BOOK REVIEW

Media and Participation: A Site of Ideological – Democratic Struggle

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Media and Participation A Site of Ideological – Democratic Struggle

Nico Carpentier

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The proliferation of information and communication technologies (ICT) and the advent of the interactive Web 2.0 technologies have given rise to discussions about participation in the media sphere. Media participation has a longer and intense history. It has played an important role in various societal fields throughout recent history. Still, as an area of research and practice, media participation has multiple definitions and conflicting forces which frustrates both its researchers and practitioners. It is this complexity and the frustrations that it breeds that underscores the need for books such as Nico Carpentier’s “Media and Participation – a Site of Ideological Democratic Struggle”.

The goal of this book was to chart the boundaries of (media) participation by providing both theoretical tools and empirical evidence on what it entails. To accomplish this goal, Professor Carpentier begins with an analysis of the existing literature, treating media participation as an evolving unsettled concept and as the object of political-ideological struggle that swings between the minimalist and maximalist articulations.

The book starts by “defining participation: an interdisciplinary overview” where the author discusses democratic theory and participation, as well as, audience participation and communication. Next, key concepts with regards
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