New Literature
New Book

This volume provides an invaluable overview of Walter Benjamin’s writings about technology, history, politics and the visual. From a variety of theoretical viewpoints, twelve brilliant scholars have come together to map the aura - perhaps the most elusive concept in Benjamin’s philosophy. The collection is a scholarly feat that serves as an introduction to one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century, while at the same time providing new perspectives for the advanced reader.

The volume is published by Nordicom and Nordic Summer University Press

297 pages, Price: SEK 250, •25

Erik Steinskog, Petersson Dag Introduction: Collecting Twelve Studies of Walter Benjamin
• Graeme Gilloch Fabricating Aura: The Face in Film • Tara Forrest The Politics of Aura and Imagination in Benjamin’s Writings on Hashish • Dag Petersson Transformation of Readability and Time: A Case of Reproducibility and Cloning • Catherine D. Dharvernas The Aura in Photography and the Task of the Historian • Claus Krogholm Sand Ruinous Aura: From Sunset Boulevard to Mulholland Drive • David Kelman The Inactuality of Aura: Figural Relations in Walter Benjamin’s “On Some Motifs in Baudelaire” • Peter Fenves Is There an Answer to the Aestheticization of the Political? Some Remarks on a Passage in Benjamin’s “Work of Art” Essay • Mikkel Bruun Zangenberg The Phantasmagoria of the Spectacle: A Critique of Media Culture • Beryl Schlossman Images of the Aura: Some Motifs in French Modernism
New books from NORDICOM

Femme Fatalities. Representations of Strong Women in the Media

From sadistic tortureress Ilsa in Ilsa, She-Wolf of the SS to synthespians and consumerist teen witches. From Hollywood mainstream to avant-garde and exploitation. From feminist critical theory to postfeminist provocative aesthetics. This anthology brings together twelve essays on the representation of strong women in film, television and computer games.

The articles in this anthology do not provide simple answers. Instead, they find new meanings arising out of the gaps between consumer culture and gender politics, between silicone breasts and subversive audience reactions.


News of the Other. Tracing Identity in Scandinavian Constructions of the Eastern Baltic Sea Region

This book is the result of a multinational research project that has surveyed and analysed identity mechanisms in journalistic constructions of the Other over time and between different countries in the Baltic Sea Region.

The ‘War on Terror’ declared by President George W. Bush after the terrible events of September 11, 2001 has already had profound consequences on world political developments and global opinion. Media both report and promote the spiral of violence that has been released in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Media are – either actively or passively – actors in the resultant propaganda war and can as such influence public opinion. How images of the U.S. and the Others are portrayed by media in various countries after September 11 and the attack on Afghanistan is at the focus of this volume.

This is a follow-up to a larger project titled ‘Journalism and the New World Order’ focusing on the Gulf War 1990-91. Two volumes have emerged from this project: Gulf War, National News Discourses and Globalization, edited by Stig A. Nohrstedt & Rune Ottosen, published in 2001 and Studying War and the Media, edited by Wilhelm Kempf & Heikki Luostarinen, in 2002. The present volume will be followed by a fourth volume on the War in Iraq 2003.

