty-one percent of studies do not have a media genre. That means either they do not have a media genre, or it is theoretical, historical, and commentary-oriented articles.

When we look at the media platforms in detail, Table 11 results show that alternative media as a media platform has the highest number (n = 59). Conventional newspapers (n = 49) followed the alternative media platforms. PJ articles are also focused on television (n = 15) and online websites of traditional media (n = 11) platforms. Multiple platforms (n = 10) are defined in articles as newspapers and television.

Table 11. Media Platforms of Peace Journalism Articles.

	Frequency	Percentage
Alternative media	59	35.8
Newspapers	49	29.7
Television	15	9.1
Online websites of traditional media platforms	11	6.7
Multiple platforms	10	6.1
Online websites	9	5.4
Radio	5	3.0
No media platforms	5	3.0
Magazines	2	1.2
Total	165	100.0

Discussion and Conclusion

As a meta-analysis, this study shows a general texture of last decade's PJ literature. Journal articles create an agenda for the PJ field and as a subarea of journalism studies, PJ concentrates on internal–external conflict and then tries to create awareness about nonviolent language for the coverage of war and conflict. In this regard, this study shows the details of the progression years of PJ articles and point out the spectacular years about countries and movements like Arab Spring, Cyprus issue, and other topics. Furthermore, the study provides a detailed discussion about the findings and uses PJ as methodology. In addition to kind of methods, specific analytical methods, the media genre of the PJ articles were discussed.

As a result of these discussions, statistically, significant repetitions' frequencies can show the general map and texture of PJ articles.

To understand and map the PJ scholarship, this study conducted a systematic literature review to investigate the progression of PJ communication scholarship by reviewing kind of methods and specific analytical methods, theories, regions, journals, first author affiliation, media genre, and platforms adopted within the PJ field. Empirical evidence shows interesting findings.

First, the progression of PJ articles surged in 2015, 2016, and 2018, and, according to our results, most of the articles focused on the Syrian conflict as well as Arab spring in 2015. The other issues reflected in 2015 PJ-focused articles are World War II broadcasts, land disputes in Kenya, Islamophobia, PJ in the Nigerian media, reporting asylum seekers in Australia, the U.S.-sponsored peace talks between Israel and Palestine, international media coverage by Chinese journalists and the Cyprus issue. In 2016 Syria, PJ in Pakistan Taliban, and perception of PJ in different countries were the most discussed topics. Other topics discussed are peace approach to election coverage in Africa, PJ in the Turkish press, adopting PJ approach after the Colombia crisis, Al Jazeera journalists in Egypt, PJ in the social media space, peace approach to conflict in West Papua, Israeli news coverage, PJ within the Islamic tradition, and finally PJ in politics. In 2019, most of the articles also focused on the Syrian crisis. Other issues discussed are practicing PJ in Mexico, Turkish Gezi Park protests news coverage, PJ approach to reporting conflict in Burundi, DR Congo, Kosovo, Macedonia, Syria, Israel–Palestine issue, the Syrian crisis, PJ approach to the shooting down of the Russian attack aircraft, PJ in the Nigerian media, Indian media, Columbian media, and Kenyan media. Across the three years where PJ-focused articles surged, we found that the Syrian crisis earned more scholarly attention, and rightfully so because the Syrian crisis is one of the brutal multisided civil wars of the past decade.

In terms of the kind of methods adopted within PJ-focused studies, we found that qualitative research methods are the dominant research methodology within PJ scholarship. This is consistent with claims made by Neumann and Fahmy (2016), who accede that "although the body of peace/war scholarship has been increasing, the majority has been devoted to qualitative studies" (p. 224).

TV and traditional media earned more scholarly attention, while scholars from Asia and North America dominated first author affiliation. Asia and Africa earned more PJ-focused articles, while, specifically, Pakistan, Kenya, Fiji, Cyprus, Nigeria, and the Central African Republic are the countries most studied with PJ scholarship. *Media, War and Conflict* and *Journalism Studies* published more PJ-focused articles than any other journals.

