



e-democracy 2.0

Istituzioni, cittadini, nuove reti:
un lessico possibile

Citizen journalism for, with and by the citizens - City wikis in Germany

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Bologna - 8 aprile 2009

Background

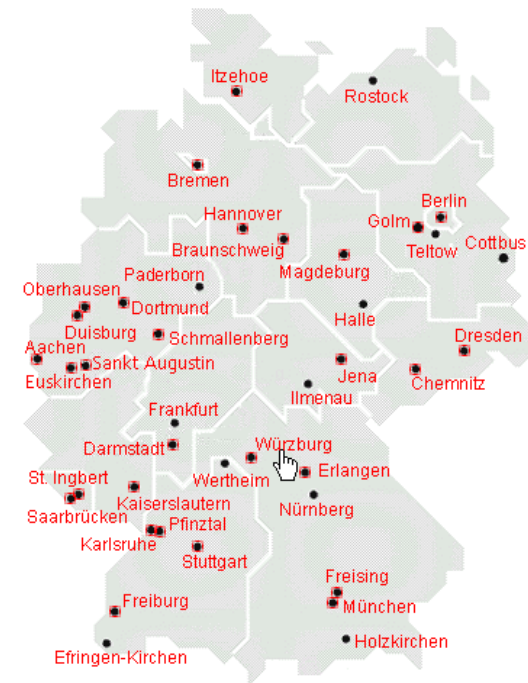
Fraunhofer - FIT Institute for Applied Information Technology

Current research:

- Web 2.0 socio-technical infrastructures and communication & collaboration
- Autonomous use of IT by citizens

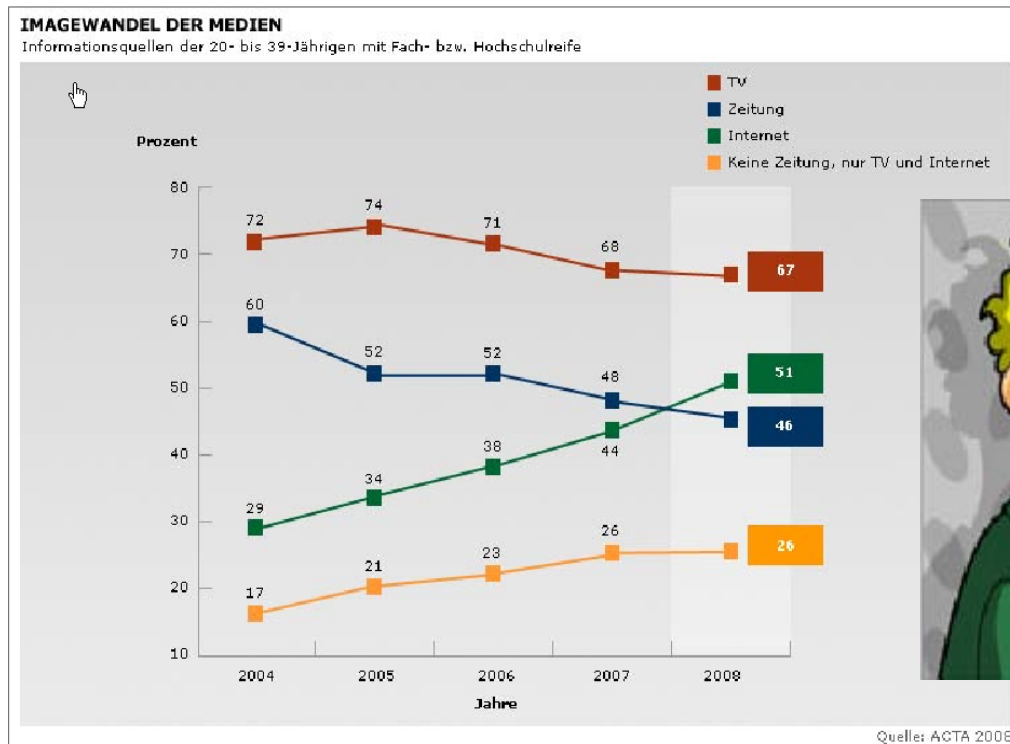
DEMO-net: EC financed Network of Excellence

University of Duisburg-Essen



Current trends

Vanishing news papers & changing media use



New socio-technical formats allow new communicative actions : web 2.0

Online-petitions, econsultation, epolling, online-dialogue, web campaigning, blogs, social platforms, city wikis, flash mobs, cyber budgets, forums, news groups, emails, mailing lists, twitter, podcasts etc.

