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BOOK REVIEWS

Giovanna Mascheroni, Cristina Ponte and Ana Jorge (Eds.)

DIGITAL PARENTING: THE CHALLENGES FOR FAMILIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE
Nordicom, University of Gothenburg, 2018., 239 pp
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As highlighted in the preface of the book *Digital Parenting: The Challenges for Families in the Digital Age*, the issue of parenting in the digital age is a topic that engages a large number of individuals (within the media but also among parents themselves) who are trying to respond to the following challenges: how to mediate children's use of digital media, how to overcome the generational gap in the use of digital media between parents and children, and how to balance between the opportunities offered by digital media and the negative consequences they may have.

These "challenges and opportunities faced by parents in digital times" (p. 11), as emphasized by the editors Giovanna Mascheroni, Cristina Ponte and Ana Jorge, is the main theme of the book divided into three parts (sections): *Digital parenting in context*, *Parental mediation in practice*, and *Challenges, risks and opportunities of digital media for parents and children*.

The first part consists of seven chapters. Sonia Livingstone and Jasmina Byrne, in the first chapter entitled *Parenting in the Digital Age. The Challenges of Parental Responsibility in Comparative Perspective*, point to differences in the way in which parents, in high-income and low-income countries, respond to the challenges of technology in the context of mediation and restrictions towards children's use of media. Another chapter that has an interesting title is *Transcendent Parenting in Digitally Connected Families. When the Technological Meets the Social* by Sun Sun Lim. The author deals with the topic of a new form of parenthood – in households of middle-class families that are extremely digitally connected, in the sense that "parents constantly communicate with their children and guide their children's media use" (p. 12). The third chapter by Isabel Pavez and Teresa Correa *Resistance, Opportunities and Tensions. The Role of Children and Young People in Internet Adoption of Isolated Rural Communities* explores the role of children and young people in adopting the Internet in isolated rural communities of Chile. The fourth chapter *Mediation Practices in Socially Disadvantaged Families* by Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink presents a longitudinal "panel study on the role of media within socialisation of socially disadvantaged families in Austria" (p. 51) along with the analysis of parents' mediation practices. The fifth chapter *Drawn in All Directions. Heritage Language Families' Use of Technology* by Sabine Little focuses on ways in which parents of different cultural and linguistic heritages use digital technology to support heritage language developments in their children" (p. 61). The following chapter *Parental Ethnotheories in Children's Digital and Media Lives* by Marketa Zezulko presents an ethnographic research of seven Czech Roma families to discuss "the possible relevance and value of parents' cultural beliefs (...) to parental mediation and digital parenting theory and practice" (p. 69). The last chapter of the first section *Differing Parental Approaches to Cultivating Youth Citizenship* by Lynn Schofield Clark and Maria José Brites reflects on "how parents and their children negotiate their digital responsibilities and rights during the adolescent years" (p. 81) in the U.S.A. and in Portugal.

The second section also consists of seven chapters. The first chapter *From Media Trusteeship to Parental Mediation: The Parental Development of Parental Mediation* by Thorsten Naab

