

New Literature

New Publications from Nordicom

After the Tsunami

Crisis Communication in Finland and Sweden

Ullamaija Kivikuru & Lars Nord (eds.), Nordicom, 2009, 219 p., ISBN 978-91-89471-85-6, (Research Anthologies and Monographs).



The tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia during Christmas 2004 caused many deaths among vacationers from Finland and Sweden. It could be described as one of the worst catastrophes experienced during the post-war period in these countries. This book examines how this dramatic and unexpected event affected public communication patterns and practices in

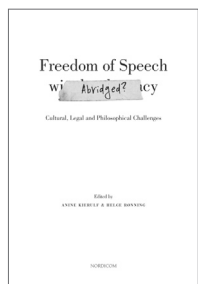
countries like Finland and Sweden. The communicative relations between government actors, the media and citizens always significantly affect the development of crucial democratic values such as trust, accountability and legitimacy.

The book covers different topics related to this issue, such as strategic political communication, media coverage, newsroom practices, public opinion and the use of new media in Finland and Sweden after the tsunami disaster.

Freedom of Speech Abridged?

Cultural, Legal and Philosophical Challenges

Anine Kierulf & Helge Rønning (eds.), Nordicom, 2009, 155 p., ISBN 978-91-89471-76-4, (Research Anthologies and Monographs).



Freedom of expression and freedom of the press has become an issue that creates controversies all over the world in a manner unthinkable at the beginning of the 21st century. Authoritarian regimes stifle free expression, and religious groups challenge its foundations. It is threatened even in democratic societies through escalated security measures passed under the pretext of

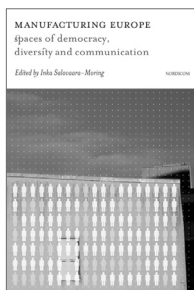
securing just those basic liberties among which freedom of expression is central. These challenges are the backdrop for the publication *Freedom of Speech Abridged?*

The book discusses freedom of expression as a universal human right, and analyses its philosophical foundations. It raises legal questions arising from the tension between basic rights, and between national and international law. It considers to what extent freedom of expression thrives or withers in an increasingly globalized world of new technology. It discusses the Danish cartoons from a principled perspective, and it draws the lines of today's controversies back to the twenty-year-old fatwa against Salman Rushdie. *Freedom of Speech Abridged?* is written by scholars and journalists in the Nordic countries, and represents a principled and spirited defence of freedom of expression.

Manufacturing Europe

Spaces of Democracy, Diversity and Communication

Inka Salovaara-Moring (ed.), Nordicom, 2009, 256 p., ISBN 978-91-89471-73-3, (Research Anthologies and Monographs).



This book brings together leading European specialists in theories of the public sphere, media and democracy. It explores current key problems of communication, democracy and diversity, and how these are intertwined as part of media practice. Integrating geographical, historical and multicultural approaches, it develops existing thought on *public sphere and democracy*. In

particular, it focuses on three dimensions that reflect obstacles to the European democratic project.

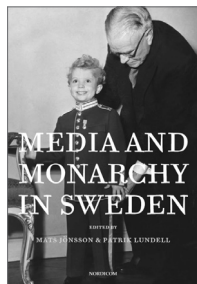
In exploring the reality and content of the concept of a *European public sphere*, the book scrutinizes the concept's inherent values and norms as well as the nature of the formation and structure of a transnational public sphere: its efficacy, legitimacy, and pluralism.

Examining media practices, journalistic cultures and the mediation of European issues in member states, it explores how the *European public sphere(s)* are actualized for its citizens. Opening up the ethnic, cultural, and historical diversity of the continent, the book offers new approaches to the demands of modern European multiculturalism.

In each case, the apparent struggle between idealism and realism forces the authors to question, as well as to offer, new ways of understanding the integration process and its communicative edge.

Media and Monarchy in Sweden

Mats Jönsson & Patrik Lundell (eds.), Nordicom Sverige, 2009, 154 p., ISBN 978-91-89471-77-1, (Research Anthologies and Monographs).

