



SAINT PETERSBURG  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
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НЕДЕЛЯ  
ГЕРМАНИИ  
В САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГЕ



6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
**COMPARATIVE MEDIA STUDIES IN TODAY'S WORLD**  
**(CMSTW - 2018)**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Time: **April 17–19, 2018**

Place: **St. Petersburg, Russia**

Working language: **English**

Theme for 2018:

**Emotions vs. Rationality in Mediated Discussions**

Emotions have always been part of the public discourse as a key baking agent polarizing social groups, helping to aggregate interests, and shaping decision-making. From protest solidarity to compassion fatigue, it is the emotions that distance the public sphere from its reason-based ideal and at the same time make the discussions more appealing to media audiences. And while rationality has produced a major line in media studies, emotions *per se* have been a smaller research focus. Today, we still lack knowledge on how emotional and rational arguments go together in mediated discussions, especially in comparative perspective.

And this lack has become even more acute in the 2010s, with the extreme 'emotionalization' of election campaigns and referenda, 'border-building thinking', the new rise of international militant rhetoric,, use of televised shock by terrorists, and affective debates on social networks virtually everywhere including the USA, Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. In the climate of information spinning and alt-news, the Habermassian all-encompassing public sphere seems impossible as never before. But at the same time, computer-mediated communication has opened doors for cross-cultural solidarity campaigning on inequalities and human rights, as well as to opportunities of visual ad audiovisual expression of feelings on a mass scale.

Thus, the conference is seeking contributions that deal with rationality, irrationality, emotions and affects in mediated communication. We especially welcome comparative research but do not limit ourselves to it, as case studies may be crucial for understanding trends. The aim of the conference is to go beyond statements on 'fake news' and 'propaganda reborn' and to look deeper into causes and consequences of the communicative shifts of the recent times. We hope to link communication researchers to their colleagues in wider social sciences, including sociology, public memory studies, social psychology, and international relations, as well as to linguists, mathematicians, and computer scientists interested in media research.

In 2018, the conference will have three tracks:

- The 'Theory' track, traditional for the conference, will deal with emotionality and rationality in communication from a variety of theoretical perspectives.
- The 'Political&Social' track will explore the linkages between emotionality in politics and that in political communication, emotions in political talk in media and social communicative milieus, rationality and affect in public argumentation, and other aspects of emotionalized media discussions on the issues of today's agendas.
- The 'Tech&Methods' track will focus on detecting emotions and linking it to other methodologies of social research including (but not limited to) automated methods such as social network analysis, detection of discussion topics, or user homophily studies. Here, the goal is to link the methods and the national/comparative contexts for better understanding of the changes in communication around the world.

Among other topics, the conference will focus on:

- Emotions and media: revitalizing the research approaches
- Rational public spheres and their limitations in the real world
- Affective publics and emotional communities online and offline
- Emotions, journalistic standards, and media practices
- Emotions and media effects: gaining and losing audiences by emotions
- Emotional factors in media consumption
  
- Emotions and rationality in today's political communication
- Emotions and connective action: from individual feelings to collective expression
- Emotions in fake news and media satire
- Emotions as border builders: communicating fear and alienation
- Reputational communication and character assassination
- Emotions as trivializers: cute cats and depoliticization of online discussions
  
- Methodologies of social research on emotions
- Sentiment analysis for traditional and social media
- Semantics in detecting emotions
- User polarization detection: do emotions play a role?
- Insta-, Tele-, and other -grams in dealing with our emotions
- Emotions and anonymity online

### **On the Conference**

Since 2013, the conference has gathered experts in comparative media research, including Paolo Mancini, Larry Gross, Silvio Waisbord, Katrin Voltmer, Nico Carpentier, Susanne Fengler, Elena Vartanova, Thomas Hanitzsch, Daya Thussu and many others.

The conference is an integral part of 'Media in Modern World' Annual Forum which will be held by St. Petersburg State University for the 57<sup>th</sup> time in 2018. Thus, interested audience is ensured, and you may wish to take part in the Plenary Session (with simultaneous translation into English) and all sorts of discussions at the Annual Forum on April 19-20.