Hybrid formats emerging

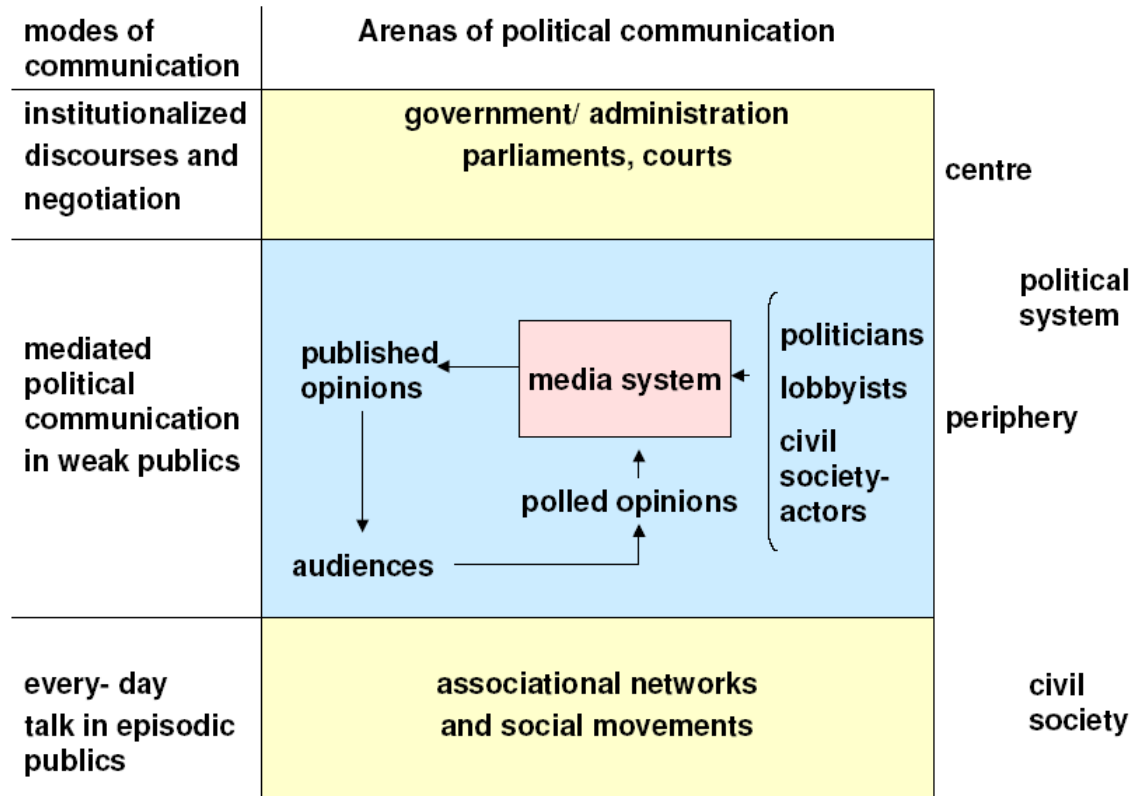
Communication has impact on

- the construction of reality
- social and political action



How can the current trends be theorized?

Habermas: communicative actions in public spheres



Perspectives on media use in the three arenas of political communication

Arena 1: Institutionalized discourses in the center of the political system

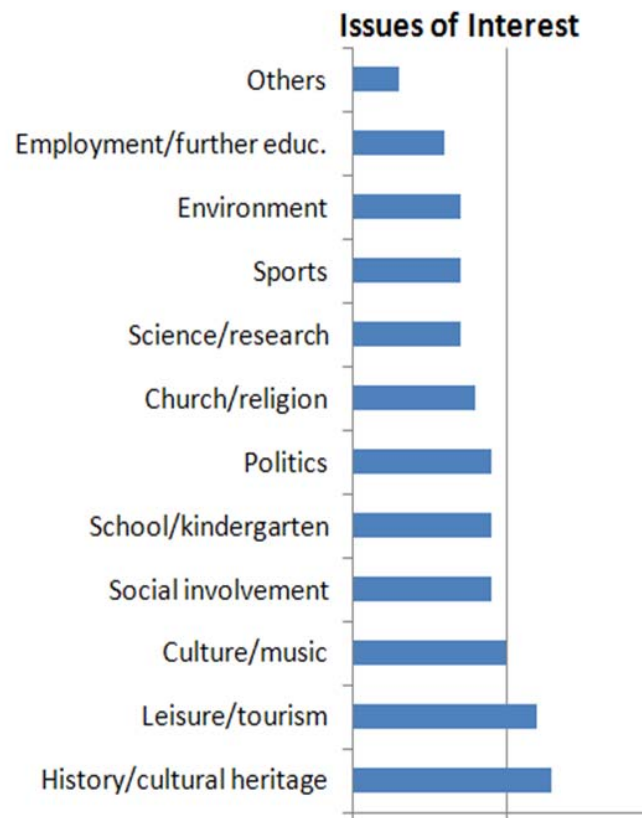
Arena 2: The mediated political communication by the mass media system

Arena 3: Every-day talks in episodic publics: the civil society and city wikis in Germany

Methods:

