

quantitative and comparative analysis of Hungarian and British party websites which show “how it looks like if the political system tries to fill in the role of the media system” and this effect towards citizens? Merkovity shows us the Hungarian party websites from the nineties very precisely, the readers can follow easily how the interactive and informative elements became increasingly important for parties and their websites.

After this he compares two governmental/governance paradigms, the new public management and the digital era governance whereby he presents us theories of e-democracy, deliberative democracy and e-cognocracy. Merkovity demonstrates with these theories that how citizens can interact with political systems with the help of new communication techniques.

Finally, the author deals with the largest actor of political communication, with the group of citizens/voters. Merkovity separates active and inactive networks and compares them. He uses illustrative examples to support his arguments (US presidential campaigns, Arab Spring, etc.). In the final chapter Merkovity examines the three actors again, but now he relates to the new communication technologies.

The author concludes at the end of the book that (1) the political system has new types of online contents and interaction to involve citizens in the political process. (2) Digital networks have increased the political activities of citizens, or at least, they have more opportunity to participate in the political communication processes. (3) The media have lost their monopoly over the main communication channels, its role in political communication has fallen back.

Due to the variety of its examples the book is legible and it demonstrates very well its statements with different illustrations and schedules. The aim of the author was to write a book not only for professionals. The “introduction” nature of the book is also suitable for using it in higher education, even for academics and students interested in political science or communication. In addition to this in his book Norbert Merkovity highlights the areas which have remained mostly untapped in Hungarian literature, but — in some cases — in the international research field, as well.

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Benedetta Brevini, Arne Hintz, Patrick McCurdy (eds.) (2013), *Beyond WikiLeaks. Implications for the Future of Communications, Journalism and Society*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 308, ISBN: 978-113-7275-73-8.

“The broader achievement of WikiLeaks was to put freedom of information on the agenda, all over the world, and make whistleblowing a viable option in

the fight against criminal behavior in the public, military, and private sectors,” says Birgitta Jónsdóttir in her foreword to *Beyond WikiLeaks, Implications for the Future of Communications, Journalism and Society*, a new book dedicated to WikiLeaks and its legacy in the contemporary global media environment. A member of the Icelandic Parliament and ex-WikiLeaks staffer, her perspective is as broad as she is articulate. Her introduction emphasizes the unprecedented role of WikiLeaks as potentially the most influential player entering the media scene since the Internet established itself as an information ecosystem. The book aims to expand on this point, adding new layers of depth and contextualization to the Wikileaks saga.

Beyond Wikileaks features 16 chapters analyzing WikiLeaks from different perspectives within communication sciences. Attention is given to different issues touched by WikiLeaks since it began operating, such as digital rights and privacy, new challenges for professional journalism, transparency and hacktivism. The book, edited by Benedetta Brevini (University of Sydney, former City University London), Arne Hintz (Cardiff University) and Patrick McCurdy (University of Ottawa) follows a single coherent path: to give WikiLeaks the broader and most comprehensive definition three years after its major megaleaks about wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and “Cablegate” which gave the whistleblowing website international visibility. According to Yochai Benkler, author of “WikiLeaks and the Networked Fourth Estate” chapter, WikiLeaks plays a part in the new media landscape “no less than the protesters who shoot videos on the streets of Teheran, Tunis, or Cairo and upload them to the Web, or the bloggers who exposed the Rather/CBS story.” WikiLeaks, according to Benkler, “intersects with larger trends in the news industry” and presents itself as a player professional journalists have to deal with when it comes to investigative journalism. Regarding WikiLeaks’ relationship with the mainstream media, all the chapters dealing with this topic (Lisa Lynch’s and Chris Elliott’s in particular, along with Benkler’s) follow Charlie Beckett’s “Networked Journalism” framework (Beckett, 2011) and agree on one point: When it comes to journalism, WikiLeaks has pushed the dichotomy between offline and online worlds to extreme consequences, bringing them to a meeting point. According to Hopeton S. Dunn, author of “‘Something Old, Something New...’ WikiLeaks and the Collaborating Newspapers — Exploring the Limits of Conjoint Approaches to Political Exposures” chapter, the emergence of Web 2.0, new media and all other non-professional authors “has effectively altered the coveted gatekeeping and public agenda-setting roles usually ascribed to traditional media. At the same time, a new relationship is emerging between these Web 2.0 media platforms and their traditional media counterparts, especially print media.”

To this extent, the partnership between a hacker organization such as WikiLeaks with established media outlets such as the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and *Der Spiegel*, among others, represents an absolute novelty becoming a new standard

for investigative journalism in this era: new, non-professional organizations and online players from different fields — hacktivist groups, ONGs and bloggers, for instance — provide professional journalists with new tools and ways of dealing with information. The impact of WikiLeaks extends far beyond journalism: it has proved, for instance, how whistleblowing itself has changed thanks to new possibilities facilitated by the Internet. A chapter of the book, “From the Pentagon Papers to Cablegate: How the Network Society Has Changed Leaking” by Patrick McCurdy puts WikiLeaks’ releases/declassifications/revelations in historical continuum with the Pentagon Papers revealed by Daniel Ellsberg in 1971. According to McCurdy, “the rise of networked society has fundamentally altered how information is generated, accessed, controlled, distributed and, ultimately, leaked.” Two of the most notable shifts from the era of Daniel Ellsberg to that of Bradley Manning can be observed in the technology involved in the process of leaking and the democratization of the process, caused by the openness of networks and access to them possible thanks to digital archives and the number of people who can actually access classified information.

According to McCurdy, “Daniel Ellsberg was a real insider ... Ellsberg worked close to the seat of power on the very dossier he eventually leaked. Manning, on the other hand, was a low-level security analyst, a node in a vast industry of networked individuals authorized to access SIPRNet.” If Ellsberg had, with the help of Tony Ross, to manually photocopy thousands of pages on paper to be distributed to the *New York Times* and other newspapers, Manning could alone download and burn classified files on a CD-R labeled “Lady Gaga” and, with some encryption and security skills, hand them over to WikiLeaks, transforming those files into some of the biggest leaks ever.

Moreover, *Beyond WikiLeaks* sheds a light on other critical issues. Jillian C. York analyses WikiLeaks’ consequences on transparency, Stefania Milan and Gabriella Coleman deal with digital activism and Anonymous in the wake of WikiLeaks and Dwayne Winseck writes about the digital tracking of users and privacy on the Internet starting from personal data infringement against WikiLeaks supporters and staffers such as Birgitta Jónsdóttir and Jacob Appelbaum. The book closes with a transcript of an interview with Amy Goodman (Democracy Now!), Julian Assange and Slavoj Žižek held in London in 2011 and Geert Lovink and Patrice Riemens’s famous “Twelve Theses on WikiLeaks.”

Beyond Wikileaks is one of the most exhaustive analyses of WikiLeaks thus far. Thanks to its multidisciplinary approach, the book gathers cutting-edge authors and brilliant contributions, finally exposing WikiLeaks and its implications in a unique frame reaching different interests and disciplines in communications.

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