

English abstracts

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A Short Step away from Patriotism

Debate over the Revelations on Military Intelligence in Helsingin Sanomat

A few days before Christmas 2017, Helsingin Sanomat (HS) published a news story based on leaked documents about The Finnish Defence Intelligence Agency. An intense but brief public controversy, eliciting hundreds of comments to the HS digital platform, prompted the disclosure. On Twitter, the disclosure was the most discussed topic for several days. The content analysis of those comments shows that the majority of commentators on social media criticised HS for publishing the news story. According to most strict views, journalists had committed treason and thus jeopardised national security. Remarkable few voices stood out to defend the paper and journalists responsible for the disclosure. Discourse analysis conducted in the article renders a sociological interpretation of the discussion. The findings suggest that the differences of opinion were dependent on two factors: the discursive positions of commentators in relation to Finnish policy networks, and discussants' differing views on the role of security and individual freedoms in democracy. As a whole, the analysis provides some insights on how media–state relations develop in the conditions of a hybrid media system.

Key words: Information disclosure, intelligence law, online discussion, hybrid media, relationship between state and media

Eliisa Vainikka & Auli Harju

Anonymous online forums as counter-publics

Peer support and social criticism of marginalized users

This article looks into anonymously used online discussion through counter-public theories. Two sets of empirical studies are used as material for the analysis; the first one is a study of the discussion forum Suomi24, the second a study of online discussions from the imageboard Ylilauta. These two forums both have a large anonymous user-base and a relatively free, even harsh culture of debate. Both forums include users who are in some way marginalized from public discussions. This article aims to examine both empirically and theoretically, the peer-support and social criticism found in these two forums. Through peer support, discussion among peers and communities of mind, the forums open a venue of social criticism also for those who do not get their voices heard in the public. However, finding a like-minded community may also enable mistrust, polarization and antagonism. We look into these public discussions of both private and public issues through the concepts of intimate citizenship and counter-public.

Key words: Anonymous online forums, peer-support, public discussion

Altti Näsi

The significance of digital photographs as means of visual discussion and building a sense of community in a kindergarten's WhatsApp group

The aim of this article is to improve understanding regarding the significance of visual communication within a community and how members experience photo sharing from a sense of community standpoint. The case study was executed in Finland to a selected group of people who use WhatsApp as application for visual discussion between kindergarten and home. The theoretical background is based on Mikko Villi's (2010) ideas on how sent photographs can create a sense of presence among the receivers. Also, new modes of contemporary amateur photography by Arto Lehmuskallio (2012) are well considered. Theory refinement to the above-mentioned works is done by utilizing Seymour Sarason's (1974) concept on sense of community and applying it throughout this article.

The parents as members of the community were interviewed. Content analysis and thematising was applied to their answers. The results affirm earlier family photography research to the extent that photographs evoke strong emotions and can indeed create a sense of presence among receivers. However, the kindergarten personnel as the senders of almost all photographs select merely photographs depicting children's activities in a positive atmosphere. These photographs increased parents feeling of security and improved mutual recognition. Because a kindergarten as a community is more public compared to a family, parents did not want to interactively share photographs with others from their own private life. In this case, a semi-public photo sharing community resembles more a traditional one way communication channel. The meanings that parents gave photographs varied according to what sort of expectations they had towards the community and how well these expectations were fulfilled.

Key words: Digital photography, visual discussion, sense of community, WhatsApp application