



Gender and Communication Section International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) – Newsletter July, 2022

The Gender and Communication section would like to bring attention to its members to the series of events that the section will be hosting in the next months ahead of the IAMCR conference in Beijing in July, 2022.

July 2022

Conference Program

IAMCR 2022 July conference Gender and Communication Section OCP Interactive Sessions Programme IAMCR Online 2022

1. **(Alternative) Reporting: Intersectionality and (Non)Conformity in the Newsrooms.** Edited by Dr. Lindsay Balfour

Time: 09:00 UTC, 11 July 2022

Discussion chair: Usha Raman, University of Hyderabad, India.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 387
- Title: Blue and pink make purple: Exploring gender nonconformity and its portrayal in journalistic discourse.
- Author: Katerina Diamantaki.
- Respondents: Abena Animwaa Yeboah-Banin.

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 1426
- Title: Smashing the media glass ceiling: Experiences of women digimediapreneurs in Ghana.
- Authors: Gertrude Dzifa A. Zegbla, Abena Animwaa Yeboah-Banin.
- Respondents: Usha Manchanda Rodrigues, Usha Raman.

PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 2592
- Title: Reporting violence against women – intersectionality and diversity in the newsrooms.
- Author: Usha Manchanda Rodrigues.
- Respondents: Gertrude Dzifa A. Zegbla, Abena Animwaa Yeboah-Banin.

PAPER 4

- Submission Id: 591
- Title: Measuring toxic masculinity in journalistic performance: Developing a monitoring tool.
- Author: Usha Raman.
- Respondents: Katerina Diamantaki

2. Emotional Digital Labor: Performing and Commercializing (Counter) Hegemonic Discourses and the Female Complaint

Time: 13:30 UTC, 11 July 2022

Discussion chair: Carolina Matos, carolina.matos.1@city.ac.uk , City University of London, UK.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 1685
- Title: "Show how much you love me": A Study of Online dramatic Performances in College Couple team in China.
- Authors: Xiaoping Wu, Wang Yiling.
- Respondent: Liming Liu.

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 1089
- Title: The discursive construction of middle-aged femininity in Sisters Who Make Waves and its counter-hegemonic discourse contestation by female digital workers.
- Author: Liming Liu.
- Respondents: Xiaoping Wu, Wang Yiling.
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PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 1037
- Title: Performing Gender and Making a New Living: Emotional Digital Labor of Housewives on Douyin.
- Author: Guanqin He.
- Respondents: Deya Zu, Tingting Liu.

PAPER 4

- Submission Id: 89
- Title: “Normal confident guys”: Chinese female stand-up comedians performing, triggering, and commercializing the “female complaint”.
- Authors: Deya Zu, Tingting Liu
- Respondents: Guanqin He.

3 .Estrategias Sociodigitales y Discursos Público en las Protestas Feministas

Time: 15:30 UTC, 11 July 2022

Discussion chair: Patricia Nunez Gomez, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 435
- Title: La representación de la violencia de género en la telenovelas peruanas y chilenas 2018- 2020.
- Authors: Giuliana Cassano, Lorena Antezana.
- Respondents: Ana Sofia Apodaca Cabrera.

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 977
- Title: Redes Sociodigitales, Trastornos de la Conducta Alimentaria y Mujeres Adolescentes. Un panorama de estudio.
- Author: Ana Sofia Apodaca Cabrera.
- Respondents: Claudia Pedraza.

PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 328
- Title: Experiencias de lo que implica ser investigadora en un contexto masculinizado y violento.
- Authors: Leticia Hernández.
- Respondents: Giuliana Cassano, Lorena Antezana.

PAPER 4

- Submission Id: 1461
- Title: Estrategias discursivas de los medios digitales en la cobertura de las protestas feministas: discursos en tensión sobre las mujeres y el espacio público.
- Author: Claudia Pedraza.
- Respondents: Leticia Hernández.

