



SAINT PETERSBURG  
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SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM  
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FRIEDRICH  
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НЕДЕЛЯ  
ГЕРМАНИИ  
В САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГЕ



6<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
**COMPARATIVE MEDIA STUDIES IN TODAY'S WORLD**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Time: **April 17–19, 2018**  
Place: **St. Petersburg, Russia**  
Working language: **English**

Theme for 2018:  
**Emotions vs. Rationality in Mediated Discussions**

Emotions have always been part of the public discourse as a key baking agent polarizing social groups, helping to aggregate interests, and shaping decision-making. From protest solidarity to compassion fatigue, it is the emotions that distance the public sphere from its reason-based ideal and at the same time make the discussions more appealing to media audiences. And while rationality has produced a major line in media studies, emotions *per se* have been a smaller research focus. Today, we still lack knowledge on how emotional and rational arguments go together in mediated discussions, especially in comparative perspective.

And this lack has become even more acute in the 2010s, with the extreme 'emotionalization' of election campaigns and referenda, 'border-building thinking', the new rise of international militant rhetoric, use of televised shock by terrorists, and affective debates on social networks virtually everywhere including the USA, Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. In the climate of information spinning and alt-news, the Habermasian all-encompassing public sphere seems impossible as never before. But at the same time, computer-mediated communication has opened doors for cross-cultural solidarity campaigning on inequalities and human rights, as well as to opportunities of visual ad audiovisual expression of feelings on a mass scale.

Thus, the conference is seeking contributions that deal with rationality, irrationality, emotions and affects in mediated communication. We especially welcome comparative research but do not limit ourselves to it, as case studies may be crucial for understanding trends. The aim of the conference is to go beyond statements on 'fake news' and 'propaganda reborn' and to look deeper into causes and consequences of the communicative shifts of the recent times. We hope to link communication researchers to their colleagues in wider social sciences, including sociology, public memory studies, social psychology, and international relations, as well as to linguists, mathematicians, and computer scientists interested in media research.

In 2018, the conference will have three tracks:

>The 'Theory' track, traditional for the conference, will deal with emotionality and rationality in communication from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

>The 'Political&Social' track will explore the linkages between emotionality in politics and that in political communication, emotions in political talk in media and social communicative milieus, rationality and affect in public argumentation, and other aspects of emotionalized media discussions on the issues of today's agendas.

>The 'Tech&Methods' track will focus on detecting emotions and linking it to other methodologies of social research including (but not limited to) automated methods such as social network analysis, detection of discussion topics, or user homophily studies. Here, the goal is to link the methods and the national/comparative contexts for better understanding of the changes in communication around the world.

### **Deadlines and other dates**

Please send us an abstract of **max 300 words** specifying the scope, method, and main results of your research paper by **January 15, 2018** to applicationspb2017@spbu.ru as MS Word or Adobe Acrobat files attached to the letter.

All applications will be double-blind peer-reviewed, so please attach the names, titles, contact details, and affiliations of the authors on a separate sheet.

January 26, 2018 – notifications of acceptance and informing on visa support

February 10, 2018 – deadline to confirm participation

February 15, 2018 – deadline for sending in the documents for visa support

February 20, 2018 – deadline for accommodation advice

March 1, 2018 – deadline for early-bird registration

April 1, 2018 – deadline for regular registration

Please note that there will be no on-site registration payment procedures; please ensure your participation by paying the participation fee before April 1, 2018.

*More information at:* [http://eng.jf.spbu.ru/comparative\\_media\\_studies/284.html](http://eng.jf.spbu.ru/comparative_media_studies/284.html)

## Conference Call Centres and Peripheries: Communication, Research, Translation



ECREA's 7th European Communication Conference

The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) in partnership with USI Università della Svizzera italiana call for proposals to be presented at the 7th European Communication Conference, to be held in Lugano, Switzerland, from 31 October to 3 November 2018.

ECREA and USI are delighted to host the 7th European Communication Conference (ECC). The Conference has chosen the key theme of "Centres and Peripheries: Communication, Research, Translation". Organisers call for proposals that address the main conference theme and which relate to each ECREA Section, Network or Temporary Working Group.

### Conference theme

This conference aims to analyse and to address the theme  
**"Centres and Peripheries: Communication, Research, Translation"**  
 in communication from a multiplicity of perspectives.

**First**, the conference examines the issues of "core" and "margins", inviting scholars to stretch the boundaries of media and communication research as an academic discipline. We welcome presentation of research that seeks to take communication and media studies to new territories and new fields of application. "Stretching" media and communication research means bringing attention to underdeveloped fields of research and bringing theories, approaches and methods from other academic fields and disciplines into view. Academic subjects previously not concerned with aspects of mediated communication now acknowledge the role of media and communication processes for their discipline. This is both a challenge and an opportunity for the future role and socio-cultural impact of media and communication research.

**Second**, the key conference theme of centres and peripheries means reconsidering geographical, cultural and linguistic borders or boundaries. Many areas of media and communication research have been dominated by American and European scholarship,

but these traditions can learn methodological and theoretical insights coming, for example, from Asian, South American and African research. In this regard, as the subtitle of the conference emphasizing “translation” suggests, this also requires re-examination in the continual dominance of the English language in academic affairs. There is no doubt that the English language has become the *lingua franca* in the scientific community, allowing scholars from different countries to communicate and to access each other’s work. Nevertheless, the English language-centrality needs to be questioned and discussed in a plurilingual setting such as the Swiss context and, in particular, when findings in other languages are marginalized, considered peripheral or less important. This is why special panels addressing this topic will be organised during the conference.

