

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CANALCATORCE

MAY 22, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

MEXICO NAVIGATES SOVEREIGNTY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AMID HARDENING US STANCE AND GLOBAL INSTABILITY

A Detailed Explainer on Key Trends, Themes, and Strategic Foresight

NAVIGATING SOVEREIGNTY: DOMESTIC REFORM & INSTITUTIONAL SANITATION



INSTITUTIONAL SANITATION AS A DEFENSE MECHANISM

Centralizing State Control Through
Anti-Corruption Narratives

"OPERATIVO ENJAMBRE": Arrests of
municipal officials linked to cartels
(Morelos, State of Mexico) demonstrate
state capacity.

CANDIDATE INTEGRITY COMMISSION (INE):
Proposal to vet candidates via intelligence
agencies (UIF) to filter out organized crime,
potentially centralizing political clearance.



ECO-SOVEREIGNTY & MEGAPROJECT RESISTANCE



Prioritizing Environmental Preservation
Over Foreign Investment

"PERFECT DAY" PROJECT REJECTED:
Mahahual megaproject denied due to
irreparable risks to mangroves and reefs.

"GOL POR EL AMBIENTE": Campaign
integrating circular economy practices
ahead of 2026 World Cup.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY LAW:
New legislation for sustainable
development.

JUDICIAL & ELECTORAL OVERHAUL



Reform to insulate system from
corporate interests and organized crime.

JUDICIAL REFORM: Defended as
necessary to prevent courts serving elite
interests.

MILITARIZATION: Military presence in
public security roles extended through
2028 as a constitutional necessity.

THE US FACTOR: HARDENING STANCE & ECONOMIC LEVERAGE



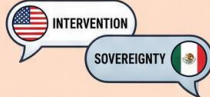
TENSIONS IN US-MEXICO RELATIONS

Mexico rejects "interference" and
"narcoterrorism" label

COLLABORATION WITHOUT SUBORDINATION:
Framework for security cooperation.

DEFENSE OF CUBA & BOLIVIA:
Framing US actions as "interventionist" and
anachronistic.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE:
"Fake Sovereignty" trap (private concessions
behind public rejection)?



WEAPONIZATION OF REMITTANCES & MIGRATION



Remittances as a geopolitical
leverage point

TRUMP'S THREATENED RESTRICTIONS:
Systemic risk to millions of households
despite Sheinbaum's downplaying.



INTENSIFIED DEPORTATIONS:
Potential for "global hardening" of
migration regimes.

MIGRATION AS LEVERAGE:
Negotiated enforcement concessions
likely.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING: NEOLIBERAL INTERVENTIONISM VS. SOVEREIGN HUMANISM



Global struggle narrative.

US/ISRAEL: Framed as "interventionist,"
"hostile," and "aggressive."

MEXICO/GLOBAL SOUTH: Framed as
"principled," "resilient," and defenders of
"dignity."

"HUMANIST" DIPLOMACY: Mexico
projects this stance, yet constrained by
economic dependence.

GLOBAL INSTABILITY: RISKS, SCENARIOS, & STRATEGIC FORESIGHT



COMPOUNDED GLOBAL RISKS

Convergence of events threatens
global stability.

EBOLA OUTBREAK (DRC): "Very High"
risk, rapid spread, insufficient aid.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ TENSIONS:
Trump's 30-day ultimatum to Iran
threatens energy security.

GAZA CONFLICT: Global Sumud Flotilla
resistance and "genocide" accusations
against Israel.



STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & SCENARIOS



Future Outlook & Hypotheses

SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS):

More "Enjambre" arrests, Gaza
diplomatic protest.

MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS):

INE Commission constitutional crisis, EU
trade diversification.

LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS): Circular
economy and World Cup as
developmentalist path.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE:
"Managed Corruption" hypothesis
(selective purge).

LEADERSHIP CHANGES & RECOMMENDATIONS



Significant shifts reflecting transition
and pressure.

LEADERS: Sheinbaum (consolidating
power), Trump (disruptor), Warsh (Fed
Chair), Rocha (UIF scrutiny), Attal
(France candidate).

RECOMMENDATIONS: INE Bipartisan
Oversight, Remittance Continuity Fund,
Accelerate EU Trade Agreement, Supply
Chain Resilience, Circular Economy
Investment.

