

**Russian-Ukrain War: A comparative analysis of framing in Los Angeles Times and
China Daily**



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Abstract

This study compares the difference of framing in Chinese media represented by *China Daily* and the US media represented by *the Los Angeles Times*, covered the event of conflict between Russian and Ukraine. A qualitative discourse analysis of the 20 news reports, with 10 from each news site, showed that *China Daily and the LA Times* used different news frame in their narratives of this international conflict. While *China daily* presented leadership and responsibility frame, the *LA times* included economic and human interest frame. The ideology influence between two countries play an important role on the way they framed the news articles. The result showed that the media in both countries are under certain control of government, but the government control and political ideology has strong effects on the Chinese newspaper.

Introduction

Russo-Ukrainian War is an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine (Timothy, 2018). It started in February 2014 in the wake of the Ukrainian Revolution with a focus on some recognized part of Ukraine, which is Crimea and Donbas. In 2021 and early 2022, Russia conducted a major military build-up on the Ukrainian border. Until February 24, 2022, Russia fully invaded Ukraine. In the early morning, Russian President Vladimir Putin made a nationally televised speech declaring a special military operation against Ukraine in the name of demilitarization and de-Nazification and declaring the start of a war on Ukraine afterwards. Russian troops then launched a blitzkrieg attack on Ukraine, bombing several cities and their defences. At the same time, Russian ground troops invaded Ukraine, and Belarus provided a channel for Russian troops to move south to attack the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. The conflict broke out in full force. Some reports described the invasion as the largest conventional war in Europe since the Second World War.

Political ideology, diplomatic sensitivity, historical factors, and national interests play a crucial role in international news framing (Semetko & Valkenburg, 2006). As NX Liu (2017) argued, some news frames seem to be more suited to particular ideologies than others, implying that news organizations from various nations or countries with different ideologies would cover the same topic and the same issue using different news frames. As a result, Chinese and US media are expected to have different framing based on their different ideological efforts.

This study examines the coverage of the Russian-Ukraine conflict from China media and the US media, with the representative of *China Daily* and *The LA Times* respectively, seeking to analyze the different frames they used in the same events. Furthermore, it aimed to explore the influence of ideology in framing news articles about this event. A qualitative

discourse analysis was conducted in this study in an attempt to explain the difference in framing led by different ideologies between China and the US.

Theoretical frame

Media representation of events

The medium is the message, and it is only when humans have a medium that they can engage in communication and other social activities that are compatible with it. The most important role of the media is to influence our habits of understanding and thinking (McLuhan, 2005). Media representation refers to the construction of aspects of "reality" such as people, places, objects, events, cultural identities, and other abstract concepts in any medium, especially mass media (Hall, 2013). According to Stuart Hall, representation is "the process by which members of a culture use language (broadly defined as any signifying system deploying signs) to produce meaning" (2013, p.61). Everything we see or hear in the media is thought to be constructed. The media can only reflect reality or another person's interpretation of reality (Lessonbucket, 2019). When the media report a news story, they reproduce the news event they are reporting. However, these news reports cannot present the event in its entirety, from all angles, or without bias. Reporters or editors select and report information that they think is useful and construct an event from a certain angle, consciously or unconsciously. Therefore, the way they report an event might reflect a certain position.

Framing

Framing theory refers to the reflection of reality, the construction of meaning, and the guidance of cognition through text and discourse. The book *frame analysis* written by Goffman (1974) is considered to be the earliest systematic study of framing theory, which provides a new perspective for defining and constructing social reality. He argues that people define context according to a set of principles of organization, which further govern events

and are permeated by our subjective perceptions and are subsequently referred to as frames. (p.11). Furthermore, frames refer to the cognitive structures that people use to recognize and interpret the external objective world. People rely on certain frames to summarize, structure, and interpret real-life experiences, and frames enable people to locate, perceive, understand, and summarize a multitude of information (p.21). The conversion of real social existence into subjective cognition through frames can help users of frames to understand and recognize events effectively and thus process them more quickly (Adam & Goffman, 1979).

Sociologists apply framing analysis to the research field of mass media (Gitlin, 1980; Robinson & Touchman, 1981). Frames are considered to be cognitive structures in memory (Kahneman & Tversky, 1984), and have been identified as aspects of perceiving reality and making them more salient in communicating texts, improving problem definition, moral evaluation, causal interpretation, and response recommendations with selective and salient influences (Entman, 1993). Scholars have used the concept of framing analysis to examine how the media produce specific news frames, and how the media cover a particular issue. There are two major aspects of news discourse: the textual part and the contextual part (van Dijk, 2008). Textual framing is the "central idea" of a news story, giving meaning to the news event (Gamson & Modigliani, 1987), whereas contextual framing is "the background against which a certain event is presented as a piece of news" (Morasso, 2012).

News frame

Using frames in news reporting is the process of selecting and reorganizing objective facts about what exists, what happens, and what has meaning (Gitlin, 1980). According to Entman (1993), news framing has four functions: defining the issue, or clarifying key facts related to the issue; casual interpretation with explaining the causes and consequences of the issue; moral evaluation that makes moral judgments about the issue; and treatment recommendation which offers opinions about how to deal with the issue and discussing possible outcomes.

Semetko and Valkenburg (2000) identify five news frames that are mostly used in Western countries: attribution of responsibility, conflict, economics, human interest, and morality. A conflict frame is used to show “conflict between individuals, groups, or institutions as a means of capturing audience interests” (Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000, p. 95). A responsibility frame implies accountability for the issues' causes or solutions, which usually falls onto the government, an individual, or communities (Semetko and Valkenburg, 2000, p. 96, & Zhou, 2008). An economic frame stresses the economic influence of an event or issue on individuals, societies, or nations (Luther & Zhou, 2005; Valkenburg et al., 1999). A human interest frame framework is the emphasis on stories or emotions, which adds to the narrative quality of the news, and this frame personalized and dramatized issues to create an emotional response (Cho and Gower, 2006). A morality frame places the event, problem, or issue in the context of ethical or social norms (Zhou, 2008). Two news frames include most in china are leadership and factual frame. A leadership frame highlights the speeches and actions of the leader of a country, the agency or officials of a government, or an institution (Luther and Zhou, 2005; Zhou, 2008), and a factual frame presents events in a factual manner without any implied meaning.