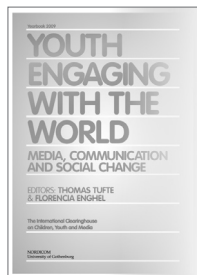


Can an unmediated monarchy even be imagined? In today's rapidly changing media, private and intimate aspects of monarchies are thriving. New as these phenomena may seem, and in some aspects surely are, relations between media and royalties have existed for centuries. In this book, scholars from a variety of academic disciplines put

contemporary media-monarchic relations in historical perspective. The ways in which the monarchy navigates in a new digital media landscape are revealed with the help of older media strategies, while present conditions guide the analyses of monarchic relations to "new media" in the past. In *Media and Monarchy in Sweden*, altars and statues are thus taken just as seriously as traditional and digital mass media. Hereby, new insights into the complex interrelations between two powerful institutions are reached.

Youth Engaging With the World Media, Communication and Social Change

Thomas Tufté & Florencia Enghel (eds.), Göteborg, The International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media, Nordicom, University of Gothenburg 2009, 344 p., ISBN 978-91-89471-82-5, (Yearbook; 2009).



The Yearbook 2009 focuses on youth as a generation of actors and citizens who are increasingly exposed to and making use of media/ICT for entertainment and informational purposes, for social networking and mobilization, and for knowledge sharing.

Throughout history, young people have often been active participants in the manifestation of social change, and most times their creative uses of media and innovative practices of communication have been crucial in the process.

At the core of this is media and information literacy. Young people's competence in using media, their ability to produce, understand and interact with the multiplicity of both new and old media formats and technologies have been instrumental in the manifestation of social processes of change. This book seeks to explore theoretic

assumptions as well as empirical evidence of media and information literacy in action. But it also gathers examples of how youth in developing countries have used their skills to bring about change.

Young People in the European Digital Media Landscape.

A Statistical Overview with an Introduction by Sonia Livingstone and Leslie Haddon

The International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media, Nordicom, University of Gothenburg, 2009, 67 p., ISBN 978-9189471-83-2, (Reports Clearinghouse).

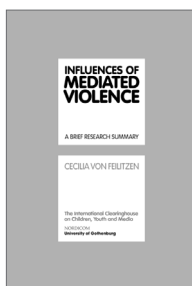


In connection with the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, a conference on the theme, *Promoting a Creative Generation*, was held in July 2009. For this conference Nordicom produced a booklet of data that give an overview of young people's media use in the digital age. Our aim has been to present, to the extent possible, comparable data for the countries of Europe.

The publication begins with an article, *Opportunities and Risks for European Children*, by Sonia Livingstone and Leslie Haddon based on results from the research project *EU Kids Online*.

Influences of Mediated Violence A Brief Research Summary

Cecilia von Feilitzen, The International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media, Nordicom, University of Gothenburg, 2009, 63 p., ISBN 978-91-89471-81-8, (Reports Clearinghouse).



Different parties turn to Nordicom and the Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media with questions on the influences of especially mediated violence. From time to time the Clearinghouse has highlighted the main conclusions that can be drawn from research regarding such issues. In this publication, Dr. Cecilia von Feilitzen, Scientific Co-ordinator at the Clearinghouse, has attempted

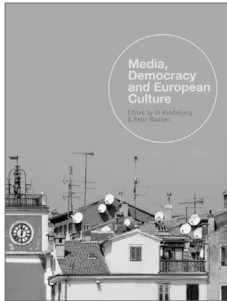
to classify research findings into a more concise form than is perhaps common. There are different types of mediated violence and different types of influences. We hope that this publication will answer some of the questions so often asked by various groups in society.

Denmark

Documentalist: Maria Hvid Stenalt

Media, Democracy and European Culture

Ib Bondebjerg & Peter Madsen (eds.), Bristol, Intellect, 2009, 360 p., ISBN 9781841502472.



