

MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY KAROL JAKUBOWICZ AWARD 2026: FIVE PUBLICATIONS NOMINATED

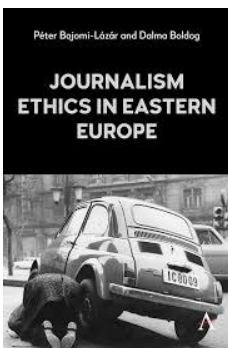
Five recent publications exploring the relationship between media and democracy have been nominated for the 2026 edition of the Media and Democracy Karol Jakubowicz Award.

The Selection Committee met on March 30, 2026, to review submissions for the 9th edition of the Award. Eligible publications were nominated by members of the Committee, editors and collaborators of the *Central European Journal of Communication* (CEJC), representatives of the International Association of Public Media Researchers (IAPMR), and previous Award recipients.

The evaluation process was guided by three key criteria:

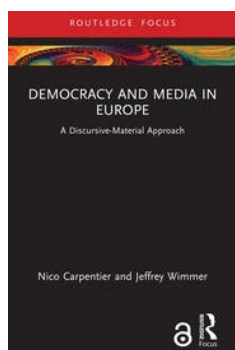
1. methodological rigor,
2. contribution to the development of media and democracy research,
3. potential impact on media policy and democratic life.

Following this assessment, the Committee nominated the following publications:



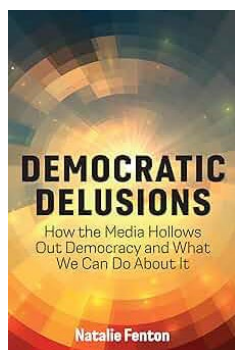
PÉTER BAJOMI-LÁZÁR & DALMA BOLDOG (2026). *JOURNALISM ETHICS IN EASTERN EUROPE*. ANTHEM PRESS.

Nominated for an in-depth and original analysis of ethical challenges in journalism in Eastern European countries in the context of media system transformation; the publication combines theoretical reflection with a comparative perspective, highlighting the importance of ethical standards for democracy and the protection of fundamental rights.



NICO CARPENTIER & JEFFREY WIMMER (2025). *DEMOCRACY AND MEDIA IN EUROPE: A DISCURSIVE-MATERIAL APPROACH*. TAYLOR & FRANCIS.

Nominated for its original theoretical contribution to research on the relationship between media and democracy through the integration of discursive and material perspectives; the publication offers a coherent analytical framework for examining the role of communication infrastructures in shaping pluralism, participation, and democratic resilience.



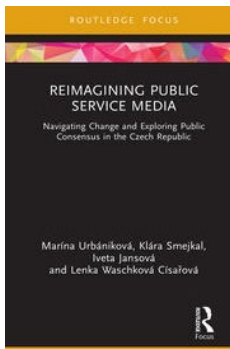
NATALIE FENTON (2025). *DEMOCRATIC DELUSIONS: HOW THE MEDIA HOLLOWS OUT DEMOCRACY AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT*. POLITY.

Nominated for the interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the relationship between media systems and contemporary democracy; the publication challenges dominant assumptions about the role of media in democratic societies and proposes alternative models of media organization and ownership, including the concept of Media Commons, pointing to directions for institutional reform and media policy.



FILIP TRBOJEVIĆ, PETER BERGLEZ, DINA VOZAB, MART OTS & ZRINJKA PERUŠKO (2025). *QUALITY OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA FREEDOM IN EUROPE: THE FSQCA APPROACH*. CENTRAL EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION, 18(1(39)), 29–50. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.51480/1899-5101.18.1\(39\).686](https://doi.org/10.51480/1899-5101.18.1(39).686)

Nominated for a comparative analysis of the relationship between journalistic quality and media freedom in Europe using the fsQCA method; the publication identifies key structural conditions supporting media freedom and points to new directions for research on media policy and journalistic professionalism.



MARÍNA URBÁNIKOVÁ, KLÁRA SMEJKAL, IVETA JANSOVÁ & LENKA WASCHKOVÁ ČÍSAŘOVÁ (2026). *REIMAGINING PUBLIC SERVICE MEDIA: NAVIGATING CHANGE AND EXPLORING PUBLIC CONSENSUS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC*. ROUTLEDGE.

Nominated for an empirical study of the role of public service media from the perspective of different stakeholder groups and an attempt to redefine their public value; the publication makes an important contribution to the debate on the future of public service media and their role in democratic societies.

Established in 2018 by Małgorzata Semil-Jakubowicz and the Polish Communication Association, the Award commemorates the legacy of Dr Karol Jakubowicz, a leading scholar of media and democracy in Europe. The winner of the 2026 edition will be announced on April 28, marking the anniversary of his passing.

For more information, please visit the Polish Communication Association's website: <https://www.ptks.pl/en/awards/the-media-and-democracy-karol-jakubowicz-award>.

Dagmara Sidyk-Furman and Michał Głowacki

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW, POLAND