reviews the theoretical framework of the three "widely discussed strategies of parental mediation" (p. 93): active mediation, restrictive mediation and media co-use. The second chapter *Development of Infants' Media Habits in the Age of Digital Parenting: A Longitudinal Study of Jonathan, From the Age of 6 to 27 Months* by Yehuda Bar Lev, Nelly Elias and Sharona T. Levy presents a study of one child's media use over a two-year period and "family and parent-related factors determining this process" (p. 103). In chapter three *Parental Evaluations of Young Children's Touchscreen Technologies* Leslie Haddon and Donell Holloway present the initial findings "from the Australia-UK Toddlers and Tablets project" in which they explored how parents of children aged 0-5 "evaluate the role of touchscreen technologies in their children's lives" (p. 113). The fourth chapter *Early Gambling Behaviour in Online Games: Parental Perspectives vs. What Children Report* by Rozane De Cock, Bieke Zaman, Maarten Van Mechelen and Jonathan Huyghe addresses the issue of "early gambling practices in online games among primary school children and their parents" (p. 125). The fifth chapter entitled *Maltese Parents' Awareness and Management of Risks their Children Face Online* by Lorleen Farrugia and Mary Anne Lauri presents the results of a qualitative study (focus groups) and survey conducted among children (8-15 years old) and their parents to investigate children's online practices and their parents' knowledge of these practices. In chapter *"Daddy, Your Mobile is Stupid, You Should Put it Away" Media Education from the Perspective of Professionals*, Gisela Schubert and Susanne Eggert provide the perspective of German professional educational counsellors on how parents deal with children's use of mobile media and internet" as well as the ways they try to "improve parental media education" (p. 14). The last chapter of the second section *Digital Parenting in the Netherlands: Putting Theory into Practice* by Jos de Haan, Peter Nikken & Annemarie Wennekers investigates the "Dutch situation on parental guidance of young children's media use" (p. 157).

The last section contains six chapters. The first one, by Veronica Barassi, entitled *The Child as Datafied Citizen: Critical Questions on Data Justice in Family Life* "explores the relationship between parents' digital practices and the production of children's data traces" (p. 169). In the second chapter *The Trouble with "Screen Time" Rules*, Alicia Blum-Ross and Sonia Livingstone analyze the American Academy of Pediatrics' "screen time" guidelines in relation to the experiences of parental mediation (73 diverse families in London). In the following chapter *CHARGE on: Digital Parenting of a Child with Rare Genetic Syndrome with the Help of Facebook Group*, Pille Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt uses auto-ethnography to question "the role a closed Facebook group can play in the life of a parent with a child who has rare genetic syndrome" (p. 189). The fourth chapter *Childbirth Online: The Mediation of Contrasting Discourses* by Ranjana Das analyzes the online discussion on childbirth experiences through two found narratives. Chapter *Sharenting = Good Parenting? Four Parental Approaches to Sharenting on Facebook* by Maja Sonne Damkjaer focuses on parents' practice of sharing photographs and information on their children on social media through conducted multi-case study of eight Danish first-time parent couples. The last chapter *Family photography in a networked age: Anti-sharenting as a reaction to risk assessment and behaviour adaption* by Ulla Autenrieth raises the topic of parents who share family pictures on social networks through the presentation of findings of a research project at the University of Basel entitled *Picturing Family in the Social Web*.

With the variety of covered topics, this book addresses numerous challenges to parents in the digital age. Through established and thoroughly discussed theoretical frameworks and the results provided by much-needed different research projects, it also offers first-hand experiences.

Dunja Majstorović Jedovnicki

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Yvonne Anderson, Ulf Dalquist, Jonas Ohlsson (Eds.)

YOUTH AND NEWS IN DIGITAL MEDIA ENVIRONMENT. NORDIC-BALTIC PERSPECTIVES
Nordicom: Swedish Media Council, 2018, 159 pp
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In the preface entitled *Youth and news in a digital environment. Nordic-Baltic perspectives* the editors remind us of the technical and technological changes in the media industry that affect the production and distribution of media content. Another additional challenge is the spread of fake news that threatens the media sphere. The focus of these Proceedings is on young people who are dually perceived – as vulnerable consumers who need to be protected or as high-skilled consumers (p. 11).

The Proceedings are divided into three thematic units and fifteen chapters. *Youth Participating in News and Information Production* is the first part, in which Thomas Nygren and Fredrik Brouneús present *The News Evaluator. Evidence-based innovations to promote digtal civic-literacy*. This project is a fruit of collaboration between universities and civil society associations and its purpose is to examine how young people in Sweden are exposed to digital news and how they share it. (p. 20).