Media, Democracy and European Culture presents some of the most recent, cutting edge research on Europe, from social, political and cultural perspectives, equally focusing on each dimension of democracy in Europe. The role of the media, communication policy and the question of how the media report on Europe runs as a thread through all contributions. The book is interdisciplinary and international. It brings together researchers from many countries and from humanities, social sciences and law. The articles combine the discussion of central theories and theoretical concepts for the understanding of media, democracy and European culture with empirical data and comparative analytical studies of media culture and democracy

across Europe. Contains the following articles: Mark Ørsten: *The Europeanization of the Danish News Media: Theorizing the News Media as both National and Transnational Political Institution*; Vanni Tjernström: *Rare Birds: The 'Why' in Comparative Media Studies. Nordic Ideal Types of Good European Journalism*; Jostein Gripsrud: *The Cultural Dimension of Democracy*; Ib Bondebjerg: *The European Imaginary: Media Fictions, Democracy and Cultural Identities*; Peter Madsen: *Intellectuals, Media and the Public Sphere*; Zenia Hellgren: *(De)constructing European Citizenship? Political Mobilization and Collective Identity Formation Among Immigrants in Sweden and Spain*; Hallvard Moe: *Between Supra-national Competition and National Cultures? Emerging EU Policy and Public Broadcasters' Online Services*.

Designing Engaging Interactive Environments. A Pragmatist Perspective

Peter Dalsgaard, Aarhus, Aarhus Universitet, Institut for Informations- og Medievidenskab, 2009, 297 p., Note: Ph.D. thesis.

The thesis summarizes three years of research guided by the over-arching question: "How can we conceptualize the design and use of engaging interactive environments?" The dissertation is composed of a selection of publications framed by an overview in which a conceptual scaffolding for interaction design is developed on the basis of concepts from the pragmatist philosophy of John Dewey, with a particular focus on creativity and technology in inquiry.

Animated Symbols. A Study of How Young People Design Animated Films and Transform Meanings

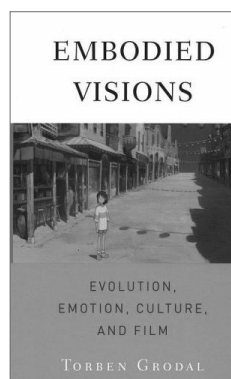
Lisbeth Frølund, København, Aarhus Universitet, Danmarks Pædagogiske Universitets-skole, 2009, 259 p., Note: Ph.D. thesis.

The thesis comprises a case study of how young people learn through design and production of multimedia texts, specifically animated films. The data was collected from 21 students in a Danish upper secondary school. The semiotic design processes of five of these students are broken down into three data components: filmmakers, filmmaking and films. The theoretical approach is Pragmatic Aesthetics and Social Semiotic Discourse Analysis, but includes cultural perspectives on media

literacy and cognition. A model called Animating Symbols is applied as a means to understand the transformative process of reflection and design. A methodological toolbox for data collection and analysis is provided, one that extends beyond verbal and textual analysis to include embodied forms of communication. The conclusion includes a discussion of cultural, creative and reflective aspects of multimodal design competence.

Embodied Visions. Evolution, Emotion, Culture, and Film

Torben Kragh Grodal, New York, Oxford University Press, 2009, 324 p., ISBN 9780195371321.



Embodied Visions presents a groundbreaking analysis of film through the lens of bioculturalism, revealing how human biology as well as human culture determine how films are made and experienced. Throughout his study, Torben Grodal uses the breakthroughs of modern brain science to explain central features of film aesthetics and to construct a general model of aesthetic experience-what he terms the PECMA flow model-that demonstrates the movement of information and emotions in the brain when viewing film. Examining a wide array of genres-animation, romance, pornography, fantasy, horror-from evolutionary and psychological perspectives, Grodal also reflects on social issues at the intersection of film theory and neuropsychology. These include moral problems in film viewing, how we experience realism and character identification, and the value of the subjective forms that cinema uniquely elaborates.

Common Banality

Søren Mørk Petersen, København, IT Universitetet, Innovative Communication, 2009, 249 p., Note: Ph.D. thesis.