4. Digital Feminism and Professionalism

Time: 09:00 UTC, 12 July 2022

Discussion chair: Carolina Matos, carolina.matos.1@city.ac.uk , City University of London, UK.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 632
- Title: The Media Discourse Analysis On Female Medical Workers Under the Background of COVID-19 Epidemic.
- Author: Xiaochen Yang.
- Respondents:

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 1131
- Title: Reality or Reconstructed? A comparative study of media representation of rural women entrepreneurs pre- and post-pandemic (2017-2021) in Mainland China.
- Author: Chenxiang Elaine Ji, Tingting Shen.
- Respondents: Lingwei Shao, Ali Saha.

PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 1452
- Title: Exploring digital divides as a component of intersectionality through #Dalitlivesmatter moment.
- Authors: Ali Saha, Usha Manchanda Rodrigues, Paromita Pain.
- Respondents: Chenxiang Elaine Ji, Tingting Shen.

PAPER 4

- Submission Id: 245
- Title: Mirror, mirror on the wall: The myths of online self-representations of Chinese young women.
- Authors: Lingwei Shao, Fangyu Yin.
- Respondents: Usha Manchanda Rodrigues, Paromita Pain.

5. Networked Misogyny, Dehumanization and Health

Time: 13:30 UTC, 12 July 2022

Discussion chair: Robert Gutsche, Jr, Lancaster University, UK.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 1001
- Title: "Take the World by Storm": -- Using Structural Equation Modeling to Explore Potential Impacts of #MeToo Exposure on Women's Health Outcomes and Sense of Empowerment.
- Author: Yang Yi, Yin Yang.
- Respondents: Robert Gutsche, Jr.

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 1232
- Title: Networked Misogyny: A Study on the Representation and Construction of Community Culture in Hupu Pedestrian Street.
- Author: Liangqi Ding.
- Respondents: Ambrish Saxena, Susmita Bala Saxena.

PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 482
- Title: From sexual assault to erotica: Longform digital journalism and gendered coverage of #MeToo.
- Authors: Carolina Estrada, Robert E. Gutsche, Jr.
- Respondents: Liangqi Ding, Yang Yi.

PAPER 4

- Submission Id: 2382
- Title: Dehumanization of Muslim women on social media in India: Case study of Bulli Bai App 2021/2022.
- Authors: Ambrish Saxena, Susmita Bala Saxena.
- Respondents: Liangqi Ding, Yang Yi.

6. Gender: Equality, Regulations and Rights

Time: 09:00 UTC, 13 July 2022

Discussion chair: Katia Maria Belisário, katia.belisario@gmail.com, Universidade de Brasília, Brazil.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 967
- Title: Rethinking Post-feminism and Gender Equality in China from Social Media Communications of Cosmetics Brands for “Nan Se Consumption”.
- Authors: Xueyi Liu, Sunny Sui-kwong Lam.
- Respondents: Vagdevi HS, Esha Jainiti.

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 1776
- Title: Deconstructing Media Role in Bridging the Gender Gap in Higher Education.
- Authors: Vagdevi HS, Esha Jainiti.
- Respondents: Katia Maria Belisário, Mila Oliveira Corrêa, Prislely Severo Zuse.

PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 467
- Title: Why marriage and kids are considered women’s greatest achievement? A study of BBC Urdu’s 3 min 11 sec video shot in Pakistan and viewers’ comments on social media.
- Author: Wajiha Raza Rizvi
- Respondents: Ambrish Saxena, Susmita Bala Saxena.

PAPER 4

- Submission Id: 356
- Title: “For all Penhas” podcast: Ten Laws that Save Women Lives in Brazil.
- Authors: Katia Maria Belisário, Mila Oliveira Corrêa, Prislely Severo Zuse.
- Respondents: Xueyi Liu, Sunny Sui-kwong Lam.

