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While for several years working conditions in many global supply chains of major transnational corporations have been shown to be poor or outright highly dangerous, there is still insufficient degree of public knowledge about this ongoing transnational social problem which accelerates even further with the ongoing development of the global capitalism. This thesis starts from the premise that, while describing and explaining workers' working conditions to the public, the news media carry a central role in shaping transnational public perceptions and attitudes towards not only workers and worker conditions but also political and economic actors who are behind the growing exploitation of workers in, in particular, the global South. How are working conditions represented by the news media? What are the key themes of the news reporting? How is the topic constructed and made relevant to the reader? And, as a result, who is made responsible for the appalling and indeed deteriorating working conditions? Using an in-depth, qualitative approach inspired by Critical Discourse Studies, *The Mediated Representation of Working Conditions in the Global South* addresses these questions by examining how newspapers in Sweden, the USA, Chile and China/Hong Kong construct discursively working conditions in the Global South. Speaking from a critical perspective and offering a number of empirically-funded insights, the study suggests that newspapers construct the key topic as relevant through a number of thematic and argumentative frames. Of these, the 'consumer framework' – which effectively serves to shift responsibility away from wider structural socioeconomic causes to an individual level – remains central. The thesis also shows that the representation of working conditions in the Global South is strongly embedded within a highly problematic colonial (or post-colonial) imagery. Therein, the exploitation in the Global South is seen as a localised 'cultural problem' of 'them' rather than a systematic problem related to global capitalism and its transnational system of social and economic inequality.

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