Abstract

The dissertation examines how people in the United States make use of the internet in their daily life. It does so by presenting three articles based on fieldwork carried out in the US in the latter half of 2017, and by joining them together through a shared framework.

The first two chapters make up the framework for the articles, and argues that infrastructure and culture both influence people’s internet uses, but that they do not do so equally intensely or decisively. After making this theoretical argument, the three articles are presented: The first article outlines the research design used to collect the ethnographic data that is the basis of this dissertation. The second article examines how people use the internet in the structuring of daily life, and builds on the premise that the internet has the capacity to collapse offline contexts. The third article is a cross-cultural comparison of the criteria people have when considering how to communicate with social ties.

Empirically, the dissertation contributes findings that add to the growing body of literature examining the internet in everyday life. The methodological contribution is made in article one, which offers a research design that makes it possible to examine how people’s internet uses interact and intersect with other types of communication in their daily life. Lastly, the theoretical contributions stem from the unique coupling of infrastructure- and user perspectives in the article framework, and from articles two and three that contribute to practice theory and social ties theory respectively.