7. Sexism: Self Efficacy, Resistance and Resilience

Time: 09:00 UTC, 14 July 2022

Discussion chair: Alka Kurian, University of Washington Bothell, USA.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 1361
- Title: The Social / Sexual Politics of Fourth Wave Moroccan Feminists.
- Authors: Naziha Houki, Alka Kurian, Kenza Oumlil.
- Respondents: Sunayan Bhattacharjee, Saima Shahid.

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 2330
- Title: Who Speaks for Pakistani Women? The Social Media Landscape of Feminist Activism in the Country During Pandemic.
- Author: Saima Shahid.
- Respondents: Naziha Houki, Sunayan Bhattacharjee.

PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 1119
- Title: Evaluating Stereotypes about the LGBTQIA+ Community in Mainstream Indian Media.
- Authors: Sunayan Bhattacharjee.
- Respondents: Kenza Oumlil, Saima Shahid.

8. Body as Battlefield & Body Image Satisfaction

Time: 09:00 UTC, 15 July 2022

Discussion chairs: Ruchi Kher Jaggi, Symbiosis International (University), India; Faiza Rafique, Digital Media Studies, Pakistan.

PAPER 1

- Submission Id: 1741
- Title: Body as Battlefield: Iranian Women's Self-representation on Instagram.
- Authors: Hoornaz Keshavarzian
- Respondents: Ruchi Kher Jaggi, Wajiha Raza Rizvi.

PAPER 2

- Submission Id: 2533
- Title: Beyond modernity messaging: Assessment of DKT's family planning campaign in Ethiopia.
- Author: Emrakeb Woldearegay
- Respondents: Ruchi Kher Jaggi, Hassan Ali Maan.

PAPER 3

- Submission Id: 581
- Title: Gender and Modernity: Cultural invasion through advertisements of international brands in Pakistan.
- Authors: Hassan Ali Maan, Wajiha Raza Rizvi.
- Respondents: Emrakeb Woldearegay, Ruchi Kher Jaggi.

PAPER 4

- Submission Id: 577
- Title: Wielding a Postfeminist Discourse– Changing Representations of Women Protagonists on Indian Streaming Platforms.
- Author: Ruchi Kher Jaggi.
- Respondents: Emrakeb Woldearegay, Hassan Ali Maan.

Inclusive Culture of Indian Subcontinent converge in the fifth edition of ICAN-International Media Conference



ICAN5, the World's first 7-day Hybrid International Conference on Inclusivity, Convergence and Alternative Negotiations was inaugurated on July 01, 2022, in the presence of national and international acclaimed media educators, scholars, researchers and professionals from across the world. This was the fifth time that DME Media School, Delhi Metropolitan Education, NOIDA hosted this prestigious international media conference in association with Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia.

The Gender and Communication Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and Global Media Education Council (GMEC) collaborated with DME as the conference partners.

Dr Wajiha Raza Rizvi, Co-Chair of Gender and Communication Section-IAMCR, Director Film Museum Society and Associate Professor, School of Media & Mass Communication, Beaconhouse National University Pakistan was among the special guests at the Inaugural ceremony. Dr Rizvi addressing the audience said, "ICAN gives opportunities to different diversities with a platform to speak and bring change in the lives of marginalized people."

Dr Ambrish Saxena, Professor and Dean, DME Media School, Member IAMCR-GEN Section & Convener, ICAN 5 began his address with the DME Pledge. He said, "Several technologies, ideologies, and methodologies are converging into a world that appreciates inclusivity and provides a platform for alternative negotiations. ICAN 5 is a manifestation of this very philosophy."

Ms Faiza Rafique, Vice-Chair, Gender and Communication Section IAMCR and former Assistant Professor, Mass Communication Department at Forman Christian College, Pakistan congratulated the team of ICAN 5 for putting together such an amazing conference with a relevant theme.

Around 125 abstracts were submitted for the conference. All the abstracts were reviewed by a peer review committee comprising internal and external experts. More than 80 presentations were made in technical sessions. There was a representation of 15 countries and 6 continents in form of paper presenters, scholars, and resource persons. The USP of the ICAN5 was all ten technical sessions were chaired by all women scholars from across the globe.