Following articles are included: Introduction. Media and the ‘War on Terror’ (Birgitta Höijer, Stig A. Nohrstedt & Rune Ottosen), Being Ignorant, Living in Manhattan (Toby Miller), Terror and Just Response (Noam Chomsky), My Beating by Refugees Is a Symbol of the Hatred and Fury of This Filthy War. A Report from Kila Abdullah after Afghan Border Ordeal (Robert Fisk), USA, The West and the Rest after September 11 and October 7 2001 (Johan Galtung), Portraits of Evil. Timothy McVeigh and Osama bin Laden in Time and Newsweek (Ivar A. Iversen), The Newsweek War on Terrorism. A Construction of Risk (Karmen Erjavec), Mr. President: “The Enemy is Closer than You Might Think” (Rune Ottosen), “All that is Solid Melts into Air”. How the September 11 Tragedy Was Presented in the Greek Press (Sophia Kaitazi-Whitlock, with Dimitra Kehagia), The Bulgarian Press and the ‘New War’. A Study of the Dailies 24 Chassa and Dnevnik (Snezhana Popova & Evelyna Vatova), “No Room for Neutrality”. September 11 and the Irish Times (Sean Phelan), Alternative Media, the ‘War on Terror’ and Northern Ireland (Greg McLaughlin & Stephen Baker), A Question of Partisanship? Swedish Radio on September 11 (Marina Ghersetti), Media, Ethics and Terrorism. A Study of Swedish Media’s Ethics in Relation to September 11 (C. Anders Johansson), Disconnection. On Mass Media and 9/11 (Peter Berglez), Warfare and Dual Vision in Media Discourse (Elisabeth Eide), and Afghanistan: The War and the Media (Jörg Becker).
This volume provides an invaluable overview of Walter Benjamin’s writings about technology, history, politics and the visual. From a variety of theoretical viewpoints, twelve brilliant scholars have come together to map the aura - perhaps the most elusive concept in Benjamin’s philosophy. The collection is a scholarly feat that serves as an introduction to one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century, while at the same time providing new perspectives for the advanced reader. The volume is published by Nordic Summer University Press.

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The aim of Yearbook 2003, Promote or Protect? Perspectives on Media Literacy and Media Regulations, is to contribute to reflections on the whole range of ‘measures’ to promote children’s, young people’s and adults’ media competence and to protect them from potential harmful media contents. What do scholars say about the responsibility of parents in this regard, about the state of media education in and outside school, about media professionals’ awareness of children and media, and about the effectiveness of media regulations? The collection of articles also gives rise to the question if ‘promote or protect’ is a pertinent dichotomy in this context. Apparently, existing initiatives are not mutually exclusive in the sense that only one ‘measure’ is sufficient to support children and young people in their interactions with the media. Moreover, the meanings of ‘promote’ and ‘protect’ tend to converge.

Following articles are included: Promote or Protect? Perspectives on Media Literacy and Media Regulations: Introduction (Cecilia von Feilitzen), Media Regulation, Self-Regulation and Education. Debunking Some Myths and Retooling Some Working Paradigms (Divina Frau-

**Young People, Soap Operas and Reality TV**


The transformation of the traditional soap opera into certain more extreme soaps, and the emergence of the recent ‘global’ reality TV formats have whipped up storms of controversy in a great number of countries. Such programmes have also generated worries among adults about how they are received by, and may influence, young viewers – because children from all over the world watch adult programming from an early age.

Since research on young people and these fictional genres seriously lags behind, the primary aim of the Yearbook is to stimulate further research on the subject. In order to do so, the Clearinghouse invited scholars from all over the world to contribute their knowledge so far. Thus at the same time, the book gives answers to at least some of the questions on young people, soap operas and reality TV in the public debate.

Playing With Fire: How do Computer Games Influence the Player?


In the debate on children, youth and computer games, the question of whether computer games are harmful is often posed. The answers provide are many and varying, making it easy to interpret the research results as contradictory. Questions concerning the harmfulness of computer games often seek simple “yes” or “no” answers, while the research reveals a more complicated picture. Different investigations also have their starting point in different perspectives and questions, which may explain the confusion.

With an aim to clarify and bring some order to the area, the Danish Media Council for Children and Young People has conducted an investigation that provides some insight into children’s and young people’s use of computer games. The investigations is based, among other things, on a picture of the scientific status of computer games and harmfulness as well as on an overview of the considerations other countries have made concerning regulation in the area.

Nordicoms International Clearinghouse for Children, Youth and Media considered the report to be of interest to a wider audience and sought collaboration with the Danish Media Council for children and Young People concerning publishing of the report. The authors, Simon Egenfeldt-Nielsen and Jonas Heide Smith have done some revising and updating of the report, which is now available in English.
Young People and Gendered Media Messages

In this report, the International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media directs its attention to gendered media messages. The contribution of media to the maintenance of the gender order is particularly important to study, considering the situation of children and young people, who have constant access to today’s extensive media output through a multitude of different channels. The report attempts to account for what is going on in the field of gender and media in a broad sense. The main focus is on news content and popular mainstream media primarily targeted at children and young people. Included are studies and reports from different disciplines, as media issues also attract scholars outside traditional media and communications research. Data from media watch and media literacy organizations also form part of the basic material. Awareness is often followed by an urge to work for change, which is why a few tools for improvement are presented: guidelines from the International Federation of Journalists; Child Rights and the Media, Putting Children in the Right; and a compilation of guidelines for gender-sensitive reporting collected from the UNESCO site.
European Culture and the Media