Ideology of news and framing between the US and China

To compare media practices in China and the U.S., it is important to understand their media traditions and ideology (Arregui, Thomas, and Kilby, 2020). In authoritarian countries, political power has a more direct impact on news production than in democratic countries (Kuang & Wang, 2020). Through a complex censorship process, Chinese propaganda authorities can control the reporting of every story (Kuang, 2018). Especially in articles on the national sensitive issue, the Chinese media framing was consistent with the government's position (Luther and Zhou, 2005). Cao (2007) categorised China's news media into two types, party news media and market-oriented news media, which significantly differ in their

coverage of foreign affairs. The party press focuses on invoking leaders and the government figures with a preaching style, while the market-oriented press is more vivid, providing more background and contextual information and non-government sources. Similarly, Kuang and Wang (2020) analyzed a total of 806 international news between the Chinese party and non-party news press in terms of framing. The results indicated that factual information frames are indeed most frequently occurred in the international news press. One of the possible explanations as they suggested was that the party press states facts on important international issues involving china without providing any hints that trigger conjecturers. The conflict and responsibility frames were used more than leadership, human interest, economic and morality frames in reporting international news in China. However, the differences between party and non-party press were not as big as what they expected. Both presses used similar numbers of conflict, economic and morality frames. Four other frames, including the human interest, responsibility, and factual frames only have a small variation. These results supported a previous study that party and non-party press are still influenced by political authorities of China, and neither of them has a great deal of autonomy in international news reporting (Zhang & Boukes, 2019; Li & Brewer & Ley, 2017).

While the US media system, attaching great importance to freedom of the press and freedom of expression, is generally considered as belonging to the liberal model (Hallin & Mancini, 2004). Kaplan(2003) argued that World Wars strengthened national identity and established the foundation for the U.S media. The partisanship in the U.S. is never entirely replaced by objectivity in the context of journalism reporting conflict, but the focus shift from the action in the nation to the action of the President of the nation against the enemy (Kaplan, 2003, p. 215). The figure of media ownership in the U.S was profit-driven and heavy on sensationalism(McChesney, 2003). A study by Chen et al. (2020) examined the news coverage of the US-China Trade conflict in terms of war and peace journalism by major news

media outlets in the U.S and China. Television and the online-version newspaper were selected in both countries. A total of 400 Chinese articles and 339 US articles were analyzed. The result showed that Chinese media were more likely to use peace journalism than US media. In terms of peace journalism, Chinese media are more likely to report with objective and neutral language compared to US media, as they focus on the damages, cases, and consequences that the conflict brought as well as the consensus that may lead to the solution and win-win direction for the conflict. On the other hand, US media were found to have more war journalism since the combative framing and the term “Trade war” were exhibited more in their report, but they included fewer reports on the conflict than Chinese media. The increasing use of peace journalism further indicated that Chinese media is consistent with a strategy of the Chinese government of forming a unified vision and promoting the benefits of free trade to negotiate a settlement for China in a trade war. The U.S media with the model of liberalism has a more personal voice in the case of international war while there is generally an adversarial relationship between the news media and the President, they chose to oppose or support the government policy depending on the situation, and sometimes they even remain neutral toward the policy. In democratic countries, government influence on the media is evident although media ownership is private (Saleem, 2021). While framing other countries' images, the US Media typically follow the government’s policy line, protecting U.S interests and supporting the government by creating sentiment in its favour (McChensey, 2002; Reta, 2000).

Gitlin (1980) identified the frame as an important social force that shapes public ideology (Gitlin, 1980). Based on this definition, Hackett (1984) in turn stated that "ideology provides a frame through which events are presented". News framing and reporting are heavily influenced by culture and dominant national discourses, which conform to a system of opinions, ideas, and political power (Krumbein, 2015). A study by Yang (2003) compared

200 news coverage of the NATO air strikes in 1999 between Chinese and US media using framing analysis. The result showed that the media of two countries revealed two different media frames in telling the story of the massive operation. Chinese newspapers presented the air strikes as an intervention in Yugoslav sovereignty and territory, while US newspapers refer to the same events as humanitarian aid to Albania to stop Serbian-initiated ethnic cleansing. The general correspondence of government attitudes toward air strikes reflected in newspapers suggested that national interest has a substantial influence on the media framing of newspapers. The results further demonstrated that national interest is the most important factor among all in international news coverage to play an active role in the construction of media texts.

Present study

Although there have been many articles that investigated the framing of international media and the conflicts in news coverage across countries over the years, no attention has been paid to Russo-Ukrainians War since it is the latest international conflict. When reporting international news, journalists cannot be separated from their political orientation and ideological context. The different ideological positions and national interests of the United States and China determine the frame of the Chinese and American media in reporting international news (Saleem, 2021). Both the Chinese media and the American media have devoted a great deal of attention to this war. Therefore, the news website of *the LA Times* and *China Daily* was chosen as the target subject since they are comparable. As previously stated, the use of news frames is determined by the type of media and the topic (Semetko and Valkenburg, 2006). It is important to stress that the *LA Times* and *China Daily* is a different types of media with the *LA Times* liberal media and *China Daily* as party press. *China Daily*, the English language daily global newspaper, is the organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). As a famous newspaper in China, it is the most

authoritative and influential national newspaper in China. *The Los Angeles Times* is a daily newspaper published in New York, USA, and distributed worldwide. It is one of the leading serious publications in the United States and is known as the newspaper of record. It has the fifth-largest circulation in the United States.

This study will examine the difference in the framing of the same conflict in news articles from the United States and China with different ideologies. Given the expected differences in the perspective toward the war and the national interest involved in the war, the framing of news articles between the United States and China may also differ. Additionally, how the difference in framing relates to the different ideological and political perspectives will also be investigated. Taking these into consideration, two research questions come up.

1. How does the framing of Russo-Ukraine war compare in *Los Angeles Times* and *China Daily*?
2. In case of difference, how does the framing in *Los Angeles Times* and *China Daily* relate to the ideology between the United States and China.

Method

Corpus

This study aims to investigate the way that China and the US media framed the news media on the Russian- Ukraine war and the ideological influence on the framing. In this study, a total of 20 news articles with around 200 words each from *the Los Angeles Times* (*the LA Times*) and *China Daily* will be analyzed. The corpus will contain 10 news articles from *the LA Times* and 10 news articles from *China Daily*, representing news in US and China respectively. The period of this paper is limited to forty days after February 22ed, 2022 (to April 8th). In terms of time selection of samples, it is mainly based on the following consideration: February 22ed was the starting time of the war, and the time extension within

forty days is the high tide of the war, therefore the selection of this period is to ensure the research sample can be fully and completely recorded. Samples of news articles will be collected from the official news site, with one article selected every four days from each site. A full-text search is used, entering “Russo-Ukraine War”, specifically started and end dates as well as news articles names one at a time.

