

Abstract

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Religious Communities' Digital Media Use and their Digital Public Sphere

In the lecture I would like to overview the media ecosystem of the 21st century in which the religious communities exist. After that I'm going to discuss the research tradition of the relationship between religion and media. Finally I'm going to present the digital media usage of some Hungarian religious communities.

The scientific frame of the lecture is given by MacKenzie and Wajcman's theory called social shaping of technology (MacKenzie, Donald – Wajcman Judy: 1999 Introductory essay the social shaping of technology. In.: MacKenzie – Wajcman (eds.): The Social Shaping of Technology. 2nd Edition Buckingham UK Open University Press). Their theory is further developed by the American researcher Heidi Campbell and it is called religious social shaping of technology (RSST). She studies the way how digital media is used by certain religious communities according to their values, norms and their former media usage. This attitude can be detected in religious documents (available: <http://uj.katolikus.hu/konyvtar.php?h=131>) that intend to give support to religious people or communities on how to use the digital media in order not to ruin their values. (Campbell, Heidi A.: 2013 Digital Religion. Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds. London- New York, Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group)

At the end of the lecture I would also like to overview some religious communities and how they adopt the social media use. In this use the history of the community, the central values, beliefs and the discursive process will be reflected.