New Literature
Denmark
Documentalist: Peder Grøngaard

Film Style and Story: A Tribute to Torben Grodal

Style and story are two of the most debated concepts in film studies today. Taking a cognitive perspective, the anthology focuses explicitly on the stylistic portrayal of human behaviour in film, ranging from studies of specific visual patterns to sound montages. Contributions to this volume all share two characteristics: they explore the ways in which styles and stories interact, and they are inspired by the work of Torben Grodal, professor of Film and Media Studies, University of Copenhagen.


Note: For further information, see: http://www.mtp.dk/

24 Questions for Planned Communication

When working with communication products, careful planning is everything. In the production of a successful video, radio programme, exhibition, play, article, poster etc., one first has to consider a wide range of questions. The media themselves may be very different, but the reflections behind the media products have a great deal in common. This book is written for professionals involved in the design and manufacture of media products that carry information effectively from public or private organizations to specific groups of people. A media producer who can give proper answers to the 24 questions in this book is well on the way to making a successful communication.

Note: For further information, see: http://www.samfundslitteratur.dk/
Global Trends in Media Education: Policies and Practices


Over the last decades media education has gradually obtained an educational status in many countries around the world, although few countries have actually incorporated this subject in their formal school curricula. Where media education is taught today, it is principally carried out using a relaxed, pluralistic and cross-or multidisciplinary approach. This book sets out to explore this new approach to the subject with chapters that are representative of ongoing work by leading media education researchers in nine different countries and from five continents. Media education is continually evolving and the individual chapters indicate that the passion for the subject is global while the actual translations of practices and policies are very much local. The book expands the debate about media education beyond the traditions and interests of one part of the world to encompass the needs of the rest.

Contains among other things the following article: Birgitte Tuft: Media: the alternative school.

Note: For further information, see: no website.

Researching Audiences


How do young audiences play with the cultural spectacle offered by reality shows like "Big Brother"? How does interactive media influence the learning process in educational and everyday settings? How can corporate communicators address their ethical commitment more effectively to the general public? And is there a link between television viewing and violent behaviour? The book is a practical, hands-on guide to the main types of empirical fieldwork that have established themselves in academic, policy and commercial audience research. It will help you explore what audience members do with the media, how they make sense of the media, and how the media may influence social affairs from the micro to the macro level. The book introduces and discusses four complementary key approaches to empirical research: Media ethnography, reception research, survey research, and experimental research.

Note: For further information, see: http://www.arnoldpublishers.com/

This publication brings together four central works, one by each faculty member of the Research Unit for Visual Arts Education at the Danish University of Education. The texts cover a wide range of issues in visual arts education, and they represent different viewpoints about some of the central challenges to the field, such as contemporary art, digital pictures, and the concept of aesthetic learning. Contains the following articles: Helene Illeris: The field of visual arts education in Denmark and its relation to the field of art, Mies Buhl: Challenges to visual arts education posed by contemporary art, Ingelise Flensborg: Aesthetic perception in graphical user interfaces, Kristian Pedersen: Aesthetic learning and pictorial process.

MEDIA EDUCATION • PICTURES • CHILDREN • PEDAGOGY


TELEVISION NEWS • COVERAGE • TERRORISM • CRISIS
Finland
Documentalist: Eija Poteri


This report publishes results – papers, findings and proposals – from the Nordic seminar on digital television, Torshavn September 12-14, 2002 which approached digital television development in the Nordic countries from the point of view of consumers, users and citizens.

Organised by the Nordic Advisory Committee on Consumer Affairs, the seminar aimed at initiating a dialogue between consumer organisations and researchers in order to map out research problems and approaches for consumer-led digital television development. The seminar presentations surveyed changes of media consumption in domestic and community contexts, the uses of audience research and insight in programme development, and the need for user-orientation in regulation and policy-making.


_The Global and the National. Media and Communications in Post-communist Russia_


This book focuses on the development of post-Soviet media and communications in Russia – a newly globalized environment following radical social change. Unique empirical research on new communications technologies, news agencies, television and advertising in Russia shows how the experience and effects of globalization which initially played a liberating role in the downfall of communism, are being transformed by the reassertion of the national. This book challenges conventional assumptions about globalization and contributes to a better understanding of its theoretical base, as well as its effects on non-Western countries.


