

TOWARD A CRITICAL REFRIGERATOR STUDIES

The Communication, Politics & Culture Research Centre presents its annual lecture by Professor James Hay (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

There are good reasons to welcome the turn in Media Studies away from earlier forms of research that analyzed radio, television, telephony, and cinema as distinct or even distinctive sets of practices. However, the current mantra of convergence often fails to acknowledge that convergence is not new and that convergence has never been strictly a synergy among communication media. Any understanding of current “media convergence” must grapple with the emergent design, use, and mattering of an increasingly wide array of “appliances” that once were not considered to be communication technologies but that now are represented as “smart” or “intelligent.” This paper offers an outline for an analytic of communication media that rethinks the long project of “media studies” and the degree to which it is still useful in understanding everyday networks of productivity, citizenship, and life.



Bio

James Hay is a Professor & the Director of Graduate Studies at the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is Editor of the journal, *Communication & Critical/Cultural Studies*. His most recent book, with Laurie Ouellette, is *Better Living Through Reality TV* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

Date: Monday, 27 August 2012

Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Venue: 80.01.002

427-433 Swanston Street, city campus
(cinema space on the ground level)

RSVP: lucy.morieson@rmit.edu.au



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