The mutual influence between politics and media

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Abstract. As an important channel for the public to understand domestic and international events, news is a major representative of the media. Different news media often have their own founding ideas and propositions, including their political tendencies. The news reported while adhering to this political proposition will have a subconscious guiding effect due to various factors, leading readers' thinking and judgment. When news media and their reports have sufficient influence, public will and social forces will affect the direction of policy implementation. There is a phenomenon of two-way influence between media and politics.

Keywords: News media use, politics, climate change, television, network news, cable news, public opinion, persuasion.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this research paper is to discuss the impact of politics on the media industry by comparing the reports of two news media on a specific issue. The selected outlets are Fox News and CNN, which are two well-known news outlets with different political leanings. The issue selected for this study is climate change, which has been a major topic of discussion and debate in recent years. This study will analyze the coverage of Fox News and CNN on climate change by examining ten recent stories from each outlet, and then discuss the differences in coverage and suggest possible explanations for these differences.

2. Background

Climate change is a highly controversial issue, with different perspectives and opinions among scientists, politicians, and the general public. The debate over climate change has been highly politicized, with different political parties and interest groups taking different positions on the issue. Climate change has been a subject of concern for decades, with the scientific community warning of the potential dangers of global warming and its effects on the planet.

Fox News is a conservative news outlet that is known for its support of conservative politicians and policies. CNN, on the other hand, is a more liberal news outlet that is known for its coverage of progressive issues and support of liberal politicians and policies. Given these political leanings, it is expected that Fox News and CNN would differ in their coverage of climate change.

3. Methodology

To compare the coverage of Fox News and CNN on climate change, ten recent stories were selected from each outlet. The stories were selected based on their relevance to climate change and their publication date, with the most recent stories being selected. The stories were then analyzed to identify the main themes and arguments presented in each story. The research perspective judges the claims of the two news reports based on the words, sentences, and tone used, as well as the opinions of the quoted discourse publishers.

Numerous studies have shown that television news can influence public opinion directly and indirectly through processes such as agenda setting and framing. In reports related to climate change, two news outlets use guiding words to potentially influence readers' judgments.

The following is a list of reports and excerpts from the two news articles studied.
3.1 Fox News

They reached their political demands by questioning the environmental decisions proposed by the Democratic Party led by Biden.

TUCKER CARLSON: This is an extraordinary amount of lying.

You can buy that or not and by the way, a lot of good people, some smart people, people of good faith do believe that and that’s okay, but do the people telling you that believe it? Does Joe Biden actually think that climate change is ‘code red for humanity’?

Well, don’t listen to what he says. Watch what he does. This week, Biden spoke to Canada’s Prime minister, Justin Trudeau, about how terrifying this climate emergency is, but he didn’t talk to Trudeau on Zoom. No. Instead, he flew on a private airplane to the capital of Canada, Ottawa, where he and Justin Trudeau drove around the city in a 20-vehicle convoy, complete with ambulances and armored vehicles.

GOP urged to denounce ‘alarmist’ UN climate change report

“Both the electricity utility industry and the Biden administration have now admitted that cutting net emissions to zero by 2050 (‘net zero by 2050’) are not happening,” the memo outlined.

Finally, the memo showed various doomsday predictions related to climate change going back to 1967 that never came true.

“These three points fairly question the wisdom of any rush to judgment on climate and/or the dismantling of our energy grid,” the memo to lawmaker claimed.

Republicans take aim at offshore wind as whale deaths surge: ‘Moratorium on all projects’

Climate scientist echoes UN warning that 'humanity is on thin ice,' says previous predictions were not wrong

Back in 2019, the conservative-leaning Competitive Enterprise Institute put together a lengthy compilation of apocalyptic predictions dating back decades that did not come to pass.

Our greatest threat: China, Russia or climate change? Americans weigh in

Still, Jessica, who was visiting Austin from south Florida, identified a different threat.

"Climate change I don't find to be a threat at all," she told Fox News. "And neither Russia or China."

"One of the biggest threats we're encountering today is the World Economic Forum," Jessica said. "We have a group of people saying that they would like us to own nothing and be happy."

New research reveals why endangered orcas have failed to recover despite decades of conservation efforts

Democrats turn climate change into the next mental health crisis

This Supreme Court ruling could upend everything about climate change lawsuits
Climate change lawsuits are currently pending against dozens of major energy companies in states across the country, including Rhode Island, New York, Maryland, Washington, California and Hawaii. These cases are undischguised "lawfare," which is a cynical ploy by environmental activists to achieve through courts what they cannot accomplish at the federal ballot box.

Biden admin moves to shut down another mine over eco concerns amid green energy push
Biden warns climate change 'damning' entire generation: 'Mother Nature let her wrath be seen

3.2 CNN
Emphasize the urgency of climate change and the necessity of implementing relevant policies. 
Crucial Antarctic Ocean circulation heading for collapse if planet-warming pollution remains high, scientists warn.

“We know that nutrients exported from the Southern Ocean in other current systems support about three quarters of global phytoplankton production – the base of the food chain,” he said.

“We’ve shown that the sinking of dense water near Antarctica will decline by 40% by 2050. And it’ll be sometime between 2050 and 2100 that we start to see the impacts of that on surface productivity.”

