

MEDIA ABUNDANCE AND DEMOCRACY

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Abstract

The "information revolution" is empowering citizens in ways previously unimaginable but, judging from the American case, "information" might not be one of them. Americans appear to be increasingly misinformed about politics and government, and information levels have declined among the young. The reasons lie partly in the high-choice media environment that has emerged as a result of changes in communication technology. An abundance of entertainment options, a weakening of demand for news, the emergence of partisan talk shows, the increased use of deceptive communication practices by political elites, and changes in journalism underpin the change.

Keywords

Journalism; Misinformation; Information level; Political communication; News media.

POLITICAL COMMUNICATION IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD CHALLENGES FOR CONTEMPORARY MEDIA SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The paper discusses whether and to what degree the discrimination of nationally bound communication systems is still a valid and meaningful concept for the investigation of political communication. It takes globalization as a starting point of media development and reflects on the nature and meaning of "global" research. Then it discusses the dilemmas that arise from the fact that globalization leads to more transnationalized forms of governance while at the same time political communication is still bound to the nation state.

Keywords

Globalization; Media Systems; Transnational Communication; Political Communication.

NEW MEDIA, JOURNALISM AND DEMOCRACY: FIGMENTS OF A NEO-LIBERAL IMAGINATION?

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Abstract

In the last decade news media have seen many changes marked by a history of marketisation, globalisation, deregulation and technological transformation that has resulted in both a thrilling story of abundance, as the space for news in the digital age is expanded, and a sorry tale of retraction as the business model for commercial news practice falls apart.

In considering these changes this paper begins and ends with the quest not just to reconsider what news is now or has been in the past but what news ought to be and how its potential value to society can be realised.

Keywords

Journalism; Democracy; News; New media; Digital.

"COMPARING MEDIA SYSTEMS": A RESPONSE TO CRITICS

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Abstract

This paper comments on the critical reception of Hallin and Mancini's *Comparing Media Systems*. It focuses on three issues: (1) Classification of media systems, including both the way specific systems are classified in Hallin and Mancini's analysis, and the broader issue of the use of media system models; (2) the question of whether the Polarized Pluralist Model Hallin and Mancini use to characterize Southern European systems is essentially

negative, both analytically and normatively; and (3) the issue of whether media systems are converging. The paper includes discussion of Hallin and Mancini's analysis of the Portuguese case.

Keywords

Comparative Analysis; Media Systems; Convergence.

DEMOCRATIC VALUE OF ENTERTAINMENT: A REAPPRAISAL

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Abstract

This essay attempts to go beyond the standard responses to media entertainment in the democratic theory literature. It argues that TV drama and factual entertainment provide a way of debating values often at the heart of politics; a means of exploring and discussing social identities (important for understandings of individual and group interest); ways of debating alternative understandings of society; and of engaging in a debate about norms that regulate our common social processes. But while entertainment should not be dismissed as being something unrelated to the politics, it provides no substitute for good journalism that holds power to account.

Keywords

Democracy; Political Communication; Entertainment; Journalism.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE UTTERANCE FRAMING OF MEDIATED DISCOURSE

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Abstract

This text aims at thinking about the most important differences between the mediated discursive interactions and the face-to-face interactions and at showing that the devices of mediation intervene in the constitution of the utterance framing.

Keywords

Discourse; Face-to-face Interaction; Mediated interaction; Utterance framing.

TELEVISION, CITIZENSHIP AND HISTORY. AN ANALYSIS OF THE PORTUGUESE BIBLIOGRAPHY ABOUT TELEVISION JOURNALISM IN PORTUGAL

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Abstract

From the analysis of the state of art of the bibliography on the Portuguese television journalism some regularities appear as recurrent in the social construction of reality by the media, whether in terms of the diversity of voices, or in the broad spectrum of pluralism. It appears that the editorial strategies are not innocuous; generally, they reflect a performative model of negativity, or even a principle of forgetfulness and censorship, naturalized by the television system, that produces a lack of experience of citizenship and an exclusion of knowledge about social processes. Emotion, dramatization, tragic news, fait-divers, these dominate the hierarchy of the agenda and, therefore, format the celebration of the consensus and conflict as realities closed onto themselves.

Keywords

Citizenship; Diversity; Journalism; Pluralism; Television.

MOVING BEYOND THE HYPE CYCLE? THE ROLE AND INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNING

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Abstract

The role of the Internet in election campaigns has been subject to considerable speculation. Has Internet changed the political communication? What role does it play in party and candidate competition? How effective is it concerning voters mobilisation? In discussing these themes, the presentation will draw on evidence from a range of liberal democracies but in particular will illustrate some of the debates with new empirical material from the recent 2010 UK election campaign.

Keywords

Internet; Election campaign; Voter mobilisation.

FOUR BOOKS ABOUT THE PROFESSIONALS OF JOURNALISM: A CRITICAL READING

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Abstract

Together with a few others, the works reviewed here represent an important movement in research and publishing in the study of Portuguese journalism and journalists. We analyze Joaquim Fidalgo's *O Jornalista em Construção* [The Journalist under Construction] and *O lugar da ética e da auto-regulação na identidade profissional dos jornalistas* [The place of ethics and self-regulation in the professional identity of journalists], where the profession's outlines, specificities, and the history of its establishment are presented. In addition, Fernando Correia and Carla Baptista's *Do Ofício à Profissão. Mudanças no Jornalismo Português 1956-68* [From Trade to Profession. Changes in Portuguese Journalism] and *Memórias Vivas do Jornalismo* [Living Memories of Journalism] assess the impact of the social transformations of the 1950s in the media landscape and the journalistic experience.

