Doctoral thesis at the University of Tampere.

The study inquires about the change of societal power structures and power production practices in media by examining journalism as an empirical context. The rise of participatory culture alters the traditional audience-producer dichotomy and blurs the boundaries of those roles. The dissertation is shaped by the multidisciplinary approach: communication and journalism studies, engineering sciences, computer science, information systems, organization research and political science.


This doctoral dissertation focuses on audiovisual sport coverage in the new media landscape and provides a critical, EU level analysis. Multiple layers of exclusive aspirations exist alongside a striving for maximum exposure and public appeal: sport broadcasting rights in particular have been questioned as their costs have risen and sport content has been moved behind conditional access. These tendencies have then provoked fundamental rights discussions on access by the public to information, pluralism of the media, and freedom of expression. Business is an inseparable part of the modern sport and media gestalt. However, other dimensions to European audiovisual sport coverage exist that do not operate in terms of finance and the market economy alone.


No English abstract available.


The main objective of this work has been to understand the ritual aspect of how private people use the Internet to mourn and honor their intimates in various online environments. The research material was compiled in 2007–2013 through ethnographic and autoethnographic observations in social media applications, online memorial websites, one shared virtual environment (Second Life) and one massive multi-player online role-playing game (World of Warcraft). The research material consists of – in addition to the ethnographic observations – three online surveys with 153 respondents (mainly from Finland, the United States and the United Kingdom). In addition, the researcher conducted 38 longer online interviews (i.e. via email, an avatar). The theoretical framework is derived from ritual theory, hermeneutic-phenomenological anthropology and discourse analysis.

The research questions are as follows: Why are death rituals practiced in online environments? How are virtual memorials created in various online environments? What kind of systems of meanings are virtual memorials constructed from?
This dissertation explores seven television series produced by Channel 2 of the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE TV2) between the 1960s and 1990s. These fictional television shows are analysed as cultural spaces in which conventions and discourses practice politics of belonging. The theoretical framework builds on the Nira Yuval-Davis's theory of belonging and on Judith Butler's theory on performativity. Following Yuval-Davis’s ideas, belonging in this work is understood to be formed of three facets: identifications and emotional attachments, social locations and ethical and political values. The politics of belonging is exercised through constructing boundaries for belonging in all these three facets. Thus, belonging is not understood as ontological, but constructed. The process of constructing these boundaries is seen as performative. As Judith Butler has stated, performative process builds on reiterative and discursive practice of regulatory norms that produce what they name. Accordingly, television series and their critiques are seen to produce and reproduce notions, values, norms and practices that define the domains and borders of belonging, and in this way they exercise politics of belonging. The politics of belonging promoted by the television series are examined from three different perspectives: belonging to 1) class, 2) gender and 3) welfare society. The constant transformation of these groupings makes them appropriate objects for a media historical inquiry.


This doctoral thesis studies the communication of strategy in knowledge-intensive firms. The research approaches organizational communication in knowledge-intensive work from the perspective of the knowledge worker. The thesis focuses on the management system called the Balanced Scorecard and asks whether or not this management system is an effective model of communicating the strategy in knowledge-intensive firms. As a widely used, modern management system, the Balanced Scorecard has appealed to both practitioners and scholars of strategic management. However, organizational communication research on the Balanced Scorecard remains scant.


In the beginning of its 10th year of existence Facebook has engaged and connected 1.2 billion monthly active users. This article-based dissertation approaches this engagement from the opposite direction: disconnection. The research articles focus on social media specific phenomena including leaving Facebook, tactical media works such as Web 2.0 SuicideMachine, memorializing dead Facebook users and Facebook trolling. The media theoretical framework for this study is built around affect theory, software studies, biopolitics as well as different critical studies of new media. The argument is that disconnection is a necessary condition of social media connectivity and exploring social media through disconnection – as an empirical phenomenon, future potential and theoretical notion – helps us to understand how users are engaged with social media, its uses and subsequent business models.

Research represents a review of the changes in various newsrooms caused by the Internet upheaval between 2006 and 2012. It describes how the journalists, or "the tamers of chaos" reacted on the online revolution and the growing supply of the content made by civic journalists in breaking news situations.