- Analysis of a semi-structured online survey
- Investigation of the web presence of city wikis

Findings: German city wikis emerge since 2003



Findings 2

Sites, articles, registered users and software

Place 1: Karlsruhe: 16.961 articles, 2645 reg. users (Nov. 2008)

Place 20: Münster: 1.736 articles, 1001 reg. users

Mediawiki under GNU General Public License (GPL) hosted by Wikimedia Foundation

Conditions of collaborative citizen journalism

vision: anyone who accesses can contribute and modify content

copyleft: Creative Common License or GNU Free Documentation License

Self-description and topics of city wikis

„prosumer“ producer and consumer at the same time

a digital virtual representation of local artifacts and mentefacts

broad scope not single issue, a local digital encyclopedia

Findings 3

Competitors at the awareness market place

traditional mass media: print media and municipal web sites

vision: free accessible virtual market place of information and not a market place for selling goods or services (Open Source)

Mutual awareness and interrelationship

Other related web sites, municipal web sites

no reciprocal awareness -> information campaign

Bias of city wikis

multi-perspective reporting and not partisan political journalism

information, encyclopedia no advertisement

Communication style

journalism, pluralistic perspectives

Findings 4

Public sphere

counter public / counter culture?: Creation of collective thoughts alternative to traditional mass media

Who really produces content

< 25 % of the registered users; all formats < 4%

Business model

low cost basis dependent on voluntary work
in search for a sustainable basis

Quality control and quality assurance

power users; control of the many, discussion sites, watch lists

Findings 5

Influence on others

city wikis do play a minor role in the attention market
they can create awareness about aspects not mentioned
currently: a niche phenomenon

Satisfaction level

high satisfaction, no division of labor, participation,
immediate response

From hierarchically governed to heterarchically self-governed media on local level

Creativity: You are free to publish your personal thoughts and impressions without attracting a target group. You do not have to sell your content but simply present it to the public;

Immediacy: You can publish your information as quick as you want independent from opening hours or publishing dates;

Interactivity: You can receive immediate reactions of readers;

Responsiveness: The easy possibility to react to existent publications encourages responses or the creation of new content;

Scope: Independent of the geographical place of your target group the publication can be read everywhere;

Cost-effectiveness: You can publish content with limited resources in time, money and technical equipment. This encourages volunteers or non-professional journalists to raise their voices;

Independence: In print media journalists were controlled by their editorial board. There always is subjugation under the rules and conventions of the group you are within. In city wikis you find different peer groups on horizontal level coexisting;

Subjectivity: People can express what they personally want to contribute without the harness of a group which usually edits a publication.

Challenges for citizen participation

Challenges:

- Citizens autonomously (re)present their interests
- New forms of gate-keeping
- New forms of agenda-setting
- Multi-perspectivity
- Unfiltered immediacy

Risks:

- Eroding the representative system and mass media
- Fragmentation
- Lost in eparticipation?

Thank you for your
attention!

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Italian City Wikis



Benvenuto su venicewiki!

Venicewiki è un sito collaborativo di nuova generazione nato per raccontare e descrivere Venezia, le attività, le persone e qualsiasi altro aspetto della città.

Venicewiki non si legge soltanto. Si scrive! Chiunque può [partecipare](#) inserendo nuove pagine, modificando quelle già esistenti, aggiungendo foto, video e molto altro ancora.

Senza alcuna conoscenza tecnica!

Inserimento rapido

Inserisci il nome di un'attività Form: -Seleziona una categoria-

Eventi

- Ritrovare il Museo Murano 1797-1859 dalle collezioni del Museo del Vetro
- 31° Su e Zo per i Ponti

TrentoWiki

Venicewiki



TrentoWiki

voce discussione modifica cronologia

Pagina principale

Benvenuto su **TrentoWiki.it!** Qualunque **informazione** tu voglia **condividere** su Trento e dintorni e' piu' che benvenuta!!! Questo sito e' un wiki e come Wikipedia adotta la filosofia per cui tutti possono contribuire liberamente.

Puoi contribuire anonimamente (e' sufficiente cliccare su "modifica" su ogni pagina per integrare o correggere informazioni) oppure puoi anche [registrarti](#). Grazie fin da ora!

CHICCHE DELLA SETTIMANA

- I blogger intorno a Trento!!! <http://www.trentowiki.it/blog/>
- Trento misteriosa: Si scrive una avventura ambientata a Trento insieme?
- Se organizzi una festa o evento con distribuzione cibo, puoi chiamare **Ring rifiuti no grazie** che ti porta (gratis!!) stoviglie e posate NON usa e getta, così rispetti l'ambiente!!!
- Buddismo in Trentino
- Alcune risorse Web rilevanti per Trento e dintorni aggregate automaticamente

Trento, piazza Duomo photo by Rodolfo Cartas (altre Foto di Trento)