

Politisk kommunikation

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Kandidatafhandling

Sted: Aalborg Universitet, Institut for politik og administration

Titel: Politisk kommunikation
Fagområde: Politik og administration

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Abstract:

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In my thesis, I have the hypothesis that there just might be a problem with the Danish democratic discourse from a Habermasian point of view.

On the background of Habermas's 4 validity claims for the ideal speech situation (ISS) I have formulated 4 principles which can be applied to whatever a speaker says in the public sphere. The 4 principles are the principles of truth, truthfulness (credibility, trustworthiness), legitimacy (rightness) and comprehensibility.

In my thesis I have selected the Danish election 2001 as the empirical basis for critical investigation. I have focused on the Danish television media TV2's coverage of the 14 first days of the election, because if I should have covered the whole period I would have violated the claims for the length of a typical length thesis.

My focal points in the empirical research are foreign/immigrant policies in Denmark plus the debate whether hospitals should be public or private etc.

Of other theorists used in the thesis I can mention McNair and Bourdieu. I have besides them been inspired by the way Cukier et al. makes use of Habermasian claims practically, that is how Cukier sets out criterias of speech. For example that excessive use of language often applies as a criteria to what is to be measured as not trustworthy, etc.

The thesis concludes on behalf of many politicians's statements in the press that there is a problem in Danish democratic discourse. When this is said, it should, though, be said that a lot of Danish politicians actually behave quite well in a Habermasian picture of well-behaving. I should say that it is more than of the (in the election covered on TV2) exposed politicians who make out a problem for the discourse.

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