



The Relevance of Compassion Fatigue in Social Media Discourse on the Russia- Ukraine Crisis

— Taking Twitter and Weibo as examples

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Abstract. On 24 February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the launch of a special military operation against Ukraine, accompanied by the sounding of air-raid sirens in the Ukrainian capital Kiev, and the Russia-Ukraine crisis officially broke out. This East Asian crisis has attracted global attention and sparked extensive global media coverage. This study aims to explore the relevance of sympathy fatigue in the discourse of social media regarding the Russia-Ukraine crisis. At a time when digital warfare has become one of the forms of modern warfare, how the public, as a media audience, understands and creates public opinion has become the focus of research on social media audiences. The outbreak of a war crisis is also a tragedy for humanity. Digital warfare has created a new era of compassion fatigue. A critical discourse analysis of the rhetoric of Weibo and Twitter reveals the different characteristics of the content of communication in the different social contexts of China and the West, the collision of nationalism and racism, the pursuit of peace and the spread of Confucianism. And underneath these contents, popular sympathy fatigue is weakened as well as enhanced. And reflecting on compassion fatigue itself, not only in terms of its communication effects but also in terms of understanding its own meaning, the enhancement of compassion is not necessarily the direction to be pursued, but for the strengthening of rational thinking and the supplementation of humanistic concern is the core of what needs to be worked on in the process of war news communication.

Keywords: compassion fatigue, Weibo, Twitter, digital warfare

1 Introduction

In the study and analysis of warfare in the 21st century, the recent Russo-Ukrainian crisis has been chosen as the subject of this paper. The focus of this paper is on the relevance of the social media rhetoric of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis to the theory of compassion fatigue. The study finds that compassion fatigue is the reason for the failure of much international reporting at present. Inevitably, as media continues to evolve and spread rapidly, digital warfare takes the form of subordination to politics and multiple forms of hybrid warfare. Therefore, to understand more of the specific

thoughts of the public in the current digital war, this study chose to use the Chinese social platform Weibo and the Western social platform Twitter to critically analyze the discourse. In the analysis of Weibo, the discourse is characterized by a communitarian perspective of nationalism, a peace-seeking Confucianism, and a complex political game of great powers in the unique social context of China. On the other hand, the three themes presented on Twitter are ethnic narratives, thoughts, and concerns about the survival of civilians, and condemnation of Russia and thus the promotion of peace. After deriving the corresponding discursive themes, the study found that they were linked to compassion fatigue. The use of anthropomorphic narratives to undermine compassion fatigue is a major tool in news communication, while selective reading, fake news and marginalization can lead to further compassion fatigue, and the promotion of compassion needs to be viewed in a dialectical manner, with rational structures and attitudes, rather than relying on compassion to make appropriate choices. By understanding the specific causes of compassion fatigue in social media discourse, the media can be better guided to create more objective and truthful stories.

2 Literature review

2.1 The coming of age of Digital Warfare

War is subordinate to politics, and war can be described as a continuation of politics by another means. During war, the human factor, especially mental power, plays a decisive role in winning or losing a war¹. In the recent developments and changes in international warfare, we can see that the world powers have used the development of new forms of warfare to manipulate the mental powers of men. In 2005 James Norman Mattis and Frank G. Hoffman first proposed the idea of hybrid warfare in the US Navy Magazine. The core idea of hybrid warfare should be that the future threats to the nation are multiple and diverse, and that the military's combat missions and operations will also be diverse. This is reflected in the mixing of regular operations with terrorist attacks; military operations are mixed; non-traditional areas of warfare such as government and military, diplomatic economic and social, and information are also mixed; and the enemy's people and the enemy's military are also mixed². Each era has its own corresponding type of warfare, unique constraints, and perspectives³. Hybrid warfare has become a dominant form of contemporary warfare.