This dissertation investigates the emergent new media practice of mobile blogging (moblogging) and photo sharing online, specifically focusing on how this practice has evolved within a specific community in Copenhagen. Through a 3.5 year long ethnographic fieldwork among everyday photographers in Copenhagen and 14 individual interviews with Flickr.com users, the dissertation both examines how individuals and collectives integrate technology into their everyday lives, especially what constitutes the process of becoming a moblogger. The analysis is centered on two main questions approached differently throughout the chapters: 1. How user generated media reconfigure the spectacle through changes in the production-consumption circuit. 2. How everyday photography enables a creative practice relating it to the affective character of everyday life and the urban environment.

War isn't Hell, It's Entertainment. Essays on Visual Media and the Representation of Conflict

Rikke Schubart, Fabian Virchow, Debra White-Stanley & Tanja Thomas (eds.), North Carolina, McFarland, 2009, 290 p., ISBN 978-0786435586.



Real war is a cruel theater of death, yet it is also an exciting narrative exploited for national, political and commercial purposes and turned into numerous films, television shows, computer games, news stories and reenactment plays. These essays examine the relationship between war, visual media and entertainment from a number of academic perspectives. Key topics include how war is used as an imaginary site to stage dramas; how boundaries between war, media, and entertainment dissolve as new media alters the formal qualities of representation; how entertainment is used to engage audiences; and what effect products of war and entertainment have on consumers of popular culture. Contains among others the following articles: Mette Mortensen: *The Camera at War: When Soldiers Become War Photographers*; Rikke Schubart: *Getting the Story Right: Myth, Meaning,*

and Gendered War Mythology in the Case of Jessica Lynch; Anne Gjelsvik: *"Tell Me That Wasn't Fun": Watching the Battle Scenes in Master and Commander with a Smile on Your Face*; Bo Kampmann Walther: *War/Games: The Art of Rules and Strategies*.

Censorship of Japanese Films During the American Occupation of Japan. The Cases of Yasujiro Ozu and Akira Kurosawa

Lars-Martin Sørensen, New York, Edwin Mellen Press, 2009, 356 p., ISBN 9780773446731.



Very few English-language books have focused exclusively upon the occupation period and its effects on cinema. This book investigates how Japanese fiction films produced during the American occupation 1945-1952 subverted occupation film censorship. It is based on extensive archival research and the primary focus is on the films of Yasujiro Ozu and Akira Kurosawa.

Mediated Learning/Learning Media

Bo Kampmann Walther, Nana Benjaminsen, Heidi Philipsen, Ditte Laursen, Nicolai Jørgensgaard Graakjær & Birger Langkjær (eds.), Mediekultur: tidsskrift for medie- kommunikationsforskning: journal of media and communication research, 2009; Vol. 46, 142 p., ISSN 0900-9671, <http://ojs.statsbiblioteket.dk/index.php/mediekultur/index>.

This present issue of MedieKultur [Media Culture] addresses the field of mediated learning and learning media. The authors discuss in what way, by what means, and to what extent new media can create and facilitate a framework for learning. How can investigations of different modes of non-formal learning lead to the development of innovative forms of learning in formal environments? How can we describe – and perhaps improve – the creative production of media as unique objects

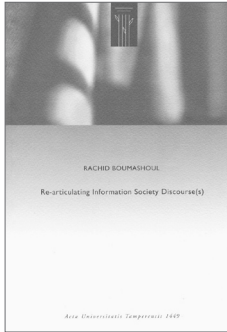
and as new tools for learning? What is the pedagogical potential of so-called ‘playful media’ such as computer games, playware, and personalised, location-based media technology (e.g. pervasive games)? And, finally, what does the advent of new convergent media technology mean in terms of educational rationality? Contains among others the following articles: Lise Agerbæk: *Is a profile in social software a learning e-portfolio? If not, could any benefits be found from linking the two?*; Christian Dalsgaard: *From transmission to dialogue: Personalised and social knowledge media*; Eva Novrup Redvall: *Scriptwriting as a creative, collaborative learning process of problem finding and problem solving*; Lisbeth Frølund, Øystein Gilje, Fredrik Lindstrand & Lisa Öhman-Gullberg: *Methodologies for tracking learning paths: designing the online research study Making a Film-maker*; Anne Marit Waade: *Travel Series as TV Entertainment: Genre characteristics and touristic views on foreign countries*.