Presents new research and thinking on cultural globalisation, with special focus on and in depth analysis of a number of cases and dimensions in European media culture and its broader social, political and economic context. The book is written by some of the most prominent European media researchers from both the humanities and social sciences. It offers a provocative and new interdisciplinary look at the modern European media culture, and at the same time introduces new theories, empirical data and analysis of media communication, genres and media institutions.


For further information, see: [http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/](http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/)

Archiving Websites. General Considerations and Strategies


This book treats the micro archiving of websites, i.e. archiving by researchers, students or others without special technical knowledge who, using a standard computer, wish to save a website for further study. The phenomenon is discussed from the standpoint that Internet research must be able to stabilise and save the object of its analysis. However, the Internet is endowed with certain fundamental media-specific dynamics that make stabilisation difficult.

For further information, see: [http://cfi.imv.au.dk/pub/](http://cfi.imv.au.dk/pub/)
The Changing Materiality of Music

A great deal of effort has gone into discussing issues of copyright in relation to the new materialities of the digital distribution of popular music; there has, however, been less focus on the changes that these new developments may invoke with respect to the cultural and social usages of music. Against the backdrop of recent discussions of popular music as material culture it is argued that emergent usages must be seen in relation to accumulations of different materialities and that such a perspective highlights issues related to both aesthetic reflexivity and agency.

For further information, see: http://cfi.imv.au.dk/pub/

Special issue: Storytelling. P.o.v.: A Danish Journal of Film Studies

Contains the following articles: Brian Dunnigan: Storytelling and film: fairy tales, myth and happy endings, Morten Kyndrup: To be shown how to be talked to: narration and parabasis in contemporary film – and Almodóvar’s ”Hable con Ella”, Per Aage Brandt: Narrative models and meaning, Keith Raskin: The invention of meaning, Nikolaj Feifer: And so the story begins...: an analysis of selected opening shots and scenes, Mark Le Fanu: Story and... ”story”: reflections on an over-hyped concept, Edwin Vestergaard Kau: Where’s the story?: notes on telling stories cinematically, Gunnar Wille: The idea: an article about idea-development problems, James Ransom: Perpetuating remembrance: N. Scott Momaday and Kiowa storytelling, Ib Johansen: Narrative power in native American fiction: reflections on Leslie Marmon Silko’s ”Storyteller” (1981), Rasmus Stampe-Hjorth: On editing & storytelling: an interview with Anders Refn, Saara Cantell: Poetry on screen or visualised jokes?: an approach to the genres of short fiction films, Richard Raskin: Italo Calvino and inevitability in storytelling.

Note: All issues of p.o.v. can be found on the Internet at: http://imv.au.dk/publikationer/pov/POV.html

Other new literature
Christensen, Bolette M.: Organizing a social movement organization by means of the Internet: deliberation or staging? København, Modinet, Center for Media and Democracy in the Network Society, 2004, 10 p., ISBN 87-91394-05-8, (Working paper; 6), (Københavns Universitet, Modinet – Center for Medier og Demokrati). Note: Part of the Modinet project, which is a research project with the purpose of developing an innovative interdisciplinary research agenda investigating the effects of globalization and the new media culture in politics and democracy as well as the effects on the traditional media institutions and everyday life in the information and network society. Internetadresse: http://www.modinet.dk/pages/publikationslister/publikationer.htm

MEDIA • DEMOCRACY • ORGANIZATIONS • NEWSPAPERS • JOURNALISM • INTERNET • WORLD WIDE WEB • GLOBALIZATION • DENMARK

Krause Hansen, Hans; Salskov-Iversen, Dorte: Globalizing webs: translation of public sector e-mod-
This publication brings together some of the papers from the second annual conference of the Modinet project. Between them, the papers explore several new conditions and practices of political communication, reconsidering, as well classic dilemmas of the public sphere.