### **Tentative invited speakers**

**Zizi Papacharissi** (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA) – subject to final confirmation

**Karin Wahl-Jorgensen** (University of Cardiff, UK)

**Margreth Lünenborg** (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

### **Preliminary program**

April 16, 2018

3 – 5 pm – Registration

April 17, 2018

9 – 9.30 am – Registration / Welcome speeches

9.30 – 11.00 am – **Plenary podium discussion** on the role of emotions in media content

11.30 am – 1 pm – **Keynote speeches**

1 – 2 pm – lunch

2 – 5 pm – Parallel panels

5 – 6.30 pm – **Round tables and book presentations**

7 pm – Get-together

April 18, 2018

10 – 10.45 am – **Keynote speech**

11 am – 1 pm – Parallel panels

1 – 2 pm – lunch

2 – 3 pm – Parallel panels

4 – 6 pm – **Guided tour to the State Hermitage**

April 19, 2018

5 – 6.30 pm – **Russian-German workshop round table and film screening** (in collaboration with the German Week in St. Petersburg)

### **Deadlines and other dates**

Please send us an **abstract of max 300 words** specifying the scope, method, and main results of your research paper by **January 15, 2018** to [applicationspb2017@spbu.ru](mailto:applicationspb2017@spbu.ru) as MS Word or Adobe Acrobat files attached to the letter.

**Panel submissions** are also welcome. Please submit a **one-page description of your panel and up to four 150-word abstracts** showing the relevance of the papers to the panel topic to the same conference address **by January 15, 2018**.

All applications will be double-blind peer-reviewed, so please attach the names, titles, contact details, and affiliations of the authors on a separate sheet.

January 26, 2018 – notifications of acceptance and informing on visa support

February 10, 2018 – deadline to confirm participation

March 1, 2018 – deadline for early-bird registration

April 1, 2018 – deadline for regular registration

Please note that there will be no on-site registration payment procedures; please ensure your participation by paying the participation fee before April 1, 2018.

## Conference Proceedings

The conference does not have its own proceedings. **BUT** thanks to the partnership with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference 'Digital Transformations and Global Society' (DTGS'2018), selected abstracts that meet the topicality and the quality requirements will be recommended for full-paper submission to the special DTGS – CMSTW co-track. The full papers will undergo blind peer-review; accepted papers will be published in the **DTGS Proceedings in the CICS Series by Axel Springer Verlag (indexed by SCOPUS)**.

The authors of the accepted full papers will be required to come to St.Petersburg again on May 31 – June 1 to present their research within the **DTGS – CMSTW co-seminar with Stephen Coleman** (University of Leeds, UK). Failing to register and present at one of the events will lead to cancellation of the publishing opportunity. For the DTGS submission instructions, please visit <http://dtgs.ifmo.ru>. The deadline for full paper submissions is **February 1, 2018** (subject to slight prolongation if needed). In exceptional cases (like long-haul flights or poor health conditions), presenting at one of the events can be done online, subject to the permission by the seminar organizing committee.

## Visa support

St.Petersburg State University provides visa support for the conference participants. Visa invitation letters will be sent out on request.

## Participation fees

Presenters:

UN Tier 1 country: 100 euro (early-bird: 80 euro), or 7000 roubles (early-bird: 5600 roubles)

UN Tier 2 country: 80 euro (early-bird: 60 euro), or 5600 roubles (early-bird: 4200 roubles)

UN Tier 3 country: 70 euro (early-bird: 50 euro), or 5000 roubles (early-bird: 3500 roubles)

Panel participation: 200 euro (early-bird: 170 euro), or 14000 roubles (early-bird: 12000 roubles)

Student/PhD student presenter – 20 euro, or 1500 roubles

Non-presenting participant – 20 euro, or 1500 roubles

The lists of countries by tier may be found here: <https://www.icahdq.org/page/tiers>

Please note that the price for the entrance tickets to the State Hermitage is to be paid extra at the museum and is currently 10 euro, or 700 roubles.

## Program steering committee

Nico Carpentier (Belgium – Sweden)

Boguslawa Dobek-Ostrowska (Poland)

Kaarle Nordenstreng (Finland)

Florian Toepfl (Germany)

Katrin Voltmer (UK)

## Local organizing committee

Svetlana Bodrunova

Anna Smoliarova

Alexander Marchenko

In case of any queries, please send us your questions to [applicationspb2017@spbu.ru](mailto:applicationspb2017@spbu.ru).

We're looking forward to welcoming you in St. Petersburg!