The research focuses firstly on how editorial houses cope with Internet and digital upheaval. Secondly, on how the "chaos" is concretely "tamed" in traditional news work, how amateur footage, eyewitness stories, tips, social media and civic journalists content are being used and valued. Thirdly, the research focuses on organizational level, how the editorial houses analyze the successful news coverage, its objectives and its perceived barriers.

The study was conducted in three parts in 2006, 2007 and 2012 by interviewing journalists, who covered breaking news events (such as the Tsunami, Jokela high school shootings, Utöya etc.) Key media included Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE), MTV3 and Nelonen's news.


This thesis is concerned with power as it relates to the production machine of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. The research conceives of power as a force that perpetuates and reproduces the ability of the production machine to function. The term production machine refers collectively to FIFA, the 2010 World Cup’s host (country and cities), and television (coverage of the event); this entity is a transnational corporation family. The study’s data comprise journalistic texts about the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa appearing in the Finnish newspapers Helsingin Sanomat, Aamulehti, Ilta-Sanomat and Ilta-lehti, the results of a week-long period of fieldwork conducted in South Africa, television broadcasts of the 2010 World Cup by the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE), research literature and critiques posted on the Internet by activists and investigative journalists.


This article-based dissertation observes the change in the audiovisual popular music performance from 1960s to the date. It focuses on the arena tours of Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones, U2, and Peter Gabriel, and the related stage design work by Mark Fisher and Robert Lepage. The main question is, how the gargantuan media spectacles began, how they became professional and reached global appeal during 1965–2013. The emphasis is on how the changing staging constructed new kind of arena stardom and audiovisual culture. The study close reads the key events of some case study concerts, combined with the analysis and historical contextualisation of the related popular media sources. By observing the cultural history of the arena rock, the dissertation analyses the commercial, technological and political changes that made the global spread of stardom possible.

Researchers encounter a wide variety of interpersonal communication situations in the course of their work. Yet, little research has approached the work of researchers from the perspective of interpersonal communication competence. The aim of this study is to describe and analyse researchers’ experiences and the meanings they give to interpersonal communication competence and its development in their work. Thus, the purpose is to understand what interpersonal communication competence is in the work of researchers and how it develops by learning at work. The research task is approached qualitatively by addressing researchers’ own understanding of the topic. The study draws on the basis of philosophical hermeneutics and uses a method referred to as thematic writing. The data consist of written essays collected from researchers (N=311) at diverse points in their careers, yet all with a doctoral degree. The data were gathered by means of a web-based questionnaire from 7 government research institutes and 14 national centres of excellence in research (CoEs) in Finland, and analysed from a data-driven perspective using thematic and qualitative content analysis.


Bullying is a serious problem in preschool: yet the associations between the peer interaction skills of preschoolers and bullying have rarely been studied. This study is designed to examine the peer interaction skills of preschoolers and the associations between these skills and bullying in children’s peer groups. The study also provides measures for assessing children’s peer interaction skills and tools for supporting the harmonious development of these skills in early education. The study consists of five articles, which address children’s peer interaction skills, peer relationships, and bullying. The participants were 72 five to six year old preschool children, who were attending five selected kindergartens in Finland that provide preschool education. The present study was designed to gather information from different informants and from different perspectives, using rating scales, teacher reports, naturalistic observation, and interviews with children.


The context of the research is the phenomenon of social network sites (SNSs): the vastly popular online services whose central feature is the public performance of connection. Building on the tenets of symbolic interactionism, I argue that the performance of connection creates shared understandings of individuals interpersonal relationships. This dissertation examines what kinds of performances of interpersonal relationships take place in online settings, what kind of challenges people attribute to these performances and how they attempt to solve those challenges. The observed practices and interpretations are then contrasted with the results of a literature review covering the conceptualizations of mediated community in academic research, to suggest future directions in investigation of the creation of shared understandings of interpersonal relationships in online settings. The research problem is assessed through the use of qualitative methods, which permit the analysis of the expressions that the participants themselves used to describe the novel opportunities and challenges that online interaction offers for the performance of interpersonal relationships. The research consists of the four individual studies (articles) and the introduction.


