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Coping with diversity: exposure to public-affairs TV in a changing viewing environment

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APPENDIX B

Dutch Public-Affairs Programs, 1988–2010

This section provides an overview of the Dutch public-affairs programs that were broadcast during the research period. First, the coding that was applied to assign the programs to one of the four format categories is described (see also Chapter 5). Second, for each year, it is reported which programs that have been broadcast during the sample week were coded as serious news, light news, serious background, and light background.

Programs were regarded as public-affairs programs if they covered political news and current affairs on a local, national, or international level. Public-affairs coverage had to contain explicit references to political decision making, political actors, or important events of public interest (McNair, 2003; Patterson, 2000). Based on the distinctions of openness vs. closeness and serious vs. light forms, we discerned four types of information formats.

Definitions of Format Attributes

Openness

Openness refers to the semantic form, i.e., genres are regarded as formats of “open” or “closed” discourses (Eco, 1979; Leurdijk, 1999). At the same time, openness refers to the breadth of issues, i.e., overview information on many issues versus background coverage on a smaller number of issues.

Closed. A brief overview on a relatively broad range of topics is provided. The selection of topics is primarily determined by events of the day. *News programs* are considered as closed because the presentation of news items leaves little room for interpretation and often one leading perspective is taken.

Open. More background information and detailed examination of issues. The more elaborated an issue is covered or debated, the more open a program is in the sense that several viewpoints or competing interpretations are considered. The topic selection is not necessarily determined by events of the day. Presentational forms are interviews, debates or background coverage as can be typically found in *current-affairs programs*.

Content

The distinction between light/entertaining and serious/informative programs is based on content-related as well as presentational features. Content is, thereby, most important, i.e., the distinction whether a program covers primarily political issues or has a focus on non-political topics (see Baum, 2002; Leurdijk, 1999; Patterson, 2000).

Light information. Less than half of a program addresses political information and/or political references are mainly indirect (personal perspectives, coverage about persons concerned, individual or everyday-life examples), emphasis on “soft news” (human interest, celebrities). Entertaining elements prevail, i.e. focus on private aspects of an issue or actor, guided by news values such as personification, prominence, unexpectedness, damage, or emotions. The sphere is humorous, cheerful, empathic, or exciting. The role of the presenter is empathic, subjective, or persuasive. A typical form is casual talk.

Serious information. Primary focus on political information. More than half of a program deals with political information (“hard news”), using mainly direct references (reporting on policies, decisions, or debates/ controversial issues, standpoints of involved actors). The presentation is informative guided by ideas of journalistic objectivity, i.e., focus on public interests, neutral presentation, no or few audiovisual distractions. The sphere is neutral, calm, unexcited. The role of the presenter is also neutral, summarizing, interpreting, or critical as it can be found in interviews or debates.

Table B.1: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 1988

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1	75
Light news			

Serious background			
	Achter Het Nieuws	Nederland 1	1
	Brandpunt	Nederland 1	1
	Hier en Nu	Nederland 1	1
	Nieuwslijn	Nederland 1	1
	Tijdsein	Nederland 1	1
	Tijdsein Buitenland	Nederland 1	1
	Welbeschouwd	Nederland 1	1
	Capitool	Nederland 2	1
	Den Haag Vandaag	Nederland 2	4
	Diogenes	Nederland 2	1
	Kenmerk	Nederland 2	1
	Minister President	Nederland 2	1
	Politieke Partijen	Nederland 2	1
	Rondom Tien	Nederland 2	1
Light background			
	Hoofdpersoon	Nederland 2	1
	Kwartslag	Nederland 2	1

Table B.2: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 1990

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1	86
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	21
Light news			