A special attraction of the ICAN5 was a hybrid workshop on Lahore-Delhi Documentary Films conducted by Dr Wajiha Raza Rizvi, Co-Chair of Gender and Communication Section-IAMCR along with Nasira Habib, Founder and Director of Khoj Society for Education from Pakistan, Dr Gauri Chakraborty, Professor, Bennett University, India, Aradhana Kohli Kapur, Filmmaker from India. During the workshop, participants were shown two documentary films: Kanayashala (2007) from India and Pakistan: Education and Women (2015) from Pakistan followed by interaction with the filmmakers. Both the films focused on gender and education in the two countries.

Another interesting panel discussion was conducted on the topic 'Understanding the Rainbow'. The session was supported by KSF-Keshav Suri foundation – a global platform to uplift, empower, and connect LGBTQIA + community. The panel comprised – Akshay Tyagi, Head, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, KSF; Sourav Gupta, Senior Executive-Learning and Development, The Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata; Mohul Sharma, F and B Associate at The Lalit, New Delhi and Nandini Kadam, AM Marketing and PR at The Lalit, Mumbai.

ICAN5 is a platform for discourse and deliberations. This year 12 brainstorming sessions were conducted in form of masterclasses, workshops, plenary sessions and panel discussions. The who's who of the media academics conducted sessions in ICAN5 including Dr Jyotika Ramaprasad, University of Miami; Dr Sheikh Mohamamd Shafiul Islam, Chairperson, Department of Journalism and Media Communication,

Green University of Bangladesh, Prof. K G Suresh, Vice-Chancellor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal; Madhya Pradesh, Prof. Ujjwal K. Chowdhury, Adviser & Professor, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh; Dr Vikrant Kishore, Academic, Author, Filmmaker, and Member, Australia-India Film Council, Melbourne, Australia; Dr Jatin Srivastava, Director of Institute for International Journalism and Associate Professor, E. W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, USA; Dr Nakul Parashar, Director, Vigyan Prasar, an Autonomous Organisation, Department of Science and Technology Government of India, Dr Aftab Hossain, Head and Lecturer, Department of Journalism, Media and Communication, Daffodil International University (DIU), Dhaka, Bangladesh and many more eminent scholars spoke on the theme.

In the valedictory ceremony peer review committee members, and the technical chairs were invited to share their views and experiences in ICNA5. Many experts are connected with ICAN for five years now and have seen ICAN grow as a global brand.

In the cultural evening in inaugural and valedictory students from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India presented their dance, music, and films on varied themes.

Partners:

DME Media School believes in collaborations, and it has been partnering with so many universities and national-international institutions for this conference. ICAN 5 was supported by three knowledge partners – Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal, Vigyan Prasar, Government of India, KSF - Keshav Suri Foundation and three international partners – Institute for International Journalism, Ohio University, USA, Green University, Bangladesh and Daffodil International University, Bangladesh.

The cultural partner for ICAN5 was Beaconhouse National University, Pakistan. It is powered by Asian Media and Cultural Studies Network, Australia, SPARC - Student council of DME Media School, Australia-India Film Practitioners and Researchers Network, Australia and RIM- Research Cell of DME Media School. ICAN 5 is supported by National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,

Government of India. The media partners for the conference are Amar Ujala, The Policy Times, The Hindi Post and Jai Hind Times.

About ICAN

The first edition of ICAN – India and Changing Aspects of News was organised on March 9 - 11, 2018, the second edition of ICAN – Indian Cinema and Alternate Networks was held on November 16, 17 and 18, 2018 and the third edition of ICAN – Issues of Community, Agenda and News was conducted from June 21 to 30, 2020.

The fourth edition was conducted on the theme ICAN - Information Communication and Artificial Networks from July 1 to 10, 2021. The fifth edition is scheduled on the theme Inclusivity, Convergence and Alternative Negotiations on July 1 – 7, 2022.