Finland

Documentalist: Eija Poteri

Re-articulating Information Society Discourse(s). A Cultural Studies Approach to Post-Colonial Locale(s)

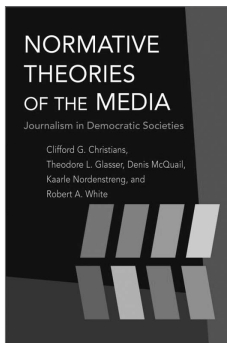
Rachid Boumashoul, Tampere, Tampereen yliopisto, 2009, 278 p., ISBN 978-951-44-7823-9, (Acta Universitatis Tamperensis; 1449), (Acta Electronica Universitatis Tamperensis; 882), Doctoral dissertation, Available online: <http://acta.uta.fi/>



The author deals with the method of articulation to explore its explanatory value in accounting for the capitalist and pre-capitalist modes of production. Furthermore, his concern is with power relations that link international stakeholders with the concept of information. For example, he analyses the discourses of WSIS (World Summit on Information Society) that is articulated in the documents of Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases. He also refers to the Arab and African contexts as categories for analysis.

Normative Theories of the Media. Journalism in Democratic Societies

Clifford G. Christians, Theodore L. Glasser, Denis McQuail, Kaarle Nordenstreng & Robert A. White, Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press, 2009, 275 p., ISBN 978-0-252-03423-7.



The book focuses not only on what is the role of journalism in society but above all what this role should be. Such a perspective of the media's mission in democracy leads the authors to a normative level, toward values and objectives.

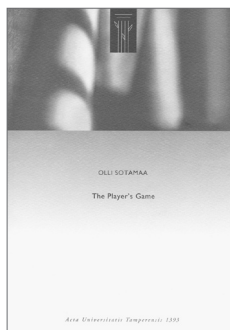
The authors explore the role of journalism using Fred S. Siebert, Theodore Peterson, and Wilbur Schramm's Four theories of the press (1956) as their starting point. The authors identify four distinct roles for the media: the monitorial role, the facilitative role, the radical role, and the collaborative role.

Players Unleashed! Modding the Sims and the Culture of Gaming

Tanja Sihvonen, Turku, Turun yliopisto, 2009, 346 p., ISBN 978-951-29-3940-4, (Turun yliopiston julkaisu = Annales Universitatis Turkuensis, Sarja – Ser B, Humaniora; 320), Doctoral dissertation, Available online: <https://oa.doria.fi/handle/10024/5791>.

The aim of the study is not only to give an overview of playing and modding the Sims, but also to analyse the player-created mod in terms of and in itself as a symptom of a larger cultural shift, endorsed by digital technologies, of a player becoming a co-producer of the cultural artefact in question. Computer game modding is situated in two contexts. First, modding is regarded to figure as part of the operations of the game industry. Then again, modding is considered a cultural activity.

Modding is defined as the activity of creating and adding of custom-related content, mods, short of modifications, by players to existing (commercial) computer games. Typical modded element can be characters, enemies, weapons, levels, textures and music.



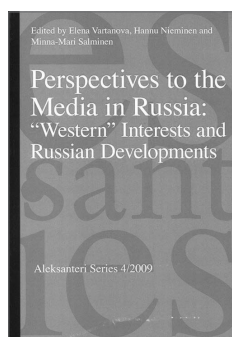
The Player's Game. Towards Understanding Player Production among Computer Game Cultures

Olli Sotamaa, Tampere, Tampere University Press, 2009, 123 p., ISBN 978-951-44-7650-1, (Acta Universitatis Tamperensis; 1393), (Acta Electronica Universitatis Tamperensis; 821), Doctoral dissertation, Available online: <http://acta.uta.fi/>

The dissertation presents a cultural approach to player production. It describes what kind of “rules” regulate player production and how these regulations and byelaws could be studied. The underlying interest is in outlining games as profoundly co-produced entities which can be only understood if both the contributions of developers and other industry bodies and the investments of players are taken into account.