From the 2006 Israeli-Lebanese conflict, the 2008 Georgian war, the 2010 Arab Spring (Yemen, Libya and the Syrian civil war) to the Russian-Ukrainian crisis in 2022, hybrid warfare has gradually developed and evolved into digital warfare. The battlefield of digital warfare has taken on an open access dimension, where anyone can post, link, like or share the claims, opinions, and anger of people on social media. What the media and journalists have constructed is in fact an algorithmically driven, invisible digital war, which has been gradually expanded by the joint participation of non-humans and humans, and the popularity of social media platforms has disrupted the inherent relationship between war and society, thus creating a process of communication that is engaged, but uneven, on a global scale⁴. Due to the uncertainty in news selection as well as the falsehood of social media, the like mechanism, the me-

dia's fight for traffic, likes and dislikes are embedded with too many personal subjective ideas and unseen agendas⁵

And from the Cold War period onwards, the new world information and communication order became a tool and a victim of the struggle for hegemony between states. During this period, countries were fully aware of the importance of information dissemination. "The political dimension of international broadcasting continued unabated, and international broadcasting waged a considerable struggle between socialist and capitalist countries". In 1990 Joseph Nye introduced the concept of soft power, where culture, political values and foreign policy were the three resources by which a country practiced soft power. The press, with its agenda-setting and cultural communication functions, plays an important role in the dissemination of soft power. The media becomes an important tool for building the soft power of a country. Algorithms, automation, and big data are used in the media to manipulate public opinion to deliberately disseminate misinformation on social networks. This kind of communication has been dubbed "computational propaganda" by Samuel Woolley, an academic at the University of Washington, USA, and Philp Howard, an academic at the University of Oxford, UK. Currently, the traces of computational propaganda are all over social media, thanks to social algorithms⁶, and computational propaganda has contributed to the deepening of the digital warfare landscape.

2.2 Digital Warfare has Created a New Ara of Compassion Fatigue

An exploration of compassion burnout emerged in 1980 in 'the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders', where some trauma from others may be traumatic for the person as well, and proximity to trauma may be harmful. This is like second-hand smoke. The definition of compassion fatigue first emerged from Carla Joinson's observation of nurses in the emergency room that there is a unique form of burnout in nursing that affects people in the nursing profession as they go about their work. One of these nurses, Jackie, after doing her best to save her patient but still witnessing his passing, developed lingering feelings of helplessness and anger⁷. Figley further explores this concept of compassion fatigue by identifying that after providing emotional support to someone with post-traumatic stress disorder, people present with symptoms that may be identical to those of the patient, such as anxiety or mood changes. "Coping with Secondary Traumatic Stress Disorder in Those Who Treat the Traumatized"⁸. The concept of compassion fatigue has gradually expanded from secondary traumatic stress, which is also closely related to the 'cost of caring for others' in emotional distress, and Figley follows Joinson's concept. Figley followed Joinson's concept and became a leading proponent of compassionate fatigue awareness.

Soon after compassion fatigue became a concept in health care, it began to be discussed in media studies, and the journalist and scholar Susan Moeller began to explore and analyze the concept. Moller argues that compassion fatigue is in fact the unacknowledged cause of much of the failure of international reporting, and an inevitable consequence of the way news is now reported. In the process of reporting news, sympathy fatigue affects journalists who raise the bar for stories and seek out more 'dramatic and violent' stories to gain more reader appeal⁹. The causes of sympathy

fatigue in the mass media have also been categorized into four factors: an emphasis on horror, constant 'bad news', a lack of social context to explain the crisis, and a preoccupation with presenting problems rather than solutions¹⁰.

The increasing trend towards information and opinion warfare in digital warfare and the changing nature of online media messages has created a new era of 'compassion fatigue' in digital warfare⁵. In the vast media arena, the circumstances of war and its effects are magnified and made more visible with the help of digital media. Military, governmental and non-governmental organizations can all upload information about the war. The development and updating of media have resulted in a richer digital format for the content of contemporary warfare and an unprecedented archive of war⁴. The overabundance of exposure can lead to a gradual numbing of such news, and the psychological concept of the singularity effect, in which an increase in the magnitude of the stimulus tends to lead to a weakening of the response¹¹.

