Living public spheres beneath the surface of deliberation.
An analysis of online shared spaces becoming public agoras

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“I am a partisan of third world war, the war for information (...).
The only way to assure the survival of democracy is to avoid that government control the freedom of citizenship in sharing information and communicating”
(Beppe Grillo, 23 January 2005)
Il cerchio sovrastrutturale e la vasca degli squali

Grillo e la Marcegaglia

Il tema di Expo 2015 è: "Nordica il Futuro, Energia per la vita". L'unico argomento discussone ad una e stata il cemento con cui nutrire le lobby, quali area (500.000 metri quadrati...) rendere adificabili per costruire palazzi di cemento. Il futuro è bombardato, una delle regioni più cementificate e inquinate del mondo. Nei Grattacieli e nelle aree di Expo saremo seduti semni sul tutto il mondo e mensalini per l'agricoltura che nessuno avrà a vedere. Vi immaginate un povero folle che prende il via per attirare
Public demonstrations and collection of signatures for draft laws on media system and political corruption.

Civic lists at local and regional elections (2008-2010)

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Critical and culture-oriented model of public sphere

Public sphere as a “modern social imaginary” (Taylor, 2004), based on three main paradigms:

-establishment/erasure/negotiation of the boundary between private and public space of social life
-boundary that implies the institution of a normative horizon
-normative horizon that includes 1) the shaping of political identities 2) the way in which political identities should co-exist and interact
Critical and culture-oriented model of public sphere

*Mediation* (Silverstone): as a process of movement and transformation of meanings across thresholds of symbolic power

*Ttwo analytical dimensions of mediation:*

1) as a cluster of meanings that is set off and then translated

2) as a discursive and social practice that organizes relationship, identities and values.

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Two processes of mediation:

1) the communicative and civic proposal formulated by the comedian through his blog → Critical Discourse Analysis

2) the civic cultures which have accepted and legitimized BG’s proposal → qualitative interviews to a non-representative sample of blog’s readers and political movement’s activists.
Structuring citizenship: discourses and discursive genres

Two main discursive genre:

1) Information gatekeeping (the comedian-blogger presents himself as the person who is able to amend the distorted fluxes of information between institutions and citizens)

2) Political representation (Beppe Grillo is not a neutral reporter of an objective reality, but he fights as a partisan inside that same narrated reality)
Achieving citizenship: the reception field

- Disintermediation
- De-institutionalisation
- Individualisation
Thank you for your attention