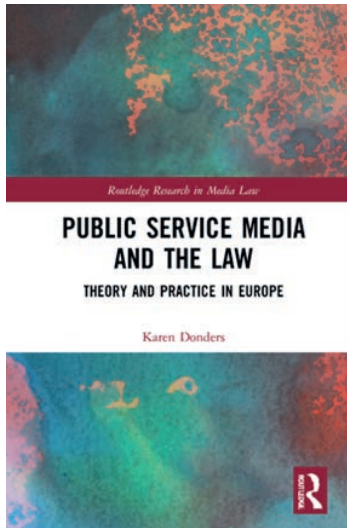


PROFESSOR KAREN DONDERS WINS THE MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY KAROL JAKUBOWICZ AWARD



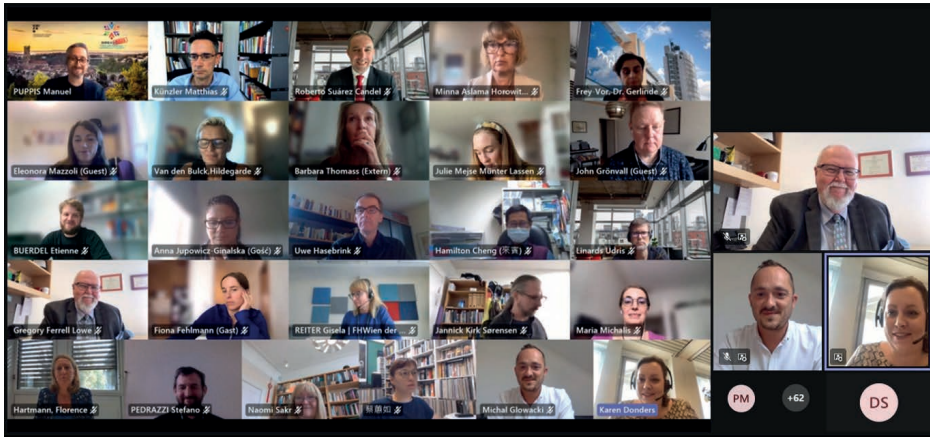
The Media and Democracy Karol Jakubowicz Award 2021 was granted to prof. Karen Donders (Vrije Universiteit Brussel/VRT) for her recent book, “Public Service Media and the Law: Theory and Practice in Europe” (London and New York: Routledge).

The Award Committee, which includes the Editors and Associate Editors of the “Central European Journal of Communication” and the Executive of the International Association of Public Media Researchers, noted that prof. Karen Donders’ book raised the importance of a healthy public service media (PSM) in the times of illiberal turns, fake news and government propaganda. Karen Donders has gone a long way in investigating a mismatch between

normative media theories with the practice in Western and Eastern Europe, also looking at media policy behaviors and related PSM culture. An in-depth examination of case studies from Flanders, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom produced a set of recommendations for human rights-based media policies – something of potential value to scholars, policy-makers and public service media.

Prof. Karen Donders is the Director of Public Engagement at Vlaamse Radio – en Televisieomroeporganisatie (VRT) – public service media in Flanders. Prior to joining VRT, she worked as a full professor at Vrije University Brussel, Belgium. Her previous publications include monographs, edited collections and scholarly papers on European media policy and innovation in public service media.

The Award ceremony took place on September 28, 2021, during the online Closing Plenary of the RIPE@2021 Conference “Public Service Media’s Contribution to Society”.



Photos: Book Cover; Ripe 2021 Conference Closing Ceremony (September 28, 2021) screenshot by: Dagmara Sidyk-Furman

The Media and Democracy Karol Jakubowicz Award recognizes novel methodologies and the societal impact of scholarly publications on media systems, media policies, media ethics, and public service media in Central and Eastern Europe, and beyond. A full list of this year's nominees can be found on the Award's website: <https://www.ptks.pl/en/awards/the-media-and-democracy-karol-jakubowicz-award>.

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