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Government, Communications, and the Media

Peter Golding and Leo van Snippenburg

in The Scope of Government

Over recent years, communications and media infrastructures in Western Europe have been subjected to two conflicting pressures. On the one hand, there have been many factors conducing to deregulation and opening-up to market competition. On the other hand, many countries have witnessed renewed demands for cultural regulation, restricting the free flow of objectionable material. The juggling act required of governments in meeting these demands reflects the considerable inconsistency in public opinion. This chapter presents survey data regarding the general characteristics of public opinion about the proper boundaries between private and public decision-making in broadcasting, and about the appropriate levels and forms of government intervention in communications (censorship).

Transforming Global Information and Communication Markets

Peter F. Cowhey and Jonathan D. Aronson

Innovation in information and communication technology (ICT) fuels the growth of the global economy. How ICT markets evolve depends on politics and policy, and since the 1950s, periodic overhauls of ICT policy have transformed competition and innovation. For example, in the 1980s and the 1990s, a revolution in communication policy (the introduction of sweeping competition) also transformed the information market. Today, the diffusion of Internet, wireless, and broadband technology; growing modularity in the design of technologies; distributed computing infrastructures; and rapidly changing business models signal another

shift. This pathbreaking examination of ICT from a political economy perspective argues that continued rapid innovation and economic growth require new approaches in global governance which will reconcile diverse interests and enable competition to flourish. The authors (two of whom were architects of international ICT policy reforms in the 1990s) discuss this crucial turning point in both theoretical and practical terms.

Networks and States

Milton L. Mueller

When the prevailing governing system divides the planet into mutually exclusive territorial monopolies of force, which institutions can govern the Internet, with its transnational scope, boundless scale, and distributed control? Given filtering/censorship by states and concerns over national cybersecurity, it is often assumed that the Internet will inevitably be subordinated to the traditional system of nation-states. This book counters this view, showing how Internet governance poses novel and fascinating governance issues that give rise to global politics and new transnational institutions. Drawing on the theories of networked governance, it provides a broad overview of Internet governance from the formation of ICANN to the clash at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the formation of the Internet Governance Forum, the global assault on peer-to-peer file sharing, and the rise of national-level Internet control and security concerns. Internet governance has become a source of conflict in international relations. This book explores the role that emerging transnational institutions could play in fostering the global governance of the communication-information policy.

Beyond Broadband Access

Richard D. Taylor and Amit M. Schejter (eds)

This volume not only examines traditional questions about broadband, such as availability and access, but also explores and evaluates new metrics that are more applicable to the evolving technologies of information access. It brings together a group of media policy scholars from a wide range of disciplines including economics, law, policy studies, computer science, information science, and communications studies. It

asks questions such as: After broadband access, what next? What role do metrics play in understanding information societies and, more important, in shaping their policies? Beyond counting people with broadband access, how can economic and social metrics inform broadband policies, help evaluate their outcomes, and create useful models for achieving national goals? Importantly, the book provides a well-rounded, international perspective on theoretical approaches to communications policymaking in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Showcasing a diversity of approaches, this collection aims to help meet the myriad challenges involved in improving the development of communications policy around the world.

please grant success to the journey on which I have come"

Noam Tirosh and Amit M. Schejter

in Strategies for Media Reform: International Perspectives

Media reform has not been high on the agenda of social reform movements in Israel historically, nor has it emerged as one following the social protests of 2011. All three reform strategies identified by Hackett and Carrol (2006)—internal, alternative media, and structural change— had been tried over the years. It emerges that the only strategy with an impact has been the use of alternative media in its most extreme form: defying the law and launching unlicensed electronic media services. This has been true in particular in the case of radio policy, for which there are a few examples from the 1970s to the 2000s, and cable television.

Numbers That Matter

Richard D. Taylor and Amit M. Schejter

in Beyond Broadband Access: Developing Data-Based Information Policy Strategies

This book examines traditional questions about broadband, such as availability and access, and proposes new metrics that are more applicable to the evolving technologies of information access. It brings together scholars from around the world—representing a

wide range of disciplines such as economics, law, policy studies, computer science, information science, and communications studies—to offer a comprehensive, data-based approach to understanding the consequences of broadband policy. It describes different theoretical approaches to data-based communications policy making and presents case studies demonstrating both the use and abuse of data in the development of information policy. The book is divided into two parts. Part I deals with theoretical aspects of measuring information, along with issues that should be taken into account when designing broadband-focused information policy. Part II shows how data has been both used and abused for argumentation purposes with regards to choices among policy paths and for policy building.

From Franklin to Facebook

Richard R. John

in To Promote the General Welfare: The Case for Big Government

This chapter discusses the role of big government in communications. It describes three governmental institutions that have been especially consequential: the postal system, the regulatory agency, and the Internet. The postal system and the Internet are federal institutions; regulatory agencies, in contrast, have derived their authority not only from the federal government but also from the states. Each of these institutions had its greatest influence in a different century: the postal system in the 1800s; the regulatory agency in the 1900s; the Internet today.