

Jaana Hujanen

Risc Monitor and the (e)merging idea(l)s of news journalism

The article examines the international research method named Risc Monitor as a means of developing journalism and journalistic practices in Finnish dailies. It asks, which views of journalism and the audience does Risc Monitor strengthen. The focus is on the consequences Risc Monitor has for the modern ideal(s) of news journalism (transmitting knowledge and informing the people). Concurrently, the role of journalism as a resource for public participation and active citizenship is explored. The study is based on qualitative interviews with journalists in three newspapers. Discourse analysis is used as a theoretical and a methodological frame of reference. The analysis points towards heterogeneous ways of applying Risc Monitor in journalism and conflicting meanings given to it. Given the nature of Risc Monitor as an audience research method, newspaper readers are positioned as consumers. Consequently, the criteria for good journalism are judged by the market and the interests of the majority of readers. However, the research method is also used to create news making practices which aim at serving people as active, political citizens. In the light of the study, wide-ranging discussion about the social and political role of news media is called for.

**Liisa Husu
& Liisa Tainio**

Women researchers in Finnish newspaper and magazine interviews

In activities promoting women's careers in research, the dual role of media is often referred to. On the one hand, the role of media is considered important in introducing female role models, and on the other, media is criticized for frequently reproducing stereotypical images of researchers. Interviews with women researchers in Finnish newspapers and magazines are analyzed in a sample of 94 interviews from 1997–2002. Interviews with women researchers appeared to be a text genre for mainly female journalists. What kinds of women researchers were selected to be interviewed, and how were they presented to the reader? By linguistic and thematic analysis we explore ideological discourses of the language use and frames applied in the interviews, created by journalistic choices. Five researcher frames were identified: experts, top researchers, multi-talents, PhDs and pioneers. The most common was the expert frame, which suggests an acceptance of women researchers in a public expert role in Finnish media. The large spectrum of the frames offers a variety of role models for young women who may consider a career in research. However, the interviews hardly encourage non-traditional choices, the majority of the interviewees coming from disciplines traditionally favoured by women. In the interviews, women researchers are introduced not only through their research. In addition, they are strongly embedded in the private sphere, in the context of family and kin. Furthermore, their looks and appearance are characterized in a way enhancing their female gender.

The analysis suggests that the linguistic choices in the interviews guide the reader to see these researchers as not only professional researchers but also as women to whom family is important.

Janne Kivivuori

Exposure to crime news and involvement in juvenile delinquency

Crime news reporting has increased in many western countries during the recent decades. In Finland, a drastic increase of crime news has taken place in the context of a relatively stable crime victimisation risk. It is therefore interesting to study the social correlates of people's increasing exposure to crime news. The present article examines whether exposure to news with crime content is associated with criminal behaviour among Helsinki adolescents. The article adds to prior research by drawing on a sample of adolescents outside the criminal justice system (anonymous school survey of self-reported delinquency, N=1135). The respondents were asked how frequently they watch crime reality TV shows or read crime related tabloid headlines in the street.

The main finding is that frequent exposure to crime related news in both tabloid newspapers and TV is strongly associated with above-average risk of both violent and property crime. The correlation was stable when a number of relevant variables (such as time spent watching TV, cognitive ability, attitudes toward violence, pessimism, and self-control) were controlled. It was stronger for males than females. The article concludes that the correlation between criminal behaviour and exposure to crime news may be a function of two factors: the causal impact of crime news on criminal behaviour, and the special interest in crime topics among criminally active males.