This study draws together a number of popular issues: images, intercultural communication and Japan. The Japanese economical miracle awoke a real boom in the Western literature at the end of 1970s, and in the 1980s the miracle became a fashionable topic in the Western world. The aim of this study is to examine ”images of Japan and the Japanese in the Western world” on the basis of the literature targeted at Western audiences during the big boom. Thus the main research question is ”What kind of images of Japan and the Japanese have been created in the popular literature targeted at Western audiences”. The research technique used is content analysis. The methodological and theoretical perspective is that of the image. This study adopts an intercultural communication approach. A combination of several problematic concepts are discussed: images, stereotypes, culture and the West.

Note: E-mail for book orders: kirjamyynti@kampusdata.fi

Intercultural Competence as Part of Professional Qualifications. A Training Experiment with Bachelor of Engineering Students


The globalization of working life sets new kinds of requirements on various organizations in which intercultural competence should be understood as part of knowledge management and tacit knowledge and as a source of competitive advantage and added value. The present study is a training experiment in intercultural communication to Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) students (n 11) at Kajaani Polytechnic, Finland. The study aimed at assessing the effectiveness of intercultural training in developing the students cognition, affect and behavior and skills. The study also aimed at mapping out what kind of communicators the students are and would like to be, whether they are motivated to develop their competence and what they think about intercultural training.

Note: E-mail for book orders: kirjamyynti@kampusdata.fi
The articles in this book are examples of the questions that have been studied at the media culture research programme arranged by the Academy of Finland. The aim of the research programme was to broadly analyze the versatile and rapidly changing field of the media. The everyday media and its use stood out as a shared research topic. The book includes the following articles: Knuuttila, Seppo: *The problem of the everyday in the information society*, Luukka, Minna-Riitta: *Youth in the (new) media landscape: emerging practices, forms and meanings*, Sihvonen, Jukka: *Medium is the mustard: media usage and the transformations of everyday experience*, Salokangas, Raimo: *The egg and the hen: broadcasting and the possibility of a common national culture*, Peltonen, Matti: *Why not study the history of needs?: reflections born during the research on the everyday use of media*, Väliverronen, Esa: *Mediating time: on the construction of genetically modified futures in television news*, Picard, Robert G.: *Media economics, content and diversity: primary results from a Finnish study*, Nurmi, Kari E.: *Semiotics of media-based learning materials: two cases of hidden narratives*, Ginman, Mariam: *Citizens, health and the changing media culture*.

The Mobility of Radio Listening. The Transition of Radio as a Medium and Its Significance to Listeners in Finland


This thesis is concerned with the transition of radio as a medium and its significance for listeners in Finland. It is based on an analysis of radio listening data collected in 1993 and 1999. The main focus is on everyday uses and meanings of radio listening. Geographical, textual and technological mobility of radio listening is studied at a technical, institutional and programming level. Overall, the mobility of radio in everyday life is a highly complex concept, meaning different things to different listeners. Although radio is regarded as an invisible and secondary media, it occupies a special socio-technical space in listeners’ everyday life. Changes in media scenery and the integration of digital radio technology with other media means that listening is set to become even more mobile in the future.

The Polysemous Contemporary Concept. The Rhetoric of the Cultural Industry


The aim of the study is to deliver understanding on the change of the concept of the cultural industry. It also aims at explicating the situation of the neutral and positive use of the concept in
contemporary cultural policies. The conceptual change is studied via analysing major Western traditions on this issue. A rhetorical point of view on conceptual history employed by Quentin Skinner is used as a methodological approach in the study.

As a result the study proposes eight possible meanings in employing the concept of cultural industry: critical, dialectical, emancipatory, cynical, descriptive, normative, legitimatory and instrumental. They are historical layers and all of them employed also in contemporary situation. Each of these meanings point at the specific rhetorical redescriptions of the situation of cultural and aesthetic production. These redescriptions legitimate the tone of writing and the meanings given to the concept.

Religious Media Theory. Understanding Mediated Faith and Christian Applications of Modern Media


The study presents basic research into the recently formed field of studies on media and religion, and it generates universal descriptions and explanations as well as more operational models on religious media communication, for the first time in the field. The source material is taken from various Christian traditions: the Roman Catholic church, the mainline Protestant tradition, the Evangelical Protestant tradition, and Eastern Orthodoxy. The primary data is based on Internet-material as well as drawn from interviews of key persons in Finland, Italy, Russia and the USA. The scope and setting is large in order to be able to provide comprehensive and valid data for theory construction. The study is an inter-disciplinary effort that draws from the fields of sociology, media studies, cultural studies and theology. The study has a strong phenomenological orientation with an attempt to line up various traditions and case studies for comparison.