In this doctoral thesis Finnish theatre criticism and its writers are examined during the period of twenty years; the focus of the dissertation is alteration in the theatre criticism. The background material of the thesis comprises fifteen theatre criticisms published in five Finnish daily newspapers (Helsingin Sanomat, Kaleva, Kansan Uutiset, Aamulehti and Hufvudstadsbladet) in the years 1983, 1993 and 2003. The primary material of the study is dual consisting of sixteen theme interviews made in the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2009 with the Finnish theatre critics who have written their criticism in popular publicity (popular mass media) and secondly 185 editorials of the Finnish theatre magazine Teatteri published in elite publicity (for the theatre-interested-people) during the years 1983-2003. In the study qualitative
methods are applied. The theatre criticisms are described and interpreted by using the method of content analysis and classical pattern of the criticism. Further, the interviews of the critics and the editorials of the theatre magazine are examined by using the method of thematic text analysis and with help of the concepts of Pierre Bourdieu.


This dissertation focuses on strategic use of framing in the multi-actor debate on human rights to create issue salience. The research results add to the understanding of the strategic choices made by actors in agenda setting and framing related to power relations in issue arenas. The results come together in a conceptual model of the framing processes involved. Human rights issues are seen as important and universal. However, this is not the reality in the issue arenas influenced by selectiveness and power relations. What this research tells us is that, by using strategic framing in the communication, central actors can selectively push human rights issues and frames to the debate and create different causal relations between issues and actors.


This study deals with the discussion on Russian military reform in Russian newspapers. The goal is to find out what kinds of discourses are used to justify military reform and how these discourses work as a tool of power. The study is multidisciplinary. Linguistically, it discusses the role of language and discourse in Russian decision making. From a social science perspective, the study focuses on the Russian media and decision making system, and from the point of view of military science, the development of the armed forces and military policy are dealt with. The primary source material consists of 220 articles which were collected from nine Russian newspapers published during the years 2008 to 2012.


This dissertation on party leadership and the media in Finland consists of four articles and an introduction. The first two articles analyse the leadership elections (1987–2010) of the three traditionally largest political parties and focuses on women candidates and their breakthrough into political leadership. The two latter articles scrutinise the rise of the populist newcomer party by concentrating on its leader Timo Soini’s media and communication strategies in the threshold of the party’s electoral victory in 2011. The main research methods are qualitative content analysis combined with historical contextualising and historical analysis. The research material consists of a variety of media materials; the largest data includes newspaper reporting on party leadership elections (1987–2010) and the general elections (2011). As this study explains, the gradual changes that took place in the media/policies relationship in Finland both speeded up women’s breakthrough into the leadership of large political parties and eased the way of the populist newcomer party to grow in size and influence.


The subject of this dissertation is how acting and the discourse on acting developed in prerevolutionary Russian cinema during the years of private film production, 1907–1919. It is a study in cultural history, and the approach is that of esthetic film history. The thesis joins in what is known as revisionist film history to re-evaluate the history of early fiction cinema. The study focuses on esthetic thinking as well as the processes and practices of actual film production in prerevolutionary Russia. Primary sources include published discourse on film acting, film makers’ memoirs, and films. The thesis is organized in three loosely chronological chapters. Chapter 2 focuses on the early years of Russian fiction film at the turn of the 1910s. Chapter 3 analyses the notion of psychological cinema which evolved after the rise of the feature film in the early 1910s. Chapter 4 proceeds through the rise of the pictorial and director-centered cinema during of World War I to the idea of the actor as a ‘model’ in early Soviet cinema.


