

Abstracts

Multimedia Journalism: The Journalist and the Internet

Piet Porteman

Every news medium has its own journalistic style. As nobody doubts the qualities of the Internet as a news medium, we wondered how this new medium influences or changes the classic way of doing journalism. A first group of changes can be summarised in the term 'computer assisted reporting'. Computer assisted reporting already existed before the Internet became a mass medium and refers to the use of the computer during the making of a journalistic work. In this article it is used to indicate the importance of the Internet as a journalistic tool. Secondly, a lot of new information and news services can be found on the Internet. Compared with other news media, they have their own style and characteristics. The author describes the influence on journalism of interactivity, multimedia features, the use of hypertext en hypermedia, and the timeliness. Also the fear for the de-intellectualisation of the journalistic functions and the increased use of technology is explained. Finally, we describe the current discussion on the role of the journalist in highly atomised editorial systems used on the Internet.

Key words: journalism, online journalism, multimedia journalism

Pictures of Prostitutes. The Discursive Battle of Subject Position

Nico Carpentier

The conceptual framework of the discourse theory of Laclau and Mouffe and a literature study on prostitution are used to analyse the articulation of the different identities of the prostitute, focussing on the antagonism between the prostitute as an object and the prostitute as a subject. This macro-contextual analysis is related to the micro-contextual content analysis of 319 articles, published in five Flemish newspapers, to show the hegemony of the object-oriented discourse. The main nodal point of this discourse - the prostitute as a victim - is articulated in a chain of equivalence with the illegal, foreign or deviant prostitute, with the prostitute as an abstract object of policy, who remains anonymous and is reduced to silence. References to the subject-oriented discourse and its nodal points self-determination and prostitution as labour are a rare occurrence.

Key words: discourse theory, content analysis, prostitution, object/subject-relations, hegemony

Relaxing Tension: Motives for Viewing and the Role of Emotions in Reality TV

Jurgen Minnebo

The 'uses-and-gratifications' approach explains media use as a result of the needs of the consumer. This theory, however, pays little attention to the way the user obtains gratifications from media-content. Obviously, the communicator has a part in this as well. Taking the concepts 'gratifications sought' and 'gratifications obtained' as a starting point, this article tries to illustrate the interaction between communicator and receiver in the case of reality tv.

Key words: reality tv, uses-and-gratifications, media-effects, television