

WOMEN OF VISION': HOW FEMALES LEAD PHOTOJOURNALISM

DEPARTMENTS IN A MALE-DOMINATED FIELD

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Abstract

This qualitative research using feminist theories examines the ways in which female and male leadership characteristics differ according to perceptions of photojournalism editors. The goal is to understand how women feel about working in photo editing positions and to explore the challenges they face in a male-dominated industry. This study consisted of six in-depth interviews with women who manage photo departments across a variety of journalistic media – specifically magazines, newspapers and photo agencies. On a theoretical level, this study helps to illustrate why considering gender is still relevant in contemporary journalism studies based on the past and present experiences of the women in both the task of photo editing and the way they lead their departments. On a practical level, this work calls attention to the disparity in the number of female to male photo editors and thus present a call to action to consciously, and intentionally, incorporate more women into the industry and alleviate any existing discrimination, however small, in the workplace.