Procedure

Qualitative discourse analysis will be conducted in this study. As previously stated, there are two major aspects of news discourse analysis: the textual part and the contextual part (van Dijk, 2008). The first step was to find all the news articles from the news site. After all of the news had been chosen, the research is exposed to those articles by reading the text several times in order to familiarized and comprehend his/her data. To address the first research questions, the textual part of the news discourse analysis was analyzed. By doing this, a qualitative analysis of framing was carried out using an inductive technique (e.g., van Gorp & van der Goot, 2012; Linström & Marais, 2012).

The structure of textual part consisted of three elements: a core frame, framing devices, and reasoning devices (Van Gorp, 2005). The core frame of each article was selected based on one of the most seven generic core frames previously mentioned, which are attribution of responsibility, conflict, economics, human interest, morality, factual, leadership frame. A core frame is formed from the framing and reasoning devices that identify in the news articles, and implicit social and political phenomena behind the countries. Framing devices embodies elements of the message that serve as visible indicators of the frame and contribute to the narrative and rhetorical structure of the message (Van Gorp and van der Groot, 2012, p.13). The framing devices was divided into two parts, technical devices, and rhetorical and grammatical devices. Rhetorical and grammatical devices include imagery (Van Gorp, & Van der Goot, 2012), quantification (Pan & Kosicki, 2009), lexical choice

(Kitzinger, 2007), sentences that provide thematically reinforcing cluster of judgement (Lins-tröm & Marais, 2012). Technical devices include headline (Pan and Kosicki (1993), concluding paragraph (Lins-tröm & Marais, 2012), and quotes (Lins-tröm & Marais, 2012). An overview of the framing devices is presented in Table 1.

Reasoning devices construct causal reasoning between two ideas connected with a certain culturally entrenched frame (Van Gorp & van der Groot, 2012, p. 13). It consist of five parts: problem definition, causal responsibility. solutions, responsibility for solutions, and moral basis (Van Gorp & Van der Goot, 2012). An overview of the reasoning devices is presented in Table 2.

All of the articles coded following the structure of textual part. Two articles, with one article in per news site, were chosen as pilot analyses. In the coding process, identified framing devices and reasoning devices were recorded in a Word document as long as they were found. The research approached the text with making general meaning of the data, without the intention to find the desire frame. The frame of each news article would not be finalized until all the devices had been enumerated. So, identifying the core frame was that last step in the textual analysis. The researchers typically coded and wrote the data in a Word document.

Once the textual analysis of all the news articles has been completed, the research investigated the difference in frame packages between two data sets by comparing them. This process is called contextual analysis, which is the analysis of the explorative approach based on the ideology of *the LA Times* and *China Daily* in this study. This analysis was intended to discover possible explanations for the occurrence of specific frames in two news sites.

Table 1. overview of framing devices

Category	Devices
Technical devices	Headline (Pan and Kosicki (1993). Source collection (Reese et al. 2003). Quoters and content of quoters. (Linström & Marais, 2012)
Rhetorical and grammatical devices	visual devices (Van Gorp, & Van der Goot, 2012), word choice (Kitzinger, 2007), quantification (Pan & Kosicki, 2009), and metaphor (Ottati, Renstrom, & Price, 2014)

Table 2. Overview of reasoning devices

Category	Device
Reasoning devices	Problem Definition, Causal Responsibility. Solutions, Responsibility for Solutions, and Ethical Foundations (Van Gorp & Van der Goot, 2012)

Example analysis

An example analysis from *LA Times* was included in Appendix A. The purpose of including example analysis is to show what the research did for the framing and reasoning devices as well as the core frame being identified. This example analysis was a news article from *the LA Times*

Reliability

In order to check inter-coder reliability, 10 articles of each type of news site will be re-coded by a second coder who is trained in inductive framing analysis. It was necessary to calculate

the inter-rater reliability to check the degree of agreement between two different coders. Each coder will be given two articles, each from two news sites respectively, and two coders have to discuss whether they agree or disagree on the reasoning and framing analysis coding with each other. If there is any disagreement in terms of the label used to identify the corn frame, two coders will discuss the finding again and adjust the labels of the finding accordingly. As long as all articles are coded, and both coders agree with the identified label after discussion, they will have another discussion to investigate the significance of finding regarding ideology.

Results

The LA Times

In the corpus of *the LA Times*, two frame packages were found: the human interest frame and the economic frame. The human interest frame was found in eight out of the ten articles, whereas the economic frame was found in two articles.

Human interest frame

This frame package elicited sympathy for victims of humanitarian crises by constructing around the portrayal of suffering and misery that innocent people encountered. This is done by demonstrating that wars have not only deprived human beings of their survival right but have also caused extremely heavy civilian casualties and property damage. Table 3 provided an overview of the reasoning and framing devices.

Reasoning devices of human interest frame

As shown in Table 3, the problem definition was that people were injured and died. Specifically, the personal stories were mentioned, as one article mentioned that a Ukrainian mother killed her children who were the victim of the unprovoked fire on civilians (*The LA Times*, 3 March 2022); another article demonstrated that a pregnant woman and her baby die

after rescue from bombed Ukrainian maternity hospital (*The LA Times*, 25 March 2022).

Moreover, some of the articles focused on the refugee crisis that which a large number of people fled away. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, namely the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, was the only casual responsibility for those problems provided in the articles.

Regarding the solutions, the articles offered various suggestions: allow and help people to flee and escape through the Humanitarian corridor escape vehicles, and passenger trains; help Ukraine residents to find shelters; arm resistance; and provide supplies and aid. The Russian government is one of those responsibilities since the allowance for the refugee to flee and opening a Humanitarian corridor for them was needed. Ukraine authorities and NATO also took responsibility for providing humanitarian aid. Finally, the moral basis was to protect people's life from death and to ensure their basic security from the war.

Framing devices of human interest frame

A set of rhetorical and grammatical devices supported the previously outlined reasoning devices. Regarding visual rhetorical devices, the reasoning device is illustrated by the tragic narrative used to portray the suffering and misery inflicted on the innocent by war.

In this instance, one article (*The LA Times*, 25 March, 2022) described the primitive conditions in the cellar where some of the poor people were escaping currently: "People use tied-together tree branches as insulation on the bare floor, with salvaged bedding piled on top. They have only candles for light. They drink water from a leaky pipe." In this sentence, there was an attempt to highlight the humanitarian crisis that the war brought and show the people's unstable life brought by the war left the people with no basic security and a difficult living condition.