This orientation of young people towards digital platforms requires additional digital competence. It also motivated the Norwegian non-profit organization Norsensus Mediaforum to launch the Faktuell 2013 project, presented by Vedat Sevincer, Heidi Biseth and Robert Wallace Vaagan in the chapter *"Faktuell. Youths as journalists in online newspapers and magazines in Norway"*. It is a program that is an innovative model of e-learning and inclusion of youth in the public sphere (p. 31).

A similar project of media literacy is also found in Estonia, and is presented by Kadri Ugur and Eleri Löhmus in the chapter entitled *Non-formal media education. A rich border area of learning*. By describing the Media Injection project, it is shown how it is possible to include young people in media production and help to understand their news value system (p. 47).

The second part of the Proceedings is dedicated to *News Production Conducted by Media Organizations*. Lowe Őstberg presents *Lilla Aktuellt. Public service producing news for young people,* a daily Swedish public service media program which broadcasts news on the children's channel as well. Although the government is concerned about the media content for children aged 8 to 12 in the news, the author reminds us that we can not fully protect them because of the general availability of the media. At the same time we can help them to deal more easily with media challenges. Furthermore, Marita Bjaaland Skjuve and Petter Bae Brandtzaeg in the chapter entitled *Chatbots as a new user interface for providing health information to young people* show how artificial intelligence is involved in creating user experience. Young people are increasingly suffering from various mental

illnesses, so it is very important to provide them with quality information in the digital age (pp. 60, 61), since chatbots can be trusted partners in responding to 'tricky' health issues and help people to open up and thus prevent the dissemination of disinformation related to health issues.

In the chapter *Voicing young people's perspectives. Media influencing as a form of collaboration between youth organizations and the professional media,* Maarit Jaakkola attempts to provide answers to questions on how to involve young people and the public to become more engaged. The media influence today is dominantly presented in a negative context, so the Finnish media are trying to understand the role of the audience in the communication process (p. 74). The idea of the Youth News Voice Center is to identify themes for young people, which are subsequently proposed to editors. Further, Catharina Bucht in the chapter *Printing children's news. Three editors' views on newspapers for a young audience,* shows that printed media have a future and that young people in Scandinavian countries prefer them, in spite of the domination of digital media. The chapter provides interviews with editors of three printed media for children aged 6 to 10. The first of them was Aftenposten Junior from Norway, Børneavisen from Denmark and Mini Bladet from Sweden. The content of children's newspapers is focused on building relationships with readers and monitoring their needs and areas of interest. Compared to content for adults, the criteria for news selection are different - instead of sensationalism and negative news, there are graphic elements which support the story in the first place (p. 85).

The third part of the Proceedings entitled *News Use among Youth* begins with Signe Opermann's chapter *Youth news media use in Estonia.* The Estonian media system is liberal and market-oriented, and includes the Estonian and Russian speaking areas. Although the media market is small, the variety of channels (media and their presence) indicates significant differences (p. 92). Users' preferences with regard to media usage show how traditional media are losing the race with the new ones, and the Estonians see news as a way to broaden horizons as well as to prepare for the future (p. 100). Maria Jervelycke Belfrage, in the chapter *Young people do consume news in social media - with a little help from their friends!,* provides an analysis of news consumption by Swedish high school students. The results have shown that news consumption is the result of incidental exposure, as young people often encounter news on social networks mostly spontaneously or thanks to news alerts or friends' recommendations (pp. 106-110). It is positive that young people can make difference between useful and useless news, and that they are able to separate the need for information from the need for entertainment (p. 112). Nevertheless, young people are often said to intentionally avoid news or consume them uncritically, In the chapter *News consumption among young people in Norway. The relevance of smartphones and social media,* Dag Slettemeås and Ardis Storm-Mathisen show that young people are very interested in news, but there is a difference between young men and young women in its consumption. In addition, Stine Liv Johnson, in the chapter *News kids can use - to play with,* shows the significance and the role of YouTube in the lives of children. The author shows the link between news, media consumption and the game as a model of communication (p. 127) in the online and offline world.

