

Fachbereich 9 - Medienstudiengänge

Department 9 - Media Courses

Kommentar zur Lehrveranstaltung im WiSe 2024/2025

Description of seminars

Veranstalter*in: Dr. Michael Reiss

Lecturer:

Titel (dt.): All Eyes on News: Trends and Challenges of a Contested Concept

Titel (engl.): All Eyes on News: Trends and Challenges of a Contested Concept
(immer angeben)

Beschreibung:

Description:

The consumption of news is considered a cornerstone of democracy. By reading, hearing, or viewing news, citizens become informed about politics and are enabled to make informed decisions at elections. At least this is the ideal case and long-standing normative expectation. In reality, however, news and the consumption thereof are increasingly contested, both as a common practice by citizens and as a scholarly concept. Fewer people consume news on a regular basis, and the debate about what qualifies as news is ongoing.

To gain a contemporary understanding of news as a form of political information, this seminar takes several perspectives on the topic. From a theoretical perspective, the course will investigate the reasons that make news a central piece of democracy. Conceptually, we will tackle questions such as what qualifies as news and how to define it. For a long time, conceptualizations of news came with a production focus, which has been criticized more recently. Methodologically, the course will showcase the intricate difficulties in operationalizing news and measuring news consumption holistically. Here, more traditional approaches, such as surveys and modern approaches such as utilizing digital trace data are discussed. Finally, the course will engage in the latest empirical findings and trends on news consumption and news avoidance. We will address questions such as why people increasingly avoid news and the consequences of news avoidance.

This seminar will be conducted as a block-seminar; please be aware of the dates and timings. Students should have a strong interest in political communication and should have completed the introductory courses of their program. During the seminar, participants are expected to conduct assigned readings, actively participate in discussions and group work, hold a presentation on a study or topic and moderate a discussion. Assignments will be either individual or in groups, depending on the number of participants. When students want to get 6 CP for this seminar, they must complete a seminar paper on a topic of their choice, but which is related to the seminar.

Bitte beachten Sie die Anwesenheitsregelung in Modul KMW 6/ C.2 aufgrund der spezifischen Praxisausrichtung und begrenzten Kapazität.

Please be aware of the attendance policy in Module KMW 6/ C.2 due to specific practice orientation and limited room capacity.

Literatur:

Newman, N., Fletcher, R., Eddy, K., Robertson, C. T., Ross Arguedas, A., & Nielsen, R. K. (2024). *Digital News Report 2024*. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.