



Cosmopolitan Communities of Global Risks:

A Comparison of the Framing of the Asian Financial Crisis and the European Debt Crisis in the Chinese Newspaper

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The C-Centre

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Published by C-Centre x jcMotion, School of Journalism and Communication, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Editor-in-Chief: K. W. Ma

Editor: L. S. Chan

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To cite this publication:

Mao, Z. (2013). *Cosmopolitan communities of global risks: A comparison of the framing of the Asian financial crisis and the European debt crisis in the Chinese newspaper* [Electronic version]. K. W. Ma & L. S. Chan (Eds.). Hong Kong: jcMotion. Retrieved from <http://jcmotion.com.cuhk.edu.hk>

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Foreword

Winning an award at a peer-reviewed conference is an honor that most academics cherish. We like it because we enjoy being recognized by the research community. In addition, when rightly done, an award speaks to the quality of a paper. All this probably explains why the annual conventions of major communication associations of the world—ICA, NCA, AEJMC, WAPOR, IAMCR and the like—have set up awards for top student papers. While the authors will find the awards encouraging, the award-winning papers can be a source of inspiration to many others. Graduate students and budding scholars are particularly curious about these papers.

The graduate students in our School have been very active in joining all the aforesaid conferences. As teachers, we are happy to find that quite a few have won awards for their outstanding works. To meet the demand for easy access to these papers, the Centre for Chinese Media and Comparative Communication Research (the C-Centre) has launched this Award-winning Student Paper series as part of its e-publication plan. As the copyright owner, the authors are expected to revise and publish the e-papers in the more traditional venues of journals and books later. We publish the e-version as working monographs in order to speed up the dissemination of research ideas. We encourage you to share the e-papers with others. You are also invited to refer student award-winning papers to us for possible inclusion in the series.

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Abstract

This interdisciplinary study cut across social theory of global risk (Beck, 2009), news framing theory in communication research (Entman, 1993) and Chinese media studies to examine how two economic risks, the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the European debt crisis, have been framed differently in the Chinese newspaper in terms of cosmopolitan communities of global risks. A total number of 245 news articles were sampled from the *People's Daily* for content analysis. The findings show that the responsibility frame and the economic consequences frame were the dominant frames in portraying the economic risks. A comparison between the news articles of the two crises in terms of news frames showed that China was more likely to be influenced by side effects of the global risk and thus evoke a sense of cosmopolitan community of the risk in the case of the Asian financial crisis, which was related more closely to China. It also illustrated that in the case of global risk, cosmopolitanism does not necessarily transcend nationalism in China; instead, political cosmopolitanism may be used as part of the national image and thus reinforce the sense of nation-state.

This paper was awarded the Top Student Paper in the Association for Chinese Communication Studies of National Communication Association (NCA) annual conference 2012.