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DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The Mexican administration under President Claudia Sheinbaum is currently engaged in a complex multi-front maneuver to secure domestic sovereignty while bracing for a significantly more aggressive and interventionist United States government. Domestically, the government is pushing for **sweeping electoral reforms** to insulate the political system from organized crime, a move punctuated by the high-profile "**Operativo Enjambre**" which resulted in the arrests of multiple municipal officials linked to cartels. This internal hardening occurs as the administration rejects US and international "interference" in its judicial and security affairs, specifically regarding the "narcoterrorism" label and foreign law enforcement operations on Mexican soil. The convergence of these events suggests an attempt to centralize and sanitize state institutions before the potential shocks of the

2027 electoral cycle and the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Externally, the geopolitical landscape is fracturing. Mexico is vocalizing dissent against US charges filed against the Castro family in Cuba and the perceived political persecution of Evo Morales in Bolivia, framing these as remnants of "interventionist" policy. Simultaneously, the Sheinbaum administration is forced to manage the economic anxiety of millions of Mexican households as the Trump administration signals **impending restrictions on remittances** and intensified deportations. The broadcast reflects a state attempting to project strength and "collaboration without subordination" even as its primary economic and security partner adopts a confrontational posture. Global risks are further compounded by a "very high" risk Ebola outbreak in the Congo and escalating tensions in the Middle East involving the Strait of Hormuz, which threaten to disrupt global energy and health security.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Electoral Integrity and the "Narcopolitics" Crackdown

- The executive proposed a **Commission for the Verification of Candidate Integrity** within the INE to filter out individuals with ties to [organized crime](#).
- Law enforcement executed **Operativo Enjambre**, leading to the detention of municipal officials in the State of Mexico and Morelos for [criminal collusion](#).
- The administration defended judicial reforms, arguing they are necessary to prevent the court from serving [private corporate interests](#) over the state.

Tensions in US-Mexico Relations and Economic Security

- President Sheinbaum downplayed the immediate impact of **Trump's threatened remittance restrictions**, asserting the flows remain [normal for now](#).
- A high-level meeting with US security officials (including Mark Wayne Mullin) focused on cooperation against [fentanyl and arms trafficking](#) under a "non-subordination" framework.
- The Mexican government rejected the use of "narcoterrorism" as a [pretext for US intervention](#).

Global Health and Environmental Risks

- The WHO elevated the risk level of the **Ebola outbreak in the DRC** to "very high," citing rapid spread and [insufficient international aid](#).
- Mexico's Semarnat officially rejected the **Perfect Day megaproject** in Mahahual due to irreparable risks to [mangroves and reefs](#).
- The government launched "**Gol por el Ambiente**" to integrate circular economy practices ahead of the [2026 World Cup](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The Mexican military continues its presence in public security roles through 2028, a policy framed as a [constitutional necessity](#).
- In Colombia, the **NASA indigenous territories** face military reinforcement following violent disputes over [ancestral lands](#).

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Mexico, China, and Russia condemned US legal actions against [Raúl Castro](#), labeling them an abuse of judicial means for political pressure.
- Mexico and the EU are accelerating a **trade agreement update**, though analysts suggest the focus is more [political than economic](#).

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- The Secretary of Anticorruption sanctioned **Revelor**, a Tabascan company, for providing false documentation for [refinery contracts](#).
- Spain's former PM **Zapatero** faces investigation for alleged [money laundering](#) linked to Venezuelan interests.

Geopolitical Competition & Bloc Politics

- The broadcast highlights the "Global South" resistance, specifically the **Global Sumud Flotilla** attempting to break the [blockade of Gaza](#).
- Trump signaled a 30-day window for negotiations with Iran regarding the [Strait of Hormuz](#) and nuclear enrichment.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

Institutional Sanitation as a Defense Mechanism

A clear trend is emerging where the Mexican state is using **anti-corruption and anti-organized crime narratives** to consolidate institutional control. By proposing that the INE (National Electoral Institute) vet all candidates through intelligence agencies like the UIF (Financial Intelligence Unit), the

government is effectively [centralizing political clearance](#). This is presented as a populist measure to "cleanse" the system, but it also creates a powerful gatekeeping mechanism against opposition figures who may be vulnerable to "narcopolitics" allegations. The **"Operativo Enjambre"** serves as the empirical proof of this need, signaling that no municipal official is [above the law](#) if they are linked to cartels.

The Weaponization of Remittances and Migration

The discourse around **remittances** has shifted from a purely economic metric to a primary geopolitical leverage point. The Sheinbaum administration's public dismissal of the "Trump risk" regarding money transfers appears more like [performative reassurance](#) than a grounded economic assessment. If the US Treasury acts on Trump's threats, the "impact to millions of Mexican homes" would be immediate and destabilizing. Concurrently, the mention of "deportation to third countries" (e.g., UK-style Sierra Leone deals) suggests a **global hardening** of migration regimes that Mexico is struggling to counter while maintaining its own [sovereignty narratives](#).

