

**“And if it’s not good enough for the algorithms then it is not. That’s it.”**

Data practices in the everyday life of young politicians

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Social media platforms are essential mediums for political communication and publicity in Western democracies. While meanings of the rapid communicative change are well researched, the effects of data-driven media environment for politicians’ everyday life are still understudied. This article approaches the phenomenon in relation to deep mediatization. Generating knowledge on deep mediatization is important to better grasp the role and power of novel media technologies over politics. Methodologically the article combines young Finnish political actors’ media diaries with interview speech. Data analysis utilizes the concept of data practice to make visible how user practices are molded by the technological logics of social media platforms. The article suggests that the datafied media constitutes preconditions for political agency. These preconditions are not coercive. Rather, politicians negotiate platforms’ role in their everyday life practices.

Key words: social media, datafication, data practice, mediatization, young politicians

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## Harassment in local political leaders' experiences

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This article examines local politicians' harassment and intimidation experiences: What kind of harassment and intimidation have the trustees experienced and what are the effects of harassment? The study combines several data using triangulation as a research method. Interviews and survey have been used as research material. Narrative analysis is used as a research method.

The phenomenon of harassment is theoretically framed by political culture and complex management. Research shows that local politicians face different forms of harassment from several channels. Identifying the different forms of harassment faced by local politicians is important to address harassment phenomena. Harassment has a wide range of effects. At the societal level phenomena causes difficulty to get nominees to local elections. It is destructive for democracy if people do not dare to run for nominees in a fear of harassment or if they give up their position of trust because of harassment. Especially in municipal decision-making, the diversity and mutual difference of candidates has been seen as a value. In addition, harassment affects public debate. Some issues are left outside of public discussion in a fear of harassment, which could change the political debate. The last societal risk is normalization of harassment.

Keywords: Local politics, harassment, political culture, complex management, narrative analysis

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## Convenience voting methods saved pandemic elections

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Facing the threat of the global health crisis, countries have needed to offer different solutions about how to run elections or whether to postpone them. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the need to re-evaluate voter facilitation and electoral engineering has become a burning question. Most of the elections held during the COVID-19 pandemic saw turnout drops. Turnout is skewed even during the normal times, but the situation has been even more complicated during the health crisis, as turnout is likely to disproportionately decline among certain groups, such as among risk groups for severe COVID-19 infection. This study identifies the issues that have arisen during the pandemic regarding political equality and convenience voting. The analysis is based on the national elections held during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic (between February 2020 and March 2021), with a total of 82 national elections in a total of 67 countries. The key findings of this study show that the pandemic caused not only a sharp decline in turnout, but a dramatic shift in organizing elections and adopting convenience voting methods. The correlation between the number of convenience voting methods used in pandemic elections and the change in turnout is evident. The more convenience voting methods were used in the pandemic elections, the more likely it was for the turnout to remain on the same level or even increase slightly compared to the same type of elections held prior the pandemic.

Keywords: Pandemic elections; political equality; convenience voting methods; COVID-19; turnout