

## ECREA TWG MEDIA &amp; THE CITY 2015 CONFERENCE

**Urban Media Studies:  
Concerns, intersections and challenges**

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science, 24–25 September 2015

Confirmed keynote speaker: Ole B. Jensen, Professor of Urban Theory, Dept. of Architecture, Design and Media Technology, Aalborg University.

## CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS

Media related practices are grounded in the city – where the majority of human population today lives – and media as both technologies and representations pervade nearly all aspects of urban living, cutting through diverse forms of public appearance, community, control, resistance and habitation.

As a result, none of the established perspectives in media studies, whether that of democracy and participation, production and technology, representation and use, or belonging and identity, can claim to have an exhaustive understanding of their problematics without appreciating the urban context. In the same way, no urban process can be fruitfully tackled without taking into account the involvement of media and media related practices.

Yet, despite being closely – though unevenly – entwined, from small towns to megalopolises, the two complexes, media and the city, have remained disjointed in the scholarly analyses. In fact, it can be argued that for media scholars in particular, the city has remained a terra incognita.

Wishing to revive the initial enthusiasm in media studies, which started as an interdisciplinary endeavour, Urban Media Studies conference aspires to provide a dialogic space for disciplines interested in mediated urbanism. We also hope to stimulate critical reflections on the challenges of collaborating across disciplinary boundaries. Thus, though speaking from the position of media studies, we invite submissions from scholars who work in all relevant fields that interface with the key issue of media and the city. These include, but are not limited to, such fields as urban geography, urban sociology, architecture, anthropology, science and technology studies, visual and sound/auditory culture studies, sociology of the senses, and other related subfields.

We specifically welcome submissions which deal with the following themes and approach them with an interdisciplinary curiosity – as potential intersections between two or more fields of research:

Historical connections between urban studies and media studies / Urban spaces and media practices / Urban sociality and media / Mediation of urban daily life / Media, architecture and urban design / 'Media cities' as production clusters and complexes / Performing and audiencing (in) the mediated city / Media, urban power, resistance and conflict / Media, gender and the city / Media, ethnicity and the city / Urban spaces of media consumption / Urban law in the digitally sustained cities / Mediated urban sensescapes / Urban, outdoor and ambient advertising / Fashion as urban communication / Urban gaming / Journalism and the city / The city as a mediated ecosystem / Urban mediation and spatial negotiations / Methodologies of urban media studies / Teaching about media and the city

We welcome both individual and multi-authored abstracts, and full panel proposals (with four presentations; 15–20 minutes per presentation). In the case of panel proposals, the candidate chair should provide a title and a short general description of the proposed panel, together with the abstracts of all presenters.

In addition to conventional academic presentations of original theoretical, methodological and/or empirical research of any of the above or other related themes, we encourage practice-based presentations, like urban films and documentaries, sonic projects and other exploratory artwork that probe issues of media and the city.

Abstract proposals (300 words) for presentations and panels, together with short bios, should be submitted to [mediacity.twg@gmail.com](mailto:mediacity.twg@gmail.com) by May 1st, 2015. Authors will be informed of acceptance by June 1st, 2015.

The conference will also feature a special dialogic plenary where participants from different disciplines will be invited to share views on their work in the context of media and the city.

As part of our commitment to stimulate interaction between scholars from different disciplines, we shall also be organising a guided urban exploration of Zagreb's industrial, modernist/utopian architectural heritage, and post-industrial urban developments.

A selection of papers will be published in an edited book and/or in a journal special issue.

Conference fee is 50 Euros for ECREA members, 70 Euros for non-members. The fee will cover conference materials, and coffee and lunch both days.

Any queries should be sent to conference organizers Seija Ridell (University of Tampere, Finland), Simone Tosoni (Catholic University of Milan, Italy) and Zlatan Krajina (University of Zagreb, Croatia). Please use the conference e-mail address [mediacity.twg@gmail.com](mailto:mediacity.twg@gmail.com).

OBS. For the conference updates, please follow the Media & the City websites on <http://twg.ecrea.eu/MC/> and <https://www.facebook.com/mediaandthecity>

**11th Dubrovnik Media Days**

October 30-31, 2015

**“Artificial Intelligence, Robots and Media”**

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Technology has always influenced journalism and media by reshaping news production process and changing the way journalists produce their work. Today, in the time of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence Algorithms, the news production process could be completely automated especially in the area of newsgathering where computer algorithms (robot journalism) could generate news (and replace humans). As a result of these advances media companies are increasingly experimenting with algorithms, drones and other computer operated/powered devices in newsgathering, production of news and storytelling. In line with new trends and ideas coming from Google News project, Associated Press and Automated Insights, drone reporting etc. a new set of ethical, quality and transparency questions arises. For example: What are the ethics of the use of algorithms in journalism? Who is monitoring the computers? Are journalists and media industry ready for the future? How does audience accept robot journalism?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to, issues surrounding the following questions and cases:

- >Use of artificial intelligence/algorithms in news
- >Use of drones and other computer operated/powered devices in reporting
- >Ethical issues with robot and drone journalism
- >Questions of accuracy and transparency
- >Audience and robot reporting
- >Future plans for robot reporting about more challenging topics
- >Legal and copyright problems with algorithm reporting
- >Role of computer programmers in robot journalism

*Confirmed keynote speakers:*

Mark Deuze, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Noam Lemelshtrich Latar, School of Communication, Israel

Christer Clerwall, Karlstad University, Sweden

James Kotecki, Automated Insights, USA

Different theoretical and empirical scientific approaches are welcome.

Conference venue: University of Dubrovnik Main Campus <http://goo.gl/vc1tLO>

Papers presented at the conference (after peer review) will be published in the science journal Medianali.

Official conference language is English.