2.3 The Russian-Ukrainian crisis in the context of digital warfare

Ukraine, the largest newborn country in Europe in the 20th century, had a total population of 44.13 million in 2020. After Soviet rule, it has faced many challenges in shaping its national identity¹² and within Ukraine, there are three forces that challenge and interact with each other: Ukraine and Russia, and the West. Russian-Ukrainian relations have been affected by security dilemmas, democratization, and geopolitical influences, and even by the incompatibility of goals expected of Europe after the Cold War. The deep-rooted differences between Russia and Ukraine cannot be bridged¹³. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is worrisome and complex.

Numerous reports and discussions about the Russia-Ukraine crisis had already formed on social media networks at the time of its outbreak, and under the influence of digital warfare, information warfare gradually permeated the social media coverage. In the current era of rapid media development, the nature of audience interaction with media content has changed¹⁴ and users are no longer traditional viewers, but rather they have become producers of media content and continue to output relevant opinions and comments. In the Web 2.0 era, the concept of UGC began to emerge, with users moving from being the audience to being the participants in the news, trying to record, create, comment on or share content about human suffering and war. The information war against Russia escalated from the events in Grunia to 2014 in Ukraine, with the West intensifying its economic isolation of Russia alongside the information war against Putin and Russia¹⁵. Russia itself is also an initiator of the information war, with scholars arguing that Russian mainstream media often report on the conflict in Ukraine without regard for accuracy, using fake news as a form of strategic narratives. This expresses Russia's political stance and influences national and international opinion¹⁶.

Whereas previous literature has focused on the impact and effects of the war itself, specific analysis of the representation of sympathy fatigue in social media is lacking. There is also a lack of literature to support the causes of compassion fatigue between different countries. Therefore, this paper will build on the research on digital warfare and compassion fatigue itself and go further. An analysis of the specific content of

compassion fatigue as it is presented in different social media across different countries will be conducted.

3 Materials and methods

3.1 Subjects

To understand public perceptions of the spread and popularity of the Russia-Ukraine war, a textual analysis was conducted on language on Twitter and Weibo, where language on social media can be seen as a form of social practice¹⁷. And it can be used to reveal power structures and the ideologies hidden behind language¹⁸. I conducted a critical discourse analysis of Sina Weibo and Twitter platforms containing hashtags on the situation in Russia and Ukraine. Social media is the main source of information for the population, and Weibo and Twitter are the most used social media in China and the West respectively. First, I determined the time for data collection, choosing 24 February 2022 as our starting point. In an emergency televised broadcast on the situation in Ukraine on 24 February local time in Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a special military operation in the Donbass region and said. Ukraine's membership of NATO is a totally unacceptable act. The date of 12 April 2022 was then chosen as the end date for our data collection. Analysis of the data from Weibo shows that discussions about the situation in Russia and Ukraine trended upwards between 24 February and 12 April, while after 12 April, discussions about the situation in Russia and Ukraine showed a sharp decline.

3.2 Data Analysis (Weibo)

The Chinese microblogging platform uses the topic tag as a search hashtag, and the most prominent hashtag on the Russia-Ukraine crisis is #RussiaUkraine situation. The hashtag is covered by the Chinese state media CCTV Military as the main source of coverage, with 378 media outlets participating. The total number of views on the topic is currently 2.59 billion, with 389,000 discussions and 15,000 people participating in the topic. There are 61,952,000 reads in a single day alone, and roughly 5,613 posts have been published. And among these posts were press releases posted by official media. There were also creative posts by individuals. In this process, posts published by official Chinese news were mainly selected as the reference data source, combined with the comments of netizens under their posts for text analysis. In the end, 170 posts were selected for specific analysis, and the content of the posts was sorted out in relation to the topic, and meaningful units of data were collated. And through repeated reading of the posts, several thematic reflections on the relationship between post content and compassion fatigue were generated. Three themes were highlighted among the many different themes for detailed analysis.