Contains the following articles: John Durham Peters: Conversation, democracy and communication technology, Roger Silverstone: Contrapuntal cultures: from minorities to moralities in European media, Peter Dahlgren: Internet, public spheres and political communication: dispersion and deliberation, Henrik Bodker: Pirateri – en social bevægelse i netværksamfundet?, Henrik Søndergaard: Media convergence and the future of broadcast media: public service in a digital media system, Lars Torpe: The Internet and local communities.

MEDIA • DEMOCRACY • MEDIA CONVERGENCE
• POLITICAL COMMUNICATION • PUBLIC SPHERE
• GLOBALIZATION
The author has studied speech communication in the Finnish courtroom context. In recent years, many rapid changes in the courtroom proceedings have taken place and the role of oral communication in trials has been completely redefined. The author has investigated the interaction between different parties in this special context. The frame of the work is prosecutor’s. Communication in courtroom has also looked at from the point of view of interpersonal communication theories and argumentation research. The research is based on qualitative materials and the method is so called triangulation, that means: several research approaches and materials have been used. The first material is based on courtroom observations during 1997-2001. The second material has been collected by questionnaires from prosecutors in 2000.


The book deals with the factors affecting the business success of online newspapers, moreover, the effects of the market environment on business success. The author is especially interested in analyzing whether, as suggested, the better business success is achieved by applying the customization strategy rather than by producing standardized services. Besides customization, there is analyzed other factors directly or indirectly benefiting the success of online newspapers. The analysis is based on survey data from 42 online newspapers and case data from three online newspapers in Finland.
**Minority Languages, Media and Journalism. European Journalism Conference 8-11th May 2003**


The daily media in minority languages have several functions, beside the main function as to serve people in their mother tongue. When celebrating the anniversary of the Swedish School of Social Sciences, the Journalism Education Programme arranged a series of conferences all entitled under the name “The European Journalism Conference: Minority Languages, Media and Journalism”. This book is a report from these conferences and from different workshops there. Reports are written by the following journalists and researchers: Jaana Wallenius, Maria Wirén, Kira Schroeder, Inka Salovaara-Moring, Geo Stenius and Sebastian Dahlström.

Also available on the Internet: http://sockom.helsinki.fi/info/meddelande67.pdf.

**Saleable Compromises. Quality Cultures in Finnish and US Commercial Radio**


Note: Doctoral dissertation.

The focus of this study is on the comparative analysis of the quality cultures in contemporary Finnish and US commercial radio, and its major theoretical objective is to understand and define the quality culture in commercial radio. The study examines how the conceptions of quality in Finnish and US commercial radio are historically constituted, what are the major differences and similarities in conceptions of quality in contemporary Finnish and US commercial radio, and what is quality and quality culture in commercial radio broadcasting and how it is composed. The cultural history of the quality conceptions in commercial radio in both countries is examined using qualitative methods from the perspective of political economy and media economics as an historical process of value transformation. The contemporary quality cultures are studied using an integrated theoretical approach, drawing on multiple theories from communications studies, media economics, political economy, quality management and cultural studies. Qualitative analysis of 24 research interviews of people working for commercial radio in Finland or in the US is done, also.

Sexualizing of Economic Discourse in a Finnish Daily Newspaper of the 1990s

The research deals with the process of sexualizing of economic discourse in a Finnish daily newspaper, Helsingin Sanomat, in the context of the economic crisis of the 1990s in Finland. How were women represented as different from men to discuss the economy? What was the mainstream media’s role in constituting women’s and men’s possibilities of becoming recognized as economic subjects at the time? The topical questions include how gender is associated with the subject of economic discourse and how these positions enabled women to express economic aims during the crisis. This is reflected against Luce Irigaray’s claim concerning the non-recognition of sexual difference as a difference in Western discourses, and the lack of a woman’s possibility to speak as “herself” within such discourses. The study is divided into three parts: the first consists of a quantitative overview of the crisis coverage of Helsingin Sanomat, 1988-1997, the second consists of a qualitative text analysis of women’s economic and equality struggles in crisis, 1990-1995, and the third part consists of post-crisis memory work of citizens, 1999.

