

MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

Professors: Bénédicte BERNER and Philippe AGHION
Academic year 2018/2019: Common core curriculum – Fall semester

COURSE OUTLINE

Class 1: Freedom of Expression and Democracy: an historical perspective

Political systems and normative theories on the role of the Press

Authoritarian

Libertarian: Milton, Locke, Mill and the Enlightenment

Social responsibility theory

Soviet communist theory

The duties of the Press in various forms of democracy

Classical liberal model

Democratic elitism

Classic pluralism

Critical pluralism

Freedom of expression and international and regional HR conventions

Freedom of Expression as a universal Human Right: UN principles and International Conventions and how they are incorporated in Constitutions and national laws:

The UN Charter, 1945

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights”, 1948, Art. 19

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The European Convention on Human Rights

The American Convention on Human Rights

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

Why knowledge matters for democracy

Voter turnout/civic engagement

Evaluation of public officials

Related reading: Reader class 1

Class 2 and 3: Media, Ethics and Law

Why ethics?

What is ethics/ the foundations of Ethics

Why ethical problems of journalism are different

Some ethical rules: Accuracy – Independence - Privacy:

- Freedom of expression and respect of the right to privacy: a possible conflict?
- “News of the World”: the Murdoch case
- Internet and privacy (will also be discussed in classes 5-7)

Freedom of Expression and hate speech

US and Europe: a different approach

Case studies:

- The caricatures issue: the Danish newspaper “Jyllandposten” ;
- The web as an instrument of hate speech or propaganda in the hands of extremists (state or non- state agents): a challenge to freedom of expression?

Trust in the news media

Related reading:

Reader classes 2-3

Research papers (abstract):

- “How cross-border nationalistic Serbian radio triggers ethnic hatred towards Serbs in Croatia” by Stefano DellaVigna, Ruben Enikolopov, Vera Mironova, Maria Petrova, Ekaterina

Zhuravskaya, August 2013

http://eml.berkeley.edu/~sdellavi/wp/Croatian_paper_13_08_13.pdf

- Survey: Pew Research Centre surveys on Trust in the media
<http://www.journalism.org/2014/10/21/appendix-c-trust-and-distrust-of-news-sources-by-ideological-group/>
<http://www.journalism.org/2014/10/21/section-1-media-sources-distinct-favorites-emerge-on-the-left-and-right>

Class 4: Media as a two-sided market: the consumer side and the advertising side Competition in the Market for News (Prof. Aghion)

Is there a conflict between quality of news/ public interest and dependence on advertising revenues?

Related reading:

Research paper (abstract):

- Jesse Shapiro and Matthew Gentzkow: Journal of Economic Perspective, 2008
<https://web.stanford.edu/~gentzkow/research/jepmedia.pdf>

Classes 5-7: Media and politics

Distribution of news and political influence

Distribution of news and legislative behavior

Distribution of news and public policy

Distribution of news and political accountability

How do media influence the electoral process?

Principles related to media coverage in times of election

A few observations on media behaviour in today's elections

How do media influence the electoral campaign/ Media bias and voting:

- Agenda setting: the media and other actors of influence
- Media strategies/bias and voting
- Media endorsement of candidates
- Electoral campaigns and political advertising in the media: the European and the American models

How is the Web changing electoral campaigns and the political environment

The web and electoral campaign engineering:

- Promotion of candidates
- Reaching the voters
- Empowering the voters
- Fundraising

The web and its long term effects on the electoral process

- Public participation
- Relation media/politicians: the 2016 US presidential campaign: Trump and the media

Has the web widened the platform of democracy?

- More voices and rapid propagation of ideas
- Power of the citizens versus top down informational process
- Political transparency and impact on legislation

Some concerns:

- Credibility/ Accuracy of the information: fake news and their impact on political campaigns; the mechanisms of Russia's involvement in the US and other European campaigns
- Opinionated information/partisan voices: Facebook case
- Customized information
- Global governance and social media : the right to privacy and the regulatory debate

Related reading:

Reader classes 5-7

Research papers (abstract):

- "Minority targeted local media and voter turnout", research paper, 2006 by Joel Waldfogel. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/6509/449900PUB0Box3101OFFICIAL0USE0ONLY1.pdf?sequence=1> (see chapter 4)
- "Mass media and public policy", David Stromberg, European Economic Review 45, 2001, 652-663. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0014292101001064>
- "ATTACK WHEN THE WORLD IS NOT WATCHING? INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT", Ruben Durante and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, PUBLIC ECONOMICS, 2015 <https://bfi.uchicago.edu/research/working-paper/attack-when-world-not-watching-international-media-and-israeli-palestinian>