For DME Media School the objective of a conference is creating storehouse of knowledge for the use of media educators, trainers, researchers and the students. In a period of four years, DME Media School has succeeded in the publication of 426 content-rich papers in 20 books

Report by Dr Manasvi Maheshwari, Associate Professor, Delhi Metropolitan Education, Noida



Conferences, workshop and events

The IAMCR Gender and Communication Section and the IAMCR Task Force for GAMAG invite you to the event

Gender in Media and Communications in the digital age: Post-pandemic trajectories in education, research and advocacy

Date and time: Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September 2022

Location and modality: Complutense University of Madrid, Spain (and online)

Registration: [Fill in this form](#)

Background

How far have we come in fostering gender-aware education in our academic contexts? How relevant is communication research in supporting education to address the challenges of gender equality across societies? What directions, and methods, should critical analysis take to expose and address old and new forms of resistance to gender equality and gender mainstreaming? How have these forms of resistance been reshaped in the pandemic context and how are they currently operating across sectors, within and beyond academia? In the post-Covid-19 context, what pedagogical models and online methods can we use in our educational work and in conducting research on gender and media, so as to make knowledges even more open and shared? How can our education and research activities intersect (inform and respond to) ongoing efforts to foster a New Gender Deal for Media and Digital?

These are some of the questions that this IAMCR event will explore over two days. The event is jointly organised by the IAMCR Gender and Communication Section, the IAMCR Task Force for GAMAG, and the UNESCO UniTWIN on Gender Media and ICT, in collaboration with the AGEMI project . The event reflects the shared concerns and willingness to collaborate amongst different realities and networks, within and outside academia, in making feminist pedagogies, methodologies and educational practices a strategic pillar in the implementation of a 'New Gender Deal' in the field of media and communication.

The event (conducted in hybrid form: in person and online) will comprise a first day of keynote speakers, panels, and roundtables. The second day will be dedicated to networking and discussing future collaborations amongst relevant networks in a more informal setting, so as to bridge academia and advocacy.

The aim of the event is threefold:

- * to carry forward reflections initiated in the context of the IAMCR on epistemologies and methodologies for gender-sensitive research in media;
- * to provide a space for researchers and academics, as well as other interested actors, to discuss and share initiatives that support transformative practises for change (educational, dissemination, research, advocacy, lobby);
- * to contribute to the development of a cross-sectorial 'New Gender Deal' in media and communication, building on academic and practical knowledges and translating them into advocacy practices.

Day 1 – September 28, 2022

Online teaching, methodologies and innovative practices: feminist approaches to media and communication studies

Academic seminar - Coordinated by Prof. Carolina Matos and Prof. Patricia Nunez

Brief description and call for papers:

Recent events across the world of academia have brought into full light the various agendas around online education, transnational collaboration and research. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided professors and researchers working in the field of feminist media and communication studies with a series of challenges as well as some fruitful opportunities derived from the wider use of online tools. As universities, schools and colleges closed across the world in 2020, we had to develop a whole host of new pedagogical tools, communicative techniques, learning methods and teaching styles to continue our education, advocacy initiatives and research in spite of the many constraints. As such, networks like the GAMAG, UniTWIN, gender sections of associations like IAMCR and ECREA, ALAIC, and other organisations have been resilient and adaptive, developing activities in an online setting which have fostered further inspiring interdisciplinary alliances and transnational collaborations. Meanwhile, at our institutions, we've experienced the many issues of 'care' that emerged from the experience – care for students, for colleagues, for networks, for ourselves - also highlighting how gendered relations played out on the new teaching and learning environment, affecting women and men differently.

