

English Abstracts

Dennis Lichtenstein / Cordula Nitsch: Informative and critical? The Depiction of Politics in German Satire Shows (Informativ und kritisch? Die Politikdarstellung in deutschen Satiresendungen), pp. 5-21

This paper follows up on the debate about the consequences of political satire. So far, the discussion either sees political satire as productive in stimulating opinion formation, or conceives the format as pseudo-critical and promoting political cynicism. In our analysis of the depiction of politics in satire shows on German television, we concentrate on the questions whether political satire serves as a provider of political information and as a source of orientation through criticism. Concentrating on a two-and-a-half year period, we conducted a quantitative content analysis of the cabaret show 'Die Anstalt', the Late-Night show 'Neo Magazin Royale' and the news satire 'heute show'. We examined the share of political issues and the depth of political information (information provision), as well as positions on political information and evaluations of political actors (orientation provision). The results show that with regard to the issue of providing information, 'Die Anstalt' and the 'heute show' combine elements of productive and pseudo-critical satire, while in the show 'Neo Magazin Royale', aspects of pseudo-critical satire dominate. In terms of the provision of orientation, 'Die Anstalt' can be allocated to productive satire and 'Neo Magazin Royale' to pseudo-critical satire; while the 'heute show' integrates both.

Keywords: political satire, depiction of politics, productive satire, pseudo-critical satire, quantitative content analysis

Nayla Fawzi / Philip Baugut / Carsten Reinemann: The Functions of the Local Media to Municipal Politics (Die Funktionen von Lokalmedien für die Kommunalpolitik), pp. 22-40

This paper aims at examining the functions of the local media for various actors within local politics. We differentiate between a resource function (analysing how political actors observe media coverage), and a strategic function (analyzing how political actors use the media to achieve their goals). Previous research on the relationship between the media and politics focused on the national and the state ('Bundesländer') level, however, the importance of the local media to municipal politics with its specific conditions has been overlooked so far. Drawing on data from a representative survey of local political actors in Germany, our results show that the mass media are central to providing information about public opinion, the current political agenda and the positions of political actors. Moreover, our respondents attempt to influence legislation through the media. Hence, the local media fulfil an important function within society by linking civil society to the political-administrative system. However, local media also play an important role in the wider political arena. The local press can be regarded as fulfilling these functions.

Keywords: media functions, local media, elite survey, politics-media relations, municipal politics

Thomas Mathis / Edda Humprecht: Are Key Media Outlets Quoted more Frequently? An Empirical Study of the Swiss Press (Werden Leitmedien häufiger zitiert? Eine empirische Untersuchung von Schweizer Printmedien), pp. 41–57

How often and why do news outlets cite each other? Does the frequency of citation suggest a key role of single media outlets? In order to answer these questions, our study develops a network of media citations. We analyse reasons for media citation, as well as its role to the idea of key media outlets. The study examines 20 Swiss newspapers, using a network analysis with data from a standardised content analysis, secondary data, as well as organisational data. The results highlight the importance of Swiss media market characteristics such as the language divide because of different languages in different areas, as well as stresses specific organisational arrangements. The citation frequency emerges as a strong indicator to determine key media outlets.

Keywords: key media outlets, media citations, public sphere, network analysis, Switzerland

Sebastian Scherr / Marlene Schmitt: On the Role of Passive Facebook Use, Selective Self-Presentation and Negative Perceptions of Life in the Context of Mental Well-Being: A Multigroup Cross-Lagged Panel Analysis on Differential Facebook Use (Passive Facebook-Nutzung, selektive Selbstdarstellung und negative Wahrnehmungen des eigenen Lebens: Mehrgruppen Cross-Lagged Panelanalysen zu differenziellen Effekten im Kontext psychologischen Wohlbefindens), pp. 58–74

We discuss findings from an online panel survey ($n = 514$) investigating the influence of symptoms of depression on the passive use of Facebook, as well as on selective self-presentation, and on negative perceptions of life over the course of one year. Drawing on multigroup cross-lagged panel analyses, the results of the study show that a depressive symptomatology is associated with negative perceptions of life that result from the viewing of other users' photos. Contrary to many previous findings, selective self-presentation gained importance and increased passive forms of Facebook use as well as negative perceptions of life in the group of users with a severe depressive symptomatology. We discuss these findings in light of their implications for social media use in the course of a depression.

Keywords: passive Facebook use; photo sharing on social media; selective self-presentation; satisfaction with life; depression; mental well-being