Public Abstract

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Graduation Term:FS 2017

Department:Journalism

Degree:MA

Title:The Last Line of Defense: Journalism Photo Editors and Mental Health During Times of Trauma

In-depth interviews with seven photo editors at journalistic publications within the continental United States revealed that upon editing images from traumatic events, photo editors experienced symptoms of Secondary Traumatic Stress, which is known to mimic those of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Photo editors also had a tendency of avoiding confrontation with their emotional turmoil by focusing solely on work, and that they experienced an increased sense of responsibility toward their photographers who were covering trauma. In addition to existing research on journalists and trauma, this particular study highlights an area that may be an opportunity for additional training with journalists who regularly handle trauma.