

DOI: 10.19195/1899-5101.10.1(18).12

**Bogusława Dobek-Ostrowska, Paulina Barczyszyn (eds.) (2016). *Zmiana w dziennikarstwie w Polsce, Rosji i Szwecji. Analiza porównawcza* [Change in Journalism in Poland, Russia and Sweden. Comparative Analysis]. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, pp. 232, ISBN: 978-83-229-3504-0.**

Published in 2016 by the Wrocław University Press, the book *Zmiana w dziennikarstwie w Polsce, Rosji i Szwecji. Analiza porównawcza* (Change in journalism in Poland, Russia and Sweden. A comparative analysis) is a response to the new processes we observe in the field of journalism and news management. The book is a result of the research entitled “Journalism in change. Journalistic culture in Poland, Russia, and Sweden” conducted in the years 2011–2014 and it fills the gap in Polish media studies concerning journalists and their work. The publication is divided into 10 chapters — each covering very important spheres of journalistic practices — and it is good reading-matter for both scientists for whom journalism is a part of research interests and people who face problems presented in the book in everyday life.

The first part of the book is not only a description of the aforementioned research, its methodology, main objectives, hypothesis and so on, but it also gives a description of the media systems in three countries — Poland, Sweden, and Russia. It underlines the lack of comparative analysis in Central Eastern Europe and the fact that media studies tend to theoretically approach those issues, instead of conducting empirical research. The second chapter focuses on the standards in journalism and the third on the form of employment. It gives more information on the differences between full-time jobs and freelancers and argues that there are no fixed frames in journalists’ work. The fourth chapter concerns the issue of multi-functionality, which is one of the most recent and urgent problems in journalism. The reporters often have to learn new skills in a very short time, write about topics that aren’t their specialization and do the things that originally were tasks of other workers such as professional photographers — these days a journalist has to be an all-rounder and it usually affects the quality of his work. The researchers also tried to analyze whether the media content is considered a product and how this fact influences the work within editorial staff. A very important part of this chapter is also the phenomenon of media convergence and relations between different media sectors. The sixth chapter covers the reasons for choosing the occupation of a journalist. Motivations are both financial and nonfinancial, but social motives seemed to be the most important for the journalists from every country, gender and age. The seventh part focuses on gender — the authors presented the relations between gender and other factors such as age, employment form, number of hours spent in work during the week, wages, media sector, functions within editorial staff and so on. The next two chapters present the influences on the media (and thus, on the

journalists' work) originating from other spheres — chapter eight talks about political engagement of the journalists, while chapter nine about economic factors. Both of these chapters show very important issues that have an effect not only on the journalists, but rather on the whole media system of each country. The authors showed how the reporters see the problem of working as both a journalist and a politician, what are their political preferences, what do they think about the media ownership influencing the content, but also the issue of commercialization, privatization, advertisers' influences, the process of so-called escapism, journalists' autonomy and how in general it affects the process of selection of the information and the production of the content. The last chapter seems to be the most current issue in media studies in general — it presents journalism in the era of social media. The fact that the authors have decided to devote a separate chapter to this issue only underlines its relevance. What is also worth noting, is that the social media mentioned in this chapter are not only Facebook and Twitter — the worldwide leaders. The authors have decided to write about the portals that are used primarily in the selected countries, such as nk.pl or vk.com, as well. The last part of the book shows both the usage of social media in everyday work of the journalists, but also their opinion on the interactivity and contact with the audience. The publication provides a lot of insightful conclusions, shows the challenges that have to be faced by journalists and media workers in general and describes prognosis, as well as world trends.

The newly published book is very complex and covers many aspects of the journalists' everyday work. The authors of all the chapters used a lot of other research for the reference, proving that the publication is not only very professional, but also fills the gap of the issues that had not been analyzed before the “Journalism in change” project. While talking about each aspect, it takes into account the origin country of the journalists, their gender and age, making it possible to compare and show various trends. The quotes from the in-depth interviews are not only an addition to the numerical data, but they also give a sense of a human approach and real life experiences, providing interesting reading-mater. Although the title suggests that the publication concerns mainly journalism, the collected data also shows the change in the whole media system, thus making the book a very valuable position in European media studies. It shows not only the present state, but also prognoses and world trends in journalism. The pivotal issue of the publication is the notion of change and all the chapters revolve around it, showing many diverse factors influencing the whole media system in each country. The research on journalist culture requires taking into consideration the whole external environment of the media system and the authors of the book *Zmiana w dziennikarstwie* definitely did that.

What could be considered a flaw of the publication is the fact that it's already slightly out of date, but that has to be considered a problem of contemporary media studies in general — especially those sectors that are influenced by the internet and

social media the most. Furthermore, during the last few months, when the book was already in the middle of the publishing process, the political scene in Poland had changed significantly and it started to influence the media sphere profoundly, but it might be an opportunity for other researchers to make a cross-time analysis and use the extensive data collected during the research and featured in the publication for comparison.

*Julia Trzcińska*

UNIVERSITY OF WROCLAW, POLAND

**DOI: 10.19195/1899-5101.10.1(18).13**

**Erik W. Johnston (eds.) (2016). *Governance in the Information Era. Theory and Practice of Policy Informatics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 374, ISBN: 978-1-138-83208-4.**

The modern world requires from people with power to be quick and decisive in the process of governing. It can lead to provide social and economic security of the country or particular communities. Decision-makers are facing many challenges associated with the governance and administrative processes which are primarily related to the dynamic technological development and globalization phenomenon. This big amount of different factors can lead to the inability of governments to solve complex problems and the disaffection of people with their governments. In fact, those in power often use the help of the scientific community to address challenges and consequences of decision making within the system with its complicated structure of interrelated elements, where the change of one item alters the change of another. Scientists can use many methods allowing them to generate useful information.

The authors of the book *Governance in the Information Era* have presented new ways of governance and provided the approach of policy informatics, where a basic assumption is that more intensive and creative use of information and technology can improve policy making processes and lead to better policy choices.

This book is the product of the collective work of scholars and practitioners who all deal with issues of policy informatics. *Governance in the Information Era* consists of nineteen chapters divided into six thematic parts which are an attempt to explain what policy informatics is and how the use of particular computational and simulation tools or methods can improve policy making processes.

The first part is an introduction where the editor Eric W. Johnston familiarizes readers with the basic notions related to policy informatics. He emphasizes the fact that the subject of governance systems is complicated and depends on many factors.