Välittämisen tiede. Viestinnän näkökulmia yhteiskuntaan, kulttuuriin ja kansalaisuuteen. [The science of mediation and caring. Communicational viewpoints of society, culture and citizenship]


This jubilee book celebrates Professor Ullamaa Kivikuru at her 60th birthday. In this book, several authors examine society, culture and communality from the viewpoint of communication. The main focus is an issues that lie at the heart of Professor Kivikuru’s work. Professor Kivikuru is an internationally renowned scholar who has written extensively on international and development communication. The first part of the book deals with these fields of research as well as communication study in general. The second part of the book concentrates on the questions of citizenship and on the ways in which it is connected to such topics as identity, communality, news and media.

The English articles are: Jan Servaes: Participatory communication research (PCR); Cees J. Hamelink: Thoughts on development, empowerment, dialogue and compassion; Annabelle Sreberny: Gender, communication and development; Ulla Carlsson: The rise and fall of NWICO, and then?; Ruth Teer-Tomaselli & Thembisa Mjwacu: Developing the
communicative competence – the potentials and limitations of community radio; Halliki Harro & Epp Lauk: Self-regulation – watch-dog’s collar or shelter for the guild?; Juhani Koponen: The structure of foreign news revisited.

**Women & Everyday Uses of the Internet. Agency & Identity**


This book investigates the forms and codes of the Internet as a popular medium and the ways in which women figure as users, content producers, and target audiences. Interdisciplinary and international in scope, the book addresses issues of gendered identity and agency in the wider framework of consumer culture and uses of new media. The chapters present case studies providing insights into the uses of the Internet as an every day medium and varying locations and forms of its gendered use.

Finnish authors are: Virpi Oksman writing on virtual stables on the Internet as girls’ own computer culture, Susanna Paasonen writing on gender, identity and play on the Internet, and Marja Vehviläinen writing on gendered agency in information society.

*Note:* Editor’s web page: www.translocal.net/susanna/

**Articles**


Digital Media Revisited. Theoretical and Conceptual Innovation in Digital Domains


Digital media have been approached as a new and challenging subject matter for more than a decade. “First encounters”, from a variety of academic disciplines, have already applied traditional theoretical and conceptual frameworks to digital media – and now it is time to revisit the field. The contributors to this book call for a second-order approach, in which the first-encounter experience is included and reflected. Through insights from literary theory, semiotics, philosophy, aesthetics, ethics, media studies, sociology, and education, they construct new positions from which to observe digital media in a fresh and meaningful way. The book is organized in four sections: education and interdisciplinarity, design and aesthetics, rhetoric and interpretation, and social theory and ethics.

Contains the following articles: Introduction (Gunnar Liestøl, Andrew Morrison and Terje Rasmussen), Theory and practice in new media studies (Jay David Bolter), The paradigm is more important than the purchase: educational innovation and hypertext theory (George P. Landow), The challenge of digital learning environments in higher education: the need for a merging of perspectives on standardization (Jon Lanestedt), The Internet and its double: voice in electracies (Gregory L. Ulmer), From oracy to electracies: hypernarrative, place, and multimodal discourses in learning (Andrew Morrison), The reading senses: designing texts for multisensory systems (Maribeth Back), Acting machines (Peter Bøgh Andersen), Performing the MUD adventure (Ragnhild Tronstad), Digital art and design poetics: the poetical potentials of projection and interaction (Lars Qvortrup), Low tech-high concept: digital media, art, and the state of the arts (Stian Grøgaard), Rhetorical convergence: studying web media (Anders Fagerjord), Computer games and the ludic structure of interpretation (Eva Liestøl), "Next Level": women’s digital activism through gaming (Mary Flanagan), "Gameplay": from synthesis to analysis (and vice versa): topics of conceptualization and construction in digital media (Gunnar Liestøl), We all want to change the world: the ideology of innovation in digital media (Espen Aarseth), On distributed society: the Internet as a guide to a sociological understanding of communication (Terje Rasmussen), Proper distance: toward an ethics for cyberspace (Roger Silverstone), "Making voices": new media technologies, disabilities, and articulation (Ingunn Moser and John Law), and The good, the bad, and the virtual: ethics in the age of information (Mark Poster).