This thesis analyzes political television debates and the publicity they have received in Finnish newspapers from the beginning of the 1960s to the late 1980s in parliamentary and presidential elections. The materials of the study consist of official records of the decision-making bodies of the National Broadcasting Company, the actual debates broadcast on television as well as newspaper articles dealing with the television debates. Newspaper materials have been gathered from the independent newspaper Helsingin Sanomat, from the tabloids Ilta-Sanomat and Ilta-lehti as well as from the party newspapers Aamulehti, Kansan Uutiset, Suomenmaa and Suomen Sosialidemokraatti. Newspaper materials have been complemented with materials from the press archive of the National Broadcasting Company. The study focuses on both the developments of the debate program genre as well as the ways in which newspapers have written about them. From the standpoint of program genre, the study analyzes the ways in which these programs have been made during different decades and what kinds of political disputes they have aroused. The analysis of the newspaper material describes how the newspapers have written about the debates, what kind of criticism these programs have provoked, and what sort of a role the newspapers have given to these programs in political campaigning overall. This thesis approaches the topic from a historical standpoint, which means that the varying historical context plays an important part in the analysis. The study pays attention to both the changes political culture as well as the changes in the media landscape.
Immigration and multicultural societies are debated all over the Western world nowadays. As a result of globalisation people are expected to move more and faster than ever. At the same time, when actual individuals move and new groups of people and ideas encounter each other, the more the ‘old’ or the ‘already existing’ paradigms within a society are challenged. Within societies, this social insecurity most often leads to ponderings concerning the society itself: what are the constructions of the society and who are its members? Which new members is the society willing to let in and on what conditions? How is the society to treat those minorities already forming part of it? This doctoral dissertation discusses how popular and organisational magazines in Finland and in the Netherlands are taking part in this debate in 2003–2006. Discourses of immigration and ethnic diversity and articulations of immigrants and people belonging to ethnic minorities in general news magazines Suomen Kuvalehti and Elsevier, construction trade union magazines Rakentaja and Bouw, women’s magazines Me Naiset and Libelle and seniors’ magazines ET and Plus Magazine are analysed.


This dissertation studies socio-political television discussions from the perspective of a concretized public sphere, as a processual accomplishment of mutual relations between parties of a political organization. Live multiparty television discussions represent a long-established program format in the schedule of public service broadcasting. They set out to foster argumentation on current affairs. As such, they belong to the margins of current media publicity, where the act of gathering up for discussion about issues on political agenda is getting rare. The research is about finding out, how participation and the related positions and identifications are organized in the interaction of these programs. The data consists of three Finnish discussion programs, which were all sent within three weeks after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in USA in 2001. Three discussions, that are thematically parallel but yet quite different in composition, provide for the opportunity to make comparisons on the variety of journalistic strategies to address audience, cast participants and constitute public spaces in political current affairs discussions. A central theoretical framework in the study is ethnomethodology, which explores social action as sequentially unfolding mutual accomplishment of the participants. From this angle, the idea of a public sphere as well is approached as something that must be realized by participants in situated action. Membership categorization, institutional interaction and multimodal action will be used as methods, which serve to explicate what kind of interactional measures participants use to achieve this. The dissertation consists of four original articles and a summary.


This dissertation explores disaster preparedness education of communities in Indonesian earthquake-prone areas and identifies critical factors for developing media campaigns and educational programmes for disaster preparedness. Stakeholder enabling is applied in examining the management of disaster preparedness communication and education, which takes place between the community, the broadcast media, and civic organisations. The social network contagion approach is applied for defining risk, and for reacting to risk in the community. A social constructionist perspective is brought into play to scrutinize risk perception in a cultural context. The information horizon framework is applied to investigate the information seeking practices of community members involved in disaster preparedness.
Environments where organizations operate and communicate are in a state of continuous flux due to technological development and global economy. The goal of the research was to find out how to evaluate communication directors’ expertise from the 2010s onwards and to understand the process how that expertise is developed. The author has built the research on two premises on how organizations operate in more or less mediated fields of the public sphere and on the new dialogue model of workplace communication, in which everyone has communication responsibilities. The core of the research is based on theory as she compares educational, sociological as well as leadership and management theories to PR and corporate communications theories and points of view. Applying these theories she created a hypothesis of a postmodern model of the ideal expertise of a communications director in the business sector. She tested the model by determining the expectations of five different stakeholder groups: the communications directors and managers themselves, the managing directors and executives, the human relations and marketing directors and managers and journalists.