Perspectives to the Media in Russia. “Western” Interests and Russian Developments

Elena Vartanova, Hannu Nieminen & Minna-Mari Salminen (eds.), Helsinki, Helsingin yliopisto, Aleksanteri-instituutti, 2009, 327 p., ISBN 978-952-10-5146-3, (Aleksanteri series; 2009, 4).



This book combines two different approaches to the media in Russia. The first is a “Western” look based on an extensive review of current academic research in Western Europe and the USA. This renders us a picture of the research field still much affected by the old “Cold War” stereotype. The other approach is based on the research by Russian scholars, exposing us to a media landscape in constant flux. Detailed mappings of the Russian media structure, the youth’s media use, or the development of local media are complemented with an overview which sets the media developments into a wider framework of Russian political and social development.

The article authors are the following: Markku Kangaspuro, Minna-Mari Salminen, Hannu Nieminen, Elena Vartanova & Sergei Smirnov, Ludmila Resnianskaja, Anna Chukseyeva, Sergei Smirnov & Denis Dunas, Olga Khvostunova & Ekaterina Voinova, Irina Fomicheva, Maria Anikina and Iliia Stechkin. The conclusion is written by Elena Vartanova.

Half a Century of Forest Industry Rhetoric. Persuasive Strategies in Sales Argumentation

Kristiina Volmari, Vaasa, Vaasan yliopisto, 2009, 274 p., ISBN 978-952-476-262-5, (Acta Wasaensia; 205), Doctoral dissertation, Available online: http://www.uwasa.fi/materiaali/pdf/isbn_978-952-476-262-5.pdf

The doctoral dissertation investigates the persuasive strategies found in the sales rhetoric of the Finnish forest industry 1950-2006. The aim is to see how argumentation has changed in the studied 56 years and how it has been influenced by external pressure. In addition, the analysis seeks to

find out whether treating the Finnish forest industry as a collective, as having one voice, has been justified.

The research material comprises English customer magazines of the Finnish forest industry. The in-depth analysis of the argumentation encompasses 135 product articles and 2867 arguments found in the articles.

Other new literature

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Lauk, Epp: *Reflections on changing patterns of journalism in the new EU countries*. In: Journalism studies. 2009; Vol. 10, No. 1, p. 69-84, ISSN 1461-670X.

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Norway

Documentalist: Ragnhild Mølster

Mediatization. Concept, Changes, Consequences

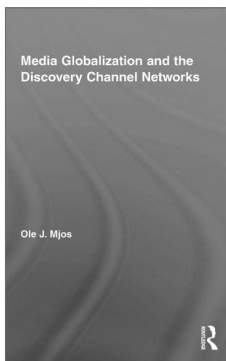
Knut Lundby (ed.), New York, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, Oxford, Wien, Peter Lang, 2009, 317 p., ISBN 978-1-4331-0562-3.



The media are ubiquitous and constantly changing, causing social and cultural shifts. This book examines how processes of mediatization affect almost all areas of contemporary social and cultural life, and takes the theoretical debate on mediatization in communication studies and media sociology to a critical edge. The book contains the following chapters: Sonia Livingstone: *Foreword: coming to terms with 'mediatization'*; Knut Lundby: *Introduction: 'mediatization' as key*; Friedrich Krotz: *Mediatization: a concept with which to grasp media and societal change*; Andrea Schrott: *Dimensions: catch-all label or technical term*; Norm Friesen & Theo Hug: *The mediatic turn: exploring concepts for media pedagogy*; Lynn Schofield Clark: *Theories: mediatization and media ecology*; Knut Lundby: *Media logic: looking for social interaction*; Stewart M. Hoover: *Complexities: the case of religious cultures*; Andreas Hepp: *Differentiation: mediatization and cultural change*; Stig Hjarvard: *Soft individualism: media and the changing social character*; Synne Skjulstad: *Dressing up: the mediatization of fashion online*; Jesper Strömbäck & Frank Esser: *Shaping politics: mediatization and media interventionism*; Maren Hartmann: *Everyday: domestication of mediatization or mediatized domestication?*; André Jansson: *Mobile belongings: texturation and stratification in mediatization processes*; Tanja Thomas: *Social inequalities: (re)production through mediatized individualism*; Eric W. Rothenbuhler: *Continuities: communicative form and institutionalization*; Knut Lundby: *Conclusion: consensus and conflict*.

