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Tweet to Remember: Moments of Crisis in the Chinese Microblogosphere

Abstract:

This study examines collective memory in the age of social media, as it surfaces in the dynamics of the changing temporal and spatial relations in the global flow of news and information. This study looks at a micro-blogging site, Weibo, in the Chinese context, focusing on how journalists and media institutions use this platform to do news coverage, and in the moments of disasters and crisis, build up past-present connections and hold online commemorations, which shape collective memories of these events. It argues for a collaboration between professional and citizen journalism and the use of memory as an effective way of resisting against the state control of information flow.