

Jewish mother, and only a Jewish mother:

A feminist overview on the coverage of the 2007 War in Lebanon in the Israeli

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The article studies gender aspects in the journalistic coverage of the Second Lebanon War in the Israeli TV. It is based on quantitative analysis of references to women verses men, and on thematic analysis of women's representation in the news coverage.

The study demonstrates that women stood at the center of less than 2% of the 1,714 news reports that were examined. They were mentioned in less than 1% of the leads, which were read by the announcers. Almost only Jewish women were represented. This representation appeared in three different domains. The first and most common domain was the coverage of the Israeli home front. In this context women were represented by two major roles: As miserable victims of the war and as caregivers (to children, old and sick people) by their familial roles in the private sphere. The second domain was the coverage of Israeli soldiers' families, in which women were represented mostly as suffering mothers, daughters and wives of dead or wounded soldiers. Only a marginal representation of women was found in the third domain – the public sphere. Although women such as the Israeli foreign minister Zipi Livni and the American Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were central actors in the public arena, women were hardly ever represented as public agents.

Considering the line-ups of the TV news editions, the study shows that reports about women's presence and actions constantly appeared in the late parts of the broadcasts. The coverage of domains in which women were acting presented them as marginal.

Those findings demonstrate the way in which the Israeli media frames war as a "business for men only", while using it to legitimize women's marginal position in society.

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