Further, Johan Lindell, in *The Taste for news. Class shaping young people's news use in Sweden',* shows class-based differences. It was established that the middle class is quite media-educated, as contrasted with the working class in which parents are often at work

and children are left alone to the interpretation of social reality (p. 135), which implies lack of communication about media content. Jacob Ørmen talks about media consumption in Denmark with a special emphasis on algorithms that change the role of a gatekeeper in media organizations (p. 141) in the chapter *A generation divided. (Dis)engagement towards news among Danish youth*. Although the Danes are in many aspects similar to other Scandinavians, the author emphasizes an important difference - they are still not willing to pay for the news they consume, as opposed to the others.

Finally, Yvonne Anderson, in the chapter *To share or not to share? News practices in the media life of Swedish youths,* reveals details of the use of social media by young Swedes. By using the qualitative method of deep interviews, it was shown that commenting on social media is a form of individual expression, as well as an attempt at social positioning in the public sphere (p. 151). However, there are those who are reluctant to participate in this form of communication.

The book of Proceedings presents an additional contribution to the study of media literacy and our coexistence with digital media. The book is also a kind of analysis of the Scandinavian model of education where young people are educated for a school for life. The book will be of great use to journalists and editors who work in the media for the purpose of understanding the needs and expectations of children as the youngest and the most vulnerable groups in society. Furthermore, it will be of great use to teachers and students of media, communication and pedagogical orientation, and finally to parents who want to monitor what their children are consuming.

Tanja Grmuša

Seth Ashley, Jessica Roberts and Adam Maksl
AMERICAN JOURNALISM AND ''FAKE NEWS'': EXAMINING THE FACTS
ABC-CLIO, 2018, 239 pp

The book *American Journalism and "Fake News": Examining the Facts*, published by ABC-CLIO in 2018, is part of its Contemporary Debates reference series which deals with current political and cultural issues and controversial claims, primarily in the United States. In the preface of the book it is explained that the purpose of the series is to "give readers a clear and unbiased understanding of current issues by informing them about falsehood, half-truths and misconceptions" (p. ix). Moreover, it is specified that the book is intended for use by general public; in particular, by high school and undergraduate students.

The 239-page book talks about journalism in the United States, while it specifically addresses the problem of the "fake news" which is currently one of the major problems of American democracy, as it is stated in the introduction entitled *Journalism's Role in Democratic Society*. The introduction explains that "at its best, journalism can serve as the cornerstone of democracy by facilitating informed self-government and supporting a shared civic life" (p. xi). However, on the other hand, "at its worst, journalism can distort, mislead, and distract" (p. xi). For this reason, the authors of the book lay out the facts about today's journalism, society and the media, politics, public relations... The authors in question are Seth Ashley; an associate professor of journalism and media studies at

Boise State University; Jessica Roberts, an assistant professor of communication studies at Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Lisbon and Adam Makls, an associate professor of journalism and media at Indiana University Southeast.

American Journalism and "Fake News": Examining the Facts was written through 37 important questions divided into seven thematic chapters. Each question represents one individual entry in the chapter, and all of them are graphically and contentually complementary. Each question is followed by a short and concise answer and then by a more comprehensive and detailed explanation in which facts and recent data, including potential controversy, are presented. At the end of each entry, there is a "Further Reading" section containing a list of important resources.

The first thematic unit *Journalists: What They Do and Whom They Work For* begins with the explanation that "understanding who journalists are and the contexts in which they work is essential to being media literate" (p. 1). Therefore, the authors, by providing additional explanations, give affirmative answers to the following questions "Can anyone be a journalist?", "Are journalists expected to follow any formal ethical guidelines in their work?", "Do traditional newspapers still play a role in modern journalism?" and "Do public relations professionals influence journalists?". On the other hand, the authors claim that journalists, generally speaking, are not representative of the population they serve, and that they do not have the power to decide what should be published or aired, although there are some exceptions. An unambiguous answer has not been given to the question "Are journalists objective?", so the authors conclude that they are not, "but their methods can be, which means their work still can be fair, accurate and complete" (p. 17).

