

Media, Polis, Agora

Journalism & Communication in the Digital Era

Thessaloniki, Greece – September 27-29, 2018

We are pleased to announce the call for papers for the forthcoming international conference entitled “Media, Polis, Agora: Journalism & Communication in the Digital Era”. The conference is organized by the Advanced Media Institute, the Open University of Cyprus and the Laboratoire d' Études et de Recherches Appliquées en Sciences Sociales of the University of Toulouse in Thessaloniki, Greece.

This interdisciplinary conference aims to bring together scholars, professionals and practitioners from diverse fields -- including journalism studies, media and communication studies, political communication, sociology, critical humanities, policy and governance studies, technology studies, and cultural analysis-- to discuss the dynamic and continuous pivotal interplay of politics (polis), journalism and communication (media) and the public sphere (agora). The conference will further discuss the challenges that the advancement in digital journalism, ethics and content creation, mediated public discourse, new media and positions, as well as mediated political, public and civic action bring to those three spheres. We welcome theoretical, methodological and empirical submissions, case studies, and comparative work from all over the world.

Equally important, the conference seeks to build bridges between academia and the world of journalistic, media and political practice. Thus, we welcome Laboratories, Workshops and Seminars to demonstrate innovative projects, discuss ideas, and share best-practices regarding the themes of the conference.

Submission process

We call for potential speakers to submit a 500-word abstract in English, by **April 10th 2018**. Submissions shall be uploaded at the Easy Chair Platform, by clicking [here](#). For further assistance, please contact us by email to info@advancedmediainstitute.com

All abstracts will be peer reviewed, so the submitted abstract should be prepared for blind review. Please note that each participant can present once as the primary author, although there are no limitations regarding co-authors.

Keynote speakers, location of the event and other activities will be announced on our website. For more info and registration, please visit the conference's website:

amiretreat2018.advancedmediainstitute.com

Abstracts of papers are sought on topics that fit into one or more of the following themes:

1. Mediated Public Discourse

- Social media as a Public Sphere
- Online political and civic discourse
- Digital Advocacy and technology-mediated mobilization
- Digital rhetoric and persuasion
- Rational and affective discourse on social media
- Populism and polarization
- Digital platforms and the establishment of dominant discourses
- Hate Speech, Online Radicalization and Counter-Discourse
- The social media “echo chambers”
- Media Information pollution and information overload
- Free expression and the control and commodification of public discourse
- Communities as Audiences, Audiences as Communities
- Media repertoires and discursive communities

2. Participation, Action and Activism in the digital age

- Conceptualizations of publicness and the public sphere
- Politics 2.0 and e-Campaigning
- New forms of participation and empowerment
- Participatory forms of Journalism and Citizenship
- Citizen and community journalism in the digital media era
- Alternative media, Community media and the Digital Commons
- The affective dimensions of connective action and campaigning
- Communities and counter-publics in the digital sphere
- Mediated protests, online social movements and cyberactivism
- Communication in support of refugee and migrant communities
- Digital Diplomacy
- Social Media, Technological Forecasting and Social Change
- Civic Media Literacy

3. The Politics of New Media

- Digital transformations of human identity, social life, work, production, education, time and space, conceptions of the everyday life
- Social media as Cultural, Political and Economic actors
- Gatekeeping and agenda-setting online
- Third Person Effect and Presumed Media Influence in the Digital Era
- Knowledge, expertise and power as constituted by digital platforms
- Informational capitalism and digital labor
- Regulation and Governance of and by Platforms
- Moderation, freedom of expression and censorship of platforms
- Content management, access and distribution in the digital era
- Online platforms and the business of content
- Net Neutrality, policing content and information control
- Web access, literacy, divides, and development
- The public/private divide and the right to privacy
- Artificial Intelligence, Algorithmic Authorship and Bots
- Conceptualizing how people can benefit from technological change

4. Digital Journalism, Ethics and Society

- Quality Journalism in the Era of the User-Generated content
- Ethical and moral problems facing media practitioners and media users today
- The ethics of authorship and accountability in digital journalism
- The ethics of truth-telling, objectivity, and fairness in digital journalism
- Fake news, bots, analytics
- How to deal with misinformation, trolls and bots (especially during elections)
- Evolution of the notions of expertise, trust and mistrust online
- Normative frameworks for the production and distribution of content
- “News” as a democratic resource
- Digital Globalization and Regional Cultural Ethics

5. Digital Journalism, Content Creation and Delivery

- Platform journalism: producing and consuming news on social media, for better or worse
- Cross-national comparisons in journalistic social media use
- Organizational/newsroom policies in relation to social media use
- Adaptations by public and private media organizations to digitalization
- Online-based initiatives on publishing
- Digital and transmedia Storytelling
- Content expansion via digitalization
- The use of Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality in journalism
- The role of Artificial Intelligence in journalism
- Emerging forms of Hyperlocal media
- Mainstream Vs Alternative Journalism Digital Content
- Digital communication and Investigative Journalism
- Self-branding and thought-leadership online

6. Political Economy of Digital Media

- Shifts in economic practice and production as a result of digitalization
- New forms of production and distribution made available by the Internet
- The role of information in production processes
- Business models for social media
- Theories of value in the digital era
- Rights of ownership, copyright and intellectual property
- Digital industry concentration and digital oligarchies/monopolies
- The commodification of attention, data and online traffic
- Critique of the political economy of the Internet
- Critique of communicative capitalism
- Digital labour, cognitive labour and playbour
- Artificial Intelligence, Automation and Employment
- Web economics, social entrepreneurship, and innovation
- Emerging economies (such as virtual currencies)
- Sharing economies and peer-to-peer production
- Inequalities and exploitation in the information society
- Flexibility and unpaid labour in the newsrooms

Deadlines

April 10th. Deadline for abstracts submission (through Easy Chair)

May 10th. Notification of decision for papers submitted by conference scientific committee.

May 10th. Registration opens.

June 30th. Registration closes.

Registration Fees

Academics and professionals: 150€, PhD students: 90€, Master's students: 50€.

Registration fees for the conference include a copy of the program, participation in the scientific and professional sessions, lunches, coffee breaks, outing and the Gala dinner. No refund policy foreseen.

Publication

We plan to publish a selection of papers in an edited volume in English after consultation with the author(s). If you want your paper to be considered, please send it to info@advancedmediainstitute.com by September 1st 2018. All submissions will be peer reviewed. For more details, please visit our website: amiretreat2018.advancedmediainstitute.com

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