Eco-Sovereignty and Megaproject Resistance

The rejection of the **Perfect Day** project by Semarnat marks a significant pivot toward "Ecological Sovereignty." By prioritizing the [mangroves and aquifers](#) over a high-revenue cruise ship development, the government is signaling that foreign investment will no longer be granted at any environmental cost. This theme is further reinforced by the **"Gol por el Ambiente"** campaign, which seeks to use the global stage of the World Cup to promote **circular economy** legislation recently [passed by the government](#).

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Mexico is experiencing a period of **controlled instability**. The "Operativo Enjambre" highlights the pervasive penetration of organized crime into local governance, particularly in **Morelos and the State of Mexico**. The arrest of mayors and local police chiefs indicates a state capacity that is active but reacting to deep-seated institutional decay. While the federal government projects strength, the underlying reality is one of a [fragmented security landscape](#) where local elites are frequently co-opted by non-state actors.

Partisan polarization is intensifying around the **Judicial Reform**. The broadcast frames the Supreme Court as a tool for **corporate and elite interests**, while the government portrays itself as the [defender of the people](#). This rhetoric is designed to delegitimize the judiciary before the transition to an elected bench. Additionally, the rise of "new colonization" sentiments regarding Americans and Canadians in gentrified zones suggests a growing **nativist friction** that the government may eventually weaponize for [visa or tax policies](#).

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Mexico is positioning itself as a leader of **Latin American sovereignty**, often in direct opposition to US policy. The defense of **Evo Morales** and the Castro family portrays the US as an **anachronistic hegemon** using "judicial persecution" to maintain influence. This aligns Mexico with the "Global South" narrative, emphasizing [non-interventionism and multipolarity](#). However, this posture is reactive; Mexico is clearly defensive

regarding the **Trump administration's** return to power, characterized by a mix of **nationalistic defiance** and pragmatic [security dialogue](#).

Globally, the framing is one of a **system in crisis**. The Ebola outbreak and the Gaza conflict are presented as failures of the "international order" to protect the vulnerable. Mexico seeks to influence this environment by projecting a **"humanist" diplomacy**, yet its strategic maneuverability is constrained by its [economic dependence](#) on the US market and the looming threat of **remittance disruptions**.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Mexican economy faces significant headwinds from external policy shifts despite domestic efforts to stimulate "circular" growth. The threat of US-imposed **remittance taxes or blocks** poses a systemic risk to the consumption levels of millions of households. Domestically, the government is leaning into the **Circular Economy Law** to create new value chains in recycling and waste management, particularly ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

Key Economic Vectors:

- **Remittances:** Currently flowing with "normality" but under extreme [political threat](#) from the US.
- **Infrastructure Sanctions:** Revelor fined 953k pesos and [banned for 21 months](#) from government contracts.
- **Electoral Funding:** The INE reports the Sinaloa Cartel **bypassed fiscalization** in two municipal [elections](#).
- **Education Investment:** Welfare scholarships have **reduced school desertion** by 6% in high school [levels](#).

- **Tourism Development:** The cancellation of the **Perfect Day** project represents a loss of significant foreign [capital investment](#) in exchange for environmental preservation.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Significant shifts are occurring in both domestic and international leadership spheres, reflecting a period of transition and legal pressure.

- **Claudia Sheinbaum:** Consolidating power through **legislative initiatives** to vet candidates and reform the [judiciary](#).
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as an **unpredictable disruptor** whose cabinet (e.g., Marco Rubio) is already shaping [remittance and migration policy](#).
- **Kevin Warsh:** Officially assumed the **presidency of the Federal Reserve**, tasked with [stabilizing US inflation](#).
- **Rubén Rocha:** The Governor of Sinaloa faces **UIF scrutiny** regarding his [sons' businesses](#).
- **Gabriel Attal:** Announced as a candidate for the **2027 French presidential elections**.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network maintains a **nationalist-populist** editorial stance, prioritizing the **sovereignty of the state** and the **protection of the poor**. The "Lead Stories" are consistently focused on President Sheinbaum's domestic reforms, environmental protections, and the "Operativo Enjambre" to demonstrate state efficacy. The tone is **reassuring regarding domestic affairs** but

skeptical and defensive regarding US foreign policy. "Buried Stories" include the granular details of the **Ebola outbreak's lethality** and the potential catastrophic failure of the **Iran-Trump negotiations**, which are treated with less urgency than domestic cultural achievements. A Conspicuous Omission is any critical analysis of the **inflationary impact** of domestic energy policies or the specific legal vulnerabilities of the Sheinbaum administration's own inner circle.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The broadcast frames the world as a struggle between **neoliberal interventionism** and **sovereign humanism**. Countries like Cuba and Bolivia are framed as victims of a "weak" and "corrupt" US legal system, while Mexico is framed as a "principled" and "stable" anchor in a chaotic region.

