

Call for Papers

Media and Digital Culture: Postgraduate Symposium

International Symposium for MSc in Media and Communication at Lund University, Sweden, 7th of February 2019

Keynote Speaker: Professor John Corner (Leeds University, UK)

This international symposium addresses digital media, looking at both old and new forms of media, communication and culture, situated within the changing digital media landscape. Media impacts on our everyday lives, it informs our relationships between ourselves and audio-visual storytelling, and it is connected to broader issues within society and politics.

We invite contributions to this symposium on media and digital culture that can include, but are not limited to, the following areas of enquiry:

- Media representations and discourses
- Audience/citizen, participant and user perspectives
- Media policies and institutions, e.g. copyright, monetization
- Media literacy
- Media and global capitalism
- Media and social movements
- Discussion of methodologies and methods for studying media and digital culture

These topics can be applied to a range of theories, ideas and problems concerning audiences and political culture, citizenship, media and democracy, film, radio and tv streaming, visual and sound cultures, strategies of representation and digital campaigns, sustainable media, as well as other topics. The aim is to provide a platform for students and alumni of the MSc Media and Communication programme to dialogue on their current works in progress, previous papers or workshop ideas.

The symposium includes a keynote lecture by Professor John Corner on the title of Media and Communication as an Academic Space: Histories, Transformations and Disputes, and themed panels featuring postgraduate research. John Corner is a Professor at Leeds University, UK. His work focuses on media theory, documentary studies, political communication, film and television, and sound cultures. His books include *The Art of Record* (1995), *Theorising Media* (2011) *Political Culture and Media Genre* (2012), amongst others, and he is also a managing editor of *Media, Culture and Society*. There will also be a panel chaired by Emeritus Professor Peter Dahlgren showcasing research from the edited collection *Best Msc Dissertations 2018: Media*

and Communication Studies, Lund University (edited by Deniz Duru, Lund University Press), followed by a book launch. Peter Dahlgren is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Communication and Media at Lund University, Sweden. His work focuses on media and democracy, from the horizons of late modern social and cultural theory. His books include *Media and Political Engagement* (2009), *Young People, ICTs and Democracy* (2010) and *The Political Web* (2013).

SCHEDULE DETAILS:

The symposium is open to the first and second year students of the programme, and our alumni.

First year students:

You are invited to attend the symposium as part of the programme and your course on Media and Communication Methodology. The symposium will give you a good opportunity to see how to articulate your research to your peers and the value of academic dialogue. You are also welcome to submit an abstract. Below you will find the requirements. The symposium kindly would like to ask some of you to be a commentator for second year's presentation about their thesis abstract. Your contribution would be highly valuable for second year students to develop their thesis ideas further.

Second year students:

You are invited to submit abstracts on your thesis topics related to the theme of power as part of the thesis course and the programme as a whole. The symposium will give you a good opportunity to develop your ideas for the thesis into a working paper of **3000 to 4000 words** in length on the methods and theories related to your thesis topic, which you have to hand in until **Friday 25th January 2019**. You will receive constructive feedback on your working papers in themed panels where you will present your work in progress and designated readers will offer comments on your paper. The presentation should last approximately ten minutes.

Alumni:

You are invited to submit abstracts on your thesis, as related to the published work and/or academic journal articles arising from your thesis. You will receive constructive feedback on your thesis, and/or articles for publication, in themed panels where you will present your work and designated readers will offer comments on your paper for publication. You are also invited to attend as a guest.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Please submit an abstract of 250 words by Monday **December 17, 2018** to the conference email: komp.symposium@gmail.com

Food and drink for the day is included with registration for all programme students and alumni. Please RSVP with dietary information if you wish to attend by **Monday 21 January 2019** to the conference email: komp.symposium@gmail.com

KEYNOTE INFORMATION

Media and Communication as an academic space: Histories, transformations and disputes.

Professor John Corner (Leeds University, UK)

'Media and Communication' or simply 'Media' is now the designation of what is regarded internationally as an academic area separate from, if closely related to, the established arts and social science 'disciplines'. Recent historical work has shown the diversity of routes by which it came to be so, routes which in some countries often include strong links with journalism and production training but in others are entirely academic, informed first by social science and then also by arts-based cultural studies approaches.

Some commentators have talked about the 'incoherence' of the field whereas others have made reference to ideas of multi-disciplinarity, inter-disciplinarity, post-disciplinarity or even the idea that the area is an emergent discipline in itself. Clearly, the arrival of new/social media has had a major impact, including upon work in areas outside of the 'media and communication' designation, re-raising questions about subject borders and subject identity. This talk will look at the intellectual profile of the area across the variations, and at aspects of its historical formation in relation to themes, theories, methods and aims. How does 'cooperation' with the media industry at the levels of teaching and research relate to research priorities in which a strong strand of 'critique' is still apparent? What unifying or divergent tendencies can be detected in current work and how might these play out within the broader, changing patterns of university teaching and inquiry?

Author Biography

I worked in radio communications in the Royal Navy for several years, and then briefly as a journalist, before becoming a mature student (at Ruskin College in Oxford and then at Cambridge) and pursuing research into public communication.

Much of my career has been spent teaching and researching at Liverpool University, where I finally headed the School of Politics and Communication Studies. I have had a varied publication career, including textbooks, research monographs and edited collections. My textbook collection edited with Jeremy Hawthorn, *Communication Studies*, ran to 4 editions over 15 years from 1980. My collections on documentary (*Documentary and the Mass Media*, 1986) British television history (*Popular Television in Britain*, 1991) and on British cultural change (*Heritage and Enterprise*, 1991, with Sylvia Harvey) were reprinted several times. My co-authored study of television and the issue of nuclear energy (*Nuclear Reactions*, 1990) was widely cited as an exploration of public issue television. Two monographs on aspects of film and television programme construction in relation to social settings and functions (*Television Form and Public Address*, 1994, *The Art of Record*, 1995) have become international reference points while a third and fourth on more general themes, *Studying the Media: Problems of Theory and Method* (1998) and *Critical Ideas in Television Studies* (1999) have been widely cited. In 2003, my co-edited collection *Media and the Restyling of Politics* examined shifts in media-political relations and I worked with Alan Rosenthal on the second edition (2005) of the collection, *New Challenges for Documentary*. In 2007, together with colleagues Peter Goddard and Kay Richardson, I published *Public Issue Television*, a history of the television current-affairs series *World in Action*, based extensively on the Granada written and audio-visual archives. My latest books are *Theorising Media: Power, Form and Subjectivity* (Manchester, 2011) and (with Kay Richardson and Katy Parry) *Political Culture and Media Genre* (Palgrave 2012), which looks at the mediation of politics beyond the core news forms, including comedy and drama. In 2018, *Soundings*, an edited collection on documentary and the listening experience, was edited by me and Geoffrey Cox, of the University of Huddersfield.

In addition to books, edited books and contribution to books, I have published in a range of international journals, including *Journal of Communication*, *Media, Culture and Society*, *Screen*, *European Journal of Communication*, *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Studies in Documentary Film*, *Popular Music* and *Framework*. I am an editor of *Media, Culture and Society* and on the editorial boards of *Studies in Documentary Film*, and *Media Theory*.