3.2.1 Communitarian Perspectives on Nationalism.

Of the 170 posts, only 8 were related to narratives about civilians in Ukraine, and the rate of likes and comments on these reports did not exceed 100. 27 reports were about Chinese students in Ukraine. For example, the official CCTV military Weibo account posted "First batch of Chinese students evacuated from Kiev to Moldova, Chinese embassy in Ukraine coordinates local guards to provide security escort, will continue to organize mass evacuation of students (@ CCTV military, 28 February 2022), and this report had 309 likes and 344,000 views. This story had 309 likes and 344,000 views. This was followed by CCTV News' "Chinese student Ke Yi gives art lessons to more than 20 Ukrainian children in a basement in western Ukraine's Voliv" (@CCTVMilitary, 20 March 2022), which received 44,000 likes and topped the daily Weibo knowledge list. The high number of likes shows the importance that Chinese media and Chinese netizens attach to the collective. This reflects the fact that Chinese netizens are more interested in creating nationalism and a sense of stability and protection for the country, emphasizing the importance of the collective in a communitarian perspective, and emphasizing acts of public service in the collective to create a strong sense of belonging in the collective to make the sense of security more real and reliable. By insisting on a sense of unity in the collective, communitarianism makes it easier for people to unite closely and accept common rules.

3.2.2 Confucianism in the pursuit of peace.

In the traditional Chinese system of Confucianism, harmony and peace are more highly valued. The Confucian system of thought has a fundamentally pacifist attitude¹⁹. A post on the People's Daily's official website Weibo reads, "Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that China supports and encourages all diplomatic efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of the Ukrainian crisis, and is willing to continue to play a constructive role in persuading peace and promoting talks, and is also willing to work with the international community to carry out the necessary good offices when needed" (@People's Daily, March 8, 2022). And in another tweet from the People's Daily, it reads; "At a regular press conference of the Foreign Ministry, a reporter asked whether China is willing to take some concrete measures in response to the request that Ukraine expressed its expectation for China to carry out good offices to achieve a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia during yesterday's phone call between the foreign ministers of China and Ukraine. Wang Wenbin: China has always supported and encouraged all diplomatic efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of the Ukrainian crisis and welcomes the launch of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine. We hope that the two sides will continue to maintain the dialogue and negotiation process and seek a political solution that considers the reasonable security concerns of both sides. China will continue to play a constructive role in promoting a de-escalation of the situation in Ukraine" (@People's Daily, 2 March 2022) The tweet has received 8.8 million plays and 118,000 likes on China's microblogging platform.

3.2.3 The complex and complicated political game of the great powers.

The war as a continuation of politics, under the Russia-Ukraine crisis, has also brought about a clash of ideologies between the West and China and Russia. Among the microblogs on the Russia-Ukraine crisis, 85 out of 170 mentioned attitudes and opinions towards the US. Among them, as written on the official Weibo of the People's Daily: "On March 10, the Russian Ministry of Defense published material on the military and biological plans of the United States and its NATO allies in Ukraine. The Russian Ministry of Defense said that the US P-781 project in Ukraine considered bats as carriers of potential biological weapons agents and studied bacterial and viral pathogens that can be transmitted from bats to humans" (@People's Daily, March 10, 2022). This tweet was the most liked and spread tweet about the Russia-Ukraine crisis between February 24, 2022, and March 12, 2022. There were 23,000 retweets, 424,000 likes and 15,000 comments. The comments were full of strong condemnation of the US actions and anger inspired by the new crown outbreak. Behind this, too, lies the complexity of the international situation.

3.3 Twitter

Twitter was also searched using the hashtag #RussiaUkraine, and in just one hour there were 856 posts, consisting of both official press releases and personal posts. As a result, 170 posts under the topic tag were also selected as a reference data source according to the time index and the trend of the topic, and the content was analyzed in conjunction with the comments of the users under the posts. By combing the specific content of the posts with the repetitive reading of the posts. A multi-layered thematic reflection on the content was generated, and three of the most representative themes were selected for detailed analysis.

