

Abstracts

*Klaus-Dieter Altmeyden/Christoph Bieber/Alexander Filipović/
Jessica Heesen: Real-Time Publics. The New Digital Media Order
and New Dimensions of Responsibility*

The structural transformation of publics is recognizable through the emergence, development and consequences of a real-time public. The term “real-time publics” denotes the phenomena surrounding public forums and agendas, which immediately come into existence in “real-time”, due to various circumstances. These types of publics represent new challenges with regard to ethics and the exercise of responsibility. This paper problematizes real-time publics before the backdrop of a short outline concerning public theory and addresses, with regard to redrawing the lines towards an expansion of preexisting media-ethics and responsibility, wherein the requirements may lie.

Hans-Joachim Höhn: Making Good Time? Acceleration – Synchrony – Time Lag

In modern societies the degree of technical and social progress is measured according to the pace with which hoped-for improvements materialize. Existential optimizations are all for the better, depending on how quickly they can be realized. The future is thereby drawn ever more quickly towards the present while, correspondingly, the duration of both validity and actuality are decreased. Waiting-times are shortened to the same degree as staying-times. Museums and archives, databases and media libraries all keep the past lastingly ever-present. Are we moving towards an “instant culture”, in which future, present and past events no longer belong to clear and distinct time-zones? In the age of acceleration, does a cultural “key skill” exist, with regard to the synchronization of all that is temporal? What side-effects do these time differences have?

*Regina Greck: Previously Convicted = Prior Condemnation?
Coverage of the “Tuğçe Case” from a Mediaethical Viewpoint*

At the end of the year 2014, the case of the student Tuğçe occupied the entire German press: Having defended several young girls against molestation by a group of young men, the dispute between them escalated. After being attacked by one of the one of the boys, Tuğçe died of her injuries a few weeks later. This study investigates to what

extent ethical guidelines of the German “Pressekodex” (Independent Press Standards) were violated by national and regional German newspapers as well as the “Bildzeitung” in their coverage of this crime. Whereas the analyzed regional newspapers published more concrete details concerning Tuğçe and her attacker, presumably due to their local nature, most of the “Pressekodex” violations were committed by the “Bildzeitung”, either by publishing uncensored pictures of the suspect Sanel or by prejudging him as brutal rowdy. However, misconduct on the part of the reporting regional publications was also noted.

*Stephan Weichert: From Collective Intelligence to Collective Malice.
An Appeal in the Given Situation*

Within social networks polemics, provocation and demagoguery are rapidly developing into an explosive mixture. From those journalists, who value objective moderation, a high degree of tolerance against frustration is required in order to face the criticism of the “trolls” and “haters”. This essay addresses the following questions: How do editorial offices deal with the massively increasing feedback from their readers? And, what responsibility do the media bear, but also civil society, towards the structuration of a constructive public discourse?

*Barbara-Henrika Alfing: A Scandalous Event or Scandalous Reporting?
From the Bearer of Hope to Scapegoat. Press Reporting Concerning
the Case of Tebartz-van Elst.*

Honesty, trust and orientation towards the common good constitute the basic framework of the moral code of the Catholic Church. However, how does the public media react when a bishop violates these by building a palatial bishop’s residence? The public discussion regarding the waste and denials surrounding 31 million Euros was centered primarily around the builder Franz Peter Tebartz-van Elst, who was confronted with intense criticism of his management style and the financing of the bishop’s residence. At the center of this article are the results of a quantitative content-analysis with regard to press coverage of the Tebartz-van Elst case: for one, it addresses the attributions concerning the former bishop by individual print media and, on the other hand, the classification of these events as either a scandalous affair or a case of scandalous reporting.