



Democracy, Social Networks and Mediatization

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Raquel Rodríguez-Díaz

Dpto de Periodismo y
Comunicación Corporativa,
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos de
Madrid, 28942 Fuenlabrada,
Spain

Prof. Dr. Palmira Chavero

Estudios Internacionales y
Comunicación, Facultad
Latinoamericana de Ciencias
Sociales, Quito 170201, Ecuador

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The boom in social networks has brought with it an increase in the spreading of false information (Wardle, 2017) and discriminatory content, thus turning the digital sphere into a place with a propensity for disinformation and hate speech (Piñeiro and Martínez, 2021). The debate regarding whether social networks improve public debate and democracy or if, by contrast, they polarize and block it, remains open and there are claims on both sides. One way of reducing this noise in the digital sphere needs there to be a guarantee of the right of access to information and an improvement in the processes of transparency and accountability of public authorities. This would achieve two objectives. On the one hand, it would reduce the dependence of civil society on the media and networks to know which public issues are of interest to it. On the other, it would strengthen governance and bring public institutions nearer to the general public, thus improving levels of trust in institutions.

This Special Issue focuses particularly on giving an answer using several case studies or a literature review of mediatization and the elements of which it is composed.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Gregor Wolbring

Community Rehabilitation and
Disability Studies, Cumming
School of Medicine, University of
Calgary, Calgary, AB T2N 4N1,
Canada

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Societies Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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