3.3.1. Ethnically charged narratives.

It is easier for the Western media to portray the suffering of Ukrainians and Ukrainians in a different light than those who have suffered in the wars in Syria and Yemen. It is easier for the Western media to portray the suffering of the Ukrainians and Ukrainians as different than the war in Syria and Yemen. The Ukrainians who have defended themselves by making Molotov cocktails and using the state's guns are called heroes and "freedom fighters". Not "terrorists", as the Palestinians were once labelled. We now have war in Europe": NATO leader calls Russia's invasion of Ukraine a "brutal act of war" and says "peace on our continent has been shattered."(@CBSNews, 2022/2/24) Ukraine is seen as a European country, with relatively civilized European cities and with more advantages and resources than poor and remote areas, yet they still suffer from war. Therefore, the language of Western narratives will be more racially charged in relation to the invasion of Ukraine.

3.3.2. Reflection and concern for the survival of civilians.

In a tweet by Anastasia Iapatinina, which received 14.1k likes, a picture of a badly damaged bar was posted with the caption "This used to be my mom's bar. Just be-

cause they could" (@AnastasiiaIapatina, 2022/4/6), and in the comments below this nikki Plummer commented, "I am so sorry, words I am so sorry, words never be enough to express such deep sorrow for Ukraine and its people, love from UK. In western media coverage, there is a greater focus on the depiction of Ukrainian civilians, and through Twitter, there is also a lot of spontaneous communication from Ukrainian civilians.

3.3.3. Condemning Russia as a call for peace.

Since the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, the West has imposed a series of sanctions against Russia. The WTO reported that 14 members of the organization have been notified of their intention to deprive #Russia of the most favored nation treatment (this will be the case). favored nation treatment (this will allow them to raise duties on all Russian goods" (@NEXTA, 2022/3/16), and underneath the tweet Crypto Cloud commented "Hopefully this will help in the long run to ending the war in Ukraine" (@CryptoCloud, 2022/3/16) and underneath Anonymizes b arbbby's tweet reads, "Demonstrators in Istanbul protested against Russia's attacks on Ukraine, chanting and waving Ukrainian flags, as peace negotiations concluded in the city" (@Anonymizes) barbbby, 2022/3/30). In addition to the arms and military sanctions against Russia, the Western public has also expressed its condemnation of Russian aggression through voluntary democratic movements. What the people are calling for is the end of the war and the beginning of peace, and behind the reasons for condemning Russia is a humanistic concern for the Ukrainian people.

4 Results

In the present day, cyberspace is not a product of nature, but an artificially constructed space that blurs the once fixed boundaries of national borders. The birth of the Internet was itself a product of geopolitics. During the Cold War, when the US and the Soviet Union confronted each other, the US wanted to use the Internet's predecessor, APPA Net, to prevent the US information command system from being attacked by Soviet nuclear weapons. For this reason, the Internet was also known as the 'child of the Cold War'. The negligence theory of national borders brought about by globalization has been exaggerated, particularly in the context of national security²⁰, with states using national power to counter cyber threats and cyber warfare emerging at the same time. As the Russian-Ukrainian crisis evolved, the media and discourse of Twitter and Weibo were also a product of cyber warfare, where news values were not universal, but were culturally, politically, and ideologically determined²¹. In terms of the relevance of Twitter and Twitter rhetoric on the Russian-Ukrainian crisis to compassion fatigue, this study will analyze the differences and similarities in the compassion fatigue brought about by digital warfare.

