

Background

My PhD research is focusing on the gaps in the literature to connect Gender, Proximity Radios and Conflict Transformation. The aim is to learn about the roles and contributions of women journalists, who are working in proximity radios in Burkina Faso, in dealing with conflicts that affect their localities. Taking up a feminist perspective and the concept of 'imperfect peace', the qualitative field research connects the different levels of individual experience, institutional structures and discursive representations through an intersectional analysis that examines the various power relations and factors that interrelate with gender and conflict resolution processes.

Research Questions

- How do women journalists in proximity radio contribute to conflict resolution processes?
- How do radios deal with conflicts and how are these practices and discourses gendered?
- How do women journalists navigate and negotiate spaces within the existing socio-professional context?

Methods



Radio Program Analysis



Semi-Structured Interviews



Audio Diaries

13 Radios in northern Burkina Faso



First Insights

Women's Voices on Air

- 22% Women as sources/guests
- 12% Programs hosted by women
- 11% Women's time on air
- 8% Women participating in call-ins

Radios Engaging with Conflicts

Private/family disputes

- Interactive talk shows
- (peer) counseling
- advice programs

Socio-cultural conflicts

- Round tables, interviews, reports
- Public programs
- Raising awareness/prevention
- Art-based: festivals, drama

Insecurity, violent extremism

- Self-censorship
- Official information
- Focusing on consequences
- Peace messages

Considerations

Participation THROUGH the media

Participation IN the media

Radios as Actors in Society: What roles do radio stations play in the community? How can people participate in the community through radio stations?

Women Journalists in Proximity Radios: How did they become journalists? How do they navigate the gendered field? What content do they produce? What roles do they take up or are assigned to in relation to conflicts?

Radios and Conflicts: How do radios engage with different types of conflicts? How are discourses on conflicts gendered? How does the community participate in these discourses?

Women Journalists' Roles in Conflict Resolution Processes: an intersectional analysis to answer: What factors play a role on the individual, structural and normative level? How are power relations played out and negotiated?

Women Journalists in Proximity Radios

How gendering the media contributes to peace in Burkina Faso

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