In summary, this event aims to encourage the exchange of recent experiences and practices and the dissemination of innovative pedagogical models and online teaching methods that use gender as a primary thematic in work around media, journalism and communication. With a specific focus on epistemologies and on (caring) methodologies that make use of online platforms and digital media, we welcome papers that offer pedagogical approaches to the study of gender, sexuality and intersectional forms of oppression in and through media production and consumption -including print and electronic media, film and television, advertising, and social media – within and beyond the pandemic context.

To contribute to the scholarly exchange and present your research/reflection, please send abstracts of 200 to 300 words, 5-8 keywords and a short bio by August 15, 2022 to Lucia Vazquez Rodriguez (luciaglv@ucm.es), and cc Carolina Matos (Carolina.Matos.1@city.ac.uk) and Patricia Nunez Gomez (pnunezgo@ccinf.ucm.es) with the subject 'IAMCR GEN COM Post-Conference' followed by your last name. Accepted papers will be announced by August 31, 2022.

Day 2 – September 29, 2022

Challenging times for women's communication rights: Towards a New Gender Deal in Media and Communication

Networking session - coordinated by Prof. Claudia Padovani, Prof. Aimée Vega Montiel and Dr. Lucía Vázquez

This session is a follow-up to feminist gatherings that took place on the occasion of the IAMCR conference in Madrid, on July 4-6, 2019. At the time, the IAMCR Task Force for GAMAG and UniTWIN members met with researchers and advocates from various networks to debate how to 'actualize' Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action. One of the core topics discussed pertained to the contribution these networks could bring to media gender equality through educational interventions. The resulting syllabus, elaborated by the UniTWIN network (UNESCO 2019), was launched on the occasion, and plans for its dissemination discussed. Since 2019, efforts have been made to make that resource relevant to specific locales and situations. Despite the challenges of the global pandemic, online workshops and seminars have been organized - in Latin America and Europe but open to a global audience - to keep the space of reflection and exchange open.

Also, in 2019, discussions touched upon the evolving international context where gender equality, media and communication are discussed, particularly within the UN system, and its efforts to rethink the Beijing Platform for Action Agenda in relation to the current overall framework provided by the Sustainable Development Goals. Concerns were expressed on that occasion that some of the core components of the BPfA agenda in relation to communication and technologies were being marginalized. Over the past few years, also through institutional responses to the Covid- 19 pandemic, we've witnessed more of a tendency to side-line feminist issues and concerns about structural inequalities, a situation that would have required attention, reflection, and critical enquiry.

But the pandemic has significantly reduced the richness of our interaction, the possibilities to engage in informal and unexpected talks, and spontaneous spaces for new ideas emerge. For too long, socially-engaged scholars and advocates for gender equality in and through the media have not managed to get together in the same spaces, in person, to strengthen their bonds and common understanding, while jointly developing transformative visions.

As the world is immersed in plural and overlapping crises – post-pandemic, environmental, new and long-lasting conflicts – that affect women and marginalised communities in diverse and disproportionate ways, it's time to resume those conversations and address some major questions such as: What is the current status of women's communication rights, seen through the lens of overlapping crises? What agencies, networks and actors are fostering women's communication rights' perspectives across institutional and non-institutional spheres of action, and what are the main constraints and challenges? Would a 'New Gender Deal' in media and communication support struggles for women's communication rights? What would such a New Gender Deal look like? What contribution can networks such as the IAMCR Task Force for GAMAG and UniTWIN bring in fostering a New Gender Deal for media and communication that may start from our classes and students and the younger generations of professionals, and connect advocacy initiatives?

This networking session comprises a first part dedicated to analysis and reflection of the current situation of women's communication rights and gender equality across sectors in times of crises and a second part devoted to joint elaboration of ideas, initiatives and strategies to develop and implement a 'New Gender Deal'.

Day 2 - September 29, 2022

Session I, 9.30 – 11.00

Womens' communication rights at the crossroads: a stock-taking dialogue between academic, policy and professional networks working towards gender equality in and through the media.

Invited short interventions by members of academic networks (eg IAMCR Taskforce, the UNESCO-UniTWIN Network on Gender, Media & ICTs), policy networks (eg GAMAG) and professional networks (eg FOJO, IFJ).

