



James W. Carey The Press and the Public Discourse

Insofar as journalism is grounded, it is grounded in the public, argues James W. Carey. Journalism has existed to inform the public, to serve as the extended eyes and ears of the public, to protect the public's right to know, to serve the public interest. In political history, liberal society is grounded in the notion of a virtuous public. But has this public lost its position? Carey states that for all the conceptual importance of the public, it is no more than a symbol without a referent. Public life does not enjoy the kind of legal protection that the rights of the individual do.

Carey looks at the history of American journalism in the 18th century and finds a lively public life among the merchants, traders, citizens, and political activists who gathered together to hear and discuss the news. The public was more than a group of people. It was also a mode of discourse, a location, a sphere, a sector of the society. Journalism didn't have intrinsic value but existed to serve the public. The 18th-century public was, however, reserved for white bourgeois men and as such should not be idealized. Later this public sphere deteriorated as a result of historical, ideological and journalistic changes.

Carey argues that we have inherited a journalism of experts, information, facts, objectivity, and publicity. He suggests that scholars should dispense with this vocabulary and instead think of journalism as a record, a conversation, and an exercise in poetry and utopian politics. Journalism ought to be conceived less on the model of information and more on the model of a conversation. The public will begin to reawaken when it is addressed as a conversational partner. Carey encourages us to see journalism as an extension of poetry, the humanities, and political utopianism. He argues that journalism grounded in poetry would generate a new moral vocabulary that could dissolve some current dilemmas.

Hannu Nieminen Structural Transformation in the Theory of the Public Sphere: Considerations on a Critical-Realistic Concept of the Public Sphere

In the 1990s and early 2000s a renewed interest in the academic study of the public sphere has emerged. One strand of this study focuses on the possibility of developing a European or even a global public sphere. Another applies the concept more traditionally to both European and non-European national and cultural settings. This article follows the latter approach as the public sphere is seen linked intimately with the formation and fate of the European nation state.

Two major theoretical approaches are identified, ideal-normative and empirical-descriptive. As both have deficiencies in critically interpreting the rapid changes in the public sphere of late modernity, a third synthetic approach is proposed, called critical-realistic. This includes an analytical distinction between three levels of the national public sphere: the publicness of our everyday life, the mediated public sphere, and the core public spheres of will formation and decision-making. Using these conceptual tools, an idea of a pluralistic public sphere is outlined, based on the interaction of a plurality of autonomous public spheres.

Heikki Heikkilä & Pauliina Lehtonen Between a Rock and a Hard Place Boundaries of Public Spaces for Citizen Deliberation

This article takes an interventionist approach to digital democracy and considers two local groups (juries consisting of citizens) who have attempted to act politically in their neighborhoods, utilizing communication media ranging from Web sites to local news media and "unmediated performances." In the article

modes of actions of jury members in the respective public spaces are analyzed. It appears that the Web can accommodate citizens' deliberations and thus contribute to identity work of jury members. In terms of raising public awareness of ideas of jury members, the news media are deemed most valuable. The dialogue between juries, local administrations and fellow residents was most vividly initiated in unmediated public spaces, but performances in streets and parks also made the highest demands on communicative and political skills of citizens. Even if the Internet does not "fix democracy" it appears to be the most genuinely citizen-oriented media, which may help active citizens to cope with the constraints embedded in all public spaces.

Pirkko Nuolijärvi & Liisa Tiittula Politicians "Perform" in a Discussion

The article examines how politicians "perform" in pre-election debates on TV. A performance means here that the discussion is produced for a third party, namely the viewer who is not taking part in the discussion. However, both the journalists and the participating politicians take the audience into account all the time. TV debates have the characteristics of a performance, which this article analyses using the methods of conversation analysis. The setting of the TV debate creates a stage on which the discussion is performed. The journalist is the director of the play who maintains the interest of the audience using interactive and dramaturgical means. The participants show that they are aware of the presence of the audience by using various forms of address. They can appeal directly to the viewer or address the viewer more implicitly. "Performing" a debate is an essential part of a pre-election TV discussion: the speaker tries to win the viewer to his/her side by presenting himself/herself positively and the other speaker negatively. Thus, the means of interaction and the ways of speaking seem to be even more important than the content of the talk.