

“The Cultural Techniques Algorithmic Journalism”

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This presentation explores the design and implementation of a news-sorting algorithm at Swedish Public Service radio broadcaster Sveriges Radio. The processes of design and implementation are conceptualized as cultural techniques, a theoretical perspective that among other things aims to deconstruct seemingly abstract concepts by pointing at their material and habitual underpinnings (Siegert, 2015). Utilizing this theory allows for the scrutinization of how journalistic techniques like news selection and news production, or more abstract phenomena like public service-imaginaries, change when put into contact with materialities such as algorithmic tools. The methodology employed to study the processes of algorithm design and implementation is technography, a mixed methods approach consisting of observations, interviews and artefact analysis, that studies human culture through the lens of technology (Bucher, 2012).