



Multidimensionale Risks in the XXI Century

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CYBER THREATS IN THE EMERGENCY STATE: THE CASE OF UKRAINE

In recent years, Ukrainian society has been in a state which, under the conditions of systemic turbulence and the war in the Donbass, has been fallen under the definition of the «emergency». The «emergency» state is conceptualized using the complementarity of the central trope of «extremeness» and ideas about its implications due to the transformations of various social orders (Žižek). The «emergency» reality simultaneously produces multiple topologies and temporalities, constituting the affective atmosphere of urgency and expectation of measured rhythms of general/private existence. The Coronavirus pandemic exacerbates this status quo, expanding its images to the transnational space.

All kinds of risks faced by societies in this state undoubtedly belong to the dictionary of crises, institutional and structural imbalance. This also applies to the context of «emergency» mediation. Risks that are distinguished by the scale and degree of threats are undergoing changes by mediation. Against the backdrop of the media business' political mobilization and economic instability, audiences are more likely to identify the mediated risks as current troubles that should be avoided.

The cybersecurity problems are recognized by Ukrainian users, who are more concerned about manifestations that may harm them personally. According to the results of the annual monitoring «Ukrainian Society» (Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), more than three-quarters of respondents believe that it is necessary to prevent Internet fraud, limiting the information that will spread lies, hostility and aggression. And only two-thirds are concerned about the possibility of manipulating public opinion, interfering in the election of the President, Parliament, censorship of the Internet by governments/corporations. For a young and educated public, the risk zone for cyberthreats is expanding significantly. Understanding media risks requires both discursive and non-discursive approaches.

Keywords: systemic turbulence, «emergency», mediated risks, cybersecurity.

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Names, affiliations of authors:

1. Natalia Kostenko, Professor of Sociology, Head of Culture & Mass Communication Department, Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine

2. Lyudmyla Skokova – Leading Research Fellow, Doctor of Science in Sociology, Culture & Mass Communication Department, Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine