

Media control as source of political power in Central and Eastern Europe

Workshop at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki

organized by the Russian Media Lab in collaboration with the
Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen¹

Helsinki, 02 – 03 September 2019

Contact for organisational issues:
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Programme as of 29 August 2019

01 September 2019 (Sunday)

Arrival of external participants

18:30 joint dinner (Kappeli Restaurant, <https://www.raflaamo.fi/en/helsinki/kappeli>)

02 September 2019 (Monday)

Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 33 – 2nd floor

9:00 warm-up coffee

9:15 Introduction (Heiko Pleines)

9:30 Keynote – Florian Toepfl: Publics as Authoritarian Input Institutions. A novel framework for comparative analysis.

11:00 Panel 1 “State attempts to control media content: Traditional media” (chair: Heiko Pleines)

Each paper gives presents the key points in no more than 15 minutes. The discussant also gets 15 minutes. This way there will be time for a Q&A session.

Saila Heinikoski / Tatu Hyttinen: Measures to restrict the freedom of expression in Romania and Moldova – Intertwining of media control and corruption

Natalya Ryabinska: Changing institutional environment and media control

Aliaksandr Herasimenka: Media control and authoritarian response. The death of democracy and the rise of authoritarianism in Belarus and Russia

Discussant: Esther Somfalvy

¹ The workshop is co-organized by the research project “Media control as source of political power: The role of oligarchs in electoral authoritarian regimes”, which is conducted by the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen and receives financial support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – grant No. 391270526.

13:00 lunch (Bank Lunch Club, <http://www.ravintolabank.fi/en/lunch-club-en/>)

14:30 Panel 2 “State attempts to control media content: Internet” (chair: Esther Somfalvy)

Each paper gives presents the key points in no more than 15 minutes. The discussant also gets 15 minutes. This way there will be time for a Q&A session.

Rashid Gabdulhakov: (Con)Trolling the web: Browsing through the Kremlin’s attempt to drop the Iron Curtain over digital media

Anna Shirokanova / Olga Silyutina: Discourse on Internet Regulation in the Russian Media: Topics, Actors, and Change

Liudmila Sivetc: Domain Name Blocking: New Way of Media Control in Russia

Discussant: Dmitry Yagodin

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Panel 3 “State attempts to control media content: The local level” (Heiko Pleines)

Each paper gives presents the key points in no more than 15 minutes. The discussant also gets 15 minutes. This way there will be time for a Q&A session.

Valerii Nechai: Signalling discontent: local media agenda as a tool in authoritarian intra-elite contestation

Maria Sakaeva: Independent Press in Russian Regions under the State Pressure: Was Resistance (Im)Possible?

Discussant: Olga Dovbysh

19:00 joint walk to dinner (Rodolfo Restaurant)

03 September 2019 (Tuesday)

Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 33 – 2nd floor

9:00 warm-up coffee

9:15 Panel 4 “Agency of journalists under political pressure” (chair: Olga Dovbysh)

Each paper gives presents the key points in no more than 15 minutes. The discussant also gets 15 minutes. This way there will be time for a Q&A session.

Lindita Camaj / Ivanka Pjesivac: Media Coverage of Anti-Government Protest Movements in the Balkans: Public Service Media Under Crossfire

Heiko Pleines / Esther Somfalvy: Journalists as actors in competitive authoritarian regimes. A case study of Ukraine during the Yanukovich presidency

Marína Urbániková: Journalistic Autonomy in Peril? A Case Study of the Newsroom Conflict in Public-Service Radio and Television of Slovakia (RTVS)

Discussant: Katja Lehtisaari

11:15 Concluding discussion. Information about the plans for a special journal issue with workshop papers

12:00 lunch (Bank Lunch Club, <http://www.ravintolabank.fi/en/lunch-club-en/>)

Departure of external participants