Abstract

This article presents the results of an exploratory research conducted during the second round of the 2010 electoral debate in Colombia, and its objective was to understand the deliberation process characteristic of the public debate of what this study called the "young electoral system". This research, designed under the shadow of Niklas Luhmann’s Theory of the Social Systems, resorted to focal groups and to semi-structured interviews of young voters from the city of Manizales so as to observe the "senses" which as "experiences" and "expectations", support the system's operations. According to the observations, the electoral debate was largely conducted from direct or socialization experiences, contrary to the tendency in this subject, the virtual socialization experiences had little intervention in the deliberation.

Keywords

democracy, public opinion, political communication (Unesco Social Sciences Thesaurus), experiences, expectations.