The ***Public Service Media Policies Working Group*** of the International Association for Media and Communication Research invites submissions for its open sessions at the 2016 IAMCR annual conference which will take place in Leicester from **27 to 31 July 2016.** The theme of the conference is "*Memory, Commemoration and Communication: Looking Back, Looking Forward.*" The date coincides with the 50th anniversary celebrations of Leicester's Department of Media and Communication, which was founded in 1966 as the Centre for Mass Communication Research.

Dear colleagues,

At IAMCR, we invite papers for a joint session of the Public Service Media Policies and Audience sections that offer a critical analysis of public service broadcasters in terms of audience involvement and public participation.

Reflecting broader media trends, public service broadcasters reach audiences via different technological platforms and involve members of the public in a variety of ways in production, delivery and consumption (Lowe, 2009). Accordingly, many media policy documents emphasize concepts like interaction, participation and co-creation. In these, policy makers and public broadcasters state, "viewers, listeners and users are increasingly moving towards a more active relationship with the media that they consume" (BBC, 2007).

However, research demonstrates that there are limits to the conflation of producer and audience, often mentioned in media theory and policy, especially in a public service media context (Bechmann & Lomborg, 2012). New media strategies can frustrate users, for instance when they do not receive feedback from producers and/or other users (Couldry et al., 2010). The motivations, thresholds and potential benefits of audience involvement in public service media are rarely taken into account in theory and policy (Lunt & Livingstone, 2012). Consequently, audience involvement is mainly technologically and not user driven, placing limits on audience participation in and with public broadcasters (Bardoel, 2007).

For this session we invite contributions that analyze how public broadcasters engage audiences and to critically reflect on public service media ideals such as participation and audience involvement.
http://iamcr.org/leicester2016/cfp_pmp

Kind regards,
Anne-Sofie Vanhaeght / Peter Lunt / Karen Donders

ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference

'Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Futures'

**ECREA and Charles University in Prague
welcome the submission of abstracts for presentation at the
6th European Communication Conference
to be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 9 to 12 November 2016.**

The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), in partnership with Charles University in Prague, will organise the 6th European Communication Conference (ECC). The Conference, due to take place in Prague from 9 to 12 November 2016, has chosen as its overarching theme *Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Futures*.

The organisers call for proposals in all fields of communication and media studies, but particularly invite conceptual, empirical, and methodological proposals on mediated memory cultures and working through discursive dislocations and cultural traumas intrinsic to (late) modernity, that link the general conference theme to the fields pertinent to each ECREA section.

Conference theme: 'Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Futures'

Discontinuity is the far side of change. Late modernity – as the unstoppable flow of permanent changes – is haunted by the disparity of its various histories, geographies, ontologies and technologies. How are media and communication practices engaged in communicating across these divides?

The theme heralding European Communication Conference 2016 derives from the political history of the post-socialist region of which Prague as the conference host is a symbolic memento. After the collapse of communist totalitarianism, the countries in post-socialist Europe have been undergoing a crisis of continuity in the realms of political values, historical consciousness, moral sense of the self and the memory of the past.

The conference theme, however, reaches far beyond the post-totalitarian context and encourages its participants to reflect upon the question of how media and communication practices are involved in communicating over many other dislocations in political, cultural, temporal or spatial realms in all European countries. Acceleration in all aspects of social

life generates pasts we cannot return to, territories we cannot access and selves we do not recognize any more. Are media capable of navigating through the related feelings of nostalgia, cultural trauma, guilt, shame or (be)longing? Does communication help to make sense of them?

Can a sense of home be mediated for those who are expelled from their countries or displaced by war, the paramount discontinuity? How is communication entangled in commemoration and remembering? What are the communicative means of identity building in the age of digitised archives which are not static storehouses of memories? Should we consider the media as an actor in economic discontinuities such as crisis and recession?

We cordially invite media and communication scholars to submit papers addressing these questions – together with other ramifications of the conference theme – and to share their ideas with the wide community of colleagues from Europe and beyond.

Submission and deadline

Proposals for individual papers, panels, and posters can be submitted to one of the 21 ECREA sections through the ECC conference website from **1 December 2015 to 29 February 2016.**

More information at:
http://www.ecrea2016prague.eu/

RIPE@2016
22 - 24 September 2016
in Antwerp and Brussels, Belgium

CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS

Public Service Media In a Networked Society?

We are pleased to announce the eighth biennial RIPE conference that will be hosted by the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Antwerp (U Antwerpen) in collaboration with the Free University of Brussels (VUB), and sponsored by Flemish public service broadcaster VRT.