Media Globalization and the Discovery Channel Networks

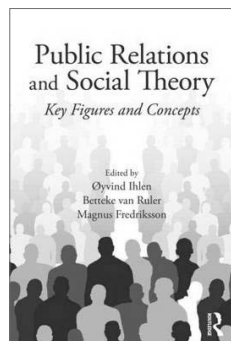
Ole Johan Mjøs, London and New York, Routledge, 2009, 236 p., ISBN 978-0-415-99246-6.



This book is about the relationship between media and globalization, explored through the unique study of the global expansion of Discovery Communications, spearheaded by the Discovery Channel, one of the world's largest providers of factual television programming and media content. The book argues that the study of Discovery's relationship with globalization provides both a specific and a more general practical and theoretical understanding of how the processes of increased linking and interweaving of media and communications unfold and develop, as well as some of the consequences of this.

Public Relations and Social Theory. Key Figures and Concepts

Øyvind Ihlen, Magnus Fredriksson & Betteke Van Ruler, London and New York, Routledge, 2009, 384 p., ISBN 978-0-415-99786-7.



This book focuses on the work of key social theorists, including Jürgen Habermas, Niklas Luhmann, Michel Foucault, Ulrich Beck, Pierre Bourdieu, Anthony Giddens, Robert Putnam, Erving Goffman, Peter L. Berger, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Bruno Latour, Leon Mayhew, Dorothy Smith and Max Weber. The collection demonstrates how the theories of these scholars come to bear on the understanding of public relations as a social activity. Understanding public relations in its societal context entails a focus on such concepts as trust, legitimacy, understanding, and reflection, as well as on issues of power, behavior, and language. Overall, this volume aims at enhancing the understanding of theories and their applications in public relations, expanding the breadth and depth of the theoretic foundations of public relations.

The book contains the following chapters: Øyvind Ihlen and Betteke van Ruler: *Introduction: Applying Social Theory to Public Relations*; Magnus Fredriksson: *On Beck: Risk and Sub-politics in Reflexive Modernity*; Mats Heide: *On Berger: A Social Constructionist Perspective on Public Relations and Crisis Communication*; Øyvind Ihlen: *On Bourdieu: Public Relations in Field Struggles*; Judy Motion and Shirley Leitch: *On Foucault: A Toolbox for Public Relations*; Jesper Falkheimer: *On Giddens: Interpreting Public Relations through Anthony Giddens' Structuration and Late Modernity Theory*; Catrin Johansson: *On Goffman: Researching Relations with Erving Goffman as Pathfinder*; Roland Burkart: *On Habermas: Understanding and Public Relations*; Piet Verhoeven: *On Latour: Actor-Network-Theory (ANT) and Public Relations*; Susanne Holmstrøm: *On Luhmann: Contingency, Risk, Trust and Reflection*; Richard Stanton: *On Mayhew: The Demonization of Public Relations and the Validation of the New Citizen*; Vilma Luoma-aho: *On Putnam: Bowling Together – Applying Putnam's Theories of Community and Social Capital to Public Relations*; Lana F. Rakow and Diana Nastasia: *On Feminist Theory of Public Relations: An Example from Dorothy E. Smith*; Mohan Jyoti Dutta: *On Spivak: Theorizing Resistance: Applying Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak in Public Relations*; Arild Wæraas: *On Weber: Legitimacy and Legitimation in Public Relations*; Øyvind Ihlen and Piet Verhoeven: *Conclusions on the Domain, Context, Concepts, Issues, and Empirical Avenues of Public Relations*; Günter Bentele and Stefan Wehmeier: *Commentary: Linking Sociology with Public Relations – Some Critical Reflections in Reflexive Times*.

