
The Role of Media in Curbing Corruption and Promoting Quality of Government

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Avhandlingen baseras på följande delstudier:

Färdigh, Mathias A., Emma Andersson and Henrik Oscarsson. 2012. "Press Freedom and Corruption.", in Holmberg, Sören and Bo Rothstein (eds.) *Good Government. The Relevance of Political Science*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Färdigh, Mathias A. "Free Media and Quality of Government. Media's Role in Promoting Impartial, Non-Corrupt Governments with High Quality." Submitted for publication in *International Political Science Review*.

Färdigh, Mathias A. "Media Freedom, Media Accessibility and Quality of Government. Explaining Government Performance in Europe using Media System Characteristics." Submitted for publication in *Government Information Quarterly*.

Akademisk avhandling för filosofie doktorsexamen i journalistik, medier och kommunikation som med tillstånd av samhällsvetenskapliga fakultetsnämnden vid Göteborgs universitet framlägges till offentlig granskning fredagen den 6 december 2013, kl. 13.15 i sal 302, Annedalseminariet, Seminariegatan 1A, Göteborg.



Färdigh, Mathias A. 2013. *What's the Use of A Free Media? The Role of Media in Curbing Corruption and Promoting Quality of Government*. Göteborgsstudier i journalistik, medier och kommunikation 69, edited by Kent Asp and Lennart Weibull, Department of Journalism, Media and Communication, University of Gothenburg, PO Box 710, SE-405 30 Göteborg, Sweden.

English text, 170 pages.

ISBN: 978-91-88212-57-3

ISSN: 1101-4652

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Abstract

Free media have traditionally been seen as vital to democratization and economic development. International actors, such as UN, the World Bank, the EU, Transparency International, the OECD and the research field in its entirety regard free media as one of the main means of curbing corruption. Numerous policy proposals and recommendations stress the importance of media freedom. Nevertheless, our knowledge of how effectively media actually perform to combat corruption is still limited – albeit growing.

What's the Use of a Free Media? presents three independent empirical studies that contribute to an understanding of this role, analyzing the media's importance in curbing corruption and in promoting and generating high quality political institutions.

The research design and robust empirical approach broaden the analytical scope of earlier studies and stressing the need to look beyond simple models of direct effects of media freedom. The dissertation problematizes and elaborates the specifications of both media freedom and quality of government, thereby helping to bridge the gap between theory and the equivalent empirical world.

Keywords: accessibility; accountability; corruption; impartiality; media freedom; media systems; political empowerment; public authority; quality of government; responsiveness.