

# Mediating Hope in the Age of Post-Truth and Fake News

Higher Seminar in Media Technology: Wed 16/5 at 10–12 in MD 338



SÖDERTÖRNS HÖGSKOLA | STOCKHOLM

**ANNE KAUN** is Associate Professor at the Department for Media and Communication Studies at **Södertörn University**, Stockholm. Her research combines archival research with interviews and participant observation to better understand changes in how activists have used media technologies and how technologies shape activism in terms of temporality and space.

The deliberate spreading of misleading information for economic or political purposes has earlier been discussed as mass manipulation, **PROPAGANDA** as well as satire. Recently, the debate has been reinvigorated with phenomena such as **POST-TRUTH** and **FAKE NEWS** in the current media environment of mass self-communication. The ongoing discourse could be interpreted as contributing to a vivid **MEDIA CRITICISM** that is crucial for contemporary democracies. Contrary to that argument, however, media – both traditional mass media such as the press and television as well as social media – are increasingly connected with **NEGATIVE EFFECTS** for democracy.

While media have earlier been connected with the **HOPE** to generate shared frames of references, social experiences and publics, they are now predominantly seen as contributing to **FILTER BUBBLES**, information cascades and hate speech.

This talk will firstly outline the contours of the current state of media criticism in **WESTERN DEMOCRACIES** and secondly ask how vivid media criticism can help **POLITICAL ACTIVISTS** envision and construct hopeful approaches related to the media in order to instigate **SOCIAL CHANGE**. The talk will conclude with some reflections on the role of media scholars in furthering an engagement with media that both takes a critical stance, but also acknowledges the crucial role of **MEDIATING HOPE** for political engagement and social change.

**CONTACT:** Mikolaj Dymek  
E: mikolaj.dymek@sh.se  
T: 08 - 608 52 80  
Department of Media Technology  
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