



HSE Campus in Saint-
Petersburg School of Social
Sciences and Area Studies

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REPRESENTATION OF ASIAN HATE IN CHINESE MASS MEDIA: FRAME ANALYSIS OF RENMIN RIBAO AND SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Mavliashina K. M.

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Introduction to the topic

- Since the start of COVID-19 there was a **significant increase in hate crimes** towards people of Asian descent.
- Chinese Americans continue to report the most hate incidents (**42.8%**) of all ethnic groups.
- The Stop AAPI Hate coalition tracks and responds to incidents of hate, violence, harassment, discrimination, shunning, and child bullying.
- Slogans and hashtags as **#StopAsianHate** and **#StopAAPIHate**.





Relevance

Asian hate issue → Asian diaspora → a **sensitive topic** for the PRC

Chinese are the most target group → a **trigger** to nationalist sentiments outbursts

politics and Chinese media discourse **connection**

the importance of studying the foreign policy agenda in the media



Literature Review

Asian hate

How the pandemic negatively influenced on Asian people's everyday life:

Cary Wu, Yue Qian and Rima Wilkes (mental health);
Bing He, Caleb Ziems (spread of anti-Asian hate in social media);
Andrew Taeho Kim, Chang Hwan Kim (Asian American employment) and others.



Frame analysis

Shiming Hu, Weipeng Hou and Jinghong Xu (framing of Arab Uprising);
Lili Gui (Media framing of fighting COVID-19 in China);
Dolokhova Anastasia and Soboleva Elena (framing of the Black Lives Matter Movement);
Zhan Zhang (framing of reported social actors engaging in SARS and COVID-19) and others.



Research question

What are the **similarities and differences** between two Chinese newspapers in representation of Asian Hate?

Aim

to **understand** the features of the representation of Asian hate incidents during 2021 year in two different Chinese newspapers.

In more global context → trace the **peculiarities** in covering and representing the problems of the Asian population in the world for two different audience → **see the connection** about Chinese politics and media discourse.



Theory

Frame theory → examines the influence of media toward the public

Domestication theory → makes 'foreign' news events **more familiar, comprehensible, and suitable** for consumption by various national audiences



Methodology

Newspapers

SCMP

Region, English

most credible paid newspaper
in Hong Kong

RMRB

Mainland, Chinese

an official newspaper of the
Central Committee of the CCP

Time frame

01.01.21 - 31.12.21

54 articles

Keywords for selection

亚裔仇恨 (Asian hate)

亚裔歧视 (Asian
discrimination)

亚裔暴力 (Asian violence)

亚裔种族主义 (Asian
racism)