In addition, the quantifications are consistent with the overall tragic descriptions in the framework. The quantifications found in articles include reporting on the number of

refugees who fled to other countries and the number of died or injured people, without any evaluative or reinforcing language. The following enumeration shows a representation of this: “The great 2022 exodus of Ukrainians into Poland and other nations — the numbers currently top 3.2 million”.

A diverse set of framing devices were observed in terms of lexical choice. Firstly, when referring to Ukraine residents, the term most used in all articles was the label 'civilians' and secondly the label 'victims' and 'refugee'. Moreover, there was a significant occurrence of the verb suggesting the miserable and unstable life of people caused by the war, such as 'suffered', 'wounded', 'killed', 'died', or 'try to flee/escape'. Several adjectives used to describe the misery that happened in the war were 'horror', 'pain', or 'relentless'.

In terms of concluding paragraphs and sentences, all the articles with the expectation of one article (*The LA Times*, 14 March, 2022) had a paragraph or sentence to further reinforce the humanitarian core frame by describing the miserable circumstances that war has caused for people. An example can be found (*The LA Times*, 10 March, 2022), in which the personal story enhanced the emotion of grief: “Inside, the atmosphere is like a horror movie and this is all hard to watch when your beloved wife is lying in a black bag on the floor.”

Furthermore, the use of quotes also in line with the human-interest frame. The quotes from the president of Ukraine to encourage people to preserve were mostly presented. The quotes reporting the increasing number of civilian casualties and refugees by the officials of the Ukraine government and the spokesperson from refugee institutions were also noticeable across the articles. Moreover, most of the quotes were mentioned by Ukraine civilians indicating their suffering under the attack of Ukraine.

Table 3. Reasoning and framing device for *humanitarian frame*

Reasoning devices				
Problem definition	Casual responsibility	Solution	Responsibility for solution	Moral basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · people were injured and died · the refugee crisis that people fled away from Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Russian invasion in Ukraine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Help Ukraine residents to find shelters · Arm resistance · Provide supplies and aid · Allow and help people to flee and escape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Russian · Ukraine · NATO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The protection of human's life · The prevention of death · The cessation of war
Framing devices				
Grammatical and rhetorical devices				
Imagery	Quantification	Lexicon choice	Sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of judgement	
<p>“people use tied-together tree branches as insulation on the bare floor, with salvaged bedding piled on top.</p>	<p>the numbers currently top 3.2 million;At least 500 civilians have been killed and 900 injured</p>	<p>Civilians; victims; refugee; Suffer; wounded; killed</p>	<p>“a small patch of light illuminated signs of humanity among the rubble, reminders of the lives disrupted by war.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the United Nations’ refugee agency chief called the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II” 	
Technical devices				
Heading	Conclusion paragraph		Quotes	
	<p>Concluding paragraph is used to further reinforce the humanitarian frame</p>		<p>President of Ukraine; The United Nation; Ukraine government; Refugee institutions</p>	

Economic frame

The focus of the economic frame was on the economic damage caused by the war, and on top of that, the preparation or the plan to make up the loss was also considered. Table 4 provided an overview of the reasoning and framing devices.

Reasoning devices of economic frame

As shown in Table 4, there were three problem definitions of economic damage: the inflation is high; global food prices are at their highest level; and the prices of energy, especially gas, are increased. As mentioned in articles, Russia is the major importer of natural gas, and Ukraine provides wheat supplies that feed millions around the world. Therefore, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is the cause of those economic damages. The solutions mentioned in the articles were to import natural gas from the U.S., ease the inflationary pressures, and on oil and gas and move toward renewables. Responsible for solutions are policymakers and central banks, the United States, the European Union, and other allies. The moral basis was to stabilize the economy by controlling the increased price of energy and food and easing inflation.

Framing devices of economic frame

In terms of imagery, the devices found in the two articles were used to indicate that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has had a very significant impact on the economy, leading to serious consequences. This can be illustrated by several devices: “Russia’s attack could slow Europe’s economic recovery”, and “Gas prices in Europe are already crushing households and consumers”. Especially, the energy vulnerabilities were demonstrated by the following example: “Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has again upended global energy supplies” and “the urgency of transitioning to clean energy sources such as solar and wind power”.

Furthermore, the quantifications were in line with the core frame. All of them reported the exact number or percentages of growth rate; for example: “oil prices up to as much as \$140 a barrel” and “consumer inflation jumped 7.5%”. In a similar pattern, the choice of multiple vocabularies serves to reinforce the damage of the war on the economy, which can be seen from the label “risk”, “at stake”, and “downturn”. The verbs “sputter” and “struggling” further intensified the economic damage of inflationary pressures and price rising.

Table 4. Reasoning and framing device for economic frame

Reasoning devices				
Problem definition	Casual responsibility	Solution	Responsibility for solution	Moral basis
high inflation and increased food price and energy price	Russian invasion in Ukraine. retaliatory sanctions from the West	To ease the inflationary pressures; import natural gas from US; off oil and gas and move toward renewables.	policymakers and central banks; the United States; the European Union and other allies	· the promotion of economic conditions such as to stabilize the energy price and food supply
Framing devices				
Grammatical and rhetorical devices				
Imagery	Quantification	Lexicon choice	Sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of judgement	
Gas prices in Europe are already crushing households and consumers	oil prices up to as much as \$140 a barrel” · consumer inflation jumped 7.5%	risk; at stake; downturn; sputter; struggling	“yet the conflict threatens to inflict severe economic damage on some countries and industries — damage that could mean hardships for for millions of people”	
Technical devices				
Heading	Conclusion paragraph		Quotes	
	revealed the risk that global finance face and suggested having plans to respond to the energy vulnerabilities.		the Institute of International Finance; Center for Strategic and International Studies	

Regarding the concluding paragraph and sentences, both articles ended with quotes from members of the Institute of International Finance (*The LA Times*, 26 February, 2022) or the energy security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (*The LA Times*, 24 February, 2022). The former article revealed the risk of global finance, while the latter suggested having plans to respond to the energy vulnerabilities. The quotes from the experts at the institute of International Finance or Economics were dominant across the articles, including the consequences of global economic loss and programs or plans to address the economic loss.

China Daily

In the corpus of *China Daily* articles, the leadership frame and responsibility frame were identified. There were 6 articles that consisted of the leadership frame, whereas 4 consisted of a responsibility frame.

