1974

Review of Helga Kellner & Imme Horn, "Gewalt im Fernsehen: Literaturbericht über Medienwirkungsforschung"

Klaus Krippendorff
University of Pennsylvania, kkrippendorff@asc.upenn.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.upenn.edu/asc_papers
Part of the Communication Commons

Recommended Citation (OVERRIDE)

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. https://repository.upenn.edu/asc_papers/542
For more information, please contact repository@pobox.upenn.edu.
Review of Helga Kellner & Imme Horn, "Gewalt im Fernsehen: Literaturbericht über Medienwirkungsforschung"

Disciplines
Communication | Social and Behavioral Sciences

This review is available at ScholarlyCommons: https://repository.upenn.edu/asc_papers/542

Klaus Krippendorff

University of Pennsylvania

This 66-page booklet reviews some of the literature on media violence in order to stimulate the planning of comparable studies in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The material is well structured and easy to read. The first half of the booklet gives an overview of the principal research strategies--psychological experiments, survey research, and content analysis--and discusses their findings. The second half, mostly in fine print, consists of over 20 detailed reviews of individual studies on media violence. These are indeed the most pertinent of the recent studies on the subject. The promised bibliography is missing.

It is interesting to note that the depth of insights provided by these research strategies is clearly indicated by the space devoted to presenting their respective methods of analysis and findings. Two-thirds of this volume discusses experimental evidence in favor of and against such theories as the catharsis hypothesis, the emotional arousal hypothesis, hypotheses suggesting that the mass media habituate violence without actually stimulating it, and others according to which media violence has inhibiting effects. Two-ninths of the volume is devoted to discussing primarily audience preferences which survey research has provided; the quantitative results of content analysis contribute not more than one-ninth of this discussion.

The authors exhibit awareness of the severe limitations of psychological experiments and survey methods, so their dominance in this book only serves to underline the need for much more work toward understanding the role of a mass media world of violence in society--a need which motivated the authors to write the book in the first place.