

Journal of Children and Media

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Media policy for children: International perspectives

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The central presence of media in the lives of children and adolescents has led many societies to seek strategies to encourage access to potentially beneficial content (such as educational television programs) and technologies (such as broadband internet access). At the same time, governments often put in place policies to restrict access to content they fear might be harmful to youth development (such as pornography or unhealthy food advertising).

This special issue of the Journal of Children and Media is designed to offer a cross-cultural perspective on children's media policy. How do different countries discuss and treat the regulation of media to "protect" or "enrich" children? We seek empirical studies and theoretical essays that might include, for example, research on:

- How media "ratings" are designed, implemented and understood in different countries
- Beliefs about the potential dangers of media and how these beliefs are addressed through government regulation
- Industry self-regulations vs. government mandates and their perceived efficacy
- The impact of borderless satellite television on a country's ability to regulate content or advertising addressed to children
- Implications of the World Wide Web access for censorship efforts designed to protect children
- Analysis of the public protective discourse that is used to justify regulation
- Historical consideration of regulation of sexual content and the social construction of childhood

Contributions to this special issue are welcomed from a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches and political perspectives. The guest editor is particularly interested in highlighting the "regulation" of children's access to what is socially perceived as positive and negative media content in diverse countries and cultures.

Expressions of interest should be submitted to the guest editor as an e-mail attachment by no later than February 15, 2009. Please include a 300 word abstract, full contact information, and a biographical note (up to 75 words) on each of the authors. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by March 15, 2009 and will then be invited to submit a full paper to the guest editor. Manuscripts should be no more than 8,000 words, including notes and references, conform to APA style, and submitted by August 1, 2009. All papers will be subject to anonymous peer review following submission.