Azizi, Sameer: Corporate Social Responsibility in Afghanistan, Copenhagen Business School [Phd], 2017. 197 s.

This doctoral dissertation examines the business-development relations in Afghanistan by focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and other related practices from corporations in the Afghan mobile telecommunications industry. More concretely, the study aims to explore the characteristics and drivers of the various CSR practices in the Afghan mobile telecommunications industry in order to critically assess the relationship between CSR and development in such context. The thesis highlights that the national context of Afghanistan in combination with the global mobile telecommunications industry provides a relevant empirical focus that can enrich the theoretical debates about CSR in developing countries. The study thereby stresses on the importance of context, and integrates both the societal and corporate dimensions to study CSR by corporations in the Afghan mobile telecommunications industry.


This thesis is the first comprehensive research work conducted on the Beirut based TV station, an important representative of the post-2011 generation of Arab satellite news media. The launch of al-Mayadeen in June 2012 was closely linked to the political developments across the Arab world in the aftermath of the 2011 uprisings, and can be seen as a direct reaction to the editorial line that al-Jazeera followed in covering those very events. Drawing on a wide variety of programmes from the station’s first four seasons on air, as well as interviews conducted with several of the station’s staff members, this thesis investigates a growing political trend and ideological discourse in the Arab world that the author have called The New Regressive Left. On the premise that a media outlet can function as a forum for ideology production, the thesis argues that an analysis of this material can help to trace the contexture of The New Regressive Left.


As digital media have become an increasingly integral part of personal and family life, they have also been woven tightly into one of the most important phases of change in life, namely the transition to parenthood.
To have a child is a life change that involves alterations of life practically and socially as well as in terms of identity. Digital media offer a variety of resources targeting the starting of a family, not just websites with articles, services, and products, but also online fora where parents can meet and exchange tips and ideas. At the same time social network sites, especially Facebook, create new opportunities for sharing family life with a very wide circle of acquaintances. Mobile technologies, particularly the smartphone, add more tools and render the array of information resources and communication channels constantly available.

This doctoral dissertation studies the role of digital media in the transition to parenthood. Specifically, the dissertation aims to answer the following research question: What cultural and social dynamics and change processes, including what opportunities and challenges, are related to the role that digital media today play in the transition to parenthood? The dissertation explores this question on the basis of a synchronous study within an overall mediatization perspective.


The thesis takes it point of departure in the concept of information literacy and an empirical study of two high school classes at two different high schools in the Greater Copenhagen area. The thesis is an analytical theoretical work that utilizes an empirical study of the aforementioned classes to investigate in what way a lacanian view on subjectivity can complement a sociocultural and a discourse analytical understanding of information literacy. The investigation takes its departure in the following questions: - How does social media such as Facebook affect the understanding of the relation between the space inside and outside the classroom and in what way does use and non-use of social media affect the framing of the teaching situation? - Can a psychoanalytical approach to subject and subject positions develop and expand the understanding of the concept of information literacy and thereby supplement the theoretical basis of information literacy research?


This thesis examines gay men’s intimacy cultures through ethnographical interviews and participant observation regarding their use of hook-up apps. Hook-up apps are smartphone-based social chat services that connect gay men via location technology designed to facilitate intimate meetings. This anthological thesis operates in the multidisciplinary intersection between media theory, cultural theory, and human geography. Beginning with mediatization theory, the thesis asks how hook-up apps mediatize gay men’s
intimacy cultures and considers the methodological and ethical consequences of this. The thesis also
discusses the challenges and opportunities that arise when studying mediatized intimacies.


Journalism is a contested profession. Normative assumptions based on its connection to democracy infuses a variety of expectations as to what journalists should and should not do. These norms have made it particularly difficult to discuss and study journalism in non-Western or non-democratic countries where the profession has often been defined as a Western “other” – as what it is not. This dissertation takes another approach and investigates journalism in Southeast Asia from the bottom-up leaving room for journalists’ own interpretations and understandings of their profession.

Through a comparative study of journalism in Singapore and Vietnam based on qualitative interviews and extensive document research, the dissertation intends to uncover perceptions of journalism, role orientations and role struggles among journalists – though without disregarding forces conditioning the two journalistic fields. It furthermore discusses how, and to what extent, similarities between Singapore and Vietnam reflect a particular Southeast Asian model of journalism.


The use of news media is regarded as a driver for citizens’ engagement with society and their political participation. But as news media use increasingly shifts to digital platforms, it is crucial to understand the interplay between a changing media environment and recent patterns of political participation. Against the background of citizens’ diverse possibilities for receiving political information and being politically active nowadays, the thesis focuses on the impact of digital media on political participation in Denmark. By examining this relationship in election- and non-election times as well as for different age groups, the thesis shows that digital and especially social media use can be a strong driver of citizen participation. Besides looking at immediate mobilizing effects, the thesis sheds light on how digital media use may shape participation patterns through a long-term change in citizenship understanding.


No fulltext


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Fulltext >>


After first discussing, dismantling, and dismissing the unbridled techno-optimism that characterizes most discourse on educational technology, the dissertation focuses on the field of media multitasking research, which is concerned with the limitations of the human mind and the fraught relationship between multitasking and paying attention. After analyzing how the concept of ‘multitasking’ is used in this literature, however, it is argued that this seemingly neutral term really means off-tasking and that we should replace a cognitive focus on the mind with a phenomenological focus on bodies and technologies to understand such distraction.

In the following section, the positivist assumptions of existing media multitasking research are challenged, and it is argued that qualitative inquiry may be helpful when studying a normative phenomenon such as off-tasking. The dissertation proceeds to discuss the textualism of current qualitative research and argues for the value of also attending to the oft-neglected dimension of material presence when conducting qualitative inquiry. The dissertation then culminates in three empirical articles that emanate from a long-term, multi-method qualitative inquiry at a Danish business college. Taken together, these three articles highlight the importance of studying, analyzing, and discussing our collective 21st century technological habits. Practical and theoretical implications are discussed.

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