

Fake news, post-truth and digital media: Inquiry in relationship between media and politics

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Main goals

Post-truth is generally understood as disconnection of the politics from the policy, thus the transformation of the electoral element of the contemporary democracy into purely symbolic entity not related with the real power and governance. During this course we will examine the role of media (including professional press but also the digital platforms of self-expression) in this process. Consequently, main goals of this course are to provide some general theoretical understanding how in contemporary digital environment media and politics are related between them and then provide some insight on relationship of media and politics in post-soviet world. Such understanding will enrich the general set of possible methods which could be used to study a contemporary media system and its implication on the society. Such methods are generally based on social sciences methods and cover political science, social psychology, sociology, cultural studies, political economy and regional studies. Second main goal is to provide some basic knowledge of Russian and post-soviet media because main examples used on this course are based on the deep analysis of Russian media system and Russian society, public sphere and political life

Experience

Main finding of this course are based on results of different research made by author since 2004. Different elements of this course has been used during author's teaching in Grenoble University (France) in 2013 and Lyon Political Sciences School (Sciences Po Lyon, France) in 2014.

Topics of the course

| Topic, description | Hours |
|---|--------------|
| Main terms and media problems of the contemporary politics Soft Power and theories of symbolic power in the society. Communicative dimension of politics. Post-truth and the role of media in the so called "post-truth politics". Fake news and their foundations. | 2 |
| Media and culture like symbolic institutions of the society Communication and its role in the society. Four set of institutions. Role of symbolic institutions within the humain history and their relationship with political institutions | 2 |
| Media and politics: general framework Main approaches to media/politics relationship. Foucauldian concept of power and its communicative implication. Media in context of theories of social contract and power as exchange. Koyne and Leeson model. Role of media in "political market" model. Media in context of political regime studies. Political parallelism in media and media within electoral studies. Media in context of political elite studies. Public opinion studies and W. Lippman. Positivist and critical approach to media/politics relationship. | 4 |

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|--|---|
| <p>Public sphere, counter-public sphere, alternative media and dissent in the society Public sphere theory by J. Habermas and its implication in media studies. Counter-public sphere(s) in post-habermassian philosophy. Classification of public spheres. Fragmentation of public spheres. Mainstream public sphere and parallel public sphere. Mainstream and parallel public sphere in Soviet Union and post-soviet space. The concept of alternative media in parallel public sphere. Theories by C. Fuchs and N. Carpentier.</p> | 4 |
| <p>Media and politics in the Internet age Networks, social networking and atomization of the society. Split of identities in digital age. Political identity in crisis. The resistance of national identities in digital age. Digital activism and real activism. Digital positivism and digital criticism. Theory of digital democracy and political participation in digital age. H. Jenkins and his vision of political participation. Theory of network power by M. Castells. Critical theories of participation by C. Fuchs. Clicktivism and slacktivism as illusion of participation.</p> | 2 |
| <p>Some reflections on post-soviet world Variety of political regimes and media systems on post-soviet space. Political economy of media in post-soviet space. Post-soviet media: between activism and mediation.</p> | |

Grading

Final grade is done on 10 and is entirely based on the final essay grading.

Final essay should be written in English on 5 pages (excluding cover and references list). In the essay the student should demonstrate the ability to apply one of the theories provided during the course to analyze the particular media field of the particular country of his choice. The Essay will be graded on 10 according to the following criteria:

| Criterion | Weight of criterion in % |
|--|--------------------------|
| Ability to operate theories in order to analyze social reality | 40% |
| Richness of the theoretical base | 20% |
| Structure | 20% |
| Scientific culture | 20% |

Sources

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