

## Summaries of the articles

Pekka Rautio

The Chernobyl accident was a difficult crisis to manage for Finland, as the politically defined connections of Finnish nuclear politics with the Soviet Union required politically formulated responses. However, questions about successful management of the accident were not altogether untroubled elsewhere in Europe due to the unexpected nature of the event. In general, preparations were inadequate and the spreading of radioactive fallout from Chernobyl resulted in an information catastrophe. In Finland, as a political management strategy, authorities mainly tried to behave as if nothing severe had really happened, which led to allegations about the stiffness of Finnish public information policy on the European media-agenda. Previously, crisis communication of the Chernobyl nuclear accident has been studied in Finland in particular from the perspectives of the central government and local government information communication, and outside of Finland from the perspectives of various European countries. This article studies how Finland's complex political relationship with the Soviet Union became prominent from the perspective of Finnish public information policy in the immediate aftermath of the Chernobyl accident by exploring the politicization process of information communication.

Anu-Liisa Rönkä

### **Electromagnetic fields in media – Frame analysis of health risks associated with mobile phone radiation**

This article examines public discussion of health risks associated with mobile phones in Finland. The study analyzed articles published in Aamulehti, Helsingin Sanomat and Ilta-lehti in 2000-2007 concerning the possible health impacts and risks caused by mobile phone radiation. The underlying viewpoints of the analysis are grounded on environmental sociology and the discussion on risk society. This is a starting point for frame analysis through which three main frames are defined: the frame of risk, the frame of control and the frame of nullification. The frame of risk presents health risks associated with mobile phone radiation as a real threat to human health and well-being. The frame of control presents the risks in question as a theoretical research problem without a direct link to human health and everyday life. The frame of nullification presents the risks in question as a trivial and derisory concern. Public discussion of health risks associated with mobile phone radiation in Finland is dominated by the frame of control, which resonates with Finnish societal values and a culture of pro-technology.

Riikka Homanen

### **Fetishized fetal representation in the internet: From science to politics, aspirations and sacredness**

My article analyzes pictures of human fetuses that have been published in the internet.

The purpose of my article is to explore how cultural imaginary on fetuses varies in visual representations, and to discuss how different representations and their context of display are related to each other. Prior research on fetuses and knowledge on them is scarce and rarely empirical in social sciences and humanities. Further, the field of study is dispersed and focused on exploring the fetal figure as it is represented in written and visual form. My article will attend to this void in empirical knowledge, and broaden the field of study to include internet as a particular medium. The theoretical and methodological orientation of this article draws from the intersections of cultural studies and science and technology studies. The analysis methods include Erving Goffman's frame analysis intertwined to methods of analyzing pictures. The analysis of the data shows that fetuses are attributed meaning as biological creatures of scientific research, a nurtured and protected human life or babies, political victims of violence or technology, and products that bear value to its owner. The ways in which the fetal figures vary and associate to each other is enacted in different processes of fetishization. These processes seem to politicize the fetus slightly differently in the pictures of Finnish language area web-pages than in the foreign language area pictures. The Finnish fetal figure is less political, less public and not so contradictory in relation to woman's bodily autonomy than its foreign counterpart. Additionally, although the fetus, in particular pictures, signifies politically charged human life, it is not juxtaposed with the pregnant woman according to its rights. It is, instead, fetishized to represent joint responsibility to children and a population policy concern.