Leadership frame

This frame package was constructed by prominently mentioning the speech and events by the leader of the country or by the institution. China's basic position was addressed multiple times in four out of six articles, that they support and encourages all efforts that are conducive to a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Ukraine. The rest two articles were direct quotes from other authors. Table 5 provided an overview of the reasoning and framing devices.

Reasoning devices of leadership frame

As Table 5 indicates, the problem definition most articles identified as the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, with one article specifically focusing on the escalation of this conflict. While the most mentioned root cause behind this conflict was the bid to expand NATO, which posed a serious threat to Russia, other suggested causes were related to problems and tensions built up over the past years concerning European security and the result of a Cold War mentality and bloc confrontations. In terms of solutions, all the articles refer to one of the following factors: intensifying efforts through diplomatic means, carrying forward ceasefire negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, lifting the mutual sanctions between the two parties; and pressing the call for an international peace conference which will establish the neutrality of Ukraine. Furthermore, the United Nations, Ukraine, and Russia were presented in all articles as the responsibility to solution. Lastly, two moral foundations were found: the achievement of peace and the promotion of international relations; and Hegemonic Opposition.

Framing devices of leadership frame

In terms of imagery, the devices focused on the the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine to intensify the peace progress. Example of the devices was “to favor a diplomatic solution to the ongoing crisis and to do everything to achieve one”. In addition to the settlement, the calls of maintaining peace to achieve a positive result from China were noticeable. This can be seen in several examples: “China is willing to work with the international community to play a positive role for the early return of peace” and “China supportive of positive results achieved through negotiations”.

Although none of the quantifications were found in line with this core frame across all the articles, Multiple word choices highlight the leadership frame that China pursued peace and efforts to end the war. For instance, the label “peace” was the most frequently used word in the articles, either as a noun “peace”, adjective “peaceful”, or adverb “peacefully”.

In terms of concluding paragraphs and sentences, the pattern previously found was used to further reinforce the core frame with three articles concluded with a quote from Chinese government source. One of the examples can be found when the foreign minister of China claimed that China upholds objectivity and fairness in international affairs and stands on the right side of history: “China-Russia relationship is nonaligned, non-confrontational and not targeted at any third party.”

In relation to this, the use of quotes revealed a similar pattern. The quotes from the presidents of two parties and the members of the United nation were presented across most articles, while the use of quotes from officials of China occurred more frequently. The quotes’ content was portrayed around the core frame, with repeated calls for solutions and peace in a neutral attitude.

Table 6. Reasoning and framing device for seeking peace frame

Reasoning devices				
Problem definition	Casual responsibility	Solution	Responsibility for solution	Moral basis
The conflict between Russian and Ukraine	the bid to expand NATO, which posed a serious threat to Russia; tensions built up over the past years	intensifying efforts through diplomatic means; carrying negotiations; lifting the mutual sanctions; call for peace	United Nation; Ukraine; Russian; the US	the achievement of peace and the promotion of international relations; Hegemonic Opposition.
Framing devices				
Grammatical and rhetorical devices				
Imagery	Quantification	Lexicon choice	Sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of judgement	
to favor a diplomatic solution to the ongoing crisis and to do everything to achieve one		peace; effort; solution; resolve; settlement	“a balanced, effective and sustainable European security architecture should be built through dialogue and negotiations in order to realize lasting peace and stability in Europe”	
Technical devices				
Heading	Conclusion paragraph		Quotes	
	used to further reinforce the core frame, seeking a solution to the conflict		Chinese government; the UN; Presidents of Russia and Ukraine	

Responsibility frame

This frame package implies that the organizations should take that responsibility to provide help to refugee. Table 6 provided an overview of the reasoning and framing devices.

Reasoning devices of responsibility frame

In this core frame, the main issue concerned was the refugee crisis and the cause of the refugee crisis was the Russia-Ukraine conflict. There were several ways to help the refugees, including providing food aid, shelter, education, fund, or protection, but all of them can be

integrated into one solution, which was providing humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians. The organizations who were responsible for humanitarian assistance were the UN, Humanitarian groups, the Government of the European Union, and Ukrainian authorities. The moral basis behind this core frame was the improvement of living conditions.

Framing devices of responsibility frame

Regarding visual terms, all pertaining articles included multiple visual framing devices alluding to the core frame “responsibility frame”. Although every article contained the devices of crisis refugee’s description with “flee to borders”, they had more devices focused on the humanitarian assistance that organizations and people had provided. For instance, every article had an example that reflected a willingness to lend a hand in the context of the refugee crisis: “Humanitarian groups set up tents a few miles in and offered food and drink to those arriving and “Britain will pay people to open their homes to Ukrainians” and ,“Ukrainians fleeing their country have largely been greeted with open arms”.

The quantifications showing the number of refugees fleeing away from Ukraine mostly appeared at the beginning of the articles, and some quantifications indicated the numbers of refugees being helped and receiving education and care after they fled away from Ukraine.” With lexical choice, the label “Humanitarian” was indeed the most occurred word in the articles, usually used as an adjective to form the phrase “humanitarian assistance” and “humanitarian situation”. To intensify the goodwill that refugees received, multiple lexical choices across the pertaining articles seemed to be used to allude to a positive situation. This can be seen in the use of the verbs “welcomed”, “greeted”, and “help”. In terms of technical devices, several patterns were found in the articles featuring the core frame.

Table 6. Reasoning and framing device for refugee crisis frame

Reasoning devices				
Problem definition	Casual responsibility	Solution	Responsibility for solution	Moral basis

refugee crisis	Russian - Ukraine conflict	provide humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians	the UN; Humanitarian groups; Government of the European Union; Ukrainian authority	· The improvement of living condition
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Framing devices

Grammatical and rhetorical devices

Imagery	Quantification	Lexical choice	Sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of judgement	
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greeted by waiting relatives and friends; largely been greeted with open arms.	368,000 people have fled Ukraine; 85,000 children had enrolled; taken in more than 2.1 million people	Humanitarian; to help; care; safe place; home	“The new program, called Homes for Ukraine, will let refugees from the war travel to Britain even if they do not have family ties”	
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Technical devices

Heading	Conclusion paragraph	Quotes
	used to feature the humanitarian frame	UN for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, and foreign minister and governmental figures

Regarding the concluding paragraph and sentences, out of four articles, three articles end with sentences to further reinforce the responsibility frame, with two of them quoted from the agency and the chief from the United Nations. The use of quotes across the pertaining articles revealed a different pattern. To be specific, spokeswoman for the UN for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, and foreign minister and governmental figures were dominant across all articles. The content of the quotes were around the responsibility frame of providing humanitarian assistance by alluding to the acceptance of refugee or the assistance to the refugee.

