



Research Talks

2019/20
winter
semester



Monday, 28 October 2019, SR 4, 11:30-13:00

As it was in Analogue Days: The Relevance of Legacy Research

Jay Blumler (University of Leeds)

Political communication processes, their possible outcomes, and needs for research into them have undoubtedly been transformed by digitization. But while opening the new digital book, the old analog one should, for four reasons, be kept open too. First, some important features of political communication will very likely abide. Secondly, a wealth of theories and empirically supported findings has emerged from legacy-period research that should be built on, not side-lined. Thirdly, past work is like a laboratory in which various ways of tackling research problems have been fruitfully tried and disclosed. Fourthly, the pioneering leaders of the field strove for heights and forms of creativity that present-day scholars should aim where possible to emulate.

Monday, 18 November 2019, SR 4, 11:30-13:00

The Young and the Susceptible? Growing up in a Complex Media Environment

Team AdMe: Jörg Matthes, Brigitte Naderer, Alice Binder, Ines Spielvogel, Marlis Stubenvoll, Anja Stevic, Andreas Nanz, Kathrin Karsay, Melanie Hirsch, Ariadne Neureiter, Franz Reiter, Ruta Kaskeleviciute, Helena Knupfer, Melanie Saumer, Michaela Forrai

The so-called Generation Z describes children and adolescents born between 1997 and 2012. This generation has the possibility to use the media 24/7, which can lead to fundamental changes in their lives. This talk briefly summarizes our research on this topic, especially with respect to health-related behaviors and the well-being of children and adolescents.



Inequality, Incivility, and Inaccuracy: Studying Political Communication in a Turbulent Age

Team PolCom: Sophie Lecheler, Loes Aldering, Ming Boyer, Jana Egelhofer, Tanja Kiennast, Manon Mandl

The PolCom Research Group focuses on the interaction between political elites, media, and citizens. Recent projects in the group are in particular concerned with the relationship between societal inequalities, digitalization, and political news reporting. For instance, we study the representation and effects of gender identities in political news, are interested in how the concept of "fake news" is weaponized by populist elites, and evaluate whether political communication is increasingly uncivil and emotionalized.



Monday, 9 December 2019, SR 4, 11:30-13:00

Governing the Digital World: The Moral Limit of the Market

Robin Mansell (London School of Economics and Political Science)

This talk will focus on recent debates in Europe, and specifically, the UK, about how far, and in what ways, the state should intervene to control the practices of the most dominant digital platforms – Facebook, Google, and others. It will consider these issues in the light of conflicting values, rights and responsibilities to provide a basis for observations about where the boundary should rest between publicly supported and privately provided digital services and applications. In brief, what should be the moral limit of the market as digital platforms permeate our lives?



Wednesday, 8 January 2020, SR 10, 14:30 - 16:00

A Perfect Storm? Communication Science in an Age of Polarization, Misinformation, and Changing Media Environments

Dietram Scheufele (University of Wisconsin-Madison and current Lazarsfeld Visiting Professor)

Modern science across all disciplines is increasingly faced with often controversial public debates surrounding its societal applications. AI, genetically-modified foods, and human genome editing are just a few recent examples. How do we all form policy stances about emerging technologies we know little about? Why are societies often so divided in our interpretations of scientific facts and phenomena? What role do media, especially in online environments, play in this process? And what role can the communication discipline play in promoting better policy discourse around emerging science?