Keywords

Journalists; Journalism; Professionalization; Ethics; Professional Identity; Memory.

GOVERNANCE AND MEDIA: THE TRIUMPH OF POLITICAL MEDIA-TISATION AND THE AUTONOMY OF JOURNALISM

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Abstract

The issues concerning the departure of Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and the end of “Jornal Nacional”, both of which occurred in TVI, let us reflect on the new conditions of political practice in a highly mediated environment. The role of the sources, the “spinning”, the relations of political power with the media, the power of big media, the role of public opinion and the space left to citizens, are some of the questions raised by those examples.

Keywords

Political Journalism; Manipulation, TVI.

YOUTH PORTRAITS IN EUROPEAN AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS

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Abstract

The discourse about the disengagement of young people and politics is persistent. In the Portuguese context, the year 2009 was an important test for the ability of civil society, the parties themselves and the news media to be able to galvanize discourse on youth issues. Party programs and websites of political parties were important elements where youth issues could (should) have an enlarged area of exposure and debate, at least on the Internet. News coverage within the print media and online media show pictures of youths to whom we must look at. How did these actors did inspire the debate in the European elections and parliamentary elections?

Keywords

Youth; Elections; Newspapers.

TELEVISION AND THE LEGISLATIVE COVERAGE 2009: FROM STRATEGIES TO CRISIS

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Abstract

This communication aims to reflect on the television coverage of the 2009 Parliamentary Elections in Portugal. The main focus is the analysis of the presence of candidates in TV news and the personalization strategies of the candidates in the same spaces of information. With this objective are mobilizing concepts on Theories of Democracy and Journalism (Rawnsley, 2005; Ginsborg, 2008) to discuss the contours of the 2007/2008 crisis and its impact on Democracy and Journalism. We also expose the methodological principles that have informed this analysis, particularly those focused on identifying the content and construction of a database in SPSS. Next we present the results for the presence of candidates and applications candidatures on generalist TV, and also the results concerning subjects that take more attention in media coverage and partisan campaigns that take more attention. These results are discussed and framed taking into account the strategies of political marketing and the idea of information show (Sparks and Tulloch, 2000; Norris, 2000; Louw, 2005). Finally we make an assessment of the methodologies used, advancing with some proposals for future projects.

Keywords

Portuguese Elections 2009; Political Communication; Political Scandal; Analysis of Television; Images of Candidates.

POLITICS, NET AND PARTICIPATORY CULTURE

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Abstract

In this paper, we conduct a reflection on political campaigns and the new media, starting with a theoretical framing and finishing on the analysis of the use of Internet by the Portuguese political-partisan system in the 2009 elections. The conclusion of this study will be

balanced in the face of the state of the art of the subject, also in a comparative perspective towards, namely, the Obama'08 campaign, in an attempt to evaluate the specificity of our political experiences on the internet and their impacts.

Keywords

Electoral campaigns; Citizenship; Participatory Culture; Internet; Politics.

**HUMOR AND THE PORTUGUESE
LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN 2009**

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Abstract

This communication is about the humor on the Portuguese legislative campaign and aims to discuss the role of television show “Gato Fedorento esmiúça os sufrágios”. This work is framed in theories that discuss the crisis of democracies (Rawnsley:2005; Gimsborg: 2008) and its effect on the journalism crisis. The paper also draws in studies that related to the role of humor in political communication (Paletz:1990, Boskin 1990, Baym 2004 and Brants: 1998). Our analysis intends to understand how humor can be seen as a form of political intervention.

Keywords

Political Communication; Humor; Infotainment; Crisis of Democracy; Crisis of Journalism.

TEN STEPS FOR AN ARGUMENT: AROUND THE CONCEPTS OF "PSEUDO NEWS" AND "PSEUDO REALITY"

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Abstract

This paper discusses how the journalistic field is being changed by two major obstacles: the growing concentration of the media and the journalists professional instability. The subsequent "weakness of the newsrooms" and the increasingly presence of spin doctors difficult the relationship with the sources of information, troubles the struggle against pseudo events and reduces the contextualization and the level of independent research available in journalistic content.

Keywords

Journalism; Truth; Event.

SOPHISTICATED SOURCES OF INFORMATION – AN ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL NEWS IN THE DAILY PORTUGUESE PRESS FROM 1995 TO 2005

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Abstract

The author investigated the political news in the four major daily national newspapers, measured the weight of each type of news sources, identified how they are passing information to the newspapers and documented the levels of confidentiality involved in this interaction. The conclusions stresses that only one third of the news result from the newsroom initiative. Over 60% of the news are suggested by press officers, public relations, communications consultants and other spin doctoring experts, meaning that they are created by the so called sophisticated sources of information.

Keywords

Political Journalism; Sources of information; Press Relations; Public Relations.