Note: For more information, see http://www.mitpress.mit.edu/
Other new literature


The focus of study for the thesis is a mediated anti-smoking campaign directed at adolescents. More particularly, the author studies how persuasion theory and formative research was used to develop this public communication campaign, and what the effects were. The study consists of three parts: The first presents general problems of campaign development through use of formative research and persuasion theory. This is seen in relation to the issue of smoking prevention and the theoretical foundation for the study is established. A set of hypotheses and expectations are also formed. The second part provides a detailed discussion of message selection procedures that concludes with concrete pieces of advice to be used by the campaign developers. Part three evaluates the real effects of the implemented campaign, and also gives a judgement of the effects and the degree of influence according to the formative research expectations.


Digital media are challenging and changing our definitions and practices of literacy. This research investigates how this may be understood and investigated through the development of three multimedia webs for learning in higher education in the areas of college communication, legal discourse and art education. Together these webs formed a project called HyperLand. Based in Zimbabwe, (and on the theme of land), the inquiry is reported in three case studies. These include comments from the makers and users of these digital learning resources. The thesis shows how digital media may be developed and critiqued from within an African higher education system and that students may play and active and innovative role in investigating the changing character, not only of literacy, but of electronic literacies, or electracies.


The thesis is a history of cultural perception in sound. It is oriented towards the two media radio and musical recording, and it interprets a range of innovations in handicraft and domestic listening strategies thorough the 20th century. The Anglo-American cultural field is the focus of investigations. Perception is a question of meaningfulness for the individual, and this entails that descriptions of the bodily engagement with an apparatus are crucial to the dissertation. Furthermore, engagements with radio and musical recordings are strikingly auditory, and the dissertation investigates the historical development of mediated auditory rhetoric. Among the cases discussed are early 20th century operatic recordings, sociability radio of the 1930s, the luxurious mono sound of 1950s LPs, edited reportage in post-war radio, 1960s multitrack studio practices, the lunar transmission in 1969, digital production of techno and pop from the 1980s, and present time phone-in programming. The theoretical argument of the thesis could be called ‘materialist’. It is a blend of phenomenology, philosophy of technology, rhetoric and medium theory.


The thesis is an analysis of telecommunications policy in Norway, Denmark and Ireland. The point of departure of the study is that access to telecommunications services is an increasingly important resource for citizens in order to achieve information and participate in society. At the same time, telecommunications infrastructure and services have been liberalised and are no longer provided by the state. The political challenge arising from this situation is therefore how to ensure universal access to important telecommunications services in a liberalised market. The author presents a normative analysis of which role the concern for distributive justice has played in the political debate on telecommunications, how telecommunications have been re-regulated during the 1990s in order to ensure universal access to important services, and how these regulations have been implemented.

**Articles**


**Public Relations • Crisis • Rhetoric • Communication Planning**


**Public Relations • Rhetoric • Sociology • Management**
Will broadcasting survive convergence, and should it survive? If yes, why and in what form? The questions were fundamental to the RIPE@2002 conference in Finland and lay the groundwork for this book, representing the culmination of nearly two years of fruitful collaboration between media scholars and practitioners with a keen focus on the future of public service media. The contents help set the stage for the RIPE@2004 conference being organised in Denmark.

The essential idea behind Re-visionary Interpretations of the Public Enterprise [RIPE] is a recognition that conceptual justification for public service broadcasting no longer resonates. The authors in this volume explore various dimensions about what is different to any compelling degree about the public service approach that convincingly justifies its remit today, and about what contemporary ingredients could fruitfully reframe its conceptual and operational designs.

This book is relevant to discourse and policy about a quality of public life interdependent with social processes that continue to respect and also defend values that nourish media pluralism, cultural diversity, political democracy and social tolerance. The book begins with the large-scale society and policy framework, moving next to the institutional framework and organizational practices, and concludes with consideration of reception and application. The authors also represent the Trans-Atlantic nature of the RIPE initiative.

During the Vietnam War the Swedish-Americans felt they were in an uncomfortable position. As a group they had been tied to the Republican Party and conservative politics for generations. They identified themselves as loyal and patriotic Americans and had come to support U.S. foreign policy. They also identified themselves with Sweden, and this double posed few problems before the Sixties. Sweden’s criticism of U.S. policy in Vietnam and moral support for the FNL movement unsettled this easy dual identity, pressuring Swedish-Americans to either support or defend one side against the other.

