

**Samma nyheter eller likadana?
Studier av mångfald i svenska TV-nyheter
[Same news or similar?
Studies of diversity in Swedish television news]**

Swedish Text and Summary in English, 318 pages.

ISBN: 91-88212-16-5. ISSN: 1101-4652

Anna Maria Jönsson (anna-maria.jonsson@sh.se)

Media and communication, Södertörns högskola, SE-141 89 Huddinge

Doctoral dissertation presented at the Department of Journalism and Mass
Communication, Göteborg University

Abstract

This dissertation is about media and diversity. It explores the role of the news media in the public sphere and democracy. The central question asks how we communicate in a democratic society and what the media's role in that communication seems to be. The view that the news media play a meaningful role for democracy has led, among other things, to the appearance of certain normative values or ideals. One such norm is that the media's structural organization and editorial content should be characterized by diversity.

The empirical aim of the dissertation is to study diversity in Swedish television news during the period of 1980-2000 with a special focus on the 1990s. Diversity is studied from two perspectives: a reporting perspective and an event perspective. The reporting perspective deal with the extent to which different events, actors, arenas and subject matters are covered within one or more television news program, while studies of diversity seen from an event perspective ask how different events or issues are covered and presented in different television news programs. Material and methodology used is mainly content analysis of television news programs and program summaries.

The main results suggest that the level of diversity in Swedish television news is quite low. Reporting is concentrated among a few geographic areas, subjects and actors, both in terms of stories pertaining to domestic and foreign affairs, and the different programs often presents the same news events in the same way. The range or breadth of reporting has changed little over time, but the changes that have occurred point to a widening of scope (for example, the share of women among actors presented in the news has risen). Within the various programs, the public service programs display the greatest content diversity and most alike are the public service programs.

Diversity is a complex concept that contains many different dimensions. The results of analysis suggest that the various forms of diversity identified in this study are related to each other.

Keywords

News, diversity, breadth, duplication, television, public sphere, democracy, journalism, norms for journalism, news selection, news presentation.