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*By Pernille Almlund* *almlund@ruc.dk*

*Associate professor, Ph.d., Department of Communication and Art, Roskilde University*

**Presentation of the climate science through the concept of ‘evidence’ in media**

Compared to the use of evidence related to climate, we have through the years seen how science has worked intensively to generate evidence, and the evidence has been raised over the years. In this specific connection, it is interesting to be aware, that the evidence about climate changes as man-made has for a long time been relatively high, but that this has until recently not lead to strong recommendations or reactions, rather the opposite. There have from decision-makers been a demand for even more evidence or scientific certainty before they were going to take this seriously. This is to some extent history now, but we still see this in a smaller scale. For example, when meteorologists try to show how severe weather phenomena, such as heat waves and floodings are related to man-made climate change many people are skeptical (also climate-scientists) and states that heat waves also occasionally happened in earlier times. This is a contemporary debate about evidence since the meteorologists’ research is based on observation and comparison and therefore not in accordance with the understanding of evidence in all types of climate science. An important part of this debate takes part in the media and is most peoples source of knowledge about climate science. This paper will therefore investigate the following research question:

*How is the evidence of climate science represented in media? Is it univocal or topical, hence political?*

Nowadays, the use of evidence has become a scientific concept which is used to declare the strength of scientific results, and this is the way in which medical science is assessed. The formalization of evidence criteria in medical science and the development of the pyramid of evidence was initiated by the work of Archie L. Cochrane (Cochrane 1971, Bhatti, et al. 2006). In relation to climate-science, the concept of evidence has been used differently, but still as part of, what can be called a scientific turn of the use of evidence and inspired from medical science.

Niklas Luhmann has in his work described how the concept of evidence has been transformed from a sort of general or observable scale to a specific scientific scale (Luhmann 1999, 2012), which is also indicated by the encyclopedial definition of evidence (The big Danish Encyclopedia, 1999; Downloaded, June 2022, <https://www.etymonline.com/word/evidence>).

With a Semantic analysis inspired by Niklas Luhmann, the idea is to show how the concept of evidence is used to represent climate science in the media in Denmark. With a semantic analysis, we try to determine all meanings assigned to a specific concept, in this case the concept of evidence connected to climate science. Moreover, we determine how meaning is condensed, which means that a diversity of meanings is enrolled in one form and that meaning is then detached from topicality (Andersen, 1999, 2014; Luhmann 2000).

The media representation is investigated through an empirical sample consisting of diverse media texts conducted in the media archive Infomedia. The search included 6 national newspapers, namely Politiken, Jyllands Posten, Ekstra Bladet, Kristeligt Dagblad, BT and Information, in the periods 1st June to 31st August in 2022 and 2023.

**Literature**

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