

First announcement

## Mediated Democracy

Final conference of the Danish research program on Media and Democracy in the Network Society (MODINET)

Copenhagen, August 24, 2005

Politics is increasingly conducted in and through the media. The media are themselves contributing to new political practices involving a growing range of actors and interests. This conference takes stock of the changing conditions of mediated democracy in contemporary society.

If politics has traditionally been understood as the practices serving to negotiate, legitimate, and authoritatively allocate values for a whole society (Easton, 1953) - centered on, but not confined to the institutions of parliamentary democracy - politics has come to be associated, in recent decades, with more diverse ends and means, and with the distributed everyday contexts in which people make sense of themselves as citizens, consumers, and cultural actors. This dispersal of politics has been facilitated by mediated forms of interaction - from the local newspaper to the internet - which support the activities of established as well as emergent social interests. Communicating about politics increasingly is a way of *doing* politics.

The conference takes the established institutions of parliamentary democracy, corporate business, and civil society as its point of departure, and asks how these institutions are changing in response to each other and to the media as a shared political and cultural forum. The keynote is delivered by Professor Michael Schudson, University of California at San Diego, who has made central contributions to international research on the news media and citizenship. The other presentations at the conference report findings from the MODINET center, an interdisciplinary research program in Denmark on 'Media and Democracy in the Network Society', including a national survey on internet and other media use, and case studies of local e-government, of corporate governance, and of public-service media.

Time: August 24, 2005

Place: Danish Architecture Center, Strandgade 27B, DK-1401 Copenhagen, Denmark

Contact: Annet Krogsdam Jørgensen, [aykj@hum.ku.dk](mailto:aykj@hum.ku.dk), [www.modinet.dk](http://www.modinet.dk)