Abstract

This master's thesis focuses on a comparative study of the political framing of immigrants and refugees in Czech media during three key periods: the migration crisis of 2015-2016, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the period following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The thesis has two main objectives: to examine which frames prevailed in the portrayal of immigrants and refugees during each period and, secondly, to attempt to explain the variation in frames used by individual politicians in their media appearances related to framing of immigrants and refugees. To achieve these goals, the thesis employs quantitative content analysis and regression analysis. Content analysis of the framing of immigrants and refugees is conducted based on the data from the main evening newscasts of the most-watched Czech television channels. Key frames identified during the three periods include administrative, economic, security, cultural, and humanitarian frames. The results suggest that politicians adapt their framing of immigrants and refugees based on the socio-political context and the structure and characteristics of incoming immigrants and refugees. The analysis reveals significant changes in framing across the three observed periods. The results also indicate that the use of specific frames by politicians is partially related to their party affiliation and in case of some frames their government-opposition status.