

Journal Review

Comunicación y sociedad

Pamplona: University of Navarre
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The latest edition of the journal from the Communication Faculty of the University of Navarre includes a number of articles on various themes and a series of reviews of newly published books in the Faculty's academic area. Among the articles published, of note is the one by Carlos Macià Barber, putting forward an ombudsman for users of the media who is a journalist of accredited personal merit and with extensive professional experience, but who is independent of any news firm against which he or she may have to take action. Another of the noteworthy articles in this edition of the journal is the one by Carlos Múñiz, Juan José Igartua and José Antonio Otero, explaining the findings of an analysis of content concerning the visual representation of immigration through photographs published in leading Spanish newspapers with a national circulation. This study forms part of a broader research project on how the news media treat immigration. In the large section of reviews included in this edition, we should highlight that by Carmen Cortés Beltrán on the monograph *Audiencia infantil e información sobre terrorismo. Los medios ante el 11-M*, coordinated by Carmen García Galera.

Comunicazione Politica

Milan: University of Milan
Vol. VII, no. 1, first half of 2006
ISSN: 1594-6061

The *leitmotiv* of this edition of the Italian journal from the University of Milan is electronic democracy. It is therefore a monographic edition dedicated to this area. To start with, it includes an article by Mauro Calise that attempts to define what e-democracy is and is not. Then Philippe C. Schmitter proposes a series of ideas for implementing the perspectives of this kind of democracy, based on the use of ICTs in the European Union. In turn, in his article Francesco Amoretti defends the importance, within the political agenda of the European Union itself, of the existence of policies of cohesion and the creation of communication networks between institutions and citizens, thanks to the introduction and dissemination of ICTs, in order to achieve a veritable European public sphere. On the other hand, the article by Fortunato Musella warns of the dangers of e-democracy becoming a new border for transparency and citizen involvement in governmental activities. He therefore warns of the risks of the digital gap and highlights the new forms of dependency hidden behind the dream of digital *polis*. Other articles, comments and reviews related to the single theme go to make up this edition of the journal.

European Journal of Communication

London: SAGE Publications
Vol. 21, no. 3, September 2006
ISSN: 0267-3231

This is a special edition of the *European Journal of Communication* on the new media. In the introduction, Denis McQuail already warns of the fact that *new media* can mean many things: new technologies, forms and channels of distribution of public communication; technological resources to produce and share private communication or to receive public communication; the world wide web of the internet, etc. For this reason, this edition includes a number of articles on issues as diverse as the concept of citizenship in the age of the internet (by Joke Hermes), the relationship between policies and ICTs (by Sara Bentivegna) and social change associated with information technologies (by Helena Sousa), among others. From a more theoretical point of view, of note is the article by Lars Qvortrup, suggesting the application of complexity theory to media studies. Another article that might be highlighted in this review is the one by Cees J. Hamelink, who examines the application of new technologies to the human condition. So, for example, he revises the advances of digitalisation applied to human healthcare. This edition ends with a number of reviews of recently published books.

Media, Culture & Society

London: SAGE Publications

Vol. 28, no. 5, September 2006

ISSN: 0163-4437

Seven articles go to make up the core of the latest edition of the journal *Media, Culture & Society*, among which we can highlight three. Firstly, the article by Slavko Splichal, who postulates that the creation of a European public sphere is the result of the lack of citizen satisfaction caused by the dominance of the economy over essential policies for democracy. The article by Xialoing Zhang is also of note, which examines the news coverage of the SARS phenomenon (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in *Focus*, a news programme on contemporary issues in China. The author aims to demonstrate that, although news programmes on contemporary issues in China have been used to shape public discourse and create a favourable social and psychological climate for political stability, in times of crisis (such as now, with the appearance of SARS), they have less freedom to contradict the norms established by the State. And, to end, we should point out the article by Margaret Scammell and Ana I. Langer on political advertising. This article attempts to answer why, while commercial advertising attracts the interest of the receiver by using pleasure and popular discourse, political advertising remains in the area of content.

Telos. Cuadernos de comunicación, tecnología y sociedad

Madrid: Telefónica Foundation

No. 69, October-December 2006

ISSN: 0213-084X

The main section of this edition of the journal is dedicated to the digital content industry. A wide and varied range of companies are grouped under this denomination: publishers, the media and related companies, and internet service companies, among others. The aim of this section is therefore to highlight, from an economic or business management focus, the peculiarities of this industry and how it might evolve in the future. With this aim in mind, four background articles are presented that review the sector from different perspectives: a general view of the economy of information (Josep Ma Surís), a forecast of the main trends in the sector (Pablo Rodríguez Canfranc), a contribution on the role of telecommunications operators (GAPTEL) and a summary of the sector's key features in Spain, by describing the innovative experience of Prisacom (Carlos Guallarte and José R. Granger). These articles are complemented by four platforms where directors involved in developing the digital content market, from companies with highly diverse characteristics, share their experiences of how the sector has evolved and the positioning of the firms that lead it, thereby providing also the key factors for its future.

Zer. Revista de estudios de comunicación

Bilbao: Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication Vol. 11. No. 20, May 2006

ISSN: 1137-1102

This is a highly prolific edition containing around twenty articles. It is difficult to pick out some rather than others but, due to their thematic affinity with the idiosyncrasy of the *Quaderns del CAC*, perhaps we could mention four of them. The first refers to the ethical limits of persuasive messages in political communication. It is by Rafael Yanes and its relevance is based on a proposal for a set of principles for the good political communicator. We might also mention the article by José Ramón Pérez Ornia and Luis Núñez Ladevéze on children's consumption of television. This article contains comments on the data obtained from research projects led by the authors in which an analysis was made of the content of children's programming broadcast during the period 2001-2005. For his part, Guillermo López García analyses how the public sphere has mutated since the new digital communication systems appeared. And, to finish, also of note is the article by Marcial Murciano on the challenges of communication policies given pluralism, cultural diversity, economic and technological development and social welfare. The author proposes communication policies in order to make these challenges compatible.