This thesis examines how fifteen Swedish-American newspapers commented on these issues of war and identity. From a gatekeeping perspective of news flow, the Swedish Foreign Ministry had influence over the immigrant papers in North America. It had set up a system to provide news of Swedish culture, politics, and current events to the Swedish-American press free of charge. In reporting Sweden’s Vietnam policy, the emigrant newspapers relied heavily on the Swedish newspaper Sverige-Nytt. The U.S.-Swedish conflict over Vietnam got reported in a Swedish perspective in the emigrant press. From a community-press perspective, the Swedish-American papers, as Svenska-Amerikanaren, Tribunen, Svenska Posten, Nordstjernan and others, often commented on this conflict in different ways.

The dissertation analyses how large daily newspapers in Sweden have used the Internet in business. The focus is put on the managerial challenge of handling the Internet as a new distribution technology in the newspaper world.

Three of the most important changes that newspaper companies are faced with when going on-line are the intensified competition for people’s attention, the possibility for the newspaper to serve smaller communities more accurately, and the need for newspapers to handle two distribution forms at the same time.

The dissertation presents a model over newspaper companies’ strategies in this new setting, to facilitate understanding of the phenomenon. The strategies are in the model described as consisting of attention generating mechanisms, the upholding and strengthening of community relations, and the composition of the information service bundles.
that newspaper companies offer their customers. The character of each component together with the relation between them defines what in the dissertation is called the interface strategy. The goal of interface strategies is to achieve cognitive dominance in the communities that the newspapers serve with information. Cognitive dominance is introduced in the dissertation as a description of the strategic goal on a market for information goods such as the Internet.

Interface strategies are focused on the way companies relate to their customers. The new technology makes a closer relation to the customers possible. It is in the dissertation argued that this developed relation between the newspapers and the customer communities is useful during periods of industrial change since the company, if the interface is managed successfully, has the possibility of changing together with the customer.

The research for the dissertation was made with a number of different qualitative methods (e.g. case studies). It builds on observations from seventeen newspapers, of these ten of the eleven largest Swedish daily newspapers.

**Internet Grocery Shopping. A Necessity, a Pleasurable Adventure, or an Act of Love? A Longitudinal Study 1998-2003 of 23 Swedish Households**


Shopping for groceries on the Internet has been an alternative for Swedish consumers since 1996. Despite a huge interest in this behavior from consumers, retailers and the media, Internet grocery shopping has not diffused among the Swedish consumers. Many of the Internet grocery distributors have shut down their business. At present there are only a few distributors still offering their consumers the opportunity of Internet grocery shopping. The majority of the Internet grocery shoppers returned to the physical grocery store after some time of Internet shopping.

This study analyzes changes in the behavior of shoppers as they become more experienced when shopping for groceries on the Internet. It also studies why consumers disadopt Internet grocery shopping. In order to do so, a longitudinal study between the years 1998-2003 has been carried out, with 23 Swedish households. The results stem from a mix of qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews, diary-writing (referred to as introspection) and collages.

The empirical material is analyzed from three different theoretical perspectives; a rational, decision-making perspective, an experiential perspective and an anthropological perspective, where shopping is treated as an act of love.
The Image War. Nato’s Battle for Kosovo in the British Media

The volume investigates the role and impact of propaganda in the British news coverage of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

This is done primarily through an analysis of British television, complemented by press coverage during certain periods throughout the conflict, and through an interview-based study of British journalists’ perception of the propaganda strategies used by the protagonists. This is complemented by journalists’ experience of the restrictions, censorship and propaganda strategies employed and their attempts to counteract them.

Screen Rites, A Study of Swedish Young People’s Use and Meaning-Making of Screen-Based Media in Everyday Life

We are all aware of how many different media have become a familiar equipment in the home, perceived as any other furnityre. The media have become more or less unconsciously intertwined in everyday routines. As the media environment is continuously in a phase of transformation, it is crucial to gain knowledge about children’s and adolescents’ own understanding and interpretation of their mediarelated practices and how media use is integrated in everyday life.

The author discusses Swedish young people’s use, perception, and meaning-making of the screen-based media – television and computer (in terms of computer games and Internet) – in the circumplex of day-to-day mediated and non-mediated events in their leisure time. The research focus of the thesis is placed on the home per se, as this is the place where young people have most of their media activities. For computer games the ages 8/9 and 12/13 are considered, while the age groups 12/13 and 15/16 are of interest for television and Internet.

