Appendix A: Interview protocol

1 Introduction

(Introduce interviewer.) We have an appointment for a conversation on the subject of media coverage of child sexual abuse. First of all, thank you very much for taking the time.

I will briefly repeat what it is about: As you already know from our e-mail, my colleagues and I are currently researching how media coverage about child sexual abuse and related topics such as pedophilia is generated, what information and intentions play a role and how media coverage can help prevent child sexual abuse. To do this, we interview journalists who have already dealt with this topic and who can provide us with relevant insights.

Before we start, I would like to ask you for a declaration of consent. I will read aloud:

You agree to take part in this study. Your participation is voluntary. You can cancel your participation at any time and without giving a reason. There are no disadvantages for you. For the sake of simplicity, I would like to record the interview. The data collected in this way serve a purely scientific purpose and are evaluated anonymously so that no conclusions can be drawn about your person. Do you agree with these points? (Wait for confirmation.)

Then we'll start the interview right away. This will take about half an hour to an hour. It is important to me that you answer as openly as possible. There are no wrong answers.

2 Everyday professional life

Before we talk about the media and child sexual abuse, I would like to ask you a few questions about your journalistic work and your everyday professional life.

2.1 Perhaps we will simply start with you briefly describing your daily work.

2.2 If you were to formulate a lexicon entry for your work, what would it say?

3 Background knowledge, attitudes and emotions

3.1 Victims/survivors

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1 The interviews were conducted in German language.
We're on the phone today to talk about media coverage on the subject of child sexual abuse. This topic is diverse and can include various topics (change in law, prevention, current cases). However, the media often focus on the victims of sexual violence. For this reason, my first questions will be about victims or survivors of child sexual abuse.

3.1 If you could just write a short, general paragraph on victims of child sexual abuse, what would it definitely say?

3.1.1 If you could just write a short, general paragraph on victims of child sexual abuse, what would it definitely say?

3.1.2 (if necessary) What are the consequences of experiences of sexual abuse in the childhood?

3.1.3 (if necessary) Who is at high risk of becoming a victim of child sexual abuse?

3.1.4 How do you think one can prevent children from becoming victims of sexual abuse?

3.1.5 When you find out about a case of child sexual abuse, how do you feel?

3.2 Offenders

In addition to the victims, the media also focus on the offenders. For this reason, I am also asking questions about offenders of child sexual abuse.

3.2.1 If you could write a short, general paragraph about those offenders, what would you definitely include?

3.2.2 What do you think can prevent people from becoming offenders?

3.2.3 (if necessary) And how can the media help to prevent child sexual abuse?

Unfortunately, there are cases of child sexual abuse again and again.

3.2.4 How do you feel about offenders when you hear about or report on a case of child sexual abuse?

3.2.5 How should society deal with offenders?

3.3 Pedophilia

When it comes to child sexual abuse, the term "pedophilia" is often mentioned. Now the first thing that interests me is ...
3.3.1 How do you define pedophilia?

3.3.2 Do you see a difference between child sexual abuse and pedophilia? (if necessary)

Which one?

3.3.3 How much danger for children do you think people with pedophilia pose?

3.3.4 How should society deal with people with pedophilia?

3.3.5 If you think of a person with pedophilia, what do you feel?

3.3.6 Do you feel the same if it is a person with pedophilia who has never committed a criminal offense?

3.3.7 Have you ever met someone with pedophilia?

3.3.8 Do you know about prevention or therapy offers in the context of child sexual abuse or pedophilia?

4 Media coverage of child sexual abuse and pedophilia

4.1 Own reporting

4.1.1 Have you - apart from your article XY - reported on child sexual abuse or related topics? (if necessary) How regularly do you deal with the topic? When was the last time you dealt with the topic? How often have you reported on child sexual abuse or related topics?

You have just said that you have reported on (subject) frequently/often/not often/... Now the first thing that interests me is:

4.1.2 When do you report on child sexual abuse? Which criteria must be met? (if necessary) Is there a report on every case of child sexual abuse? Does it matter where the case took place or who was involved?

4.1.3 (if necessary) What would you research? (if necessary) How much time would you take to research this topic?

4.1.4 (if necessary) What information should an article about child sexual abuse contain that is important for the reader in your opinion?
4.1.5 If you wanted to write an article on pedophilia, how would it be different from the abuse article?

4.1.6 (if necessary) What would your research look like then?

4.2 **Media coverage in general**

Now we've talked about your reporting on the subject. Now I am interested in how you perceive the media coverage in general.

4.2.1 How do you perceive the media coverage on child sexual abuse?

4.2.2 (if necessary) What messages does the reporting in general convey when it comes to child sexual abuse?

4.2.3 Do you see differences between different media? (if necessary) What differences do you see?

4.2.4 How about the media coverage on pedophilia and on people with pedophilia?

4.2.5 (if necessary) Do you see pedophilia adequately represented?

4.2.6 What opportunities and risks do you see in the media coverage on child sexual abuse, pedophilia and related topics?

4.1.7 What influence could the media coverage have on pedophiles? (if necessary) In particular, on the use of support services?

4.1.8 What influence could the media coverage have on the victims? (if necessary) How do victims feel when they are part of the reporting?

5 **Professional framework conditions and restrictions**

Now I would like to ask you a few more questions about your professional framework.

5.1 Who determines which topics you report on? (if necessary) How do you choose the topics that you report on?

5.2 How much time do you have for your research?

5.3 (if necessary) Where do you look for information?
5.4 (if necessary) There are topics for which it is also important to obtain and publish opposing opinions. How do you deal with that? Did you publish articles in which you express views that you cannot 100% represent?

6 Closure

6.1 We have now talked for a long time about your work and the media coverage about child sexual abuse. Did I forgot something? Would you like to add something?

6.2 Are there any questions that you would have liked me to ask you?

7 Biographical data

Thank you for the interview. I have only 5 more questions about your biographical data.

7.1 How old are you?

7.2 How long have you been working as a journalist?

7.3 What media do you work for? (find out beforehand if necessary)

7.4 What is your position there?

7.5 How did you become a journalist? (if necessary) What training do you have?

So we did it. Thank you very much for the interview. Would you like to be informed about the results of our study?