Coping with diversity: exposure to public-affairs TV in a changing viewing environment

Wonneberger, A.

Publication date
2011

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Probably one of the best parts about finishing a dissertation is the possibility to thank all the people who have supported this work. Although a PhD project is a quite solitary endeavor by nature, many have contributed to the final result in many different ways.

First and foremost, I am most grateful to my supervisors Klaus Schönbach and Lex van Meurs. They have initiated this project and fascinated me with their ideas and enthusiasm from the first moment. I am thankful for their invaluable help and advice throughout the four years, but also for giving me the freedom to find my own path. Thank you, Klaus and Lex, for your always encouraging collaboration.

This project was made possible by a grant of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Further support was provided by Stichting KijkOnderzoek (SKO), the Netherlands Public Broadcasting (NPO), and Intomart GfK by making the data available. Working with people-meter data on the individual level was one of the most exciting and also challenging parts of this research. In particular, I would like to thank Bas de Vos (SKO) and Marcel Peek (NPO), as well as Martijn van Delft and Jeroen Verspeek (NPO KLO) for supporting our ideas and contributing with valuable comments and suggestions. The department Kijk- en LuisterOnderzoek at NPO was involved in many different ways. I would like to thank Willem Mekking for compiling innumerable data files, Inken Oestmann for helping with many data-related questions, and Nicolette Nellen for her insights about Dutch programming and genre categories. Luzia Helfer joined the project as a research master student and showed an enormous patience and accuracy with too many, too long syntax files. I want to thank her for all contributions and wish her good luck for pursuing her own PhD.

Throughout these four years, I was very grateful to be a PhD student at the Amsterdam School of Communication Research. I very much enjoyed the vivid and inspiring working environment and appreciated all the possibilities that were given to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and attend lectures, courses, and conferences. Especially, I would like to thank Sandra Zwier and Maaike Prangsma
for their always supportive and uncomplicated way of managing all kinds of requests.

PhD club meetings always were a good opportunity to leave my own little island. I want to thank all conveners, Jochen Peter, Rens Vliegenthart, Andreas Schuck, and Hajo Boomgarden, for their guidance and valuable input, as well as all members for inspiring discussions and ideas. Life and work would have been only half as much fun without all fellow PhD students. A special thanks – also for their comments on previous versions of some of the chapters – goes to Rosa van Santen, Tom Bakker, and Damian Trilling. Rosa and Tom were great office mates, as were Linda Bos, Fadi Hirzalla, Judith Möller, and Hanneke Hendriks. So many colleagues have enriched my time here in manifold ways. Most of all, I am thankful to have met and found a soul mate in Suchi Joshi. Susanne Baumgartner and Ewa Maslowska always had open doors and time for breaks or to wonder about academic life, Dutch humor and other peculiarities.

I would also like to acknowledge those who have first triggered my interest in communication research at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies in Berlin – above all, Lutz Erbring and Hans-Jürgen Weiß. I am grateful to James Webster for his hospitality and supervision during my visit at Northwestern University. Lecturers who have broadened my methodological universe were Frans Oort, Matt Golder, Wouter de Nooy, Cees Elzinga, Jens Vogelgesang, and Michael Scharkow.

Many people made sure to keep me connected to ‘real life’ during these four years. Most of all, I owe much to Michiel. He shared essential times and moments with me – travelling glaciers, volcanoes, and jungle mountains was only a part of it. Thanks to Jorna, Rob, Laura, and Rick, I felt at home in Holland right away. Also, I am glad having met friends like Karla, Paul, Klaartje, Joran, and Herman. The klimmuur slowly turned into my second home in Amsterdam – also thanks to many great people. On Gijs, I can count not only as a fun and only slightly competitive climbing partner, but also as a great friend. Raúl’s sunny spirit and Ruud’s wise jokes would always easily restore my mood after long working days. Although I like windmills, the dunes and the sea a lot, climbing trips to less rainy places were almost mandatory – and, thanks to Ollie, always a great experience. No matter where we live and what we do, Steffi would always make sure that I never forget my roots and I am very grateful for her friendship. Last but not least, I want to thank my family – my mother, Silke, Matthias, and my father. Arriving at this point and moving on to next challenges would not be possible without all their love and support.