Other new literature


Articles

Modernity • Postmodernism
• Globalization • Communication Theory


Ethics • Responsibility • Values • Citizens • Journalism


Image • Press • Foreign News • Finland
• USSR • Russia


Journalism • Journalists • News Criteria
• Values • Russia
Media Regulation and Parents: Attitudes to Content Regulation of Audiovisual Media

Public debates about media regulations are often dominated by politicians, public institutions, media representatives, experts and special interest groups. This study, however, is based on interviews with Norwegian parents to see how the public perceives media regulations. The main findings of the study are that the parents have great confidence in public regulation of the media, and are sceptical towards the idea that the industry itself should be able to regulate their activities. Advertisements on television is perceived as the most unwanted of all the content categories, followed by bad language. Narratives about divorce, adultery and broken homes are also content that the parents want to protect their children from. Violence is, somewhat surprisingly, ranked after advertisements and bad language, while pornography, sex and blasphemy are all perceived as virtually unproblematic by most of the parents. The study is done by the University of Oslo.

Note: For more information, see http://www.filmtilsynet.no/

And the Winner Might Be... Democratic Elections and Independent Journalism

This book deals with difficulties concerning media coverage of elections in foreign countries. The contributors are some of the most experienced journalists and writers, and they share their experience of covering elections in countries that are very different from the Western World. How does foreign political systems work, and what does democracy mean in the different countries? How do you know if the elections are pre-rigged or if the result is manipulated afterwards? The articles tell stories about anxiety and celebration in several countries, like Zimbabwe, South Africa, Venezuela, East Timor and the US.

Contains these articles: Sentimental journey (André Brink), Elections the African way (Tomm Kristiansen), Power and media, a Latin American perspective (Alejandro Benalla), Democracy, a word and a concept, used and misused (Knud Vilby), When the rigging starts (Andrew Meldrum), ‘Money - like water - will always find an outlet’ (Bjørn Hansen), East Timor’s struggle for independence (Jonathan Head), The democratic chaos (Chris Tomlinson), Indigenous peoples and elections (Chandra Roy) and Getting ready for election day (Anne Hege Simonsen).

Note: For more information, see http://www.ij-forlaget.no/
Politics and Persuasion: Media Coverage of Zimbabwe’s 2000 Election

When The Daily News was established in 1999, it provided a political alternative to the state-run media in Zimbabwe. The opposition was given an important channel of communication, and the voters had, for the first time, access to competing media reports and coverage of political issues. This change made the 2000 election the most exiting and open election in the country’s short history. The author provides valuable insight to the political development of Zimbabwe, and against this background he examines how important political questions and events are covered by the press and the television.

Note: For more information, see http://www.weaverpresszimbabwe.com/ or http://www.unipub.no/

Other new literature


During the last few years a new study object has been presented for the media studies, the computer game. Computer games resemble other expressions like film, theatre, and literature, but are in the same time different. When exploring new phenomenon, the researcher has to estimate whether it is valid to transfer more general theories and models derived from established disciplines that examines related phenomenon, or if it, on the contrary, is essential to establish new theories and models particularly adjusted the new phenomenon. The author examines a text-based adventure game where the quest establishes the framework for the players’ tasks. One often thinks of this framework as a narration that the player realizes by solving the quest. By trying out different theoretical approaches derived from game research, literature studies and theatre studies, the author shows why it still is not especially favourable to use the narration as a model when analyzing quests. As a model the narration assumes that the quest is already solved, and consequently it can neither catch the player’s experience of the quest. To approach the quest like it appears to the player, the researcher can instead use the seduction as model. The seduction is exactly a game, where the one who is seduced allow him/her self to be lead astray in hope of understanding or conquer the seducer. In such a way, the seduction resembles the quest experience, according to the author.

COMPUTER GAMES • THEATRE • ART • TEXT • NARRATOLOGY • TUBMUD

Ihlen, Øyvind: Rhetoric and resources in public relations strategies: a rhetorical and sociological analysis of two conflicts over energy and the environment. (Oslo), Universitetet i Oslo, 2004, 366 p., (Acta humaniora; 203), (Universitetet i Oslo, Institutt for medier og kommunikasjon). Note: Dissertation: Dr.art.