Discussion and conclusion

The purpose of this study is to examine the differences in terms of framing in the news coverage provided by American and Chinese news media during the war period. This paper presents a qualitative inductive discourse analysis of news coverage of the Russian-Ukraine war in *The Los Angeles Times* and *China Daily*, two major representatives of the United States and China news sites respectively. Based on this, two research questions were formed: “How does the framing of the Russia-Ukraine war compare in *The Los Angeles Times* and *China Daily*?” and “How does the framing in *The Los Angeles Times* and *China Daily* related to the ideology between the United States and China in case of differences.

With regard to the first question, the analysis showed that there are significant differences between Chinese and American news coverage of the Russian-Ukraine war in 2022. *The LA Times* consistently illustrated the problems through the tragic narratives used to depict the experiences of the victims. The human interest frame was based on an overall acknowledgement of the pain and misery that war brings to the innocent to arouse the reader’s sympathy. Obviously, the fact that the number of people harmed, injured, or killed because of the conflict was on the rise from the start time to the next three months. The authorities of Russia, Ukraine, and NATO were attributed some degree of responsibility for the events in all articles. Simultaneously, most of the quotes were featured from those authorities, and the quotes of refugee institutions and Ukrainian civilians were also mentioned in the articles to indicate the humanitarian disaster. Therefore, all the articles were reported from the vulnerable side, that is, the Ukrainian point of view since the journalists place more emphasis on the harm done to the innocents.

Moreover, it was found that *The LA Times* used an economic frame, which covered both the issues and the solutions for economic improvement. Its inquisitiveness, foresight, and realistic intervention were especially reflected in its coverage of key issues in economic

development. This realistic framework not only includes the current interpretation of economic damages but also asks questions about the motivation behind the in-depth changes and focuses on the future trend of economic development with a forward-looking vision. It is worth noting that the economic risk or the plan for the risk was mostly found in the quotes from experts in the financial area. Lastly, both two articles in *The LA Times* account for the events as attribution to the conflict between Russia on Ukraine since they played an important role in providing energy and food supplies respectively.

A totally different frame, the leadership frame was found in the *China Daily* news articles. *China Daily* reflects the national position that China is willing to work with the international community to play a positive and neutral role in the early return of peace in Ukraine in terms of the framework of news reporting. Objective reporting, however, does not highlight the state's interests behind such objectivity. The articles from *China Daily* have always been consistent with the Chinese Party and the government in its attitude toward the Russia-Ukraine war. Therefore, most quotes that articles used were from Chinese government sources, always believing that the sovereignty of all countries should be respected and that international disputes should be resolved peacefully. *The China Daily* echoed this by frequently publishing the voices of the international community such as the United Nations. Furthermore, the quotes from the United Nation were used in articles to further highlight the expectation of seeking peace and that the UN intervention was also aimed at finding peace as well as avoiding further disasters. However, it is worth noting that as the most authoritative news media in China, it did not express its own unique views on major international events.

Regarding the responsibility frame in *China Daily*, the main problem of the refugee crisis was seldom mentioned, usually with several quantifications describing the number of refugees built on at the beginning of each article to lead the act of help in the following articles. The content of the articles mainly focused on the support to respond to humanitarian

crises and care for those hit by war, All the articles focused on helping people affected by conflict by providing food, drinking water, safe shelter, and hygiene supplies, in addition to ensuring the safe transport of vulnerable people to their loved ones and safe areas.

Furthermore, compared to *The LA Times*, *China Daily* includes more of those who need to take responsibility for this solution. It believes it is the duty of the international community to protect the people of Ukraine and ensure that they receive humanitarian assistance. A sense of humanitarian assistance must be made available to all, especially the most vulnerable, and freedom of movement must be ensured for those fleeing the conflict was latent in most of the articles, both in the content and in quotes used.

One of the frames found in *China Daily* was the leadership frame which occurs when speech and action from a government office or political leader were used most time. Political power has a more direct impact on news production in authoritarian countries than in democratic countries (Kuang & Wang, 2020), especially in articles on national sensitive issues (Luther and Zhou, 2005). Since highly sensitive events have socio-economic implications and elicit government control(Luther and Zhou, 2005), Russian Ukraine War is considered a sensitive issue. One way that Chinese authorities control coverage of sensitive national issues is by ordering news sources to use news reports produced by national news institutions only when they intend to cover the issue (Kuang & Wei, 2017). Apparently, this study sheds light on the same issues in international news coverage of the sensitive issue. The articles in *China Daily* have been consistent with the Chinese party and government in their approach to the Russian-Ukrainian war. The source of quotes that the articles used was from the Chinese government. In addition, China's neutral stance, that they have a vision and support for peace was kept mentioned in the articles. Because China's political authorities have a strong influence on international news coverage, none of the party news organizations has much autonomy over international news coverage (Zhang and Boukes (2019). In line

with this finding, it was found *China Daily* did not express its own unique views on major international events and even with articles directly reference from other sources. In the case of reporting international news, Chinese authorities may prefer to retain a more responsible frame in news articles to avoid causing damage to the Chinese party by exposing foreign conflict and solutions to the problem (Kuang & Wang, 2020). In addition, the widespread use of leadership frames echoes previous research findings, showing how media frames can be aligned with the government's position on sensitive issues (Luther and Zhou, 2005). In respect of the content, party organs focus more on policy and party guidance(Shao, 2002).

Two frames, human interest and economic, were found in *the LA Times*, and this finding was contradictory to the previous finding of Godefroidt, Berbers, and D'Haenens (2016) that those two frames are virtually nonexistent in the enormous impact of the conflict. Previous research showed that both two frames were usually found in describing crisis issues in the U.S. media (An &Gower, 2009; Luther & Zhou, 2005). One of the possible reasons for the contradiction could be that a few profit-seeking companies control the major U.S. news media, as well as ownership regulations (McChensey, 2002), and thus U.S. news can be inconsistent (Bukhory, 1989), leading to differences in framing on various news sites. Although the U.S. media is not controlled by the government, it is difficult to avoid the influence of national interests and ideology when reporting international news. The economic frame found in the articles was in line with the previous study, following the government's policy line, protecting U.S interests and supporting the government by creating sentiment in its favour (McChensey, 2002; Yang, 2003; Reta, 2000). Yu and Riffe (1989) stated the status of countries as friends or foes in U.S. foreign relations and changes in relations between countries influence the image of their national leaders in the U.S. media. Ukraine is the recipient of the greatest military and economic help from the United States, its president was portrayed positively in *the LA Times*, especially in his quotes. In addition, the U.S. media

cooperated with the government to create a favourable public opinion environment through various forms (Nambiar, 2014). Therefore, it is not surprising that the *LA Times* used the human-interest frame to attract and keep more public attention (Van Cauwenberge et al., 2009), by tending to blame Russian for causing the damage and importantly indicating the assistance in various aspects that the U.S. provided in the news articles.

