



The 39th World
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International Institute
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www.iisoc.org/iis2009

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: A Sociology for Media Society. Approaches beyond disciplinary boundaries?

Name of Session Convener(s): Dr. Marian Adolf

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Comments: Extended abstracts (1000-2000 words) as well as full papers (original) welcome (pdf attachments)

Session Abstract (up to 250 words):

Many of the current theories of society point to the imminent importance of communication and mediated (mass) communication. Information-, Knowledge- or Network-society, however divergent at times, all rely on a central precondition: the technologies, institutions, logics and protagonists of global and ubiquitous communication. Still, a theory of a “society of the media” has not yet been consolidated. Media, in this case, means all technical, institutional and cultural processes by which news, stories, people and events are related to us via a highly specialized system of globe-spanning technology. Such a theory would then have to combine structural accounts of infrastructures (such as in Castell’s Network Society) with cultural accounts of the ramifications of abundant artifacts of communication (such as in e.g. Baudrillard’s version of a hopelessly “mediatised” world). Doubtlessly, a society so deeply and fully saturated with mediated communications must differ from other and earlier forms in many respects. What, then, lies at the core of this new society, what are its principle features? Paper themes could deal with, but are not confined to:

- Tracing Media Society: Roots, pioneers and protagonists of Media Society
- Converging at the core: reading theories of society through the eyes of mediated communication

- The Economy/Culture/Science(s)/etc. of Media Society;

Programmatic papers which focus on the theme of a sociology of the media (society) are particularly welcome. The focus of the panel rests mainly on theoretical issues but does not exclude empirical studies, especially when they embed their findings in a theoretical frame that goes beyond the micro-perspectival level.

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.