
Political Communication and Social Theory

Aeron Davis

Contents

<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	xiii
1 In search of the 'good' democracy: Comparing political and media systems	1
2 Citizens, political representation and parliamentary public spheres	18
3 Professionalised parties, the electoral mechanism and the new wave of party leaders: The rise of David Cameron	35
4 The production of policy and news: Liquid politics and the working cultures of the new capitalism	51
5 Journalist–source relations, mediated reflexivity and the politics of politics	67
6 Celebrity politics, symbolic communication and media capital in the political field	82
7 New media and fat democracy: The paradox of online participation	98
8 Politics and communication between the national and the global: Determining the boundaries and significance of 'international political communication'	114
9 Foreign policy-making, war and the disembedding of cosmopolitan elite networks: The case of Iraq 2003	131

10 The 'crisis' of politics and communication in ageing democracies	146
<i>List of interviewees</i>	159
<i>Bibliography</i>	164
<i>Index</i>	189

List of tables

1.1	Comparing political systems	6
1.2	Comparing media systems	10
1.3	Evaluations of democracy	12
2.1	Information sources used by back-bench MPs for evaluating policy/legislation	26
2.2	Information sources used by government ministers for evaluating policy/legislation	30
3.1	Comparative profiles of newer and older Cabinet members in the 2007–8 Labour and Conservative Cabinets	42
3.2	Media exposure, in eight news titles, of the four lead candidates three years prior to, and during the campaign period (6th May 2002–21st October 2005)	45
4.1	Number of Cabinet posts during Labour Government (May 1997–Nov 2009)	58
6.1	The forms of media capital generated by political actors in the political field	89
7.1	Responses of politicians to question a) ‘How has the internet changed politics and communication processes around politics?’ b) ‘How has it changed the way you do things?’	104
7.2	Responses of journalists to question a) ‘How has the internet changed the way political journalism is done?’ b) ‘How has it changed the way you do things?’	105
10.1	Interviewee opinions on the perceived causes of political crisis and public disengagement from institutional politics	147