

Abstract

This thesis brings to you a salient theme: Private for-Profit News Media (Print and Broadcast; irrespective of the platform on which it is disseminated) based on an interesting topic: Migration in order to explore theoretically and empirically how to model the social impact of the existence of media in a given socio-political, economic, legal and cultural context namely the United States of America and the United Kingdom at a given period: Year 2015.

The study of media in policy studies has been a relatively neglected area in the past and as a student of Public and Social Policy one finds this a most suitable opportunity to do otherwise. **Media's role in today's society can be explored from two angles: (1) Media as a tool, a mediator, a conduit and (2) Media as an actor, a regulator, a contributor and this thesis will focus on the latter as it is more important to understand the dynamic role played by this actor named: 'The Media'.**

The scope of this thesis is three fold: (1) it seeks to analyse media's relationship with the State, Market and Civic sector based on the hypothesis that it is in fact a prominent regulator among the key actors, (2) it seeks to explore media's presence in the policy cycle based on the theory that it is certainly pervasive and (3) it seeks to examine the impact of media in order to postulate its powerful role as a significant actor in today's society, one that cannot and should not be easily underestimated.

Theoretically, the thesis is guided by a group of six theories carefully chosen to address each of the three hypotheses. The first 2 theories based on governance and institutionalism shows media's prominent role as an actor. The second 2 theories grounded on policy models display media's presence as a pervasive actor within the policy process. The third 2 theories based on social constructions and moral deliberations of the public demonstrate media's impact as a powerful actor. Together the three chapter-based theories complement each other to provide a holistic view to media as a regulator. Methodologically the thesis employs a quantitative approach with text mining and corpus-linguistic techniques as well as a qualitative approach that includes content analysis in order to offer insights into reality through publications.

The thesis being a theoretical study with empirical data analyses the multiple roles the media plays from different perspectives and reveals its failures and successes as an actor while giving reasons to establish the media as a prominent, pervasive and powerful fourth regulator.

Keywords:

Media, Migration, Regulator, Public Policy