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**Axel Bruns, Gunn Enli, Eli Skogerbø,
Anders Olof Larsson & Christian Christensen:**
The Routledge Companion to Social Media and Politics.
New York: Routledge. 2016

MedieKultur 2016, 61, 182-184

Published by SMID | Society of Media researchers In Denmark | www.smid.dk

The online version of this text can be found open access at www.mediekultur.dk

“Politics and media have always been closely related” is the opening line in the introduction to this comprehensive companion. How politics interrelate with social media in light of changes in the media landscape then becomes the main pivotal point for the contributions. Moreover, the companion is also concerned with the broadening of our understanding of international differences in the local and national uses of social media in politics.

In its search of perspectives which might balance out the overrepresentation of research on social media and politics in the US, the companion sets out to explore the uses and understandings of social media in politics on a global scale. This mission is successfully completed through contributions from scholars worldwide, each of whom sheds light on the uptake and adoption of social media for political purposes in various settings and on different continents.

Before exploring the international perspectives, the companion sets a foundation for understanding social media and politics. The first nine chapters are dedicated to a theoretical discussion of the changes social media brings to politics and the ways in which politics and social media interrelate. This is a very satisfying companion, and through a methodical introduction to conceptual considerations, we are guided into a changing media landscape, and it is revealed how this landscape is challenging our common-sense views of media logics, journalism, the public sphere, agenda setting and notions of authenticity and truth.

Andrew Chadwick, James Denis and Amy P. Smith argue in chapter 1, “Politics in the age of Hybrid Media”, for the on-going construction of a hybrid media system, and the

chapter sets out some key themes. One conclusion is that the opportunities for citizens to use and inhabit media as a means of influencing the form and content of public discourse are greater than those of a system characterised by the duopoly of mass broadcasting and newspapers.

Following the chapter on the hybrid media system, Ulrike Klinger and Jakob Svensson go on to consider the logic of this system in "Network Media Logic". They put forward reflections on the most important interrelated dimensions that differ from mass media logic.

In chapter 3, "Where there is social media, there is politics", Karine Nahon makes the claim that social media cannot exist without some kind of political involvement or bias and attempts to explain this by focusing on the technological architecture and network structures, yet the chapter confirms its opening position to be a normative claim.

In chapters 4 and 5, "Is Habermas on Twitter? Social Media and the Public Sphere" and "Third Space, Social Media and Political Talk", the communicative spaces in networked media are reflected upon, but no distinct new insight is provided, except that we must conceptualise the public or the publics on social media as both representing and bridging the macro-, meso- and micro-levels of political communication. Moreover, it is suggested that social media represent part of an ongoing convergence between media, audiences and publics.

In chapters 6 and 7, the new situation encountered by journalism is discussed. "Tipping the Balance of Power: Social Media and the Transformation of Political Journalism" poses the strong argument that politicians use social media to bypass and manipulate journalists and therefore get to set the public agenda as they please. However, in "Agenda-Setting Revisited: Social Media and the Sourcing in Mainstream Journalism", results are presented that show that sourcing practices vary widely across different news outlets and across different countries and political systems.

Finally, the last two chapters in the first section are concerned with image building and truthfulness in political communication on social media. Gunn Enli discusses authenticity illusions in "Trust me, I am authentic" as well as the advanced production techniques to come across as authentic and trustworthy. In her contribution "How to speak the truth on social media", Mercedes Bunz argues that broader public access to social media is essential in a democratic society to enable a counterpublic to claim a different truth.

Since this is a companion, you can of course pick and choose between the chapters. However, it is highly recommended to read through the first section to understand not only social media and politics but also to gain a valuable insight into the logic and dynamics at play in our current media landscape.

Following the chapters that set this theoretical and thoughtful baseline, the rest of the companion is dedicated to distinct international research on social media in politics. These contributions are divided into two sections; chapters either focus on the uses of social

media as means to gain a position through political movements or on the uses of social media for political campaigning.

The global agenda is also introduced in these two sections, so you will find geographically spread case studies deriving from countries such as Spain, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Iran, India, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Israel, Brazil, Cameroon, Australia and the UK. These case studies not only shed light on the ways in which social media are domesticated in political communication and put to use differently worldwide; they also widen our knowledge of the workings of social media in politics beyond case studies and research focusing on North American political movements and political campaigns.

Nonetheless, emphasis in the case-based chapters is on particular power play moments for social movements and the specific uses of social media in election campaigns. The case-based chapters therefore somewhat neglect the everyday use of social media in democratic debates and to some extent disregard the use of social media as agenda-setting or personal branding tools used by politicians in their everyday political life.

Throughout the companion there is a tendency to overstress Twitter and Facebook as the overriding social media in politics. The companion mostly offers an instrumental view on social media in politics, and therefore the reader should not expect contributions that discuss a wider mix of various social media platforms, since the interrelations between social media are less reflected.

In conclusion, the international scope given by case-based chapters and the thoughtful theoretical groundwork make this companion a highly appreciated contribution to our understanding of social media and politics. It provides a very welcome global overview which is needed for a broader understanding of how politics and the media are always closely related. The present close relationship is of a different character than that found in a mass media society, and is depending on the type of political system in which it is used or which it is trying to transgress.

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