

HOW LONG DOES THE WORLD PAY ATTENTION TO A WAR?

CIBELES

Led by



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WHY DOES CONFLICTS' MEDIA COVERAGE MATTER?



Armed conflicts inflict large and persistent human and economic damage, but **public awareness strongly depends on media coverage**

Media coverage **has a crucial impact in shaping public perception** and humanitarian and diplomatic responses



There are lots of studies about the causes and consequences of such conflicts, but very few about **media coverage and its evolution over time**

24 YEARS OF CONFLICTS IN 10 MILLION ARTICLES

2

Studying media coverage is very difficult due to **the lack of a large-scale dataset** that links conflicts with media reports



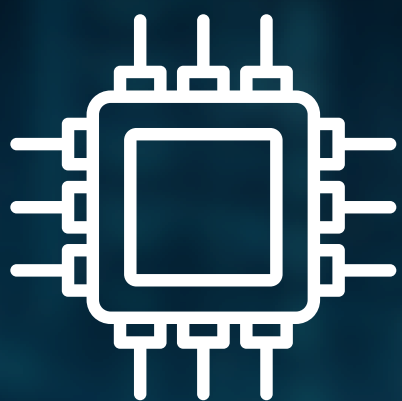
This project aimed to create this database to study **media's responsiveness** to conflicts and **the persistence of the attention**

They combined **10 million news articles** from worldwide events **in 2000–2024**, accounting for diverse geographies and timespans



3 THE ROLE OF HPC RESOURCES

The team used LLMs to process 10 million articles from FACTIVA database **to filter content and identify conflict-specific reports**

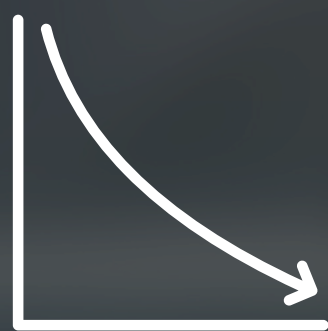


Creating this curated database requires **parallelization and HPC resources** to achieve reasonable timeframes

A SYSTEMIC “ATTENTION DEFICIT”

4

Media coverage **spikes sharply** when a conflict breaks out, but **it also rapidly fades**



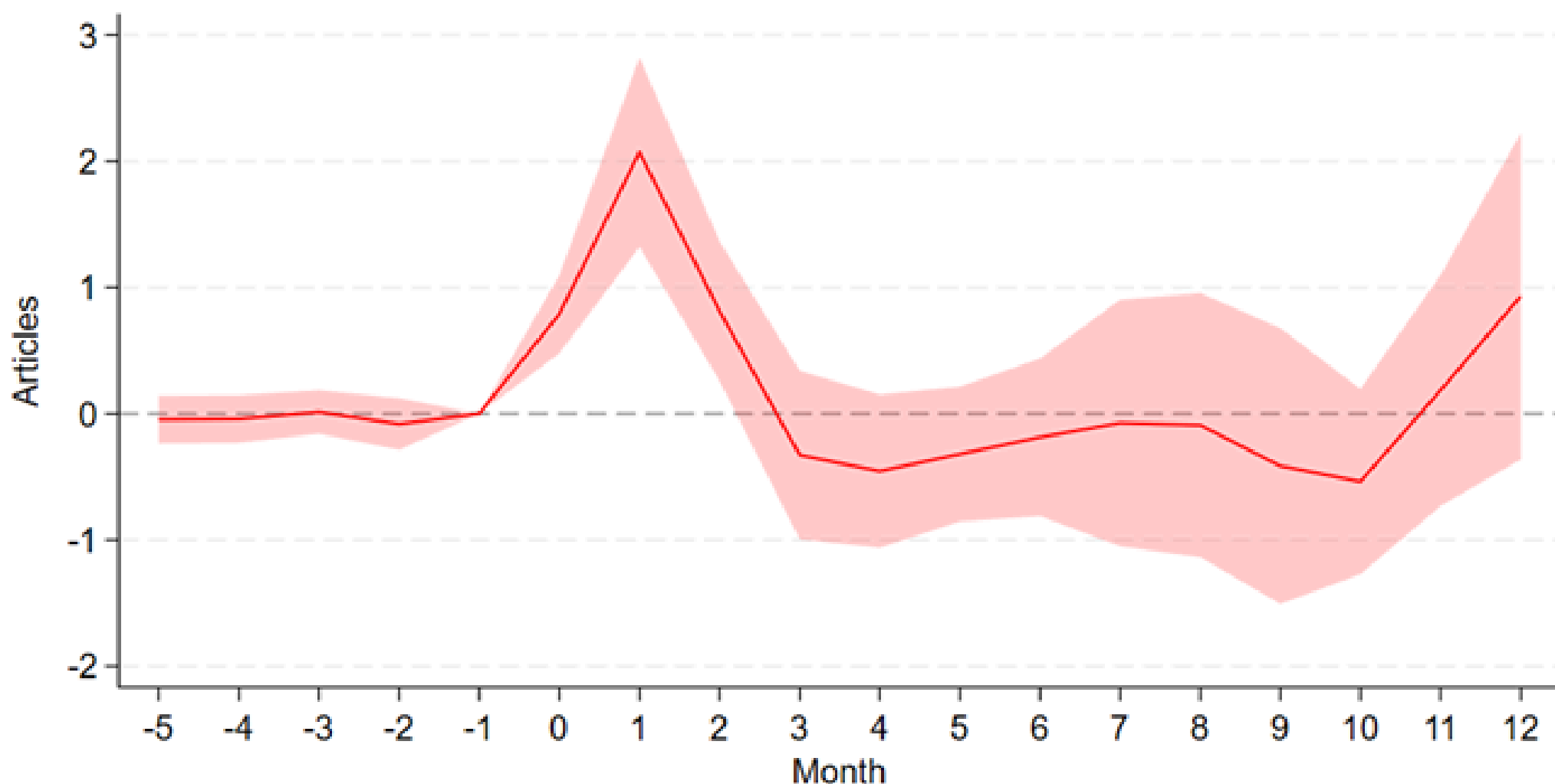
In just 3 months, media attention **goes back to base levels**, even when conflicts are still ongoing

The results show **a systemic “attention deficit”** with long-duration conflicts



The only exception?
When **the anniversary of the conflict** happens

Habituation to Conflict



Mean Y = 2.73
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This graph shows the **number of articles published** before and after a conflict outbreak (month 0).

The flat trend before the conflict shows that **media can't predict its start**, and coverage spikes immediately.

Then, in only 3 months, **it totally fades away**, and only shortly recovers **at the 1-year anniversary**.



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