The aim of this dissertation is to discuss the influence that organizations have on public policies through their rhetoric and use of resources. The empirical focus is on public relations strategies regarding the public policy area on energy and the environment. Two case studies are conducted, centering on what have been the two most controversial environmental conflicts in Norway; the first concerns a hydroelectric development and the second relates to the building of gas-fired power plants. The environmentalists lost the first conflict, whereas the latter plants have still not been built. The theoretical starting point for the dissertation is within the realm of rhetorical studies of public relations, but it is argued that these studies have seldom contained specific suggestions for how to go about broad-based analyses. Furthermore, it is claimed that the studies have remained ontologically underdeveloped, which means that they do not offer analytical frameworks that make it possible to account adequately for organizational actors’ influ-
ence on, for instance, matters of public policy. The dissertation thus contains a suggestion for a heuristic analytical device drawing on a wide range of rhetorical concepts, combined with a sociological analysis of resources like economic capital, degree of institutionalization, knowledge, networks, and social standing. Historical reconstructions are made of the two cases. The research material is a sample of public relations material from the organizational actors, including brochures and advertisements, but also other texts, such as applications for building permits, and comments made to newspapers. Furthermore, qualitative interviews were conducted with representatives of the organizations involved. To assess the influence of the organizational actors, their rhetoric is compared to that found in parliamentary documents. In addition, analytical inferences are made between the actors’ rhetorical strategies, possession, and use of particular resources, and the outcomes of the conflicts.

GOVERNMENT POLICY • PUBLIC RELATIONS • COMMUNICATION PLANNING • ENVIRONMENT • RHETORIC • ORGANIZATIONS

Articles


SPORT • COMPUTER GAMES • DIGITAL MEDIA • VIOLENCE • NARRATOLOGY • LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

Ihlen, Øyvind: Norwegian hydroelectric power: testing a heuristic for analyzing symbolic strategies and resources. Public relations review 30(2004)2, pp. 217-223, ISSN 0363-8111

Symbolic and material dimensions are largely ignored in public relations theory. This is curious, since public relations helps organizations pursue their interests with the help of rhetorical strategies and various other resources. In order to grasp such processes, a comprehensive heuristic analytical device is suggested which draws on rhetorical and sociological theory, and was tested in a qualitative case study, the Norwegian conflict over hydroelectric power.

ENVIRONMENT • PUBLIC RELATIONS • RHETORIC • COMMUNICATION PLANNING • ORGANIZATIONS


SPORT • FINANCING • MARKET • BROADCASTING • AUDIENCES


SPORT • BROADCASTING • COMMERCIAL RADIO • LOCAL RADIO • BRANDING • SPONSORSHIP • COVERAGE
Communication as Structuration. Viewing Learning Through the Lens of Communication


This dissertation is about enlightening the relationship between organizational communication and learning. In doing so, the author explore and build upon existing theories that address the relationship from a structuration perspective.

Specifically, the author turn to discursive communication theory and sociocultural learning theory. Both of these theories place emphasis on the everyday communication of actors in the process of organizational learning and structuring. To offer precision to these conceptualizations, two client servicing processes within two distinct organizations are studied. While one of the processes is a decentralized, communication-intense process, the other is a centralized, technology-driven process. For both processes, the employees’ communicative interactions with colleagues and external actors in the context of their organizational structures are analysed. Using a strategy for theoretical development inspired by Charles Sanders Peirce, the author offer inferences on how those communicative interactions – for both types of processes – potentially shape their future activities.

Intersecting Identities: Young People, Religion, and Interaction on the Internet


The growth of the Internet gave rise to many anticipations and apprehensions of how the new medium would affect the construction of meaning, individual identities, and social interaction. As humanity’s oldest expression of existential meaning, religion provides a challenging case for such studies. This study approaches these issues through an analysis of how 15 young Swedish men and women experience and use a particular web community, the Site, in constructing religious identities.

