Olessia Koltsova

**Media, Communication, and Politics**

**Course rationale**

New media and other means of communication are more and more pervasive in our societies. Different spheres of society – from politics to healthcare to culture – are getting more and more “digitalized” and interconnected on the global scale through the unprecedented communication technologies. The society has not yet found ways to cope with and make use of this abundance of channels of communication and information flows and storage. However, this phenomenon is already influencing elections, mobilizing grassroots initiatives, and changing political regimes.

The goal of this course is to get acquainted with the latest findings in the sphere of media-political relations and to learn to analyze empirical evidence in this sphere.

**Course aims and scope**

* to learn why communication and its content is increasingly important
* to see how communication technology and data are related to politics
* to understand the structure of media industries and to gain critical distance towards them.
* to practice team work

**Course topics (tentative)**

* Media/Communication/IT industries and their relations to political institutions. Types of media-political regimes.
* Media/Communication/IT regulation and policies. Developmental programs. Censorship. Approaches to libel, harmful content, security and privacy.
* (New) media and elections. Political campaigning. Manipulation. Election prediction with new media data.
* Internet and political mobilization. Political participation and social movements. Protests and regime change. Arab spring and Post-Soviet internet-driven protests.
* Media and public opinion on political matters. New media and online public opinion. “Lay” journalism, political blogging, and grassroots agenda-setting.
* Politicizing ethnicity, race, migration and religion in media. Media, terrorism and armed conflicts.

**Compulsory reading**

* Esser F., Hanitzsch T. (eds) The Handbook of Comparative Communication Research, Routledge, 2012.
* Negrine R., Stanyer J (eds) The Political Communication Reader, Routledge, 2007.

**Further Reading**

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# [Gayo-Avello](http://ssc.sagepub.com/search?author1=Daniel+Gayo-Avello&sortspec=date&submit=Submit), D. A Meta-Analysis of State-of-the-Art Electoral Prediction From Twitter Data. *Social Science Computer Review.* December 2013 vol. 31 no. 6, 649-679.

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