COUNTRIES

- **Mexico:** Framed as **principled and resilient**. "Here, the people decide; dignity is defended" ([Sheinbaum](#)).
- **United States:** Framed as **interventionist and hostile**. Historically uses "narcotrafficking as a pretext for [interference](#)."
- **Bolivia:** Framed as **politically unstable** due to foreign pressure on [Evo Morales](#).
- **Israel:** Framed as **aggressive and inhumane**. Accused of "maltreatment" of [activists](#) and "genocide" in [Gaza](#).

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Framed as a **competent but dangerous** adversary. He is a "political cadaver" whom Sheinbaum is putting in [his place](#).

- **Marco Rubio:** Framed as a **dishonest instigator**. Accused of "lying to instigate military [aggression](#)."
- **Lázaro Cárdenas:** Framed as a **historical hero** whose legacy of **petroleum expropriation** is the [gold standard](#) for the current administration.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Sinaloa Cartel:** Framed as a **malign shadow actor** capable of [bypassing state fiscalization](#).
- **Royal Caribbean:** Framed as a **predatory corporate interest** willing to [destroy mangroves](#) for profit.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The administration is actively **seeding the narrative** of "Sovereign Reform." By bundling anti-corruption arrests with electoral and judicial overhauls, the government creates a narrative where **resistance to reform is equivalent to support for crime**. The broadcast uses historical comparisons to Lázaro Cárdenas to **legitimize current state-centric policies** as a return to "true" Mexican values ([Cárdenas Legacy](#)).

- **Narrative Seeding:** The term "new colonization" is being tested to describe [gentrification](#) by US/Canadian citizens, potentially paving the way for tax increases.
- **Censorship/Spin:** The rejection of the "Perfect Day" project is spun as an environmental win, minimizing the [loss of foreign investment](#) and potential trade friction.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Factionalization of the INE

The proposal for a "Candidate Integrity Commission" will likely lead to a **constitutional crisis** or a total co-option of the electoral institute. If the commission is controlled by executive-friendly appointees, it will become the primary tool for **disqualifying opposition candidates** before the 2027 midterms.

Remittance Retaliation

Trump's threats to remittances are likely to be **partially implemented** as a "negotiating chip" for migration enforcement. This will cause a short-term **currency shock** for the Mexican Peso and a localized recession in [highly dependent rural states](#).

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect more arrests under "**Operativo Enjambre**" as the federal government looks to demonstrate control. Tensions over the **Gaza activists** will lead to a diplomatic protest [against Israel](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The passage of the **Candidate Integrity Commission** will cause mass protests and legal challenges from opposition parties. Mexico will attempt to **diversify trade** with the EU to [offset US pressures](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years): The **Circular Economy Law** and the World Cup infrastructure will serve as a model for a **new state-managed developmentalist path**, potentially decoupling Mexico from certain [neoliberal trade norms](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary risks center on the **fragility of the US-Mexico relationship** and the **infiltration of state institutions** by criminal syndicates.

- **Remittance Blockade:** US Treasury implements a tax or block on transfers. **Triggers:** Trump executive order. **Likelihood:** Moderate-High. **Impact:** Severe (GDP contraction). **Mitigations:** Negotiated migration enforcement concessions.
- **Electoral Violence/Instability:** Cartels retaliate against ["Operativo Enjambre"](#) through political assassinations. **Triggers:** High-profile mayoral arrests. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Moderate-Severe (loss of governance). **Mitigations:** Federal military deployment to contested municipalities.
- **Regional Pandemic Escalation: Ebola** enters international transit hubs from DRC. **Triggers:** Failure of quarantine in Bucabu. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Catastrophic (global health crisis). **Mitigations:** Immediate WHO funding and [border health controls](#).
- **Energy Supply Shock:** Blockade of the **Strait of Hormuz** by Iran. **Triggers:** Failure of Trump-Iran [negotiations](#). **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Severe (global oil price spike). **Mitigations:** Strategic reserve releases, escalation of US-Israel military naval [patrols](#).
- **Judicial System Collapse:** Total loss of investor confidence due to the **Judicial Reform**. **Triggers:** Removal of current Supreme Court judges. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Severe (capital flight). **Mitigations:** Guaranteeing [legal certainty](#) for specific large-scale foreign investments.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

The broadcast fails to address critical vulnerabilities in the state's plan for economic and social stability.

