

Abstract

The master's thesis deals with journalistic autonomy as one of the principles of free press and as a key component of the professional identity of journalists. On an ideological level, the journalistic autonomy should ensure the free publication of information without political, economic, owner or any other kind of pressure. The main goal of the thesis is to verify how journalists themselves perceive their autonomy. In addition to developing basic theoretical concepts, the work builds on already implemented Czech and international empirical studies investigating journalistic autonomy. At the same time, it relies on some statements of media experts who criticize the current state of journalism and talk about the gradual weakening of journalistic autonomy in liberal-democratic systems, which results in fragmentation of the journalistic field, the profession decline and the growth of distrust in democratic media. The thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews with journalists working at the Economia publishing house showed how they currently perceive their professional autonomy and what factors most influence them in the performance of their profession. The interviews revealed that it is not so much about visible political influences or obvious pressures from the owner or external organizations. Journalists rather pointed to hidden economic factors and the creation of various legal regulations, which in many ways are not always accommodating to the development of democratic, independent and self-confident journalism.