

## Special Issue

# Democracy, Social Networks and Mediatization

### Message from the Guest Editors

The boom in social networks has brought with it an increase in the spreading of false information (Wardle, 2017) and discriminatory content, thus turning the digital sphere into a place with a propensity for disinformation and hate speech (Piñeiro and Martínez, 2021). The debate regarding whether social networks improve public debate and democracy or if, by contrast, they polarize and block it, remains open and there are claims on both sides. One way of reducing this noise in the digital sphere needs there to be a guarantee of the right of access to information and an improvement in the processes of transparency and accountability of public authorities. This would achieve two objectives. On the one hand, it would reduce the dependence of civil society on the media and networks to know which public issues are of interest to it. On the other, it would strengthen governance and bring public institutions nearer to the general public, thus improving levels of trust in institutions. This Special Issue focuses particularly on giving an answer using several case studies or a literature review of mediatization and the elements of which it is composed.

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 July 2024)



## Societies

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*Societies* (ISSN 2075-4698) is an interdisciplinary journal that brings together different scientific approaches to engage with societal questions to enhance our understanding of the social realm throughout history. The journal publishes original empirical research papers, literature reviews, and conceptual papers. Our aim is to publish papers that have a significant impact on addressing present and emerging societal questions. Therefore, we encourage researchers to publish their results in as much detail as possible. For empirical research papers and literature reviews, all experimental details must be provided, so that the results are reproducible. We also encourage the publication of timely theoretical pieces on topics of interest to existing and emerging societal questions. Papers are either published in the open journal or in Special Issues devoted to specific topics of interest to the field.

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