- **Alternative Remittance Channels:** There is no discussion of how families will bypass US blocks (e.g., crypto or grey-market transfers).
- **Cartel Resilience:** The broadcast portrays arrests as a victory but does not analyze the **succession plans** of cartels when local officials are [detained](#).
- **Energy Costs:** The push for circular economy and refinery sovereignty is not balanced against the **rising cost of energy** for the manufacturing [sector](#).
- **Water Scarcity:** While reefs and mangroves are mentioned, the **systemic water crisis** in Central Mexico is absent from the [governance narrative](#).

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Managed Corruption" Hypothesis

Instead of a true cleansing, "Operativo Enjambre" may be a **selective purge**. By removing officials linked to rival cartels while leaving others untouched, the state could be **centralizing criminal partnerships** under federal oversight to reduce visible violence [before the World Cup](#).

The "Fake Sovereignty" Trap

The public rejection of US intervention may be a **distraction for private concessions**. Behind the rhetoric of "non-subordination," Mexico may be granting the US **unprecedented intelligence access** through the "Centinela" platform in

Chihuahua to [appease the Trump administration](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Formalize the **INE Integrity Commission** with bipartisan oversight to prevent it from becoming a tool for political [purges](#).
- Establish a **Remittance Continuity Fund** to provide micro-liquidity to households if US-Mexico [financial channels](#) are blocked.
- Accelerate the **EU-Mexico Trade Agreement** to provide a strategic [hedge](#) against US protectionism.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Firms should diversify away from municipal-level dependencies where ["Operativo Enjambre"](#) has disrupted local governance.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Audit all government contract documentation following the [sanctioning of Revelor](#).
- **ESG Opportunity:** Invest in **circular economy** infrastructure to align with the new [national mandate](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity is focused on **electoral integrity, environmental mandates, and judicial restructuring**. Significant emphasis was placed on the new **Circular Economy Law** and the proposed **Candidate Integrity Commission** within the INE.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **General Law of Circular Economy:** Mandates a shift from linear to circular material [treatment](#).
- **Candidate Integrity Commission Bill:** Proposed to vet political candidates for [criminal links](#).
- **Judicial Reform Proposal:** Aims to restructure the Supreme Court and [judicial oversight](#).

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Sheinbaum Morning Presser:** Addressed remittances, US relations, and [environmental project rejections](#).
- **Semarnat Environmental Briefing:** Detailed the ecological reasons for the [Perfect Day project denial](#).
- **Mark Wayne Mullin - Security Meeting:** High-level discussion on **binational security** [coordination](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Operativo Enjambre:** Arrests of multiple municipal officials in Mexico State and Morelos for [cartel links](#).
- **Remittance Threats:** President Sheinbaum reassures families following [Trump's policy threats](#).
- **Perfect Day Project Rejected:** Semarnat denies Royal Caribbean's Mahahual project due to [environmental risks](#).
- **Revelor Sanctions:** Mexican company banned for 21 months for [false refinery docs](#).
- **Ebola Outbreak:** WHO raises risk to "very high" in the [DRC](#).

- **Global Sumud Flotilla:** Israel departs 430 activists, including [three Mexicans](#).
- **Raúl Castro Legal Action:** China and Russia condemn US charges against [Cuban leadership](#).
- **Isaac Andik Case:** Mango founder's son detained in Barcelona for [alleged homicide](#).
- **Candidate Integrity Commission:** Proposal to allow INE to [vet candidates](#).
- **FIFA 2026 Security:** Jalisco Cyber-Police activate digital surveillance [ahead of the World Cup](#).
- **Circular Economy Law:** Implementation of new national [waste recycling vision](#).
- **Zapatero Investigation:** Spain investigates former PM for [Venezuelan financial links](#).
- **NASA Territory Conflict:** Colombian military reinforces disputed [indigenous lands](#).
- **Kevin Warsh Fed Appointment:** New Federal Reserve Chair tasked with [inflation control](#).
- **Archeological Recovery:** Mexico demands return of 4 pieces from [Dutch auction](#).
- **Lázaro Cárdenas Birth Anniversary:** National celebration of the [former president's legacy](#).
- **Strait of Hormuz Tensions:** Trump issues 30-day negotiation [ultimatum to Iran](#).

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching

trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify

relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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