Reconsidering borders, however, goes beyond mere reflection and deals with the materiality of communication flows. In the present global context of migration and mobility, and where terms such as flow, mobility, multi-cultural, multi-perspective, transcultural, hybrid and fragmented are ubiquitous, the issue of what we consider as communicative centres and peripheries is highly important. We thus also invite contributions that focus on the stability and fragility of the concepts of “centre” and “periphery”. This topic addresses historical and spatial instability, understanding and explaining how certain physical or immaterial entities become centres – or peripheries – for certain issues in critical times (e.g., the Silicon Valley for technological innovation related to the Internet, online communication and network societies).

**Third**, the key concepts of centres and peripheries in communication are associated with economic and political power. Communication flows often go from rich (central) countries to poor (peripheral) ones. Within single countries distribution of resources are often unequal in terms of information and connectedness between privileged and unprivileged areas (e.g., urban peripheries and rural areas). People in disadvantaged areas are often excluded by flows, forms and practices of communication that are taken-for-granted in richer regions. In this regard, we also welcome contributions addressing European “divides”, exclusions or fights for inclusion from a communication perspective.

### **Submission and deadline**

Proposals for individual papers, panels, and posters can be submitted to one of ECREA Sections, Temporary Working Groups and Networks through the ECREA 2018 submission platform until **28 February 2018**.

*More information at:* <http://www.ecrea2018lugano.eu/>

## IAMCR 2018 | 20-24 June | Eugene, Oregon, USA | Call For Proposals

The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) invites submissions of abstracts for papers and panel proposals for the IAMCR 2018 conference to be held 20-24 June at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, USA. The deadline to submit abstracts is 23:59 UTC on **31 January 2018**.

Proposals for consideration by IAMCR's thematic sections and working groups must be submitted via the Open Conference System.

### Reimagining Sustainability: Communication and Media Research in a Changing World

IAMCR conferences address a wide diversity of topics defined by our 31 thematic sections and working groups. We also propose a single central theme to be explored throughout the conference with the aim of generating and exploring multiple perspectives on a shared set of issues. This is accomplished through plenary and special sessions, and in the meetings of the sections and working groups. For IAMCR 2018, the central theme is *Reimagining Sustainability: Communication and Media Research in a Changing World*.

As part of its Sustainable Development Agenda, the United Nations defines sustainability as harmonizing three core elements, environmental protection, social inclusion, and economic growth, so as to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It calls for concerted efforts towards building an equitable and resilient future for people and planet.

There is an immediate need to promote responsible and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that incorporate local and global reflection and action. This inevitably raises urgent issues of entrenched power, social justice, democracy, and the need to eradicate poverty, raise basic living standards, and address the present climate crisis.

This ambition is currently under attack. In spite of overwhelming scientific evidence, climate change denial is used to build public support for unsustainable environmental practices and policies while corporate greenwashing promotes the perception that these practices and policies are in fact environmentally friendly. Encouraged by the rise of populism and ever-smaller media bubbles, intolerance is on the upswing around the world. Inequality is outpacing economic growth. Wealth is ever more concentrated.

We find it imperative in these times that IAMCR and its members expand and extend our understanding of current and emerging models of sustainability, the struggles that surround them, and their multiple relationships with communication and media.

We encourage proposals that address these intersections by revising and remixing theories, practices, and institutions that move beyond merely sustaining – towards thriving societies and cultures. How are they contended, globally, nationally and locally, by actors that include governments, industry, advocacy organisations, community groups, and the environmental justice movement? The State of Oregon, for example, has a history of commitment to sustainability and the environment. When the Trump administration announced its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change, signed by 194 other countries, Oregon, along with 23 US states and territories representing more

than 50% of the country's population and responsible for 40% of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, broke with the federal government and committed to supporting the agreement. Worldwide grassroots community groups and activists are coming together in an emerging environmental justice movement committed to sustainability, but also to social change.

The role of communication and media in both promoting and impeding sustainability has increasingly been the focus of commentary and research. Material communication systems consume energy in their manufacture and use, contribute to problems of pollution and waste, and in their dominant commercial forms, support and encourage a general culture of unsustainable hyperconsumption. What alternatives would advance the full and equal access to diverse information and comprehensive knowledge bases that UNESCO advocates as central to achieving sustainable societies?

We encourage participants to address these issues, in relation to both prevailing systems of communication and the systems now emerging around the application of artificial intelligence, the rise of automation and robotics, and the internet of things. We also welcome analysis that reassesses and reimagines sustainability in relation to openness, transparency, accessibility, and the recomposition of power, as we continue to explore the implications of media and communication in an interconnected world.

### **The conference venue**

The University of Oregon in the Pacific Northwest offers an ideal location to discuss these issues. The university is a national leader in campus sustainability through the efforts of administration, faculty, staff, students and the larger community and is actively engaged in greening facility operations, innovative research, supporting and encouraging student initiatives, implementing environmentally and sustainability focused curriculum, and sponsoring public service initiatives.

The City of Eugene takes a comprehensive approach that places equal importance on advancing social equity, economic prosperity, and environmental health. It is home to a number of grassroots initiatives for sustainability.

The State of Oregon has a long history of commitment, vision, and innovation to sustainable lifestyles locally as well as addressing global climate change.

We look forward to IAMCR members engaging with these issues at the 2018 conference hosted by the University of Oregon, in Eugene, Oregon.

### **Submission of Abstracts**

Each Section and Working Group of IAMCR has issued its own Call for Papers, based on the general thematic outline above. Abstracts should be submitted from 9 November 2017 through 31 January 2018. Both individual and panel submissions are welcome and early submission is strongly encouraged.

### **Deadline**

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **31 January 2018** and will not be extended. Decisions on acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to applicants by their Section or Working Group Heads no later than **15 March 2018**.

*More information at:* <http://oregon2018.iamcr.org/>