The second chapter is *News Media Law and Economics* and it gives a negative answer to the question "Does the first amendment give journalists any special legal rights?" and a positive answer to the question "Is America's news media landscape dominated by just a few corporations?". The authors also claim that the federal government regulates news media, yet not excessively. They answer the questions "Do newsgathering organisations only publish content that will make them money?" and "Is the American news media system the same as that of the rest of the developed world?" both affirmatively and negatively. Subsequently, they provide a detailed explanation for such a statement within the discussion of the chapters.

The third set of questions refers to *News Audiences* and it gives a positive answer to the questions in the entries "Do liberals and conservatives consume different media?", "Do news media organisations shape their coverage to attract viewers with certain political beliefs?" and "Do audiences influence news content?". On the other hand, the authors argue that it is not true that most Americans get their news online today. "Television, including cable, local, and network television news programs, was still the most popular way for Americans to get their news in 2016, with online sources coming second" (p. 73). There is no answer to the question "Do Americans trust the news media?", whereas the authors explain that it depends on many factors.

The fourth chapter *News and Politics* covers seven issues, thus being the most comprehensive one, including the first. Its first entry answers the question "Are all news media biased?" with an explanation that they are, but not in the ways people typically think. "Subjectivity does not arise so much from personal opinion as much as from journalistic norms and forms" (p. 103). In this unit, the authors give affirmative, or at least partially

affirmative, answers to the questions "Do politicians set the agenda for journalists?", "Do journalist have valid reasons to use anonymous or unnamed sources?" and "Can politicians circumvent journalists by using social media?". When it comes to the question "Is the relationship between politicians and journalists adversarial or cooperative?", the authors claim the correct answer is "both", while, in the authors' view, the answer "yes and no" is adequate to the question "Do news media increase political polarization?". It is also said that news media typically do not focus on the issues and policies that affect citizens when covering elections. Instead, "many news outlets focus disproportionately on polling and scandals" (p. 108).

The fifth unit deals with *'Fake news' and Misinformation.* In this section "fake news" is first defined as an oxymoron. In the next entry it is stated that "President Donald Trump uses the term "fake news" in reference to news organisations that published reports critical of him or that differ from claims he has made publicly, although in some instances he or his administration has later acknowledged the truth of those reports" (p. 145). Despite that, in the entry with the question "Did 'fake news' influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election?" it is claimed that in 2018 it was still not completely clear. Affirmative answers are given to the questions "Are 'fake News' and other types of misinformation more easily spread because of social media?" and "Can anything be done to stop the spread of 'fake news'?", which is followed by a detailed explanation of the methods within the discussion of the chapter.

The sixth thematic unit deals with *Representation and Reality in News Coverage* and covers the questions "Is the world really as dangerous as news media seem to suggest?" and "Does news coverage of the economy reflect the average American's reality?". It is concluded that the answer in no in both cases. However, when it comes to representation of scientific knowledge and consensus, minorities and women and the reality of war, the authors conclude that it varies from case to case.

The seventh and final chapter is about *The Future of Journalism.* "Is American journalism dying?" is the first question of the unit and the answer is no "although modern American journalism is suffering from variety of ills and challenges that need to be addressed" (p. 197). Affirmative answers are given to the last two questions in the book - "Will technological changes continue to influence how journalism is practiced?" and "Will journalism play a significant role in the future of American democracy?".

