

## English abstracts

*Timo Harjuniemi, Maija Dahlberg & Anu Kantola*

# Defending unspoken rules: The relationship between the media and the Constitutional Law Committee of the Finnish Parliament

The Constitutional Law Committee of the Finnish Parliament (the Committee) has significant responsibilities for interpreting the constitutionality of laws. In this article, we build on the literature on mediatization and examine how media pressure affects the work of the Committee. We build on interviews with Committee members and officials, as well as experts consulted by the Committee, to find out how the media affects the work of the Committee and how the committee seeks to manage the public pressure brought by media attention. The work of the Committee is governed by legal rules according to which the Committee meets behind closed doors, and, as a result, confidential committee discussions should not be discussed in public. At the same time, the media is interested in the Committee's work. We describe how the Committee seeks to manage its relationship with the media through official rules and various informal practices, for example, by discussing Committee communication practices internally and by excluding experts who are considered to be too active in the media. The aim of such practices is to protect the Committee and its legal character from media attention and politicization. We show how the growing influence of the media in society is reflected in the pursuit of publicity and in a defensive attention towards the media, as various institutions seek to protect their work from media pressure. We argue that the relationship between the media and the interpretation of the Constitution is a topic worth further scholarly attention.

**Keywords:** Constitutional law, Constitutional Law Committee, mediatization

---

*Jussi S. Jauhiainen & Miriam Tedeschi*

## **Digital divides among undocumented immigrants in Finland**

We study the Internet and social media uses and related communication by immigrants living in Finland without the permission of the authorities: which of these undocumented people had access to the Internet and social media, for what they used these and what effects the uses had on them in their country of origin (i.e. the former country of residence); on the way to Finland and in Finland. At the same time, we study the digital divides, i.e., the differences in their Internet and social media uses.

The material is based on a survey conducted among undocumented migrants in Finland in 2019 (n = 100) and on observations and discussions with them. They used the Internet and social media in their former home country to prepare for the journey. For many, the use became more common when moving to Finland where practically all of them used the Internet and three out of four also used social media. The digital divide in access and skills among undocumented migrants was narrowing, but the effects were not the same for everyone. Participants in the study used the Internet and social media in Finland to build and maintain their social relationships, keep in touch with their families and support the fulfillment of everyday needs (such as work, food, clothing and housing). Rumors, incorrect information and control of the Internet and social media brought additional challenges to undocumented migrants in Finland.

**Keywords:** undocumented migrants, Internet, social media, digital divides, Finland