Springer Studies in Media and Political Communication

Stylianos Papathanassopoulos Andrea Miconi *Editors*

The European Media in the Platform Era

Realities and Tendencies



Springer Studies in Media and Political Communication

Series Editors

Stylianos Papathanassopoulos , Department of Communication and Media Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece Susana Salgado, Instituto de Ciencias Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

This book series offers an outlet for cutting-edge research on all areas at the nexus of politics, the media, and political communication. Springer Studies in Media and Political Communication (SSMPC) welcomes theoretically sound and empirically robust monographs, edited volumes and handbooks from various disciplines and approaches on topics such as the role and function of communication in the realm of politics including campaigns and elections, media, and political institutions; the relations between political actors, citizens, and the media; as well as research investigating the influence of media coverage on political behavior or attitudes, party communication strategies, political campaigns, agenda-setting, and political journalism. All books in this series are peer-reviewed.

Stylianos Papathanassopoulos • Andrea Miconi Editors

The European Media in the Platform Era

Realities and Tendencies



Editors
Stylianos Papathanassopoulos Department of Communication and Media Studies
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)
Athens, Greece

Andrea Miconi Department of Communication, Arts and Media IULM University Milano, Italy

ISSN 2731-4081 ISSN 2731-409X (electronic) Springer Studies in Media and Political Communication ISBN 978-3-031-96953-9 ISBN 978-3-031-96954-6 (eBook) https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-96954-6

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2025

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

If disposing of this product, please recycle the paper.

About this Book

The European Media in the Era of Platforms: Realities and Tendencies offers a comprehensive analysis of the profound changes reshaping the European media landscape in the context of rapid technological advancements, political shifts, and economic pressures. This book delves into the economic, political, and structural forces driving media transformations, particularly focusing on how digital technologies such as platformization, media convergence, and the rise of new media players have redefined media production, distribution, and consumption. At the same time, the book examines how platform dominance is reshaping European media ownership, fostering mergers, collaborations, and growing concerns over media concentration. The role of public broadcasters is also reconsidered in this evolving landscape, as governments and policymakers struggle to regulate new media realities and maintain diversity and pluralism. Implications of the considered trends in terms of Europeanity and European public sphere are also discussed, especially in respect of the tension between the top-down, institutional, and regulatory approach to Europeanization.

Through unbiassed analysis, *The European Media in the Era of Platforms* provides a detailed overview of the trends and shifts shaping the future of European media, offering key insights into the dynamics and challenges of the contemporary media environment.

This book is an essential resource for students, researchers, and media professionals interested in media studies, European studies, international communication, and public policy. Its insightful analysis and empirical grounding offer a thorough understanding of the ongoing transformations in the European media sector, making it a valuable tool for grasping the future directions of media in the age of digital platforms.

Contents

Introduction	1
European Media: Realities	
Realities and Tendencies of Media in Europe	ç
European Media Regulation: A Path to Value-Driven European Integration	23
Media Systems in Transition	37
Navigating Digital Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges For Public Service Media in Norway, Denmark, the UK, Germany, and Greece Achilleas Karadimitriou and Stylianos Papathanassopoulos	53
The Vigorous Return of Capture: How Ownership of Media and Communication Platforms Interacts with Political Power and Shapes Opinions Tales Tomaz and Josef Trappel	91
Platformization and News Trust in a European Hybrid Media System Sergio Splendore and Diego Garusi	105
Consumption Patterns on Netflix Across EU Countries Joanna Archontaki, Achilleas Karadimitriou, and Stylianos Papathanassopoulos	123

viii Contents

European Media: Tendencies	
Values and Fears of the Europeans: A Media Perspective	147
European Public Spheres: Navigating Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up Dynamics Barbara Thomass	171
The Construction of a European Identity: A Visual Exploration of the House of European History's Narratives	189
Shifting Practices of Political Communication in Europe. Stylianos Papathanassopoulos and Iliana Giannouli	223
From Likes to Labor: Datafied Audiences and the Social Life of Digital Practices in Europe and Beyond	245
Audience as a Source of Agency in Europe. Zrinjka Peruško	263
Conclusions	279