

▣ Summaries of the articles

Juho Vesa & Johannes Kananen

Publicity rules of tripartite policy preparation groups: A case study of the Committee for reforming social protection

Political institutions include publicity rules, i.e. policy-makers' mutual rules about how one is allowed to act in media publicity. These rules as such have not, however, been previously studied. It is not known, for instance, how established these publicity rules are and to what extent they really explain the way that the policy-makers act in media publicity. In the article, we study empirically what kind of publicity rules there are in tripartite policy preparation groups, and how these rules affect transparency of policy-making and policy-makers' behavior in media publicity. We study this primarily through the interviews of the members of the Sata committee (2007–2009). The committee was assigned to reform the social security system of Finland. Tripartite policy preparation groups include many publicity rules, for instance, about the confidentiality of discussions and draft documents and about presenting one's policy goals in public. Some rules are role-specific. Publicity rules were one reason for why newspapers included expectations of the committee's work that were opposite to the eventual result of the committee's work. The committee was expected to relieve poverty, but instead it reduced taxes and employers' social security payments. However, publicity rules do not explain tripartite policy-makers' behavior in media publicity public very strongly. Rules are often violated and all of them are not fully established.

Susanna Paasonen

The quick heat of a midsummer's dance and the affective intensities of Facebook debate

In June 2012, the Finnish media reported a curious incident involving an ongoing Facebook discussion about a midsummer's eve club night run by the organization We Love Helsinki (WLH). A female club participant had voiced her disapproval of DJ announcements in a post on WLH's public event page, and her post had inspired heated debate that lasted just under a week. Drawing on the analysis of the ensuing Facebook discussion thread consisting of 728 postings by 173 participants, this article explores the incident in terms of its affective dynamics in order to conceptualize the intensities of online debate. Affect both congeals and sharpens in online debates as participants fill in the gaps of, extrapolate meanings from and project values and assumptions onto the messages of others, reading some words carefully while skipping over the rest. The views expressed tend to gradually sharpen and polarize, alliances between participants are quickly formed and eroded and articulations of feeling tend to later on certain participants and groups of people. Rather than seeing such oscillating intensity as a trait of this particular Facebook exchange, the article argues that such intensities both drive online exchanges and attach people to particular platforms, threads, and groups. To paraphrase Sara Ahmed, accumulating articulations of feeling, attempts at trolling and practices of flaming are all generative of affective stickiness that attracts attention and drives user engagement in online debate.

Ville Kumpu

Our common future? Consensus and disagreement in the newspaper coverage of UN climate summits

This article takes part in the discussion of post-politicization of climate change by studying how consensus and disagreement were articulated in the coverage of four UN climate summits in the Finnish newspapers Helsingin Sanomat and Ilta-Sanomat. From the perspective of discourse theory and an agonistic theory of democracy the article argues that the hegemonic articulation of consensual politics, solving the problem of climate change and establishing an international treaty on emission reductions to a chain of equivalence reduced the field of disagreement to a selection between solving and not solving climate change. Such a form of hegemony may be considered as helpful in building a consensus that would allow climate action to take place but it also represses more radical forms of political discourse.

and internet communication as well as in the 21st century skills context. Even the school system is slow to adopt new education models, should we begin to develop these skills also in school education? The importance of these new communication skills in future society is in key position what comes to active and full social, cultural, and economic participation

Outi Kallionpää

The meaning of new media writing skills

The article deals with the influence of technical development and new social media platforms on new kind of writing skills and also the education of those skills. The new media writing skills are part of multiliteracy skills, like multimodal writing, production of social and creative internet genres, management of publishing process and also the capability to rotate multi-tasking skills, and awareness skills. These skills are important also in a framework of new media