Serious background			
	Achter Het Nieuws	Nederland 1	2
	Brandpunt	Nederland 1	2
	Hier en Nu	Nederland 1	1
	Impact	Nederland 1	1
	Tijdsein 1	Nederland 1	1
	Tijdsein 2	Nederland 1	1
	Nieuwslijn	Nederland 2	1
	Aktua	Nederland 2	1
	Aktua Laat	Nederland 2	1
	Gemeenteraadsverkiezingen	Nederland 3	1
	Politieke Partijen	Nederland 3	1
	Kenmerk	Nederland 3	1
	NOS-Laat	Nederland 3	4
Light background			

Table B.3: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 1992

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1	99
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	46
	Nieuwsflits	RTL 4	12
Light news			
	Gewest tot Gewest	Nederland 3	1
Serious background			
	Brandpunt	Nederland 1	1
	Hier en Nu	Nederland 1	1
	Televizier	Nederland 1	1
	Tijdsein 1	Nederland 1	1
	Tijdsein 2	Nederland 1	1
	Achter het Nieuws	Nederland 2	2
	Aktua	Nederland 2	1
	Aktua Nieuws	Nederland 2	1
	Impact	Nederland 2	2
	Nieuwslijn	Nederland 2	2
	Capitool	Nederland 3	1
	Kenmerk	Nederland 3	1
	NOS-Laat	Nederland 3	5
	Politieke Partijen	Nederland 3	2
Light background			
	Antenne	Nederland 1	1
	Dokument	Nederland 1	1
	Karel	Nederland 1	1
	Ver van Mijn Bed	Nederland 1	1
	Sonja op Zaterdag	Nederland 2	1

Table B.4: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 1994

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2	109
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	58
	Nieuwsflits	RTL 4	
Light news			
	Gewest tot Gewest	Nederland 3	2
Serious background			
	Brandpunt	Nederland 1	1
	Hier en Nu	Nederland 1	1
	Kenmerk	Nederland 1	1
	Politieke Partijen	Nederland 1	6
	Televizier	Nederland 1	1
	2 Vandaag	Nederland 2	13
	Tijdsein	Nederland 2	1
	Vragenuurtje	Nederland 2	1
	Wereld Vandaag	Nederland 2	1
	Capitool	Nederland 3	1
	Den Haag Vandaag	Nederland 3	3
	Gesprek Ministerpresident	Nederland 3	1
	Impact	Nederland 3	2
	NOVA	Nederland 3	6
Light background			
	Arena	Nederland 1	1
	Dokument	Nederland 1	1
	Karel	Nederland 1	1
	Ontbijt-TV	Nederland 1	11
	Vesuvius	Nederland 1	2
	Antenne	Nederland 2	1
	Elfde Uur	Nederland 2	2
	Sonja op Zaterdag	Nederland 3	1

Table B.5: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 1996

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2	86
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4 / RTL 7	68
	Nieuwsflits	RTL 4	
Light news			
	Gewest tot Gewest	Nederland 3	2
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	10
Serious background			
	Brandpunt	Nederland 1	2
	Hier en Nu	Nederland 1	3
	Kenmerk	Nederland 1	1
	Televizier	Nederland 1	1
	2 Vandaag	Nederland 2	18
	Buitenhof	Nederland 3	2
	Gesprek Ministerpresident	Nederland 3	1
	NOVA	Nederland 3	6
	Politieke Partijen	Nederland 3	9
	Nieuwslijn	RTL 7	6
Light background			
	Arena	Nederland 1	1
	Dokument	Nederland 1	1
	Karel	Nederland 3	2
	Middageditie	Nederland 3	18
	Ontbijt-TV	Nederland 3	35
	Sonja op Zaterdag	Nederland 3	2
	Zembla	Nederland 3	2