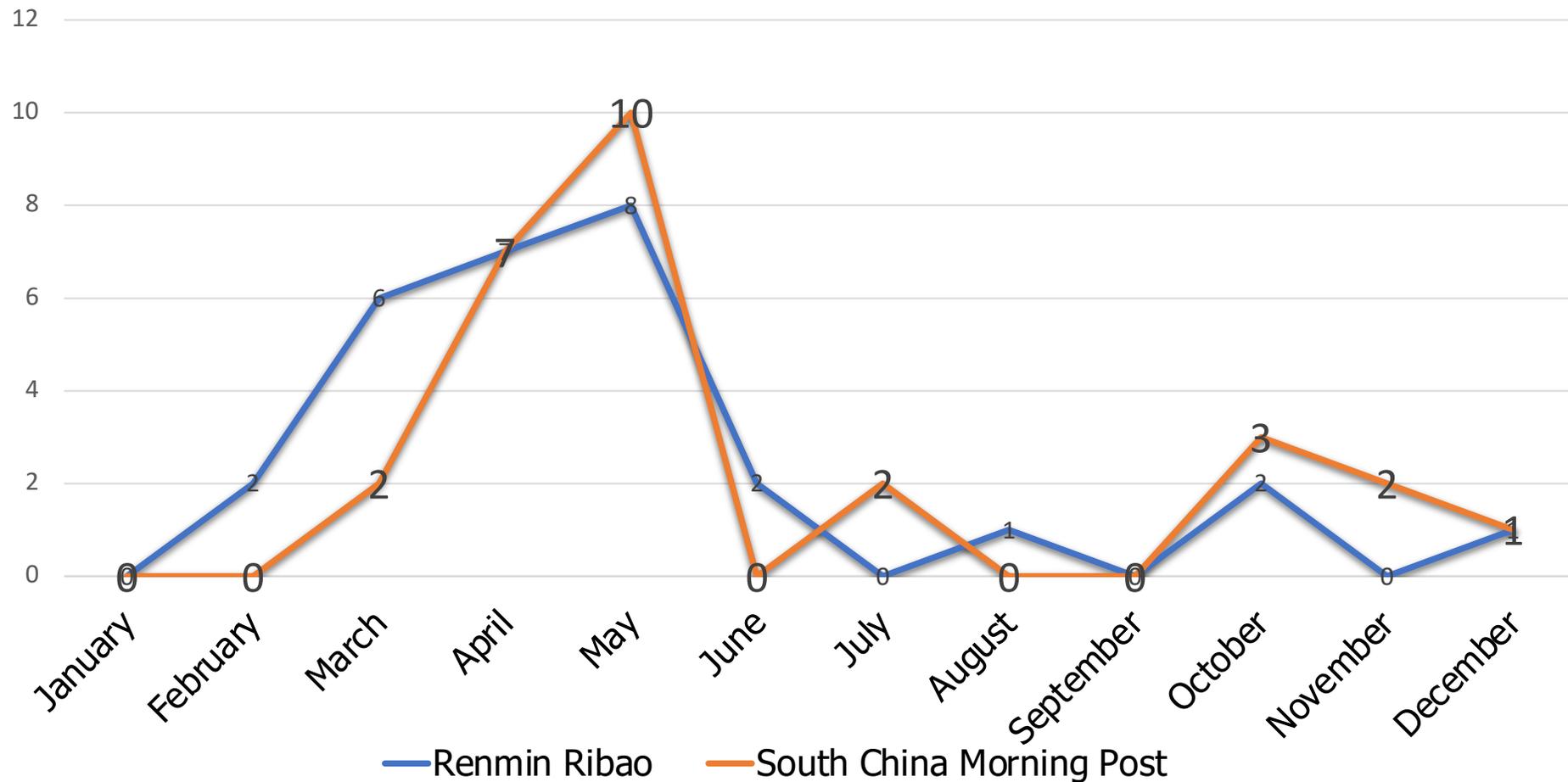
反亚裔攻 (anti-Asian
attacks)

Four functions of frames

Defining the problem;
Diagnosing the causes;
Making moral
judgments;
Suggesting remedies.



The number of articles per month, 2021





Frames	Newspapers	
	RMRB	SCMP
1. The reasons of increase in Asian hate crimes		
Outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic	22	21
Trump's rhetoric around the pandemic	2	15
2. The premises of the problem		
Racism is the US disease	11	6
the US lack of efficient policy	5	4
The US unable to protect human rights	3	0



Frames	Newspapers	
	RMRB	SCMP
3. Moral judgments		
Asians are victims	20	13
Chinese as the main target	6	6
4. Assessment of the actions of the government and president of the US		
Joe Biden is serious about solving the problem	9	7
Local police actions	2	2
5. Recommendations to the government of the US		
Review of school education about racism	2	3
Take firm actions	8	5



Domestication

- bringing the events closer through appealing to emotions;
- linking the events with compatriots;
- reporting on statements, moves and acts by domestic actors;
- implicating domestic politics.

“A lot has changed, but in some ways **this idea that Asian people have continued to be looked at as foreigners** in our own home has not changed at all”.

Americans of Chinese and other Asian descent “**spontaneously organized patrols**”.

Chinese-American doctor Wen Linian said that “as a Chinese-American I am concerned that unsubstantiated allegations could intensify racist attacks against Chinese descent”.



Results

	RMRB	SCMP
Similarities	The pandemic became the main reason of Asian hate crimes increase	
	Chinese as the main target	
	Review of school education about racism	
Differences		Trump's words about "China virus" and "Kong flu"
	Blame the US in racism	
	The US unable to protect human rights	
	Shortcomings of US political regime	
	Asians are victims	



Conclusion

Chinese media constructs the news in such a way that to highlight the shortcomings of the US

- ✓ Renmin Ribao tries **not to fuel nationalist sentiments** in the society
- ✓ Renmin Ribao is **more critical** of the other side
- ✓ Both newspapers use different ways of **drawing the national audience's attention** (Renmin Ribao more often)
- ✓ South China Morning Post **presents news in freer form**
- ✓ the way the similar topic is presenting in different newspapers **differs due to origin of the newspaper**

Thank you for your attention!