Other new literature

Brands have become one of the most discussed phenomena of marketing research in recent years. They are ubiquitous in the marketplace and virtually impossible for consumers to avoid. The corporate obsession with brands is likely to continue since the wealth of “how-to-do-branding” strategy handbooks suggest that brands are the magical panacea for creating superior business performance. In short, we live in a branded world, where companies seek to win and dominate markets by imposing brand meanings on consumers. This dissertation focuses on consumers’ use of brands in their everyday lives and examines how consumers develop and negotiate meanings for mixed-brands. The practice of mixing brands, also commonly referred to as co-branding,
is a brand strategy gaining favor in the marketplace, where two or more brands are used as co-endorsers for a product. As brands become linked to each other through such co-endorsements, there is a possibility that consumers develop and negotiate a variety of symbolic meanings for the brand couple. This dissertation will illustrate how consumers deal with these symbolic meanings and how they interpret this particular brand strategy.

MARKET • CONSUMPTION • BEHAVIOUR • EVERYDAY LIFE


INTERNET • YOUTH • IDENTITY • CHAT GROUPS • MEDIA USE • WORLD WIDE WEB


The dissertation straddles the interface of mass media, social engineering and advertising in 1930s Stockholm. Its twofold objective is firstly to outline their cultural output, targeting predominantly feminine audiences. Discussions oscillate between intertextual and contextual levels, and elucidate the spaces providing the respective settings for these media. Advertising is claimed to establish spatio-temporal spheres where the everyday meets with the semifictional framework of films or tie-in contests, which are thereby expanded in multifarious ways. The study also argues that newsreels visualize history overlooked in canonized history writing, by providing documentary and navigatory instruments in urban milieus now lost.

Secondly. The study encircles two sets of discourses underpinning the mass media of the nascent welfare state, the former encompassing advertising, hygiene and eugenics. The latter is a prismatic construction of the public – highlighted as citizens, consumers and patients. Exhibitions and non-fiction films often encourage spectators to compare their life projects, medical profiles and lifestyles with those of object lessons or newsreels, channeling imperatives into them by elevating their everyday experiences and concerns to issues of national importance. The methodology is partly drawn from early film and visual culture theory, partly from feminist early film scholarship on filmgoing and the problematic of feminine mobility in consumerist culture. Contrary to the conceptualization of feminine flânerie as contained by patriarchal capitalism, the dissertation hold that a gender-coded framework does not nullify the value of women’s mobility, or reduce it to capitalist goals. A wider understanding of consumerist spaces and venues entails treating them as spheres simultaneously harboring commercially homogenizing and polysemic capacities.

AUDIENCES • WOMEN • ADVERTISING • SOCIAL CHANGE


The aim of this study is to come to an understanding of the meanings of words pertaining to acts of political violence in modern Arabic and Hebrew. The semantics of these terms will be established by comparison between the meaning in dictionaries of modern and classical Arabic and Hebrew, the meaning in the Koran and the Bible as well as the meaning we extract from the context in the newspapers where the terminology is found. Furthermore, the aim is to find indirect Arab and Israeli definitions of terrorism through the study of journalistic discourse describing different kinds of violence. As such it focuses on legal in contrast to illegal violence and on how Israelis and Arabs use this terminology in their propaganda against ‘the enemy’.

A method is tested, where we measure the frequency of terms that we find in the press and that we placed under the four titles of ‘the perpetrator’, ‘the victim’, ‘the act’ and ‘the name of the enemy’. Our later conclusions are based on this frequency and the established meaning. This method may be one way to reduce the risks of bias in research of media.

Finally, the study examines Arab and Israeli press reactions to the events of 11/9 2001 and the, still continuing, ‘War on Terrorism’.

MASS MEDIA • LANGUAGE • TERRORISM • CONFLICTS

Sweden is often considered a high-technology country, and the Swedes as a strongly pro-technology nation. The dramatic diffusion of personal computers in Swedish society during the latter part of the 90s would support such a view. How has the diffusion of the new technology actually taken place? The process of appropriation is here examined through one particular case: A group of members of a Swedish association that promotes computer ownership and use among elderly people has been studied empirically over a three year period. The focus of observation and analysis has been on how personal computers have been appropriated by these people, how the technology has been brought into the domestic environment, and how it is being used.