Although a majority of the articles are atheoretical, findings show that among PJ-focused articles that adopted a theory, peace journalism theory is the most used. In addition, framing theory was adopted as the second most used theory, and this is because, according to Lee and Maslog (2005), "theoretically, PJ is supported by framing theory" (p. 313). Also, historically, framing theory and agenda-setting theory are the favorite theories within journalism in general because, first, the media consistently place words, phrases, and sentences within a field of meaning. Second, the media are always trying to set an agenda about people, issues, and events (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). In addition, based on the findings of our study, PJ-focused

studies largely ignored human rights journalism despite its contributions to the emerging field. In the words of Shaw (2011), human rights journalism is an important strand to PJ because it promotes and protects the rights of humans considering that, typically, the mainstream media reports the

> official rhetoric and policy stances of the governments in the countries in which it is produced. Where human rights violators make the news, they are usually reported as the actions of individual perpetrators, not as the product of a system and of structures that construct and sustain long-term relations conflict. (p. 97)

Data collection techniques of the PJ articles are mainly focused on content analysis, interviews, reviews, and discourse analysis. Methodologically, PJ articles dominantly choose the qualitative (interviews, reviews, and discourse analysis) research methods. However, quantitative content analysis is dominating the research method part of the articles.

In terms of the media genre of PJ articles, traditional media earned more scholarly attention. The main reason is that researchers can easily access traditional media archives. On the other hand, most of the researchers believe that traditional media sets the news agenda. Thus, the news agenda also shapes public opinion. Therefore, researchers are interested in traditional media tools more than others. We also found similar results in media platforms of PJ articles. More research focused on the traditional mediums such as newspaper, television, and radio. Since the main research topic is PJ, most of the researcher's studied newspapers as a media platform.

The most used words within PJ scholarship show that most repeated words were "journalism," "media," "peace," "conflict," "news," "war," "journalists," "communication," "coverage," "reporting," "political," and "press," and this consists of the core definition and principals of PJ, which is a main part of the communication and journalistic perspective, as Galtung's (2003) model explains: peace/conflict-orientated vs. war/violence, truth-orientated vs. propaganda-orientated, solution-orientated vs. elite-orientated, solution-orientated vs. victory-orientated. Also, to understand the context of PJ research, five major categories based on the most frequently used words were classified and discussed. In other words, they were focused on Mass Communication, Peace & War Journalism Model, Conflict & War Zones, Media Framing & Coverage, The Role of Politics. These results related not only to PJ definition but also to the purpose, model, principals, main terms within PJ research, and discourse that were mentioned and discussed by the previous studies (Galtung, 2002, 2003; Hanitzsch, 2004; Ottosen, 2010).

Most repeated words and categories of PJ research indicate the importance of media and communication role in solving problems, conflicts, and wars over the world through publishing peace culture and seeing the world from a peaceful perspective. This shows that journalists and media outlets have a crucial role in igniting the fuse of war or calming the parties of war to live in peace (Galtung, 2002, 2003; Hanitzsch, 2004; Ottosen, 2010).

In sum, it is clear that the scholarship of PJ as a journalism subarea has grown vigorously. The trend shows that continuous growth is likely considering that PJ continues to be a valid attempt in disrobing WJ from its "us" versus "them" tenets and discourses.

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited in several ways. First, although, PJ-focused studies within our sample frame represent the population of PJ studies, this study is not a state-of-the-art review (i.e., not all PJ articles are featured in this review). Second, this study is limited because it focuses on studies published in the following databases: EBSCO's Communication & Mass Media Complete, Elsevier Science Direct, SAGE Journals, ProQuest Central, Taylor & Francis Online, Web of Science, Springer, and Wiley Online Library. The aforenamed databases have been historically used in media studies focused meta-analysis given their reputation for publishing relevant media studies resources. As a result, while it is evident that peace focused journals such as *Conflict and Communication Online* and *Peace and Policy* are reputable resources of PJ research, some of them are not captured in any of the databases highlighted above and/or they focus exclusively on peace and conflict studies while our study strictly looks at PJ from a communication and media studies perspective.

Furthermore, this study is also limited in terms of the document type. This focused exclusively on research articles, hence this study ignored commentaries, book chapters, handbooks, and conference proceedings. Most articles collected for this meta-analysis are written in the English language; however, considering that two of our research team members are Turkish natives and speakers, researchers decided to include Turkish data to include as many PJ-focused articles as possible. Only five of the PJ-focused articles within our sample frame are written in Turkish. This does not affect our results. Future studies might also include PJ-focused written articles in other languages for a more inclusive result on the empirical landscape of PJ.

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