

The Media, Democracy and Political Culture

Workshop

Perugia March 9 – 10, 2012

Università di Perugia
Dipartimento Istituzioni e Società
Via Elce di sotto
Perugia

Workshop background

The relationship between the media and democracy is shaped by many different historical, legal, economic, technological and institutional factors. An important role is also played by a complex and not easily detectable framework of beliefs, attitudes, habits and behaviours. This is the domain of political culture; affecting the decisions of politicians, journalists and law makers. Political culture contains both formal and informal rules, institutional rules and personal networks of relationships. Sometimes these formal and informal domains complement each other and, at other times, they contradict each other, leading to inefficiency and conflict.

During the first two years of the ERC funded project on the ‘Media and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe’ (<http://mde.politics.ox.ac.uk/>), the importance of political culture has emerged as a leading explanatory factor. Similar institutional solutions worked differently in different cultural settings. Relationships between journalists, media owners and politicians have been shaped by distinct cultural

patterns. Existing laws and regulations were either reinforced or undermined by informal rules and patterns. Formal relationships and hierarchies worked in the shadow of informal social networks, creating their own peculiar hierarchies. While differences have emerged among the ten countries under observation, similarities have also been observed, both between the central eastern European countries, but also between them and the southern European countries in particular.

The scope of the seminar is to investigate the historical and theoretical dimensions of political culture. How to study political culture in the field of media and democracy? How does culture influence decisions and actions of politicians, media owners and journalists? Do informal rules and networks strengthen or weaken democratic governance of the media? Particular attention will be devoted to comparisons between southern and eastern European countries.



Media and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe

An ERC Project based at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford in collaboration with the Department of Media and Communications, The London School of Economics and Political Science

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Programme schedule

Friday, March 9

14h00 Registration
14h15 Welcome and opening: **Jan Zielonka (University of Oxford)**

Introduction: **Paolo Mancini (Università di Perugia)**

Looking for definitions

Chair: **Sara Bentivegna (Università di Roma, La Sapienza)**

14h30 **Jan Kubik (Rutgers University)**
Culture, Political Culture and Post-communist Transformations: A Review of Theory and Empirical Findings

Mihai Coman (University of Bucharest)
Communication: The battle over Memory

15h30 Discussion
16h15 Coffee break

Political cultures

Chair: **Giorgio Eduardo Montanari (Università di Perugia)**

16h45 **Giovanni Belardelli (Università di Perugia)**
The Political Cultures of Contemporary Italy

Peter Gross (The University of Tennessee)
Political Culture, Political Systems, Mass Media Systems: The Binding Relationship

Nicole Gallina (Université de Fribourg)
The Advantage of Informality: Informal relations as Power Instruments in Eastern European Countries



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17h45 Discussion

Saturday, March 10

Dimensions of political cultures

Chair: **Roberto Segatori (Università di Perugia)**

9h30 **Paolo Bellucci, Fabio Serricchio, Luca Verzichelli (Università di Siena)**

Attitudes towards Europe: Elites-Masses dynamics in times of economic crisis

Marco Maraffi (Università di Milano, Statale)

Media exposure and political culture

Terhi Rantanen (London School of Economics)

From Cultures to Systems: is there an alternative way?

10h30 Discussion

11h15 Coffee break

The Media and Political Culture

Chair: **Cinzia Padovani (Southern Illinois University)**

11h30 **Henrik Ornebring (University of Oxford)**

Clientelism, elites and the media: political culture in Central and Eastern Europe

Aukse Balcytienne (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas)

Central and East European Controversies, Parallelisms, and Inhomogeneities: The Baltic Perspective

Ainius Lasas (University of Oxford)



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Dynamics of Political Trust in Central and Eastern Europe following EU Eastern Enlargement

12h30 Discussion

13h15 Lunch

The Media and Political Culture

Chair: **Jacek Zakowski (Polityka, Warsaw)**

14h30 **Marina Gheretti (Gothenborg University) – Alessio Cornia (Università di Perugia)**

Conflict and consensus. Media reflections of political culture

Małgorzata Mołęda-Zdziech (Warsaw School of Economics)

Lobbying in new media sector in Poland - between "logic of piracy" and civil disobedience

15h15 Discussion

16h00

Closure and Thanks: **Jan Zielonka (University of Oxford)**



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