The process of appropriation is described and discussed in terms of two theoretical approaches: the diffusion of innovation theory by E. Rogers and the domestication of technology theory by Silverstone & al. The process of appropriation is analysed in sequences starting with sensitising events which often are the very first contact with the innovation for many of the participants. The innovation decision phase seems to be dominated by various themes such as ‘generation gap’, ‘mental activity’, ‘utility’, and ‘novelty’. The issues of economic, social, and physical access to the technology are also central determinants in the decision process. Because of the complexity of the computer technology, learning and training become an important part of the appropriation. The extensive efforts that are often connected with the acquisition of computer literacy may have an intimidating effect on the presumptive appropriators of the technology.

In the phase of objectification, the new technology is given its place in a home. The computer becomes one of the objects in the household and its location manifests the values attached to it. The location of the computer in the homes of the elderly underlines the understandings of it as an office machine and as a machine for solitary activities. Incorporation refers to the phase in which the actual use of the computer is initiated. The earliest affordances attached to the computers strongly guide their use. The three main functionalities applied are the e-mail, word processing, and Internet surfing.

The final phase of appropriation is conversion and confirmation. In conversion, the household attaches certain meanings to the artefact, i.e. a computer, and thus defines its own social status and/or that of the individual belonging to the household. These meanings may be instrumental (self-expression, order, extension of the body), social (connectedness), as well as psychological (self-image). A computer may be seen as a symbol for a new kind of modern, individualistic elderly person, and it may serve as a confirmation for the elderly of their connectedness to modernity, of their being senior cyborgs.


Mass media in various forms have during the last decades increases their presence in India. Among the printed media, the regional daily press has experienced a particularly strong growth through the 1980s and 1990s. This study is primarily concerned with Hindi newspapers and their journalists in the north Indian State of Uttar Pradesh. The form and the content of the newspapers are dealt with, so are routines and organisation of newswork as well as the background and the careers of journalists. The study also elucidates how the Hindi-language journalists formulate their occupational role and understand their position in the public sphere – particularly in relation to the English-language press in India. A central aim of the research has been to describe local and culturally specific conditions of a profession that is working with similar methods and tasks all over the world. Simultaneously, the journalistic form of cultural production is discussed in relation to processes of cultural globalisation, modernity and political imagination. The study is based on fieldwork conducted during two period of totally 10 months, between 1995 and 1998, among journalists in the city of Lucknow.


While the Internet is often presented as a disembodied medium, various forms of bodily presence are continually introduced when people meet online.
This study explores notions of embodiment in a particular text-based virtual world (here called WaterMOO) by investigating how bodies – always sexually specific – are created and rendered meaningful in online textual practices. What does it mean to be embodied online? What are the conditions of cyber-subjectivity? The argument is situated in the growing field of online ethnography, taking as a point of departure two years of online ‘fieldwork’. Letting field sessions along with contemporary feminist and queer theory serve as a backdrop, online embodiment turns out to be located in a borderland between typists and textual machine bodies, speaking and writing, physically and imagination.

In contrast to the myth of cyberspace as a disengaged, free universe for transgender performances, textual bodies in WaterMOO are not only unmistakably human, but unmistakably human-gendered. A MOO provides its inhabitants with a fictive world open to play and imagination, but one that is also a networked social space quite different from imaginary worlds of fiction. On the other hand, these social encounters are always textual mediations, clearly drawing on literary conventions and narrative structures that render them open to comparisons with other literary phenomenon.

If initially, online textuality was seen as the ultimate realization of postmodern literary theory, this study incorporates an awareness of how acts of writing and reading are always confronted with the techno-cultural restrictions of the medium. Physical bodies do not only exist as textual figurations in online narratives, but ‘the body typing’ is itself indispensable to the creation of virtual bodies. The WaterMOO study shows the need to shift the emphasis in poststructuralist literary theory – away from ally and sexually engraved. The discussion arrives at an alternative cyberfeminist subject in terms of a she-cyborg. The she-cyborg is a figure of thought, but also a lived reality in various online spaces. She shows how (female) typists and their virtual body doubles are never fully separated from each other, but rather infused with feminist politics embodied in collectivities of difference.

