

# Communication History Interest Group

Sessions, ICA 2009

## **SESSION #1: IDENTITY AND COMMUNICATION HISTORY**

Friday, 3:00-4:15

Minnesota

Co-sponsored with Ethnicity and Race in Communication

### **Chair**

Sheila Lodge, UHI Millenium Institute, UNITED KINGDOM

### **Participants**

*Revisiting Journalism in the 19th Century: Empirical Findings on Women Journalists in Central Europe*, Susanne Kinnebrock, U of Vienna, AUSTRIA

*The Making of a 'Matinee Idol': Representations of Islam in Lowell Thomas's Lawrence of Arabia*, Julien S Gorbach, U of Missouri, USA

*"No Sex in Labor": Tracing "Jennie June's" Views on Gender*, Lori Amber Roessner, U of Georgia, USA

*"Stories of Great Indians" by Elmo Scott Watson: Syndication, Standardization, and the Noble Savage in Feature Writing [TOP FACULTY PAPER IN INTEREST GROUP]*, Miranda Jean Brady, U of Minnesota, USA

### **Respondent**

Sharrona Pearl, U of Pennsylvania, USA

The papers collected in this session all involve historical themes relating to identity, as it is involved in communication. Under this broad rubric we find surprising and ironic developments in the history of communication. Working from differing methods and assumptions, each of these papers represents an important exploration of identity in communication.

## **SESSION #2: THE LONG MID-20TH CENTURY IN COMMUNICATION HISTORY**

Friday, 16:30-17:45

Illinois

### **Chair**

Josh Lauer, U of Pennsylvania, USA

### **Participants**

*A Birth of Bureaucratic Organizational Culture in Early Korean Broadcasting*, Misook Baek, Research Professor, Seoul National U, KOREA, PEOPLE REPUBLIC; Myungkoo Kang, Seoul National U, KOREA, REPUBLIC OF; Sungmin Lee, Seoul National U, KOREA, REPUBLIC OF

*Fireside Chats: How the Print Media Covered President Roosevelt's Radio Addresses*, Jennifer Marie Kowalewski, Journalism and Mass Communication Department, USA

*Propaganda Leaflets and Cold War Frames During the Korean War*, Seong Choul Hong, Indiana U, USA

*The Postwar Revolt Against U.S. Radio, 1945-1949*, Victor W. Pickard, U of Illinois, USA

**Respondent**

Josh Lauer, U of Pennsylvania, USA

This session brings together diverse papers, all of which involve ideas/events from the mid-20th century, broadly construed. Though their topics vary widely, one will find unexpected connections in the discussions of these papers.

**SESSION #3: RECONCEPTUALIZING COMMUNICATION HISTORY**

Saturday, 09:00-10:15

Illinois

**Chair**

Peter D. Simonson, U of Colorado - Boulder, USA

**Participants**

*A Redemptive Dream of the Bad Old Days: Nostalgia as Resistance in Tarkovsky's "Andrei Rublev,"* Greg Blake Miller, U of Oregon, USA

*Death at Broadcasting House*, Staffan Ericson, Södertörns Högskola, SWEDEN

*Media, Authenticity, and Religion Søren Kierkegaard as Media Critic*, Kristoffer Anselm, Linus Holt, Mid Sweden U, SWEDEN

*Obscene Mailings and the Judicial Regulation of Media Consumers' Inner Life Between 1873 and 1945*, Mihaela Popescu, California State U - San Bernardino, USA

*Selling Free Speech: Advertising and the First Amendment*, Molly Catherine Niesen, U of Illinois, USA

**Respondent**

Peter D. Simonson, U of Colorado - Boulder, USA

One of the important areas of interest for the communication history interest group has been the history of the idea of communication. These papers address philosophical issues in communication from an historical perspective.