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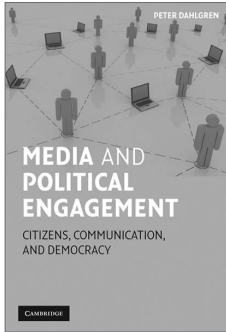
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Sweden

Documentalist: Roger Palmqvist

Media and Political Engagement. Citizens, Communication, and Democracy

Peter Dahlgren, New York, Cambridge University Press, 2009, 232 p., ISBN 978-0-521-52789-7.

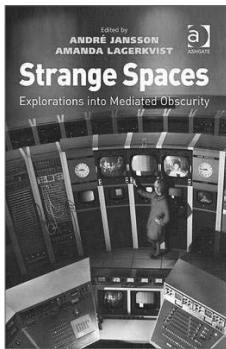


One of the most difficult problems facing Western democracy today is the decline in citizens' political engagement. There are many elements that contribute to this, including fundamental socio-cultural changes. The book summarizes these contexts and situates itself within them, while focusing on the media's key role in shaping the character of civic engagement. In particular, it examines the new interactive electronic media in terms of their civic potential. Looking at the evolution of the media landscape, the book examines key notions such as citizenship, public sphere, agency, identity, deliberation, and practice, and offers a multi-dimensional analytic framework called 'civic cultures'. This framework is then applied to several settings, including television, popular culture, journalism, the EU, and global

activism, to illuminate the role of the media in deflecting and enhancing political engagement, as well as in contributing to new forms of political involvement and new understandings of what constitutes the political.

Strange Spaces. Explorations Into Mediated Obscurity

André Jansson & Amanda Lagerkvist (eds.), Farnham and Burlington, Ashgate Publishing Group, 2009, 356 p., ISBN 978-0-7546-7461-0.



Certain bizarre spaces, where disruption or disarray rule, leave us estranged and 'out of place'. This book examines such spaces, highlighting the emotional and mediated geographies of uncertainty and the state of being 'in-between'; of cognitive displacement, loss, fear, or exhilaration. It expands on why space is sometimes estranging and for whom it is strange. The book link strangeness and spatial production, as well as empirical explorations of strange spaces within a profound theoretical discussion of 'what is strange about strange spaces' and how they evolve in a modern media age.

The anthology includes following chapters: *What is strange about strange spaces?* (André Jansson and Amanda Lagerkvist); Part 1: Scales of Opacity: *Introduction to Part 1* (André Jansson and Amanda Lagerkvist), *Vague spaces* (Phil Carney and Vincent Miller), *Domesticated media: hiding, dying or haunting* (Orvar Löfgren), *The strange space of the body: 2 dialogues* (Eva Åhrén and Michael Sappol), *Obscure objects of media studies: echo, hotbird and ikonos* (Lisa Parks); Part 2: Dislocation, Disruption, Disobedience: *Introduction to Part 2* (André Jansson and Amanda Lagerkvist), *Beside myself with looking: the provincial, female spectator as out of place at the Stockholm exhibition 1897* (Ylva Habel), *La villa rouge: replaying decadence in Shanghai* (Amanda Lagerkvist), *Cities of sin, backroads of crime* (Will Straw), *Walks in spectral space: East London crime scene tourism* (Chris Wilbert and Rikke Hansen), *The soul of the city: heritage architecture, vandalism and the new Bath spa* (Cynthia Imogen Hammond); Part 3: Secrets and Wonders of Media Spaces: *Introduction to Part 3* (André Jansson and Amanda Lagerkvist), *Death at Broadcasting*

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