Limitation and implication

While this study has filled the research gap by providing insight into how China and the U.S. media frame the international conflict news, its limitation is that there is only one Chinese and one U.S. newspaper being sampled. Moreover, *China Daily* is a party press. As mentioned above, the government control and autonomy under party and non-party are at a different levels. Therefore, considering the fact that the non-party press of China in reporting international conflict has not been investigated yet, future research could examine the framing of international news in non-party newspapers across China and may even compare its ideological influence on other systems or countries. In addition, the analysis of this study is only limited to the first three months of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Because the conflict is still going on at the time of writing, and the situation of the conflict might change in the future, the future study could conduct a different period of this conflict to do the framing analysis and to see the differences in the ideology behind the framing. Lastly, only ten news articles from two news sites were examined, which might be generalized and representative. Therefore, it suggests future research could investigate the framing of international conflict news from more news sites and could make the sample size larger to see if the result of this study can be generalized to a wider population.

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Appendix A

Example analysis - Los Angeles Times (3/4/2022)

Huge Russian convoy advances on Kyiv; missiles batter Ukraine, nearly 700,000 have fled

Russian forces struck government buildings, a television tower and Ukraine's main Holocaust memorial on Tuesday as they ramped up their assault on urban centers and assembled a 40-mile-long column of tanks, artillery and other military vehicles outside Kyiv in what appeared to foreshadow an imminent assault on the capital.

The specter of more violence and the scenes of civilians huddled in bomb shelters or pouring across Ukraine's western borders came as Russia found itself increasingly isolated on the world stage, with few allies beyond China and North Korea and [sanctions inflicting immediate damage](#) to its economy and currency.

President Biden announced during his State of the Union address Tuesday night a ban on Russian aircraft in American airspace, the latest in a barrage of punitive measures that Biden said have made Putin "more isolated from the world than he's ever been."

Framing the Ukrainian war as part of a global "battle between autocracies and democracies," Biden said Russia had "badly miscalculated."

"When the history of this era is written, Putin's war on Ukraine will have left Russia weaker and the rest of the world stronger," he said.

The United Nations high commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, said in a news briefing from Geneva that about 677,000 people had fled Ukraine in the last six days. The rate put the situation on track to “become Europe’s largest refugee crisis this century,” agency spokesperson Shabia Mantoo said in Geneva.

Russia stepped up its attacks on nonmilitary targets, with its Defense Ministry warning it would strike facilities of Ukraine’s Security Service along with communications centers “in order to suppress information attacks on Moscow.”

Soon after, a large explosion rocked Kyiv when Russian bombs disabled the capital’s landmark TV tower. Ukrainian defense officials said at least five people were killed and five others injured and TV programming was temporarily disrupted. The officials also reported a “powerful missile attack” near the Babyn Yar Holocaust memorial, which marks the site where nearly 34,000 Jews were killed within 48 hours in 1941 when the city was under Nazi occupation.

In Kharkiv, the nation’s second-largest city, a missile slammed into a central city square in front of a large government building, the Ukrainian Interior Ministry said. Video of the explosion outside the ornate building was shared widely on social media, showing cars driving through the cobblestoned square in the morning hours after the curfew’s break before being engulfed in flames.

Ukraine’s State Emergency Service said 10 people were killed and 24 wounded in the strike on Freedom Square, the site of Kharkiv’s regional government headquarters. An opera house and concert hall nearby were also hit.

The blast came after a barrage of what observers say might have been [cluster bombs on a residential neighborhood](#) Monday evening, killing at least nine civilians and wounding dozens of others in Kharkiv, a city of 1.4 million in northeastern Ukraine. [President Volodymyr Zelensky](#) condemned the attack as “state terrorism.”

Ukrainian authorities also confirmed reports that about 70 soldiers were killed in a Russian attack on a military base in the town of Okhtyrka, west of Kharkiv, on Sunday. And several people were wounded in strikes Tuesday on the southeastern port city of Mariupol, the Associated Press reported.

In an interview with Ukrainian 24 News, Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko said, “Russian Nazis seek the genocide of the Ukrainian nation.”

“We will fight until the last bullet,” he said. “If they run out, we will use our teeth against the enemy that is moving toward Mariupol.”

The bombardments hinted at a new, more violent phase in a Russian incursion that appeared to have partly stalled [in the face of dogged resistance](#) and possible logistical problems, such as a shortage of food and fuel.

A senior Pentagon official said Tuesday that there were signs Russian troops might be losing morale and that some had surrendered without a fight.

“They’re not only running out of gas, but they are running out of food,” said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Yet Russia has been unrelenting in its bombardments, with the official saying more than 400 Russian-launched missiles had struck Ukraine as of Tuesday.

The U.N.’s Human Rights office said that since hostilities began Feb. 24 and up to midnight March 1, there had been 536 casualties, including 136 civilians killed — 13 of them children. The toll’s rise matches alarm over fears of increased airstrikes and suspicions that Russian President Vladimir Putin will order his troops to encircle and blockade major population centers such as Kyiv and Kharkiv, bombing or starving them into submission.

Speaking virtually at the opening session of this year’s U.N. Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken blasted Moscow for its “mounting” human rights abuse and violation of international law.

“Russian strikes are hitting schools, hospitals and residential buildings,” Blinken said. “They are destroying critical infrastructure, which provides millions of people across Ukraine with drinking water, gas to keep them from freezing to death and electricity. Civilian buses, cars and even ambulances have been shelled.”

Talks on Monday between Ukraine and Russia failed to bring the cease-fire that Kyiv demanded. More negotiations are in the offing, but Zelensky has expressed skepticism of any breakthrough, saying he agreed to talks only to show that he was shunning no opportunity to try to restore peace.

As the invasion stretched into its sixth day, residents of Kyiv braved freezing temperatures and trudged through snow Tuesday to line up outside supermarkets, gas stations and even the small coffee kiosks that dot the sidewalks here to stock up before a Russian assault.

On Monday, Zelensky said he had officially signed an application for Ukraine's membership in the European Union.