Table B.6: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 1998

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2 / 3	91
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4 / RTL 5	90
	Nieuwsflits	RTL 5	6
Light news			
	Gewest tot Gewest	Nederland 3	2
	5 in het Land	RTL 5	12
	Actienieuws	SBS 6	7
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	13
Serious background			
	Netwerk	Nederland 1	5
	2 Vandaag	Nederland 2	12
	Politieke Partijen	Nederland 2	9
	Buitenhof	Nederland 3	2
	Gesprek Minister President	Nederland 3	1
	NOVA	Nederland 3	5
Light background			
	Dokument	Nederland 1	2
	Karel	Nederland 1	1
	Ontbijt-TV	Nederland 1	32
	Barend & Witteman	Nederland 3	10
	Lagerhuis	Nederland 3	2
	Middageditie	Nederland 3	10
	Zembla	Nederland 3	2

Table B.7: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 2000

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2 / 3	106
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	71
	Nieuws Update	RTL 5	7
	Het Nieuws	SBS 6	15
Light news			
	NL Net	Nederland 1	10
	Gewest tot Gewest	Nederland 3	3
	5 in het Land	RTL 5	12
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	12
Serious background			
	Netwerk	Nederland 1	16
	2 Vandaag	Nederland 2	12
	Buitenhof	Nederland 3	2
	Gesprek Minister President	Nederland 3	1
	NOVA	Nederland 3	6
Light background			
	Dokument	Nederland 1	2
	Ontbijt-TV	Nederland 1	30
	BV de Wereld	Nederland 1	2
	Andere Gezicht	Nederland 1	2
	Barend & Witteman	Nederland 3	10
	Lagerhuis	Nederland 3	2
	Lopende Zaken	Nederland 3	2
	Middageditie	Nederland 3	3
	Urbania	Nederland 3	2
	Zembla	Nederland 3	2
	Barend & van Dorp	RTL 4	5

Table B.8: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 2002

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2 / 3	113
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	82
	RTL Z Nieuws	RTL 7	129
	Het Nieuws	SBS 6	129
Light news			
	NL Net	Nederland 1	10
	Gewest tot Gewest	Nederland 3	1
	5 in het Land	RTL 5	5
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	12
Serious background			
	2 Vandaag	Nederland 1 / 2	21
	Knevel op Zaterdag	Nederland 1	3
	Netwerk	Nederland 1	15
	Politieke Partijen	Nederland 1	9
	Voor Je Kiezen	Nederland 1	2
	Lijst 0	Nederland 2	2
	Vragenuurtje	Nederland 2	1
	Buitenhof	Nederland 3	2
	Den Haag Vandaag	Nederland 3	6
	Gesprek Minister President	Nederland 3	2
	NOVA	Nederland 3	15
Light background			
	Dokument	Nederland 1	2
	Ontbijt-TV	Nederland 1	30
	Stand.NL	Nederland 1	5
	Andere Gezicht	Nederland 1	3
	7 Dagen	Nederland 3	3
	Barend & Witteman	Nederland 3	10
	Lagerhuis	Nederland 3	1
	Urbania	Nederland 3	2
	Zembla	Nederland 3	2
	Barend & van Dorp	RTL 4	11
	Nieuws aan Tafel	RTL 5	1
	Week van Willibord	SBS 6	2

Table B.9: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 2004

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2 / 3	311
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	113
	RTL Z Nieuws	RTL 7	123
Light news			
	Editie NL	RTL 4	5
	Actienieuws	SBS 6	17
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	12
Serious background			
	Knevel op Zaterdag	Nederland 1	2
	Netwerk	Nederland 1	15
	2 Vandaag	Nederland 2	12
	Gesprek Minister President	Nederland 2	3
	Kamerbreed	Nederland 2	1
	Buitenhof	Nederland 3	2
	NOVA / Den Haag Vandaag	Nederland 3	13
Light background			
	Dokument	Nederland 1	2
	Goedemorgen Nederland	Nederland 1	20
	NL.Net	Nederland 1	5
	Barend & Witteman	Nederland 3	9
	Lagerhuis	Nederland 3	1
	Tegenlicht	Nederland 3	2
	Zembla	Nederland 3	2

