United States News Coverage and Congressional Attention toward China in the post-Cold War: a Time Series Analysis

This study explores the relationship between the elite press and foreign policy decision-makers in the United States in the context of post-Cold War. Two inquiries are put forth: the first seeks to determine if United States post-Cold War news coverage of China has been congruent with the national interest; the second seeks to statistically determine if patterns of attention paid to China in the United States Congress followed changes in the news media’s coverage. Results show that while news coverage of China was only partly congruent with the national interest, it was a very good predictor of Congressional attention over the same time period.