English abstracts

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At the cross-section of emotions, technology and journalism
Moderation of online news comments in Finnish newsrooms

Uncivil commenting on online news is considered a major issue that can weaken the quality of public discussion. While content moderation is recognized as an efficient way to address these issues, its current means, whether computation or human driven are seen as inadequate. In this article, we present a review of previous studies on online news content moderation and discuss views of eleven Finnish media professionals on comment moderation, focusing on emotions. A qualitative analysis of the interviews results in multifaceted or even contradictory vision on comment moderation in Finnish newsrooms. On one hand, the interviewees appreciate the comments as a form of audience engagement and driver of interest. On the other hand, the interviewees see moderation work as laborious and unrelated to journalists' core tasks. Comment moderation and journalistic ideals of freedom of expression also appear to be in a juxtaposition with each other. The interviewees see computationally assisted moderation as helpful, but also as inaccurate. Stemming from these observations, we discuss how news comments could be moderated in Finland in the future. We suggest that in addition to moderation practices that prioritize efficiency, there should be more subtle ways to address incivility in the comments than simply deleting the unwanted content.

Keywords: online news comments, moderation, online journalism, audiences, emotions

Jenni Mäenpää

The asset and burden of speed
Skilled vision in the work of news photo professionals

Media work is practiced increasingly in real-time, and the volume of images has increased enormously after the digitalization. From the professionals, this asks an ability

to make quick yet ethical decisions. News images are an important part of people's lives and our visual culture because they expand our understanding about distant news events and shape our perception of reality. Photojournalism professionals have great power and responsibility for how we understand the world. This article explores what visual expertise means in the fast-paced work of news photo professionals and especially, in the work of news agency photo editors. The empirical data has been gathered by observing and interviewing photojournalism professionals at the news photo agencies of Reuters and the Finnish STT-Lehtikuva. This interdisciplinary research combines theoretical discussions from journalism studies and ethnographic studies of vision and cognition. The findings suggest four areas of photojournalistic work where professional vision is learnt and where it specifically serves the fast-paced work. These include: learning to anticipate by following news and published images, anticipation of photographic situations and a focused look, utilizing technology and discussions about images. The article concludes that a skilled vision that is shared among professionals is a central precondition for the professionality of photojournalism practitioners, but in the meantime, it is possible that the shared vision leads to a more narrow and homogenous media imagery. A similar effect towards homogenous news coverage has been found in earlier research that have studied the speed and pursuit of news profits.

Salla Tuomola

From anti-immigrant attitude to corona criticism
The expanding ecosystem of populist counter-media from journalistic perspective

In recent years, counterpublics drawing on criticism and challenges towards journalistic media have expanded in the Finnish media environment. Initially arising from the anti-immigrant approach, today populist counter-media also consist of anti-system and corona pandemic critical online sites. Yet identifying with far-right ideology, the themes of these sites have been diversified along with new global crisis. Besides anti-immigrant coverage, populist counter-media nowadays cover topics related to the corona pandemic and the Ukraine war to name a few. However, although these sites keep questioning the knowledge and interpretations of the journalistic media, they are still dependent on traditional news outlets. Populist counter-media imitate mainstream media content for benefitting the impression of reliable journalistic communication. This study delves into populist counter-media in two manners. First, the aim is to map the ecosystem of the active populist online publications in Finland, and second, to explore more closely to three case publications by showing how the stories differ

from the established journalism. The research points out that currently there are three-kind of counter-media sites with slightly different emphasis: anti-immigrant, anti-system and corona denialist publications. Populist counter-media concurrently adhere to and also produce antagonistic and exclusive counterpublics which also bolster their own identity. Supporting the prior research discoveries, the analysis of the case publications shows that although the layout and structure of the populist counter-media stories look like journalism, the content is remarkably different from the journalistic codes regarding information policy and ethic practices.

Teemu Mikkonen

Scientific research and individual experience as interpretive frames
Frame analysis of upper-secondary school students' views on the credibility of an anti-vaccination online text

The lack of critical literacy skills while reading online texts can lead to the adoption of disinformation. This article examines how upper-secondary school students evaluate the credibility of an anti-vaccination online text. The findings indicate that students who consider the text credible draw on two interpretative frames, which are called the frame of scientific research and the frame of individual experience. While drawing on the former frame, the students devoted attention to how the author of the online text makes use of the findings of scholarly research, for example, statistical facts, authoritative information sources and expertise. The students drawing on the latter frame considered how the author appeals to concrete examples depicting the effects of vaccination. The students using this frame also described their own experiences of vaccination. These frames influence how the credibility of the online text is evaluated. In the upper-secondary school, the students should be guided to understand how diverse frames used in the evaluation of online texts can result in that certain areas of reality are given more attention than others.