INTERNET • SOCIOLOGY • ETHNOLOGY • DISCOURSE


This study suggests a reassessment of cinema and temporality from the perspective of phenomenology. It aims at a conceptualization of this problem and historically maps this issue in theoretical work as well as in the practice of filmmaking. A major argument is that the problem of cinema and temporality in classical film theory deserves critical attention as well as modification in light of contemporary film, video, and multimedia.

Figures of Time advances a methodological discussion, where an alternative phenomenological approach is outlined with reference to the context of semiotic phenomenology and, more specifically, a discussion of texts by Paul Ricoeur, Dominique Janicaud, and Erving Goffman.

Three themes demarcate the overall structure of this study: the sensory, time measurement, and the trace. Throughout Western philosophy, from Plato and Aristotle to Descartes, Kant, Husserl, and Merleau-Ponty, ‘the sensory’ stands out as a crucial theme in aesthetic theory. Its imprecise signification between the quality of a given object and the quality of our perception resonates in classical discussions of the temporal status of photography and film. Aside from this contextualization of the sensory in classical film theory, the theme is also present in contemporary approaches to the tactile and experiential nature of moving images, such as in The Address of the Eye by Vivian Sobchack.

‘Time Measurement’ matches predominant notions of film as a Zeitobjekt, visualized music and staged rhythm, as well as the production of interval and tempo that were crucial to the avant-garde cinema of the 1920s and 1960s, and which still reverberate in sound-image elaborations of framing, duration, and speed. In this study, and with reference to Dominique Janicaud, ‘time measurement’ becomes a conceptual theme that stresses temporalization as a figural process realized between the time of the image and the time of film viewing. Accordingly, ‘time measurement’ is already incorporated in ‘the sensory’ and vice versa, because the performed meter of a film cannot be isolated from the viewer’s sensory judgment of a temporal dimension.

‘The trace’ offers a recurrent theme in French phenomenology in general, and in Andre Bazin’s film criticism in particular. Jean-Paul Sartre, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Roland Barthes, and Paul Ricoeur, all address the semiotic hybridity of this notion between materiality and experience. In the theory
of photography it has been regarded as the prerequisite of the photographic image and its uncanny presence of the past. However the trace-status of photography is not opposed to the suggested Præsenszeit of moving images. Rather, within our culture of recording and preservation, cinema stands out as a technology of memory, which opens up this account of cinema and temporality to broader issues of media, archive, and the production of historical time.

FILM THEORY • AESTHETICS • FILM GENRES • TIME


The greatest achievement of the New Queer Wave has been to make other representations possible by entailing a speaking for the self. In representing subjectivities that hitherto have seldom been represented, it has served to open up certain rigid structures enveloping theories on cinematic representation, narration and spectatorship. Persisting between 1989 and 1999, the New Queer Wave is closely connected to the rise and formation of queer theory, and like its theoretical counterpart, queer film urges a deconstruction of the normative while making visible the invisible.

With a basis in poststructurally influenced feminist and queer theories and relying on the practice of queering, this dissertation examines a select number of gay film texts belonging to the New Queer Wave. Central to this queering are complex themes ranging from (dis)identity, sexual (in)difference, gender performance and the butch/femme paradigm, via transgender and transsexualism, the insider/outsider figure, racial essentialism and cross-over desire, to t-phallicisation, masochism and the non-Oedipal narrative. It is by focusing on these distinct yet interrelated issues that the dissertation tries to discompose certain “truths” or “facts” that constitute the basis for (white) heteronormativity and phallocentrism. Hence, the dominant notions of sex, gender, race and sexuality as natural, ahistorical and universal are radically contested. These notions, it is stressed, all conform to the major binary pair of sameness and difference. And although sameness occupies a central position throughout the dissertation, most space is afforded the discussion of difference as sexual difference is taken as the starting point for problematising other hierarchical differences.

Reading queer representation through a feminist filter, the image of the “traditional” male and the phallocentrism embalming it is disrupted. And by de-phallicising the male and hegemonic formations of sexual difference, even differences of race and sexuality are upset.

FILMS • SEXUALITY • MEN • WOMEN


MEDIA • COVERAGE • ETHNIC MINORITIES • IDENTITY


COMPUTERS • MEDIA USE • YOUTH • IDENTITY


MEDIA • STEREOTYPES • ETHNIC MINORITIES • CULTURE


MEDIA • MINORITY GROUPS • IMMIGRANTS • CULTURE


MEDIA USE • YOUTH • MINORITY GROUPS • IDENTITY