England added: “People born today are going to be around then. So, it’s certainly stuff that will challenge societies in the future.”

Accelerating the EV revolution whether you like it or not
Expect court challenges
There is a very big legal question mark looming behind California’s action and the EPA’s effort, which still has a public comment and revision period.
‘It buys us time’: Great Salt Lake still at high risk of disappearing after epic snow, scientists warn
‘A win of epic proportions’: World’s highest court can set out countries’ climate obligations after Vanuatu secures historic UN vote

It could still take around 18 months for an opinion to be issued, with countries able to provide input into the process.

The climate change minister will now head home to Vanuatu, where he said he will rejoin the ongoing relief efforts after the recent storms.

“We’re basically constantly in a state of recovery in response to climate disasters,” Regen vanu said. “This is why we are so passionate on the climate change front, because this is our reality, and we need to deal with it, and we need other countries to assist

Extreme weather has cost the US more than $1 trillion in the past seven years, feds report
Greta Thunberg has joined a protest against wind farms. Here’s why.
Boreal forests could be a planet-warming ‘time bomb’ as wildfires expand, says new study.
Countries agree on historic oceans treaty to protect the high seas.
Nearly 30 dangerous feedback loops could permanently shift the Earth’s climate, scientists say.
Biden administration restores Obama-era mercury rules for power plants, eyes more regulations in coming months.

4. Results

The analysis of the ten recent stories from Fox News and CNN revealed significant differences in their coverage of climate change. Fox News tended to downplay the significance of climate change and focused more on the economic costs and potential negative impacts of policies aimed at addressing climate change. In opinion reports, they sharply referred to the measures taken by Biden and his Democratic Party to address climate change as "lies". In contrast, CNN tended to emphasize the urgency and seriousness of climate change and focused more on the need for immediate action to address the issue. They affirmed Biden and his government members' various measures on climate change and amplified their achievements in environmental protection.

Specifically, Fox News stories tended to present climate change as a debate or controversy, with multiple perspectives and opinions being presented. The stories often featured quotes from individuals who were skeptical of climate change or who argued that it was not a significant threat. In addition, the stories often focused on the economic costs of policies aimed at addressing climate change, such as the impact on jobs or industries.

CNN stories, on the other hand, tended to present climate change as a pressing issue that required immediate action. The stories often featured quotes from scientists or experts who emphasized the seriousness of climate change and the need for urgent action to address it. In addition, the stories often focused on the potential impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, more frequent and severe natural disasters, and threats to human health and well-being.

Listing two different news media reports on the same thing can prove the above viewpoint. Regarding the development of wind power facilities on the coast, Fox believes that the harm of wind power plants to marine life cannot be accurately proven, and stopping the development of the site would cause huge economic losses. They support the use of wind power plants. CNN, on the other hand, extensively reported protests against the use of wind farms, citing the views of scientists or groups with similar goals to clarify the necessity of shutting down wind farms.

5. Discussion

The differences in coverage between Fox News and CNN on climate change can be attributed to several political factors.

First, the political leanings of the two outlets are likely a significant factor. Fox News has a conservative bias and tends to support policies that prioritize economic growth and limited government intervention. CNN, on the other hand, has a liberal bias and tends to support policies that prioritize social justice and environmental protection.

Second, the differences in coverage may be influenced by the target audience of each outlet. Fox News has a predominantly conservative audience, while CNN has a predominantly liberal audience. The coverage of each outlet may be tailored to the beliefs and values of their respective audiences, which may explain the differences in coverage of climate change.

Finally, the sources used in media coverage of climate change and the opinions of experts on political decision-making may differ. Fox News may be more likely to feature experts or sources who are skeptical of climate change or who prioritize economic interests over environmental concerns. CNN, on the other hand, maybe more likely to feature experts or sources who are advocates for environmental protection and climate action.

6. Conclusion

This research paper has compared the coverage of Fox News and CNN on the issue of climate change. From this, it can be seen that some mainstream media reports can still reflect their political
demands through differences in citation content and news expression, while maintaining objective content. By criticizing the actions of opposing parties to stabilize and interpret their political views, news readers are subconsciously infected with the emotions of the news, thus becoming supporters of the news politics or ideology. With the growth of support forces, there will be some degree of intervention in government administration. The media has a significant potential impact on politics and decision-making judgment.

Future research in this area could expand on this study by examining other news outlets and comparing their coverage of climate change with those of Fox News and CNN. Overall, this research paper has shed light on the differences in coverage of climate change by Fox News and CNN and has suggested several political explanations for these differences. The findings highlight the role of the media in shaping public opinion and policy decisions, particularly on important issues like climate change. Additionally, it underscores the importance of media literacy and critical analysis of news coverage.

In conclusion, the media has a significant influence on the public's understanding and attitudes toward climate change. Fox News and CNN, as two prominent news outlets in the United States, have distinct differences in their coverage of climate change. Individuals need to be informed about the different perspectives presented in news coverage and to seek out multiple sources of information to form their own opinions.

7. Reference


[2] Arunima Krishna, Understanding the differences between climate change deniers and believers’ knowledge, media use, and trust in related information sources, Public Relations Review, Volume 47, Issue 1,