In this dissertation, the author studies confessional me-centered communications of vlogs in the context of DIY (Do It Yourself) cultures, in YouTube and in webcam communities. Confession refers to a communicative strategy that aims to reveal intimate matters of an individual and, at the same time, serves as a way to socialize with others. The key research question is: How and why does confession operate in communication and interaction in social media environments? Mediatization theory offers one solution to understand these extremes. The participatory act of confession in DIY environments is understood as a process of constructing the individual as a social being so-called social self. This is the new type of individual as suggested by mediatization theory individual as a social being dependent on the recognition she gets in and through the media.
The concept of network here means regular social relations and bonds between interdependent actors who usually share a common interest. Because networks are totally dependent on communication and interaction, it is very important to discuss them from the perspective of communication. According to structuration theory, groups and it is assumed that networks as well build up their structures in the interaction between social relations. Role is a network structure factor that may describe equality between network members. In the network context the author defines a role as a duty or a position which, according to structuration theory becomes visible, in network interaction. Discussing equality from this point of view is interesting because individuals cannot just decide to adopt a certain role; roles are established collectively in a social interaction process (Burr 2004). The study applies structuration theory in a network context. The study focuses on interaction within networks, both the use of communication technology and face-to-face communication and especially on the roles which emerge in communication processes. It takes a special look at the decision-making process and the way it implements equality between network members. Decision-making is a critical function, because of the value of equality and because network members usually want to influence the network’s decisions and results. The research also pays attention to roles in general network co-operation. The primary aim of this study is to explore the relation between network interaction and the roles of the network members, and the equality between network members in the decision-making process and in general. The data for this qualitative research was collected in two regional networks using the theme interview method in 2006 and 2007. Thirty network members were interviewed (average age 46.8 years). The data was updated in 2013.

Mobile handheld devices are changing the practices of newsmaking, the roles of journalists and readers in it, and the published news in profound ways. The activity of mobile newsmaking aims at a tangible outcome, the news, which are consumed by an audience. Relatively little research exists in HCI (Human-Computer Interaction) that explores what is user experience of mobile systems in goal-oriented creative activity in organizational settings and especially in the natural contexts of use. This thesis addresses this gap by focusing on user experience, which arises when smartphones are used in mobile newsmaking to create and publish online and print news in the newspaper industry. This thesis has two main goals. First, it aims to gain a holistic understanding of user experience in mobile newsmaking with smartphones from the viewpoint of mobile reporters as users. Second, it explores how mobile and location-based assignments assigned by the newsroom can support cooperative newsmaking. This thesis contains nine scientific publications based on twelve case studies. The research approach of the studies is primarily qualitative.

The doctoral study investigates how editorial portraits are designed in commercial magazines and deals also with different discourses of production of photography. The study is composed of three ethnographic case studies, the materials consisting of interviews and observations of newsrooms and photographic studios of a variety of Finnish bigger magazines. Also the observed portraits have been used as research material.
Blogization is the term that describes the current state of Russian journalism and considers its broader implications for political and social life. This thesis argues that convergence and mass “produsage” culture dissolves boundaries between mass and interpersonal communications; that the stability of traditional mass media in Russia is secured by the strategic control and support of the state; that online media are less susceptible to the influence of the state. Accordingly, blogization becomes a challenging factor for the otherwise prevalent journalistic model of statist commercialism. The project’s core empirical data includes eight examples of mass media and eight Russian bloggers, who are all important actors in the blogization process. The sub-sample of bloggers includes individuals with large readerships who come from various backgrounds and professional orientations: pro-Kremlin and oppositional bloggers, trained journalists and blogging celebrities. It also covers different genres ranging from investigative and opinionated reporting, to facts, aggregate stories, and daily life reflections. The initial overview of relations between journalism and blogging is based on official reports and media statistics. Qualitative findings are drawn from textual examples of where and how discussions of journalism and blogging appear and evolve over time. These texts cover a time period from March 2003 through to June 2013. While various sets of quantitative data provide contextual background, the qualitative data highlights crucial examples of the development of relations between journalism and blogging in Russia.