The RIPE@2016 conference theme focuses on characteristics, dynamics and implications of a networked society for public service media [PSM]. In recent years, discussions about the changing media ecology and PSM's place and role have prioritised the notion of a networked society, enabled by digitisation and characterised by audience fragmentation and the interconnectedness of technologies, communities, media practices and companies. The emerging ecology is highly disruptive to market structures and modes of communication in the mass media era. The concept and practices associated with networked communications in a networked society are celebrated, but merit critical scrutiny.

How real is the 'networked society' in established and emerging media economies? What indications are there that a networked society expands or lessens PSM's role? How can PSM strengthen the democratic potential of networked communications and counter disruptive forces, and be seen to do that? What are the roles of commercial and non-commercial media organisations in a networked society, and how do these roles intersect – or not? Which aspects of legacy public service institutions and traditions can and should be preserved, and what appears to be no longer useful. What new roles can and should PSM take on? Why is increased collaboration with other public institutions and also private companies necessary for PSM? What indication are there that PSM should and could become a central hub for public services in media, or another node in decentralised networks, or a remedy for market failure, or that public service provision should be left to alternative grassroots initiatives and distributed forms? What are the main lines of development and challenge for PSM in regions and countries where various projects and processes are working to create PSM where it did not exist before – particularly in the Global South? Does the networked society notion have a bearing in those cases? Are there models, practices and solutions of potential importance for PSM in the Global North? How do the two halves intersect and where are the most significant disconnects with regard to PSM in the context of networked societies?

Our theme has many dimensions that open PSM discourse to analysis and critique about relations between traditional and new media, institutional and non-institutional actors and approaches, forms of journalism and news provision, characteristics and dynamics of social networks in connection with PSM, and all of this across a broad range of stakeholders that include government, NGOs, other public institutions, commercial media, and most importantly the public as audiences, users, creators, citizens, activists, consumers, owners, etc. Our theme has implications for the role of PSM with regard to digital divides around the world, and expansive as well as critical RIPE@2016 CfP 2 treatment of publicness as a concept and in practice. Comparative work is needed to explain both the specifics of PSM in countries of varying sizes, political traditions and market structures, and commonalities and their implications.

The following topics will comprise the workgroup structure for this conference:

1. PSM's roles and functions in a networked society
2. PSM and the public in a networked society
3. PSM and partnership in a networked society
4. PSM and journalism in a networked society
5. PSM in small versus large (networked) societies
6. Implications of power in networked societies for PSM

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Paper proposals will be peer reviewed and must adhere these format specifications:

On the first page:
>Paper's working title
>Author(s) name, organisational affiliation(s), location(s), e-mail of contact author
>Specification of 2 topical areas (as noted above) in which the paper has Author(s) can indicate personal preferences.

On a separate second page:
>Paper's working title, excluding the author(s)' identification
>Extended abstract (max 750 words) explaining the paper topic and how it contributes to conference theme
>Repeat the two topical areas also specified on p.1

Please submit your proposal as a MS Word file at **www.ripeat2016.org**
Note: this is NOT the general RIPE website, but a dedicated website for the 2016 conference.

All submissions will be peer-reviewed (double-blind) by a scientific committee. The evaluation criteria are:

1. Relevance to the conference theme and fit with one or more topical areas
2. Conceptual and analytic quality (beyond a descriptive treatment)
3. Relevance to PSM management and practice
4. Comparative research is highly desired
5. Clarification of methodology if the paper will report on empirical research
6. Generalisability of insights and findings

Empirical research is highly valued, but we also welcome insightful philosophical, critical and theory-driven papers.

RIPE conferences focus on substance, dialogue and results. We therefore limit acceptance to about 60 papers. Each paper is assigned to a workgroup. At best we assign 9-12 papers per group so every paper has sufficient time for presentation and, importantly, discussion.

Submissions are due **15 February 2016.**

Decisions on acceptance will be announced on **28 March 2016.**

Completed papers must be submitted on **1 August 2016** via **www.ripeat2016.org**

The RIPE initiative publishes a selection of the best papers in a peer-reviewed book handled by NORDICOM publishers. The conference language is English.

Join the Global Network of PSM Experts!
It is time for public media scholars to work globally.

The more global media landscapes become, the more issues, challenges, and interests we share across borders. These are challenging times for independent, public media – so we need to join forces.

Initiated by the RIPE Network of public media scholars, a project to create a global, open-access, roster of public media experts has now come to the end of its pilot phase.

The Network is already 180+ members strong! The expert roster is public and can be found at: **http://ripeat.org/get-involved/**

You can also join the network at the site and find out more ways to get involved!