The study took place during the year 2000, through a combination of online observations, offline interviews and text analysis. Starting from Ammerman’s concept of religious autobiographies - the individual self as constructed in interactions with religious discourses throughout life - the study argues that the Internet can become a significant resource in this process, but that this possibility is structured by certain conditions. An analysis of the repertoire of possibilities of the Site - formed by the range of discourses, social relations, rules of interaction, and mode of communication - shows that these conditions contribute to polarized interactions and stereotyped identities, which restrict possibilities to question and reassess previously held convictions and
boundaries. The analysis of individual strategies for negotiating these conditions shows that intentions, dilemmas and competences in the individuals repertoire of experiences affect when, how and for whom the Internet can become this resource.

Finally, the study points to some significant conditions in the offline context which affect the process. The study outlines a framework, based on Linderman’s model of social semiotics, Slevin’s theory of the Internet and cultural transmission, and Fairclough’s discourse analysis, for the analysis of particular cases of meaning construction on the Internet. Furthermore, this framework suggests ways in which a case of religious identity construction on the Internet can be related to theories about transformation of religion and identities in late modern society.

Media Research in Progress. JMK Conference Contributions 2002


The series the Stockholm Media Studies aims to inform about ongoing research at the Department of Journalism, media and Communication (JMK) at Stockholm University.

This first volume contains papers by JMK researchers and PhD students presented at international conferences during 2002.

Following articles are included: Bearing photographic witness to traumatic public events: Newspaper front pages of the September 11 terrorist attacks (Kari Andén-Papadopoulou), Queer media?: Or; What has queer theory to do with media studies? (Yvonne Andersson), Youth culture – a matter of taste: media consumption and style in Estonia and Sweden (Stina Bengtsson & Lars Lundgren), Media and modernities: The cases of Brazil and Russia (Jan Ekecrantz, Rousiley C M Maia & Céres P S Castro), Gazes, sexuality and gendered modes of address (Anja Hirdman), World War II action videogames as post-modern fantasy (Eva Kingsepp), Gender constructions in connection with introduction of communication technologies: the introduction of broadcasting in Sweden: some examples of how the daily press described the new media (Madeleine Kleberg), Juvenile crime and the Swedish media in a historical perspective: a series of contextualised, cross-sectional studies of the years 1955, 1975 and 1995 (Ester Pollack), Changing crossroads: an interplay between art, art discourses and media technologies: the art of Peter Hagdahl as construed in the art critique in Dagens Nyheter and Svenska Dagbladet: a historical perspective (Anna Orrhgen) and “We can hear each other’s thoughts”: collective, governmentality and the question of origin (Merja Takala).
The Evolution of a New(s)Genre


This thesis describes and analyzes how the online newspaper genre has evolved since its inception on the Internet in the mid-nineties. The overall research question is: What characterizes the online newspaper genre evolution?

The thesis is based on both synchronic and diachronic studies with a multimethod approach (including six different studies involving, e.g., interviews, questionnaires and web site analyses) intended to provide a comprehensive picture of this genre evolution.

On the basis of genre theory, the thesis proposes a framework for understanding online newspaper genre evolution, integrating design (layout) aspects with publisher and audience views. Applying this framework to the collected empirical material, the thesis presents a comprehensive and integrated view of this evolution.

Over time, online newspapers have evolved into a specific digital genre, with genre characteristics such as content and form, distinguishing them from other digital genres. However, this rapid development has also led to diversities in form and function, triggering both academics and practitioners to seek ways to design for consistency within the genre.


Information and communication are increasingly being conveyed over the Internet. The forms of service and commerce that we are familiar with today will most likely be reduced in scale in the future to be replaced by new electronic solutions. For this reason, it is important that new technology be designed so that as many people as possible can utilize it. Accessibility to a range of different kinds of services and information is a vital cornerstone of a democratic society’s vision of participation by all.

In this research, accessibility is primarily elucidated from the perspective of people with disabilities and in particular those with cognitive limitations. At an early stage, people with cognitive limitations were included in the project and through their participation the user’s situation had a central position in the research. An expert group of professionals discussed the theoretical and developmental issues involved. The practical applications were developed in an iterative process with representatives of the end users. By making use of observation techniques, the work of the two groups could be joined together to form a whole.