4.1 Differences in sympathy fatigue brought about by digital warfare

4.1.1 Digital warfare shapes different mimetic environments.

The theory of "mimetic environment" was proposed by Lippmann, who gave a classic interpretation of the concept of "mimetic environment", stating that there is a virtual environment between people and the real environment. Japanese scholar Xiao Fujitake further put forward the idea of "environmentalist of the mimetic environment" on this basis, pointing out that people's perception of the mimetic environment eventually acts on the real environment, making the mimetic environment more and more environmentally.

Lippmann believes that the information environment (mimetic environment) formed by the mass media not only governs people's cognition and behavior but also influences the objective real environment by regulating people's cognition and behavior. Such a mechanism makes the modern environment not only increasingly informational but also increasingly environmental. In other words, the information environment suggested by the mass media is increasingly evolving into the real environment.

The manipulators of public opinion in warfare should be aware of the triangular relationship between the action scenario in warfare, the images of human beings presented in that scenario and the reactions to the images themselves. And people's reactions will all be constructed based on such a virtual environment. So, the propagandist's job is to construct a viable pseudo-environment for them to go to. And propaganda and psychological warfare in warfare depend on such pseudo-environments. The shaping of a pseudo-environment in warfare is therefore a necessary step in the strategy of warfare. In the case of the Chinese and Western media, the different political positions and ideas of the Chinese and Western media are the reason for this. As a result, the propaganda and dissemination of news will inevitably create a very different pseudo-environment for their own audiences. The sympathetic fatigue of the news messages conveyed in such an environment is also very different.

4.1.2 Different communication policies under political guidelines.

Russia and Ukraine have long followed different paths of development, with the dominant model of statehood in Ukraine premised on separation from Moscow. In Russia, Putin imposed a new "social contract" on the oligarchs, degraded the region's "barons" and enjoyed a long period of rising energy rents, while Ukraine experienced social unrest and political crises every few years in a system distorted by the power of the oligarchs. social unrest and political crisis in a system distorted by oligarchic power. By the time Vladimir Putin returned to the presidency in May 2012, Russia was much stronger and poised to take a firm foothold in world politics.

Russia's leadership tried to separate domestic issues from foreign relations, but for the EU, a holistic approach was the essence of its dealings with European countries. Russia's resentment at being treated in this way and its call for normative pluralism are, from the latter's perspective, very logical to categories as regressive and unenlightened in the eyes of the EU. A very different narrative has been put forward in the West. Ivan Krastev and Mark Leonard make this point most convincingly when they argue that the events of March 2014 the annexation and repatriation of Crimea

marked a step backwards in the post-modern European order and the end of the post-Cold War European order in general.

The Russian-Ukrainian crisis is therefore not a war between Russia and Ukraine for Europe. Rather, it is Russia's challenge to the entire European order.

4.2 The identical nature of sympathy fatigue brought about by the characteristics of the media.

4.2.1 Anthropomorphic narratives weaken sympathy fatigue.

Authors often choose to include an additional narrative feature, the 'human face', in their news reporting to make it appear more compelling in the context of more complex issues. The transmission of a personal voice not only enhances the appeal of storytelling but, according to research and studies by communication scholars, can also further influence beliefs and attitudes. By using a two-step model, scholars have further analyzed changes in the cerebral cortex and found that people develop empathy through learning about an individual's point of view during social interactions. Thus, people can develop strong empathy for even vilified or disreputable groups through this learning process²²Batson et al., 1997;. And with excellent narrative stories, it is easier for the audience to whom they are communicated to empathies with the groups and individuals in the story²³, and narrative stories, in being communicated, can be better at conveying health messages through character identification. On this basis, there is a greater shift in people's knowledge base as well as their behavior and attitudes, and even motivation to act.²⁴ And humans prefer to help a single identified victim. Thus, in the narrative and dissemination of news, both Chinese and Western media prefer and are better at finding a more representative group of people that fits the national context. And the most narrative-worthy individuals within this group are the focus of coverage, not only to alleviate the effects of sympathy fatigue on news communication, but also to better establish journalistic values and thus a more solid social ideology.

