

English abstracts

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Anticipation and tracking

The use and blind spots of quantified knowledge in political journalism

This article investigates the power of numbers in political journalism. Quantification, or the production and utilization of numeric data, has become a typical, if not dominant, way to report and produce information on all facets of life and society. Practices of quantification are also commonplace in journalism. This article approaches the power of numbers through the sociology of quantification: quantification is understood as a social practice, which not only represents but also shapes reality. In this article, the power of numbers in political journalism is visible in how numbers shape family policy and employment policy in Finland. The data is based on policy debates around these themes in *Helsingin Sanomat* in 2015–2021 (N=330). Quantification guides the epistemic practices of journalism toward particular interpretations of perceived problems and their solutions. The analysis characterizes two practices of quantification: anticipation and tracking. Both direct policy in the present toward the future, with employment and economic growth as the key goals. Despite uncertainties involved in quantification and economic emphasis, quantified information was often represented as neutral and rarely questioned. Improving numeric literacy – the ability to put numbers in their broader cultural and historical context – emerges as an important skill to challenge the power of numbers.

Keywords: anticipation, journalism, quantification, politics, knowledge

Elina Uutela and Esa Väliverronen

From consensus to disputes

Collaboration of journalists and experts in Finland during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a long-term media event focusing on health and science, during which the role of experts as interpreters of science has intensified. Traditionally, the relationship between journalists and experts works well: experts provide journalists with the facts they need for journalistic purposes and see public commentary as a part of their job. Our article investigates the collaboration between experts and journalists during the COVID-19 crisis in Finland.

We recognized two distinctive phases in media discourse. First, during crisis mode in March and April 2020, journalists, experts, and government officials sided in communication. Tensions were put to rest as all parties were motivated to help prevent the spreading of the disease with their communication. Second, from May 2020, public disputes started to evolve. They were partly stirred by expert disagreement and partly by the news media's tendency to build and emphasize tensions. While cooperation may be seamless during an acute crisis and thus easier for news media and experts, disagreements and tensions may also provide the public with more profound information about the situation and improve journalism and science communication.

Keywords: science, expertise, COVID-19, media, health

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Media workers' experiences of remote work and well-being during the Covid-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic shaped work in the media industry in fundamental ways as it forced media organizations to move to remote work in early 2020. In this study, we examine Finnish media workers' experiences of remote work and occupational well-being and ask how their experiences of (remote) work and well-being changed after the pandemic began. We approach these questions through a longitudinal survey data set ($n = 355$) collected from the members of the Finnish Union of Journalists before the pandemic in September 2019 and during the pandemic in October 2020. The results indicate that 98 percent of journalists felt the pandemic had an influence on their

working life and as large a part as 37 percent experienced those changes as negative. However, we found no significant changes in work engagement between the two measurement points. Moreover, media workers reported less cognitive stress symptoms in 2020 compared to 2019. The qualitative analysis of open-ended questions from the 2020 survey highlights how media workers experienced the move to the home office as a hindrance on interaction between colleagues which was seen to result in difficulties in creativity. Finally, our analysis indicates that during the pandemic, remote work was experienced as a balancing act between the inherent creativity of media work and working efficiency on the individual level.

Keywords: media work, remote work, covid-19 pandemic, well-being, work engagement, cognitive stress symptoms

Vilma Lehtinen

Experiences of agency in the everyday life of ageing city-dwellers not using the internet

Previous research has found that ageing individuals associate both benefits and experiences of exclusion with internet non-use. Less attention has been paid to what living everyday life without using the internet means to ageing individuals on a concrete level and how it intertwines with experiences of individual agency. This article studies how ageing city-dwellers living their daily life without using the internet maintain experiences of agency in a digitalised society, and what kinds of feelings they associate with these efforts. Based on a qualitative analysis of diary and interview material, I argue that ageing city-dwellers associate diverse forms of agency with internet non-use, such as accepting uncertainty and various forms of cooperation. The forms of agency are not necessarily defined positively, however. Internet non-use may put the individual in a position in which they may experience that the means of maintaining experiences of agency may contradict with how they view themselves. The study adds to previous research on the experiences of digital exclusion in the everyday life of ageing individuals and on the consequences the efforts to maintain experiences of agency as an internet non-user may have.

Keywords: ageing individuals, internet, agency, everyday life, non-users

Markus Mykkänen

Journalists' perceived lobbying in Finnish political newsmaking

In the discussion of political influence, the role of the Finnish news media and journalists and how they are targeted by political lobbying have rarely been delved into. This article explores how political lobbying affects the work of journalists who cover economic and political news. It uses qualitative data from thematic interviews with 16 journalists to understand how they experience and deal with lobbying attempts that try to shape their reporting of political decision-making. The analysis reveals that journalists are aware of and use political lobbying in their editorial work. This article also explains how the changes and challenges of journalism, such as reduced resources, increased workload and pressure, and professionalized lobbying, have made journalists more exposed to political lobbying. The article argues that the ability of journalists and editors to cope with these challenges and resist political lobbying is crucial for the quality of Finnish political journalism.

Keywords: lobbying, advocacy, journalism, news media, political communication, media lobbying