

1-3
September
2022

Politecnico di
Torino | DIST

Castello del Valentino
Viale Mattioli, 39
Torino, Italy

ESA-RN18
mid-term
CONFERENCE

CALL FOR
PAPER



COMMUNICATION, CAPITALISM AND CRITIQUE: Critical Media Sociology in the 21st Century

The European Sociological Association (ESA) / Research Network 18 -
Sociology of Communications and Media Research
Mid-Term Conference 2022

We live in times of deepening economic, political, social, pandemic, ideological and ecological crises that are apparent in widespread precarious labour, the commodification of (almost) everything, the rise of new nationalism, populism and authoritarian forms of capitalism, and ecological destruction. The display of power and counter-power, domination and spaces of power struggles, and the commons and the commodification of the commons characterise modern society. Contradictions and antagonisms between the haves and the have-nots shape contemporary Europe and beyond. Media and communication are fields of conflict in this power struggle: they are power structures and sites of power struggles, able to support both the expansion and the commodification of the commons. RN 18 invites contributions to sociological understanding of these processes at its conference in 2022.

This year's conference will be in Torino, where the Italian intellectual and political activist Antonio Gramsci lived, and where he set up the weekly newspaper 'L'Ordine Nuovo' and acted as editor of the newspaper 'Il Grido del Popolo'. Gramsci exerted huge influence on the study of culture and communication in society. The meeting will take a particular note of this and invites papers that address the question: What is the relevance of Gramsci and other approaches and thinkers inspired by Marx for the study of communication and society today?

<https://rn18esa.wordpress.com>

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- Tiziana Terranova (University of Naples 'L'Orientale', Italy)
- Donatella Della Ratta (John Cabot University, Rome, Italy)
- Peter Thomas (Brunel University London, UK)



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UNIVERSITÀ
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Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning
Excellence MIUR 2018-2022

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CALL FOR PAPER

ESA RN18 calls for contributions that shed new light on theoretical and analytical insights that help to shape critical media sociology in the 21st century, in particular, but not exclusively, addressed to any of the following:

1. Critical Media Sociology and Capitalism
2. Critical Media Sociology and Critical Theory
3. Critical Media Sociology and Critical Political Economy of Media, Information and Communication
4. Critical Media Sociology, Gramsci and Hegemony
5. Critical Media Sociology and Ideology Critique
6. Critical Media Sociology and Cultural and Communication Labour
7. Critical Media Sociology and Digital Labour
8. Critical Media Sociology, New Nationalism and Authoritarianism
9. Critical Media Sociology, Consumption and Production in Urban Processes
10. Critical Media Sociology, Patriarchy and Gender
11. Critical Media Sociology, Social Inequality, Identity and Subjectivities
12. Critical Media Sociology, COVID-19, Pandemic and Crisis
13. Critical Media Sociology, Ecology and Climate
14. Critical Media Sociology, Democracy and the Public Sphere
15. Critical Media Sociology and the Left
16. Critical Media Sociology, the Commons and Alternatives

While the conference wishes to encourage contributions to the questions indicated here, it seeks to provide an opportunity for the presentation of the best and most widely interesting work by sociologists in communications on media regardless of specific focus.

Abstract

Submission deadline: **1st April 2022**

Abstracts should be sent: **esarn18conference@gmail.com**

e-mail attachment (400-600 words including title, author name(s), email address(es), and institutional affiliation(s)). Please insert the words “ESA RN18 Submission” in the subject.

More info: <https://rn18esa.wordpress.com>

Participation **support for 4 PhD students** and/or independent researchers will be available.

More info: https://rn18esa.wordpress.com/registration_fees/

Organising Committee

The ESA RN18 organising committee is led by:

- **Dr Thomas Allmer**, Coordinator of ESA RN18, University of Innsbruck, Austria
- **Dr Paško Bilić**, Vice-Coordinator of ESA RN18, Institute for Development and International Relations, Croatia
- **Dr Tatiana Mazali**, Vice-Coordinator of ESA RN18, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Polytechnic of Turin, Italy

Supporting Partners

The ESA RN18 mid-term conference 2022 is supported by:

- **European Sociological Association (ESA) - Research Network 18: Sociology of Communications and Media Research**
<https://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn18-sociology-communications-and-media-research>
- **Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST)**
<https://www.dist.polito.it/en/>
- **Italian National Sociological Association (AIS) - section “Cultural Processes and Institutions” (PIC)**
<https://www.ais-sociologia.it/processi-ed-istituzioni-culturali/>
- **Italian Scientific Society of Sociology, Culture, Communication (SISCC)**
<https://ssi-scc.it/>
- **The Antonio Gramsci Piedmont Institute Foundation**
<http://www.gramscitorino.it/>