## **SESSION #4: REVISITING INTERWAR COMMUNICATION RESEARCH: DEWEY, LIPPMANN, AND THE CHICAGO SCHOOL**

Saturday, 10:30-11:45  
Illinois

### **Chair**

David W. Park, Lake Forest College, USA

### **Participants**

*Lippmann, Dewey, and Carey: The '20s Filtered Through the '80s*, Michael Schudson, U of California - San Diego, USA

*The Dewey and Lippmann Exchange in Historical Context*, Sue Curry Jansen, Muhlenberg College, USA

*Mass Society, Mass Culture, and Mass Communication: The Meanings of Mass*, Kurt Lang, U of Washington, USA; Gladys Lang, U of Washington, USA

*James W. Carey's Chicago School: Drafting a Usable Past*, Jefferson D. Pooley, Muhlenberg College, USA

### **Respondent**

David W. Park, Lake Forest College, USA

The panel questions a number of overlapping ideas about the legacy of interwar media scholarship, including (1) the tendency to dismiss the concept of "mass society" as ideologically problematic; (2) the view that an exchange between John Dewey and Walter Lippmann represented a crucial fork in the road in the development of media studies; and (3) the claim that an interpretivist "cultural approach" to the field can be deduced from the work of Dewey and the Chicago School.

## **SESSION #5: KEYWORD: TECHNOLOGY (CROSS UNIT)**

Saturday, 13:30-14:45  
Grand Ballroom I

Theme Session, with members representing: Communication History, Game Studies, Communication and Technology, Philosophy of Communication, Language & Social Interaction, and Mass Communication

### **Chair**

Deborah Lubken, U of Pennsylvania, USA

### **Participants**

*A Mass Communication Perspective on Technology*, Joseph Turow, U of Pennsylvania, USA

*Post-Technology?: The Romance of Associations*, Nick Couldry, Goldsmiths College, London U, UNITED KINGDOM

*Continuum or Conundrum?: Conceptualizing Technology's Influence in Communication and Technology Research*, Joseph B. Walther, Michigan State U, USA

*Beyond the Content: Emphasizing Technological Features in Programmatic Variable-Centered Video Game Research*, James D. Ivory, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State U, USA

*Interactional Materiality and the Consequential Contexts of Technological (Re)Production*, Patricia G. Lange, U of Southern California, USA

The meaning of technology is occasionally subject to definition but more often shifts, chameleon-like, from context to context. Are technologies machines? Complex sets of practices, habits and beliefs? Matrices of reason? In consideration of the 2009 ICA conference theme, the Communication History Interest Group invites participants from the Game Studies Interest Group and the Communication and Technology, Philosophy of Communication, Language and Social Interaction, and Mass Communication Divisions to a cross-division conversation about this keyword. How does your corner of the field understand technology, and how does this understanding influence the inquiries you pursue? Responses will be formulated in terms of recent scholarship produced within the presenter's Division or Interest Group.

## **SESSION #6: MEDIA HISTORIES IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

Sunday, 09:00-10:15

Illinois

### **Chair**

Megan Mullen, U of Wisconsin - Parkside, USA

### **Participants**

*Communicating the Philippines Into the United States Master Script*, George Allen Onas Villanueva, U of Southern California, USA

*Communication and Empire: A Critique of "Conventional Knowledge" and an Outline of a New Theoretical Approach to Global Media History*, Dwayne Roy Winseck, Carleton U, CANADA

*Freedom of the Press Under Attack During the 1938 Labor Risings in Jamaica: The Prosecution of the Publishers of the Jamaica Labour Weekly*, Roxanne Sabrina Watson, U of South Florida, USA

*The Eagle and the Sun: Mexico's First Newspaper War*, Juanita Marie Darling, San Francisco State U, USA

*The Grenada Invasion and the Domestic Costs of Empire*, Mark Nimkoff, U of Illinois, USA

### **Respondent**

Megan Mullen, U of Wisconsin - Parkside, USA

This session provides an opportunity for a broader sense of media history, one that gets beyond U.S. or anglophone limits.