*Timeline:*

Deadline for submission of abstracts and registration: August 15, 2015;

Notification of acceptance: August 30, 2015.

Registration fee for participants whose papers are accepted – 120 Euro, all others pay 200 Euro.

Full Papers due by November 1, 2015 (4,000-6,000 words, including 200 word abstracts and six keywords; referencing - APA)

Registration and submission via e-mail: [dmd@unidu.hr](mailto:dmd@unidu.hr)

## MeCCSA Conference

### Theme: Communities

Deadline for proposals: 8 September 2015

We are pleased to invite you to submit abstracts, panel proposals and posters for the next Annual MeCCSA Conference, to be held 6-8 January 2016 at the School of Media, Art and Design, Canterbury Christ Church University.

The theme of the MeCCSA 2016 is 'Communities'. We invite papers and panel proposals that address this theme, examining how we might advance thinking on for example: communities in the digital age; communities and the commons; communities and cultures; communities on the margins; local and community media; politics and policies of communities; community engagement and cohesion; inclusion and exclusion in communities; communities and the past; media, cultural and communication practices of different types of communities.

We also welcome scholarly papers, panels, practice contributions, film screenings, and posters across the full range of interests represented by MeCCSA and its networks, including, but not limited to:

- >Film and television studies and practice
- >Radio studies and practice
- >Cultural and media policy
- >Representation, identity, ideology
- >Social movements
- >Women's Media Studies
- >Disability Studies within media studies
- >Approaches to media pedagogy
- >Children, young people and media
- >Diasporic and ethnic minority media
- >Political communication
- >Methodological approaches
- >MeCCSA subject areas as disciplines

*Confirmed plenary speakers*

Confirmed speakers that will participate in keynote panels include:

Professor Mark Deuze, University of Amsterdam

Professor Jeremy Gilbert, University of East London

Dr Peter Lewis, London Metropolitan University

Professor George McKay, University of East Anglia

Professor Robin Mansell, London School of Economics

Sara Moseley, Distinguished Visiting Fellow and Development Director, Cardiff University

Jeremy Seabrook, Author and Journalist

Professor Helena Sousa, University of Minho

Hilary Wainwright, Journalist and Researcher, Transnational Institute

Professor Claire Wallace, University of Aberdeen

*Submission guidelines*

Abstracts of up to 250 words should be submitted by 8 September 2015 through the submission form. We also welcome panel proposals and these should include a short description and rationale (200 words) together with abstracts for each of the papers (150-200 words each including details of the contributor), together with the name and contact details of the panel proposer. The panel proposer should co-ordinate the submissions for that panel as a single proposal.

*Conference contacts:*

Website: [www.meccsa2016.co.uk](http://www.meccsa2016.co.uk)

Email address: [meccsa2016@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:meccsa2016@canterbury.ac.uk)

Twitter: [@meccsa2016](https://twitter.com/meccsa2016)

*We look forward to seeing you in Canterbury!*

**Call for Papers:  
Eleventh International Conference on  
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences**

**'An Age and its Ends: Social Science in the Era of the Anthropocene'**

Imperial College London  
London, UK  
2-4 August 2016

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The International Advisory Board is pleased to announce the Call For Papers for the Eleventh International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. The Social Sciences Conference will be held on 2-4 August 2016 at the Imperial College London, London, UK.

*Conference Themes*

The Conference will address a range of critically important issues and themes relating to the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences community. Plenary speakers include some of the leading thinkers in these areas, as well as a numerous paper, colloquium, poster and workshop presentations.

We are inviting proposals for paper presentations, workshops/interactive sessions, posters/exhibits, or colloquia addressing the social sciences through one of the following themes:

- >Social and Community Studies
- >Civic and Political Studies
- >Cultural Studies
- >Global Studies
- >Environmental Studies
- >Organizational Studies
- >Educational Studies
- >Communication

*Special Conference Focus:*

### **'An Age and its Ends: Social Science in the Era of the Anthropocene'**

From the first hunting of animals and burning of lands by hunters and gatherers, then the tilling of fields and planting of crops by farmers, to the rise of smokestack industries, and more recently to intensified social, political and economic globalizations, collective human action has left an undeniable mark on the natural environment. The more recent phases of this long history are now being defined as the 'age of the Anthropocene', or an age where a single species is determining the direction of the Earth's natural history. A key purpose of defining the age is to understand a new stage in the interaction of the social and the natural, manifest today in human-induced changes to global temperatures, sea level, CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, to name just a few consequential eco-systemic changes.

There is a certain kind of teleological quality to this argument. We are 'in' the age of the Anthropocene but we are at the same time concerned about its 'ends', in the sense of human purposes and effects. In the most apocalyptic versions of this argument, human damage to the Earth that may undermine the very conditions of human and other life on Earth. 'Ends' are projected through arguments supported by evidence of the intensifying impacts of human activity and social systems on the Earth. How can interdisciplinary approaches in the social sciences help us to explore these 'ends' of our age in terms of their environmental and human consequences? This year's Special Focus for the Eleventh International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences - An Age and Its Ends: Social Science in the Era of the Anthropocene - is necessarily open-ended because of the contingent nature of human 'ends'. Whether or not we accept the velocity of global environmental change, human impacts on the environment demand a reappraisal of the disciplinary moorings of the social sciences. Looking forward into the future, how can we navigate alternative sustainable social pathways, sensitive to the natural environment? What social, economic, political, educational as well as natural scientific perspectives and methods need to be brought to the table in this essentially interdisciplinary endeavor?

*Submit a Conference Proposal*

To learn more about preparing and submitting your conference proposal, including guidelines, deadlines, and "how-to" information, go to <http://thesocialsciences.com/the-conference/call-for-papers>.