- "Press Coverage and Political Accountability", David Stromberg and James Snyder, 2008, Journal of Political Economy : [http://people.su.se/~dstro/w13878\[1\].pdf](http://people.su.se/~dstro/w13878[1].pdf)
- "Distributing News and Political Influence", David Stromberg in, The Media's Right to Tell, edited by Simeon Djankov and Caralee McLiesh for the World Bank, 2002. <http://people.su.se/~dstro/wbbook.pdf>
- "Fanning the Flames: The News Media's Role in the Rise of Negativity in Presidential Campaigns", John G. Geer, Joan Shorenstein Center, 2009 http://www.hks.harvard.edu/presspol/publications/papers/discussion_papers/d55_geer.pdf
- "The road to Wikipolitics: life and death of the modern presidential primary", Tom Fiedler, Joan Shorenstein Centre, 2008 http://www.hks.harvard.edu/presspol/publications/papers/discussion_papers/d41_fiedler.pdf
- "Social Media and Protest Participation: Evidence from Russia", Ruben Enikolopov, Alexey Makarin, Maria Petrova , February 18, 2016, Social Science Research Network http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2696236
- "The unintended consequences of internet diffusion: Evidence from Malaysia", Luke Miner, Journal of Public Economics, December 2015 <https://ideas.repec.org/a/eee/pubeco/v132y2015icp66-78.html>
- "Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election" Allcott, Hunt; Gentzkow, Matthew. Working paper for the National Bureau of Economic Research <https://web.stanford.edu/~gentzkow/research/fakenews.pdf>
- Survey: Pew Research Center, December 2016, <http://www.journalism.org/2016/12/15/many-americans-believe-fake-news-is-sowing-confusion/>

Classes 8-9: Political and legal pressure on the media. Examples will be taken from Europe, United States, Russia and China

An overview of the situation of freedom of the Press in the world

Defamation laws

Are laws on libel routinely used to shield officials' conduct from public scrutiny.

On whom relies the burden of the proof

Who is held responsible? Civil or criminal code?

Internet and libel

Anti-terrorism laws and connected issues:

Protection of sources: European and American law

- European cases
- USA: Judith Miller, James Rosen and James Risen cases
- Manning and Snowden cases

Internet and protection of sources ; Balance between privacy and security; the Apple case 2016

Related reading:

Reader classes 8-9

Research papers (abstract):

- “How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression”, GARY KING Harvard University, JENNIFER PAN Harvard University, MARGARET E. ROBERTS Harvard University, American Political Science Review Page 1 of 18 May 2013
<http://gking.harvard.edu/publications/how-censorship-china-allows-government-criticism-silences-collective-expression>
- Survey: Reporters Without Borders: Freedom of Expression index, 2016
<https://rsf.org/en/ranking>

Class 10: Economic and financial pressure on the media

Ownership of the media

Various models of ownership

Incidence of ownership structure on media independence

Advertising

Is there a difference between advertisers and corporate owners in terms of pressure on the editorial policy?

Can profit and good journalism go together?

Media bias

How to measure media bias: “A measure of media bias” , 2005, research paper by Jeffrey Milyo, department of economics, university of Missouri-Columbia

- http://economics.missouri.edu/workingpapers/2005/wp0501_milyo.pdf

Profit and media slant

Political impact of media bias

- “The political impact of media bias”, 2007, research paper by Stefano Della Vigna and Ethan Kaplan <http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~sdellavi/wp/mediabiaswb07-06-25.pdf>

Related reading:

Research papers for class 10 (abstract):

- “Who owns the media”, Andrei Schleifer, Tatiana Nenova, Simeon Djankov, World Bank Annual Report, 2002 http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/477365-1257315064764/2423_djankov.pdf
- “Media capture and government accountability”, Timothy Besley and Andrea Prat, LSI, 2004 <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/pepp/pepp07.pdf>
- “What drives media slant?”, research paper by Matthew Gentzkow and Jesse Shapiro from the university of Chicago, 2009

Classes 11&12: Media and Development (Prof. Aghion)

Related reading:

Research papers (abstract):

- Besley, T, and Burgess, R (2002): The Political Economy of Government Responsiveness, Quarterly Journal of Economics <https://lsempra.wordpress.com/2012/05/08/the-political-economy-of-government-responsiveness/>
- Media and Development http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INFORMATIONANDCOMMUNICATIONANDTECHNOLOGIES/Resources/The_Media_and_Development.pdf
- “Development impact of social media” <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/142061452529904331/WDR16-BP-SocialMedia-Ackland.pdf>

READINGS:

Recommended books:

- “How to Know What’s True in the Age of Information Overload”, Bill Kovach & and Tom Rosenstiel, 2011
- “The Inside story of how the truth caught up with Rupert Murdoch”, Nick Davies, 2014
- “Dollarocracy”, Robert W. McChesney and John Nichols, 2013
- “Media, Development, and Institutional Change”, Christopher Coyne and Peter Leeson, 2009
- “Journalism and PR”, John Lloyd and Laura Toogood, 2014

- "Public Sentinel; news media & governance reform", editor: Pippa Norris, World Bank
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTGOVACC/Resources/PublicSentineleBook.pdf>