## **SESSION #7: COMMUNICATION HISTORY POSTER SESSION**

Sunday, 12:00-13:15

Halsted

### **Posters**

*Hollywood or "The Sticks"?: Domestic Runaway Film Production in the 1970s and '80s*, Camille Johnson-Yale, U of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign, USA

*The First Scientific Mass Communications Research in Latin America: The Brazilian Survey, February-May 1941*, Jose Luis Ortiz-Garza, U Panamericana, MEXICO

*Was "Taste" Passive for Addison?*, Jon Leon Torn, Northern Arizona U, USA

*Writing the History of the Discipline: A Sociology of Science Approach to the History of Communication Research*, Andreas Scheu, U of Munich, GERMANY; Maria Loeblich, DGPuk - Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Publizistik-, GERMANY

## **SESSION #8: KEYWORD: THE INTERVIEW (CROSS UNIT)**

Sunday, 13:30-14:45

Grand Ballroom I

A Theme Session, with members representing Journalism Studies, Communication History, Popular Communication, and Philosophy of Communication

### **Chair**

Peter D. Simonson, U of Colorado - Boulder, USA

### **Participants**

*Why Did Americans Invent the News Interview?*, Michael Schudson, U of California - San Diego, USA

*Repressed Origins, Schizophrenic Results: The Focused Interview in the Social and Intellectual History of Communication*, Peter D. Simonson, U of Colorado - Boulder, USA

*Giving Audiences a Voice: On the Radical Potential of the Interview for Popular Communication*, Sonia Livingstone, London School of Economics, UNITED KINGDOM

*The Interview as 'Discourse'*, Ingrid Volkmer, U of Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

The term interview indexes a family of practices that have helped shape the core of both objects and methods of study in communication. This panel addresses that middle-range keyword in historical and cross-national perspective. It sketches the development and dissemination of journalistic and social scientific interviews from the late nineteenth century to the present, and considers the contemporary significance of the interview as research method, cultural practice, and object of continued scholarly inquiry.

## **SESSION #9: FORGING A COHERENT DISCIPLINARY IDENTITY: READINGS IN THE HISTORY OF BRITISH COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

Sunday, 13:30-14:45  
Illinois

### **Participants**

*The Institutionalisation of Communications Research in England and Its Relationship to the Media Industry: The Case of the Centre for Mass Communications Research at the U of Leicester*, David E. Morrison, U of Leeds, UNITED KINGDOM

*Culture From Below: The Role of Polytechnics in the Establishment of Media Studies in the UK*, Paddy Scannell, U of Michigan, USA

*Looking Back: A Reflection on Jim Halloran, Richard Hoggart, and the Making of the Broadcasting Research Unit*, Michael Tracey, U of Colorado, USA

*The Polytechnic Agenda: An Opportunity Lost?*, Philip Lodge, Napier U, UNITED KINGDOM

This panel begins with the premise that 'British communication studies' is in itself a contested term, and, if it has an agreed meaning, then it represents a fragmented disciplinary environment. The contours of this fragmented environment were mapped historically by the circumstances which influenced the acceptance of communication as a field of study in British tertiary education, in particular the influence of the thorough-going sociological methodology of the members of the Centre for Mass Communication Research at the U of Leicester in the early 1960s. The tertiary divide between older universities and polytechnics had the effect of marginalising the modern disciplines, notably communication, into the polytechnic agenda, where it was reconfigured into a form of vocationalism. The relationship between the sectors was and is one of historical transition and complexity, not least due to the influence of geographical factors: north versus south; particular regions - but not recognisable schools of influence; Leicester, Leeds, London, Birmingham. With networking at the individual level but with the lack of a national organisation, the landscape is one of disciplinary and physical fragmentation. In this context, this panel will explore from the perspective of key practitioners the factors which created this situation, and ask if there is still the possibility of a unified disciplinary identity for British Communication studies.

