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SUMMARIES

Janne Seppänen

Notes on the narrativity of photography

The narrativity of photography has not been very much discussed within photography research. This paper approaches the problem from three perspectives. First, the semiotic functions of photography are discussed. The narrative potentials of photography are considered to be dependent on the semiotic functions possible for photography. Second, the concept of narrativity itself is reviewed by referring to a debate between Manuel Alvarado and Kevin Halliwell in the early 1980s. Third, the author defines the narrativity of photography in the same as it is defined in current Finnish news research. As an example, a reportage from a monthly magazine is analysed.

Esa Sirkkunen

Composition and the politics of narration

The paper discusses the importance of composition in a magazine journalism, sketches the New-Given dynamics and the 'preferred' or probable way of reading an example story. Furthermore, the verbal narration of the example reportage is considered. The paper suggests that the narration of a feature story or a reportage can act as an antidote for news narration. For a conclusion, the role of journalism in constructing and defining national identities is also touched.

Ilina Hellsten & Mika Renvall

Metaphors and paradoxes in journalism

The paper points out how conventionalized metaphors create paradoxical situations, and it considers ways to overcome these paradoxes.

Conventionalized journalistic ways of describing politics with metaphors of game, theater or dealing with citizens to a paradoxical situation: on the one hand they are expected to participate to the handling of common affairs but on the other hand the metaphors suggest a passive position of being merely an observer. These points are illustrated with two political cartoons from Helsingin Sanomat.

Minna Pietilä

How news reporters talk about their professional role and alcohol policy

The paper is based on a research to news reporters' speech about their own occupational role and the alcohol policy of the state. One of the reporters concludes on the journalistic culture: "We have started a crusade and found out that it is impossible". In these words he also expresses the conflict between the ideals and the practices of the profession: on the one hand the reporters are bound by ideas of representing the people and ideas of people as autonomous citizens, on the other hand working practices and dependency on sources are seen as obstacles between ideals and practical action.