Stela Lechpammer

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Changes in technology in the last two decades have significantly influenced the development of electronic media. Radio is no exception. In spite of the fact that it is the oldest of all the electronic media, it turns out to be the most resilient one. This book includes the contributions from many authors, and covers a number of aspects, out of

which 'innovation' can be highlighted as the most important one. The development of technology has enabled the development of radio in smaller and specific environments, such as university radio stations. In addition, there has been a strong development of social media and directing radio to other platforms for at least last two decades. Therefore, this book provides a comprehensive overview of this development. The book is divided into three sections and twenty-two chapters, throughout which the editors and authors managed to explain, in a most expert, yet intelligible, way all the 'traps' radio enthusiasts dared to pass due to the galloping and sudden development of technology that has slowed in the past few years. As stated on the book's back cover, it truly explores how academia seeks to systematize the changes taking place in radio in terms of its adaptation to the digital era. The first section of the book, which contains no more than six chapters, deals with the issues of functioning of community radio stations and of the development of university radio stations. Seven authors managed to elaborate how such radio stations function in their own environment. The authors also deal with their enormous impact on the development of the third media sector. Nevertheless, in a certain way, they point out the details which indicate that there are individual differences among countries. The fact that the observed radio stations are restricted exclusively to the Spanish and Portuguese speaking areas, does not diminish the value of the mentioned and its applicability to the rest of the developed world. In this sense, the authors claim that, if the degree of development of these forms of radio is taken into consideration, the direction in which the third media sector is headed, can be identified. In the second, there is a significantly greater number of topics related to innovation in the radio, which fit into a number of interesting segments. Innovations in the radio are not only relying on the fast development of technology but also through increased radio interest due to a much greater availability of various radio segments that were not available throughout the traditional radio eras. More then dozen authors in this section of the book address various segments through which radio operates. The editors of the book made sure that the section includes comparative analyses in some countries with significantly developed media markets, such as Argentina and Spain, In point of fact,, a further development that occurred in these countries during the new digital era gained additional momentum and numerous new opportunities. Apart from the comparative analyses, there are also a number of examples of how radio, as a medium, can affect a large number of social movements and isolated social groups, such as prisoners in Spanish prisons. Educating, as a role of radio, is emphasized as a factor of potential reintegration of individuals into society. Social media and their role as a support to traditional radio, more specifically, the radio of the third sector, enables young people to implement radio as a desirable tool for accepting new knowledge and skills. In the last decade the role of social media in education has been noteworthy, and there can be no negligible influence on traditional media, especially on radio that has been able to adapt to new times in a hundred years of existence and adjust its new inventions and technology to itself and further enhance its appearance. It is argued that attempts at succeding in working on a radio drama and in improving radio advertising through a new sound design were a venture, but the very diversity of themes gives value to this work. At the same time, placing both these themes through the prism of innovation will also intrude on those radio professionals who suspect that media can be presented both in theoretical and practical terms. The

last section, which consists of six chapters, deals with policies and current issues such as piracy, the relationship between artists and the market, the challenges posed to the radio by mobile communications in the digital era. Taking into consideration the fact that that, until recently, radio had been first in the perception of wireless transmission, the authors show in an interesting way the challenges to be met in a future that has already begun. As far as attention of a greater radio audience is concerned, the authors investigate the key questions of the future of the radio spectrum and the effect of the new commercial radio business models which will, not only prolong the life of the radio in the new digital era, but also significantly improve collaboration with the audience, and hence its increase. The title of this book *Trends in Radio Research* covers everything that an interested reader can look for in literature. Without ignoring the fact that research was carried out on large media markets, the same can be applied to a great extent of specific environments. Through research of the sound and radio media carried out in the countries as varied as the United Kingdom, Spain, Poland, Finland, Portugal, Brazil and Argentina, the authors managed to approach these markets and convey the ideas that radio can develop on different platforms and through further digital development. In the first chapter, the editors of the book further explain the purpose of the book, which makes it easier for potential readers to grasp all its aspects. The greatest contribution of the book is the part on innovation in the radio industry and the challenges it is faced with, or it will meet soon in the digital era and further technology advancement. Therefore, this book is a great asset in the context of the global challenges, presented through some examples of large media markets. To quote one of the authors, "at a level relating content and technology, there is the major challenge and developing radio audiences in the digital arena".

Ivica Zadro