4.2.2 Compassion fatigue in the context of the marginal effect.

Marginal effect is an economic concept that refers to the increase (or decrease) in the utility of a new (or reduced) unit of goods and services, while in economics, the increase in the amount of goods as well as services, the marginal utility will gradually decrease, which is also known as the law of diminishing marginal utility. In the process of studying and establishing the theory of marginal effects, the British economist Jevons set the framework for this theory, and what he insisted on was that value depends entirely on effects and uses. When the concepts of economics are applied to the field of communication, the saturation of excessively disseminated information implies a threshold at which, or beyond, the news will not only have no effect on the audience but may even have a negative impact on it²⁵. Lazarsfeld and Merton have predicted a 'narcotic dysfunction' in the mass media communication process. Many media observers have since speculated that widespread and excessive media coverage of social issues may lead to a gradual desensitization and desensitization of audiences

to such news. Multiple channels of communication and multifaceted information coverage cannot lead to an increase in interest, and when there is too much news coverage, it can instead lead to a decline in audience interest, making even the most tragic messages prone to pale in comparison.

4.2.3 Reflecting on excessive empathy.

When people see too much coverage about a crisis or even suffering, they feel angry, but at the same time they question what our responsibility is in such an event. In the aftermath of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, many people from European countries have chosen to support Ukraine in such a way by volunteering to join the army. Of course, there was no shortage of anti-Russian militants and mercenaries. But when overstimulated by sympathy, the 24-hour news becomes, to some extent, a mobile phone alarm. It can stimulate people to act in ways that don't fit in with their usual failings, and the excessive tension and anxiety can make people overly tired. And is it good that such a kind of compassion fatigue is created. Do we need to feel bad to do good? The psychologist Brehm has questioned this. In his book *Against Empathy*, we hope that the principles of morality and rationality can be maintained without prejudice, without dependence on the news and without unreliable empathy. The degree of perceived empathy for others should not be the reason for the assistance we give to those who, in objective circumstances, need it most. According to Berm, the good way is not to raise compassion all the way up, but to lower it selectively to an appropriate standard.²⁶ But having lowered compassion, and then having to rely on systematic rational thinking to see the problem and thus judge what is right and wrong, is certainly more demanding on the individual.

5 Limitations

Despite the detailed critical linguistic analysis of the linguistic content of microblogs and tweets, and the conclusions drawn from previous research, the analysis has the following limitations. Firstly, microblogs and tweets are used as platforms for the analysis of public information in the media. The authenticity of the content of Weibo and Twitter remains to be investigated due to the lack of appropriate regulatory mechanisms. The comments on Weibo and Twitter do not represent the opinions of all users, but only those of the Internet, but lack analysis of the opinions of the audience of the media channels. Secondly, the complexity of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis is such that there is no clear answer to the question of whether war can be defined in the West or in China, and the Russian-Ukrainian war cannot be used as a search tag on Chinese microblog search platforms. Thirdly, compassion fatigue lacks quantitative criteria. Given the different psychological conditions of everyone, it is difficult to define compassion fatigue in qualitative terms, and a quantitative approach to grading the different degrees of compassion fatigue may be a new solution.

6 Conclusion

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is the first digital warfare since the birth of the Internet. The digital war in the Internet age has created a new era of sympathy fatigue.²⁷ Therefore, text analysis of the content of the two main social media, Weibo and Twitter, can better understand the form and manifestation of compassion fatigue and to understand the relationship between digital war and audiences. Analysis of the text shows that audiences on Weibo and Twitter differ in their performance of empathy fatigue after reading reports on the Russia-Ukraine crisis. And this also stems from the influence of digital warfare, which can shape different mimetic environments and thus carry out different political communications. And anthropomorphic narratives in media reports, as well as marginal effects, can lead to heightened empathy fatigue. The public opinion field has become the main battlefield in the war. In the process of reshaping the new international order, how to better understand compassion fatigue is a necessary step to avoid national strategic passivity. The communication order has taken on new and different roles in human society.

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