The studies describe aspects of Internet accessibility from three different angles: 1) Accessibil-
The thesis makes three contributions. Firstly, a genre perspective on interaction design is described, revealing broadly in what respects genre affects design. Secondly, the online newspaper genre is described. Based on a content analysis of online newspaper front-pages, and interviews with users and producers, genre specific design recommendations regarding hypertext news front-page design are given. A content analysis of Swedish online newspapers provides a basis for a design rationale of the context stream element, which is an important part of the news context on article pages. Regarding hyper video news, design rationale is given for the presentation of hyper video links, in the context of a hypermedia news site. The impact on news production in terms of dynamics of convergence is also discussed. Thirdly, the design processes in co-operative scenario building workshops are evaluated, regarding how the users and producers were able to contribute. It provides implications and lessons learned for the workshop phase model. A discourse analysis also reveals important facilitator skills and how participants relied on genre in the design process.

This doctoral thesis discusses the competence structures and the development of human capital in the graphic arts and media sector. The study has focused on exploring the new media landscape and in particular the structural changes that influence the sector, the print-versus electronic-media debate and the future of print media. The influence of new technologies and management concepts on the graphic arts and media sector has also been investigated, as has the role and the importance of people in new societal and industrial settings as well as new ways of managing and developing people in changing media environments.
The primary research objective was to identify the competence requirements and characteristics for existing and potential employees in the graphic arts and media sector and, in particular, the areas of digital printing and cross-media publishing. The second objective was to elucidate the various actions and strategies established and applied for the professional development of people in the graphic arts and media sector, such as further training, recruitment policies and the evaluation and certification of competence. The third objective of the study was to suggest the formation of a strategy for the professional development of people in the graphic arts and media sector – namely the creation of a human capital development strategy. An important issue was to identify the various components (or sub strategies) of the strategy and determine if it was possible to integrate them under a common platform.

The work has been based on literature studies, industry reports and observations, market analyses and forecasts, and empirical studies. Participatory research methods have also been used. In addition, case-study research has been performed at the company and sector levels. Human resource management and development concepts have been surveyed to determine whether they are efficient for the professional development of people in the entire spectrum of an industry sector.

MASS MEDIA • MEDIA STRUCTURE • TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE • DIGITALIZATION • MANAGEMENT • VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Wester-Herber, Misse: Talking to me?: risk communication to a diverse public. Örebro universitet, Institutionen för beteende-, social- och rättsvetenskap, 2004, 78 p. + 4 papers, ISBN 91-7668-409-1, (Örebro studies in psychology; 4), ISSN ISSN 1651-1328. Note: Dr. diss. Also available on the Internet: http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:oru:diva-79

This thesis focuses on the process of communication of environmental risks. A basic assumption in this thesis is that even though ambitious risk communication efforts can take place, the intended recipients are left with a feeling of alienation: Talking to me?

The thesis presents a review of theories developed in the field of risk communication research and theories concerning risk perception. Results in this thesis are based on the findings in four papers. The first two papers report results from traditional risk communication strategies that have taken place in Sweden in accordance with the Seveso II Directive. The third paper looks at how industry and organizations view participatory strategies that include stakeholders in risk debates. The fourth paper attempts to fuse together place identity and risk perception in order to broaden the understanding of environmental conflicts.

COMMUNICATION • RISKS • PERCEPTION • PARTICIPATION • IDENTITY


Currently usability research and practice are facing a challenge. The focus of design concerns is expanding from predominantly functional aspects of IT systems to overall user experience, which has direct implications for the area of usability evaluation. The aim of the study reported in this thesis is to explore the potential of traditional usability evaluation approaches to deal with issues related to user experience, such as fun and entertainment.

The empirical study reported in the thesis deals with fun and entertainment, employs concepts and methods of web usability, and specifically focuses on the so-called entertainment web sites (EWSs). Existing studies and the most relevant theories of fun and usability are examined to determine to which extent these can shed light on evaluation of fun and usability. Then apparently to establish if these theories can help operationalize fun and entertainment as aspects of web usability. It is concluded that evaluation of fun and usability remains an open issue. In the study, traditional usability evaluation methods are applied on EWSs and based on these results the methods are revised. Finally, these revised methods are used in evaluations of EWSs once more.

Articles


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