

Resumos

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Domestication: the elasticity of the metaphor

ANABELA DE SOUSA LOPES

This article discusses the scope of Domestication theory in our days, in the context of individual uses of communication technologies. Of empirical research conducted in domestic spaces have continued research on mobile technologies that enhance the prospect that the spatial dimension is not in itself decisive in order to produce the feeling of home. Inside or outside, is the personal relationship with the media that promotes a feeling of security and protection in relation to the Other. Home is more than ever a concept that brings us to the notion of refuge. In a time of uninterrupted connections, technologies that promote them are also used as a legitimate form of social withdrawal; this is one of the aspects of domestication that matters now to analyze.

KEYWORDS

Domestication; communication technologies; home; protection.

Opportunities and Risks in the Use of internet by Children and Young People: some conclusions from EU Kids online project

JOSÉ ALBERTO SIMÕES

This article briefly presents some findings from EU Kids online project (2006-2009), which involved 21 European countries. First of all, by explaining the theoretical model on which our data collecting was drawn; secondly, by presenting some conclusions from our comparative study. On one hand, we shall present general findings regarding internet access and use by children and young people, on the other hand, and distinctively, we will discuss “opportunities” and “risks” related with online activities, thus proposing a classification of online risks by country.

KEYWORDS

internet, EU Kids online, Children and youth, risks and opportunities

online Uses by Children: What excites them and what they fear in the Net

MARTA NEVES

What turns the internet into a technology so attractive to children? What makes them “connect” and choose certain things over others? How has this catalogue of preferred uses evolved and how do age and gender introduce changes in its composition?

The aim of this article is to contribute with some thoughts about what the younger ones do online, drawing upon conclusions from a quality study done in 2008 with a mixed group of children between 8 and 13, all active internet users. Within this context, considering the differences between age groups and gender, the time of initiation to the internet and its following evolutions were evaluated. The preferred activities and the ones considered the most risky were also identified. It was inquired whether the notion of risk was present in the speech of the interviewed and how this reflected upon their form of involvement with the web.

KEYWORDS

Children and internet, online communication services, digital literacy.

The field of media, the democratic experience and the participatory culture

FRANCISCO RUI CÁDIMA

Abstract: The media system integrates, in the beginning of this century, an evident critical dimension in the legitimacy of the democratic experience, precisely when the main paradigm is the migration to digital. This new post-media system integrates a new immersive, collaborative and participatory experience which constitutes the decisive factor that permits to understand the digital age as central to the re-legitimation of democratic experience.

KEYWORDS

Citizenship, Participatory Culture, Democracy, Journalism, Pluralism

internet and Deliberation

The Political discussion in online Forums

GIL FERREIRA

Taking as reference the deliberative democracy model, our aim is to assess the democratic potential of online discursive spaces to simultaneously characterize the communication observed within them. The main objective is to evaluate the promises and limitations of online forums, in an approach to technology that emphasizes the internet as a platform for political participation, as a virtual public sphere.

Considering the different types of uses that individuals make of these spaces, it seems that the online discussion forums do not meet the ideal requirements of the public sphere, suggesting explanations for online political apathy and lack of deliberative debate. We conclude with the prerequisites to tap into the internet's democratic potential in order to protect and encourage its opportunities for democratic deliberation.

KEYWORDS

online, deliberative democracy, public sphere, communication, political participation, virtual public sphere.

The relevance of social capital for the experience of internet use: contributions to the analysis of the relationship between communities and social networks

MANUEL JOSÉ DAMÁSIO

SARA HENRIQUES

Social capital is well known and widely discussed concept in the social sciences context that has been explored in the past in field of information technology and communication concerning its potential to defame traditional forms of interaction and social participation and, thus, adversely affect the social capital produced within a social group. The forms of social organization known as virtual communities are often given as examples of these new social constructions that emerge from the internet,

and social networks are considered as parallel mechanisms enhancers that virtualization of community life. This article discusses this topic in the context of the relationship between face-to-face and virtual communities with special focus on the role that social networks can have in enhancing the volume of capital within face-to-face communities when technological tools are introduced within the community.

KEYWORDS

internet, social capital, social networks, community.

The Potential of online Communication in the Construction of the European Public Space. Limits to an excessive ciberoptimism

FILIPA RENDO

The European Union's democratic legitimacy whilst a project that is not intended to be restricted to a political and economic level has been criticised. On one hand the not so consensual and effective efforts in creating a European identity and citizenship that surpass simple handing out of political rights and duties to citizens are acknowledged. On the other everyone is aware of the difficulty in establishing a true political participation by civil society on a European scale. Despite undergone efforts traditional media came very short on Brussels expectations in reaching those goals. The attempts to start up pan-European publications have failed and the abundant member states' media invest on a strongly nationalist approach. Even the projects *Arte* and *Euronews* clearly show the inherent difficulties to a transnational television service. With proliferating new media and widespread of sites and blogs on European space, there are a lot of questions on the potential of digital to overcome the gaps left by traditional media in forming the much desired European identity, supported and updated on a European public space that is yet to come.

KEYWORDS

Public space, citizenship, political participation, internet, newspapers, identity, European Union

Mediation and Market Journalism in the Portuguese Press

SUSANA HENRIQUES

This paper is based on my PhD research in sociology: *Imagem mediática dos consumos: mediação do jornalismo de mercado na construção social dos estilos de vida*, which focus is the way media, particularly the press, express and constitute consumptions and lifestyles. We show that, in this process, the market journalism tends to fade away the limits between advertiser and informative materials giving an hybrid nature to journalistic articles that combine both discursive logics (journalism and marketing), as well as their conventional functions (to inform, to spread, to entertain).

The analysis perspective adopted was formed and informed by the mediation concept, related to the dynamic relationship between the media and their audiences, in reproduction and production of meaning in public sphere, more precisely, around consumptions and lifestyles' themes, stressing the need of developing media literacy skills.

KEYWORDS

Market journalism; Mediation; Public sphere; Media literacy.

Technology and Rethoric, Material Rhetoric of the Useful Function – The Example of the Mobile Phone

PEDRO MENDONÇA

The object of this study is the notion of *material rhetoric of the useful function*. Our goal is to analyse the intentions that involve the conception of technology and the way they act upon our everyday life. In a time when new technologies are endowed with multiple functions, the existence of an inherent rhetorical process is implied in the intention of creating, reflected on the object and achieved in its real use. The mobile phone is presented as an example of this. This rhetoric is material and useful rather than symbolic. One drive to the object, destined for sell, which can arise from the consumer or producer problematics. Marketing is its main agent. Thus, it is intended that the guidelines that are the basis of technological creations are considered regarding

their connection to the inventive system highly implemented in business companies as well as their relationship with the daily life of users.

KEYWORDS

Material rhetoric of the useful function; mobile phone; technological object; marketing