## **SESSION #10: COMMUNICATION HISTORY: TECHNOLOGIES, COHESION AND DISSENT**

Sunday, 15:00-16:15  
Illinois

### **Chair**

Carolyn Marvin, U of Pennsylvania, USA

### **Participants**

*Battling Evil-Doers: Visual Education and the Antifly Crusade of 1910*, Bill Marsh, CUNY - Queensborough, USA

*Rhetorics Of Dynamite*, Karen Allison Sichler, U of Georgia, USA

*The Part Played by Bells in the Emergence of American National Consciousness* (TOP STUDENT PAPER), Deborah Lubken, U of Pennsylvania, USA

*The Wanamaker Wireless Stations and the Origins of Electronic Media, 1910 – 1920*, Noah Arceneaux, San Diego State U, USA

*The "Age of Super-Contact": Communication, Machines, and Mobility in the Interwar United States*, Richard K. Popp, Louisiana State U, USA

### **Respondent**

Carolyn Marvin, U of Pennsylvania, USA

The papers included in this session involve varying approaches (obliquely or directly) to the history of communication technology. Moving beyond mere discursive constructions of technology, we find a wealth of approaches to this important topic.

## **SESSION #11: WHAT WE NOW CALL COMMUNICATIONS: 20TH-CENTURY TRANSITIONS IN COMPUTERS AND REPRESENTATION**

Monday, 09:00-10:15  
Scottsdale

### **Participants**

Signals in Suspense: Batteries, Recording, and Data Processing, Peter D. Schaefer, U of Iowa, USA

Infrared Perception, or, How We Came to Trust the Representation of Invisible Data, Carolyn Lee Kane, New York U, USA

Feedback and its Philosophers, Benjamin John Paulsen Peters, Columbia U, USA

Databases as Communication Devices, Geof Bowker, Santa Clara U, USA

### **Respondent**

Frederick C. Turner, Stanford U, USA

In this panel, a mix of established and young scholars reexamine specific technologies and technological systems in the important though significantly understudied history of computing. The panel generally seeks to enrich understanding of how computer-related modes of data representation have come to embody and construct modern communication discourse. How have the concepts surrounding technologies of representation evolved in the twentieth century? And furthermore, how can such a genealogy help critically reassess the field's assumptions about communications technologies?

## **SESSION #12: PUTTING THE AESTHETIC BACK INTO COMMUNICATION, AND VICE VERSA (CROSS UNIT)**

Sunday, 09:00-10:15  
Grand Ballroom I

Theme Sessions, Philosophy of Communication, Communication History, Popular Communication, Mass Communication

### **Chair**

Nick Couldry, Goldsmiths College, London U, UNITED KINGDOM

### **Participants**

*Liberation Through Attention: Multiscreen Aesthetics in World War II America*, Frederick C. Turner, Stanford U, USA

*Defending (Some Kind of) Aesthetic Autonomy*, David Hesmondhalgh, U of Leeds, UNITED KINGDOM

*Exploring the Digital Aesthetic*, Mark B. Andrejevic, U of Iowa, USA

*For an Analytics of Media Aesthetics*, Georgina E. M. Born, U of Cambridge, UNITED KINGDOM

In Raymond Williams' influential 1976 volume *Keywords*, the first term to appear is one that has since nearly disappeared in mainstream communication research: "Aesthetic." Thirty years later, this session revisits Williams' keyword with an eye to restoring its centrality to the analysis of communication. Moving between empirical case studies and theoretical analyses, showing their interdependence, it demonstrates that aesthetics are a driving force in contemporary communication and should become an important element in communication research. Since philosophy was the original home of aesthetics, the Philosophy of Communication division is a good place from where to encourage this debate, across four divisions and interest groups. The panelists blend case studies and theoretical analyses in order to demonstrate the importance of an analytics of the aesthetic in both production and reception research.