Table B.10: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 2006

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2 / 3	318
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	134
	RTL Z Nieuws	RTL 7	121
Light news			
	4 in het Land	RTL 4	5
	Editie NL	RTL 4	5
	Actienieuws	SBS 6	20
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	61
Serious background			
	Buitenhof	Nederland 1	2
	Netwerk	Nederland 1	18
	Politiek Partijen	Nederland 1	9
	2 Vandaag	Nederland 2	12
	Gesprek Minister President	Nederland 2	2
	Vragenuurtje	Nederland 2	1
	Buitenhof Nacht TV	Nederland 3	2
	NOVA Politiek	Nederland 3	3
	NOVA / Den Haag Vandaag	Nederland 3	14
Light background			
	Dokument	Nederland 1	3
	Elfde Uur	Nederland 1	1
	Goedemorgen Nederland	Nederland 1	20
	Ministers terug op de Werkvloer	Nederland 1	2
	Soeterbeeck	Nederland 1	2
	Wereld Draait Door	Nederland 1	10
	Tegenlicht	Nederland 3	3
	Zembla	Nederland 3	2
	Barend & van Dorp	Talpa	9

Table B.11: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 2008

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2 / 3	321
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	127
	RTL Z Nieuws	RTL 7	113
Light news			
	Editie NL	RTL 4	5
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	84
Serious background			
	Buitenhof	Nederland 1	4
	Eenvandaag	Nederland 1	22
	Gesprek Minister President	Nederland 1	1
	Politiek Partijen	Nederland 1	11
	Vragenuurtje	Nederland 1	1
	Netwerk	Nederland 2	23
	NOVA / Den Haag Vandaag	Nederland 2	13
	Wekelijks Gesprek met Minister	RTL 7	2
	Gesprek van de Dag	Het Gesprek	30
	Politiek Gesprek	Het Gesprek	51
	Spraak Makers een Poltiek Gesprek	Het Gesprek	6
Light background			
	Goedemorgen Nederland	Nederland 1	20
	Pauw & Witteman	Nederland 1	10
	Dokument	Nederland 2	3
	Elfde Uur	Nederland 2	2
	Rondom 10	Nederland 2	6
	Soeterbeeck	Nederland 2	2
	Tegenlicht	Nederland 2	2
	Zembla	Nederland 2	3
	Wereld Draait Door	Nederland 3	29
	Undercover in Nederland	SBS 6	1
	Wereld van Jair & Ronald	Het Gesprek	6

Table B.12: Overview of Public-Affairs Programs, March 2010

Format	Program Title	Channel	Number of broadcastings per week
Serious news			
	Journaal (all bulletins)	Nederland 1 / 2	354
	Journaal op 3	Nederland 3	32
	RTL Nieuws (all bulletins)	RTL 4	112
	RTL Z Nieuws	RTL 7	122
Light news			
	Editie NL	RTL 4	5
	Hart van Nederland	SBS 6	130
Serious background			
	Buitenhof	Nederland 1	5
	Eenvandaag	Nederland 1	13
	Politiek Partijen	Nederland 1	9
	Vragenuurtje	Nederland 1	1
	Gesprek Minister President	Nederland 1	1
	Groeiensario van Florijn	Nederland 2	1
	Netwerk	Nederland 2	11
	NOVA / Den Haag Vandaag	Nederland 2	13
	Wekelijks Gesprek met Minister	RTL 7	2
Light background			
	Goedemorgen Nederland	Nederland 1	20
	Pauw & Witteman	Nederland 1	14
	Crossing Borders	Nederland 2	1
	Dokument	Nederland 2	2
	Moraal Ridders	Nederland 2	2
	Rondom 10	Nederland 2	5
	Tegenlicht	Nederland 2	1
	Zembla	Nederland 2	1
	Wereld Draait Door	Nederland 3	27
	Undercover in Nederland	SBS 6	1

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