

## Abstracts

### **Public Service Broadcasting as a Project of Modernity: National Identity and Education in the Programming of Flemish Public Service Television**

Hilde Van den Bulck

The aim of this article is to study the way in which public service broadcasting (PSB) - as a typical modernist project of a certain cultural elite - has tried to create and maintain a national identity using a uniform, high culture as a vehicle to 'educate' its audience into 'citizens' of the community. In particular, our analysis concentrates on the policy in this regard of the Flemish public service television. Our hypothesis is that the (cultural elite within) Flemish PSB - and particularly television - for a long time tried to contribute to the recognition and development of Flemish identity and culture by offering a uniform Flemish culture. An analysis of the programming of Flemish public television between 1953 and 1969 is used to illustrate this.

Key words: public service broadcasting, television culture, national identity, cultural elite, programming

### **Nonverbal Competence of Adolescents with Educational Problems: Formulation of the Problem and Suggestions towards a Solution**

Aagje Geerardyn

From the (few) studies on the nonverbal competence of adolescents with educational problems we can conclude that these adolescents are inferior to 'normal' adolescents in both the decoding and encoding of nonverbal cues. Whereas most of the authors believe in the influence of socialisation, there is no evidence about the cause of this shortage of nonverbal competence. Several authors have argued that nonverbal competence is of great importance for successful social interactions, and this seems to be especially the case for adolescents with educational problems. The fact that they show a lack of these skills leads us to the question whether they can be trained to improve their nonverbal communication. Social skills training for adolescents with educational problems sometimes gives attention to nonverbal competence, but this never happens in a systematic way. How a training in nonverbal competence should be conducted with these adolescents, and what the possible effects can be, remain unanswered questions. This article gives some suggestions and hypotheses, and pleads for more research on this matter.

Key words: nonverbal competence, adolescents with educational problems, social competence, social skills training

### **Media Use, School Achievement, Spelling- and Reading Skills: A Multilevel Analysis**

Daniël Muijs

The dominant paradigm in research on the relationship between media use and school achievement has traditionally focussed on negative effects of the media, especially television, on school achievement. Empirical studies on this relationship have, however, produced indecisive and sometimes contradictory results, and have often been inadequate, due either to a lack of control variables in the model or to the use of statistical techniques unsuited to the data-set studied which have resulted in overestimation of effect sizes. In this study a large number of relevant control variables were included in multilevel regression models suited to the hierarchical nature of the dataset studied. Use of the electronic media was found not to have a significant effect on pupil's spelling- and reading test scores. A significant positive relationship was found between reading frequency and reading test scores, however. Other factors which were significantly related to spelling and reading test scores were parental socio-economic status, self-concept and school quality.

Key words: media use, children, spelling and reading comprehension, multilevel analysis