In a video address to the European Parliament early Tuesday afternoon, he passionately called for Ukraine to be let into the 27-nation club, although accession is a distant prospect. "We are fighting also to be equal members of Europe," Zelensky said. "I believe that today we are showing everybody that is what we are. ... We have proven that, at a minimum, we are the same as you."

At night in Kyiv, with curfew back in place, the explosions were more sporadic. Air raid sirens wailed. When they stopped, all that remained were the slap of ropes against flagpoles and the subdued whir of a sidewalk billboard shuffling through its posters — for a bank and a rock concert from last week. Above, the streetlights stayed on, illuminating the streets for no one.

Core frame: humanitarian frame

Framing devices

- Rhetorical and grammatical devices
 - Imagery
 - cars driving through the cobblestoned square in the morning hours after the curfew's break before being engulfed in flames.
 - “Air raid sirens wailed. When they stopped, all that remained were the slap of ropes against flagpoles and the subdued whir of a sidewalk billboard shuffling through its posters — for a bank and a rock concert from last week”.
 - ➔ the use of rhetorical and grammatical devices reflects the coldness of the Ukrainian and the cruelty and ruthlessness of Russia
 - Lexical selection
 - Russian troops might be *losing* morale and that some had *surrendered* without a fight.

➔ *Losing* and *surrendered* indicated Russian soldiers are slowing giving up the attack. The situation with lack of food and water did affect their confidence.

○ Quantification

- about 677,000 people had fled Ukraine in the last six days.
- nearly 34,000 Jews were killed within 48 hours in 1941 when the city was under Nazi occupation.
- 10 people were killed and 24 wounded in the strike on Freedom Square.
- The U.N.'s Human Rights office said that since hostilities began Feb. 24 and up to midnight March 1, there had been 536 casualties, including 136 civilians killed — 13 of them children.

- Technical devices

○ Heading: **Huge Russian convoy advances on Kyiv; missiles batter Ukraine, nearly 700,000 have fled**

➔ This headline suggests that Russia has been attacking Ukraine and has expanded its attacks while people from Ukraine suffer from the war. It also suggests that the war is still taking place between the two sides.

○ Concluding paragraph: At night in Kyiv, with curfew back in place, the explosions were more sporadic. Air raid sirens wailed. When they stopped, all that remained were the slap of ropes against flagpoles and the subdued whir of a sidewalk billboard shuffling through its posters — for a bank and a rock concert from last week. Above, the streetlights stayed on, illuminating the streets for no one.

→ The concluding paragraph describes the tragic event of the Ukraine.

Reasoning devices

- Problem definition: Russian's attack did a lot of damage, including the unsafe life of people and destroyed buildings
- Causal responsibility: Russian found itself increasingly isolated on the world with few allies beyond China and North Korea.
- Solution: An application officially signed for Ukraine's membership in the European Union.
- Ethical foundation: The war will bring more death, more suffering and more civilian casualties.

Appendix B

You fill in the questions by clicking on the square next to the chosen answer

After clicking, a cross will appear in this square

1. Is a health care institution involved in the research?

Explanation: A health care institution is involved if one of the following (A/B/C) is the case:

A. One or more employees of a health care institution is/are involved in the research as principle or in the carrying out or execution of the research.

B. The research takes place within the walls of the health care institution and should, following the nature of the research, generally not be carried out outside the institution.

C. Patients / clients of the health care institution participate in the research (in the form of treatment).

No → continue with questionnaire

Yes → Did a Dutch Medical Institutional Review Board (MIRB) decide that the Wet Medisch Onderzoek (Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act) is not applicable?

Yes → continue with questionnaire

No → This application should be reviewed by a Medical Institutional Review Board, for example, the Dutch [CMO Regio Arnhem Nijmegen](#) → end of checklist

2. Do grant providers wish the protocol to be assessed by a recognised MIRB?

No → continue with questionnaire

Yes → This application should be reviewed by a Medical Institutional Review Board, for example, the Dutch [CMO Regio Arnhem Nijmegen](#) → end of checklist

3. Does the research include [medical-scientific research](#) that might carry risks for the participant?

No → continue with questionnaire

Yes → This application should be reviewed by a Medical Institutional Review Board, for example, the Dutch [CMO Regio Arnhem Nijmegen](#) → end of checklist

Standard research method

4. Does this research fall under one of the stated [standard research methods](#) of the Faculty of Arts or the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies?

Yes → (**fill in name and number of standard research method**) → continue with questionnaire

No → assessment necessary, end of checklist

Participants

5. Is the participant population a healthy one?

Yes → continue with questionnaire

No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)

6. Will the research be conducted amongst minors (<16 years of age) or amongst (legally) incapable persons?

Yes → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)

No → continue with questionnaire

Method

7. Is a method used that makes it possible to produce a coincidental finding that the participant should be informed of?

- Yes → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- No → continue with questionnaire

8. Will participants undergo treatment or are they asked to perform certain behaviours that can lead to discomfort?

- Yes → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- No → continue with questionnaire

9. Are the estimated risks connected to the research minimal?

- No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- Yes → continue with questionnaire

10. Are the participants offered a different compensation than the usual one?

- Yes → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- No → continue with questionnaire

11. Should [deception](#) take place, does the procedure meet the standard requirements?

No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)

Yes → continue with questionnaire

12. Are the standard regulations regarding [anonymity and privacy](#) met?

No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)

Yes → continue with questionnaire

Conducting the research

13. Will the research be carried out at an external location (such as a school, hospital)?

No → continue with questionnaire

Yes → Do you have/will you receive written permission from this institution?

No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)

Yes → continue with questionnaire

14. Is there a contact person to whom participants can turn to with questions regarding the research and are they informed of this?

No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)

Yes → continue with questionnaire

15. Is it clear for participants where they can file complaints with regard to participating in the research and how these complaints will be dealt with?

- No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- Yes → continue with questionnaire

16. Are the participants free to participate in the research, and to stop at any given point, whenever and for whatever reason they should wish to do so?

- No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- Yes → continue with questionnaire

17. Before participating, are participants informed by means of an information document about the aim, nature and risks and objections of the study? (zie [explanation on informed consent](#) and [sample documents](#)).

- No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- Yes → continue with questionnaire

18. Do participants and/or their representatives sign a consent form? (zie [explanation on informed consent](#) and [sample documents](#)).

- No → assessment necessary, end of checklist → [go to assessment procedure](#)
- Yes → checklist finished

If you want to record the results of this checklist, please save the completed file.

If you need approval from the EACH due to the requirement of a publisher or research grant provider, you will have to follow the formal assessment procedure of the EACH.