

**Call for Papers for a Special Issue – Summer 2026**

## **Media Capture in the Western Balkans and Beyond: Tools, Actors, and Effects**

### **Guest Editors:**

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In the last decade, the concept of media capture has gained relevance, and it has been used to scrutinise the manner in which governments exercise control over the media in semi-authoritarian and illiberal regimes. Similar to other concepts related to state control over the media and news content, media capture also encompasses more covert mechanisms, in which states and private actors (such as media owners and advertisers), as well as political parties, play a role in influencing journalists, media institutions, and media organisations. Media capture manifests through various types and strategies of undue influence. It occurs in two interconnected realms: the political sphere, encompassing media policy, regulatory frameworks, and appointment procedures within public service media; and in the economic domain, involving media financing mechanisms, subsidies, and advertising.

Whilst the majority of cases are found in transitional democracies in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the toolkit of media capture has expanded alongside the rise of illiberal tendencies worldwide.

In a special section of the *Global Media Journal – German Edition*, we invite both early-career and senior authors to submit contributions in English on this topic, focusing primarily – though not exclusively – on the Western Balkan countries. Contributions with a comparative orientation – whether within Western Balkan countries, or between EU and non-EU member states – are especially welcome, as they will enrich existing scholarship with insights into cross-border dimensions of media markets and policy alignments.

**Research topics and questions** for this special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Comparative and single case studies observing different tools and types of media capture.
- Role of different actors – state, political parties, regulators, advertisers, media owners, public and private media, journalists and media users – in the processes of media capture.

- Wider political, economic and technological changes/disruptions that contribute to media capture.
- Effects of media capture on democratic processes, journalism and audiences.
- Theoretical considerations of the media capture concept and adjacent terms such as media clientelism, political parallelism, party colonization of media, media instrumentalization.
- Micro and macro resilience and resistance strategies against media capture.

### **Submission guidelines**

- Diamond Open Access, no APCs (no author processing charges!)
- <https://www.globalmediajournal.de/index.php/gmj/submission-guidelines>

### **Timetable:**

- Submission of abstracts: 15 September 2025
- Response to authors: End of September 2025
- Deadline for full papers: 31 January 2026
- Notification after review: mid-March 2026
- Publication: July 2026

**Formats for contributions:** Academic articles (peer-reviewed); essays and commentaries; media practice & research reports; graduate section; interviews; book reviews

**Abstract:** 200-300 words (PDF) in English

**Submission of abstracts:** by email to Jelena Kleut ([jelena.kleut@ff.uns.ac.rs](mailto:jelena.kleut@ff.uns.ac.rs)) and Lejla Turčilo ([lejla.turcilo@fpn.unsa.ba](mailto:lejla.turcilo@fpn.unsa.ba)) by 15 September 2025.

**Submission of full manuscripts:** via Submit Manuscript button [www.globalmediajournal.de](http://www.globalmediajournal.de)

**Manuscript design:** You will find all necessary information regarding formatting, paper length, and other requirements here: [Style Guide for GMJ](#)

For citations, please use APA style, 7th edition.

**Website:** <https://www.globalmediajournal.de>

If you have any questions about content-related aspects, please contact the guest editors Jelena Kleut ([jelena.kleut@ff.uns.ac.rs](mailto:jelena.kleut@ff.uns.ac.rs)) and Lejla Turčilo ([lejla.turcilo@fpn.unsa.ba](mailto:lejla.turcilo@fpn.unsa.ba)); for editorial queries, please contact GMJ-DE editor Katharina Nötzold ([gmj@polsoz.fu-berlin.de](mailto:gmj@polsoz.fu-berlin.de))