Political discourse in the media is the basic informational resource for citizens and sometimes the only way they encounter politics in contemporary mediatized mass democracies. Analysis of mediated political discourse covers a wide interdisciplinary area of interconnecting disciplines and approaches. Articulation of political discourse reveals current debates in democratic politics, as its analysis unravels many facets of the relationship between media and politics. This relationship, which is described either as an “existential exchange system” or a “happy symbiosis” (p. 5), defines the role that the media plays in contemporary societies and shows how communicative power manifests itself in the current global communications context. The study of political discourse should not be addressed as another linguistic study, as its analysis can bring into the surface hidden coalitions of power in modern democracies.

“Political Discourse in the Media” is a well structured and rich volume with an epistemological analysis of media political discourse both in the theoretical and empirical levels. The volume is compiled from articles that succeed in providing a critical and in depth analysis on how political discourse in the Media is produced and articulated by employing a variety of different theoretical frameworks and methodological tools. The articles provide a cross-cultural analysis of discourse related media phenomena, along with a country-comparative perspective, which offers insightful remarks on how political discourse is constructed and presented in different media communicative events or “genres” such as political interviews, debates, public speeches, etc.

The book begins (Part I) with an introduction by the editors, which sets the basic conceptual ground of the volume. The introduction uses constructivism and the interrelation between politics, media and the public sphere as its starting point. In this discussion the term of symbolic politics- as this term was envisaged
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