Open discussion

Coffee break 11.00 – 11.30

Session II, 11.30 – 13.00

Women's rights and the challenges of mainstreaming in times of crises (and increasing authoritarianism): a trans- sectorial conversation

Invited short interventions by members of academic community from different disciplinary fields, members of civic networks and associations working to promote women's rights. Also invited: European Women's Lobby, EIGE, Council of Europe North South Center.

Open discussion

Lunch break 13.00 – 14.15

Session III, 14.15 – 15.45

New trajectories in educating media and communication professionals through gender lens, feminist approaches and gendered methodologies: sharing educational resources to foster a New Gender Deal in Media and Communication.

Short interventions by members of AGEMI project, GMMP, GEM project

Small group activities coordinated by the UniTWIN Network on Gender Media and ICT

Coffee break 15.45 – 16.15

Session IV, 16.15 – 18.00

Advocating for gender equality: Developing a New Gender Deal in Media and Communication.

Open discussion with all participants, introduced and facilitated by Prof. Aimée Vega Montiel.

Concluding reception 18.00 – 19.30

Participation and registration:

Participants are invited to send abstracts if they want to contribute to panel presentations on Day 1 (see above, deadline for submission August 15, 2022) as well as to fill in THIS form to attend the academic seminar and networking activities organised on Day 2 (registration to the event is open until August 31th, 2022).

Convenors:

Prof. Carolina Matos (City, University of London - Co-Chair Gender and Communication Section, IAMCR): Carolina.Matos.1@city.ac.uk

Prof. Patricia Núñez (Universidad Complutense - Vice-Chair Gender and Communication Section IAMCR): pnunezgo@ccinf.ucm.es

Prof. Claudia Padovani (University of Padova - IAMCR IC, Co-Chair UNESCO-UniTWIN Network on Gender, Media & ICTs, AGEMI project): claudia.padovani@unipd.it

Prof. Aimee Vega Montiel (CEIICH – UNAM, Ciudad Universitaria Mexico: aimeeveganmx@yahoo.com.mx)

Dr. Lucía Gloria Vázquez Rodríguez (Universidad Complutense): luciaglv@ucm.es)

Feminist Encounters



A) Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics

<https://www.lectitopublishing.nl/feminist-encounters>

Autumn 2025

Special Issue:

Peripheral Visions of Alternative Futures: Feminist Techno-imaginaries

Feminism has a long history of wrestling with technologies: not only with the inequalities and blind spots inherent in research, production, and marketing, but also with the effects of different technological forms and arrangements on social relationships, ways of life, and on the body. Technologically permeated societies are a global reality, and feminist, queer, critical race, decolonial, and crip theories are pivotal in offering critical analyses and ways of imagining, producing, and using technologies differently.

This issue of *Feminist Encounters* sets out to re-inspect the entanglements between technology and imagination from a range of feminist perspectives in disciplines like STS, philosophy and critical theory, media history and media archaeology, cultural history, and cultural and comparative literature studies.

Greek-French philosopher Cornelius Castoriadis' theorisation of the radical individual imagination and the socially instituting imaginary (1975) foregrounds the creative, world-building function that shared forms of meaning play in our social worlds.

The history of Western philosophy tends to regard imagination as mere reproduction/representation, i.e. a mental copy of the real; in contrast, Castoriadis' work offers a conceptualisation of the imagination and the imaginary as inherently creative and productive of the social.

Accordingly, this special issue asks how diverse feminist techno-imaginaries can help us rethink, envision, but also transform historically stabilised forms of meaning, especially shared understandings of what technology can do and how it can transform our social worlds. Inviting contributions from diverse local and regional contexts, this issue sets out to investigate the implications of socially and culturally situated feminist techno-imaginaries, i.e., beliefs, accounts, and visions of possible, desirable, alternative, and radically different futures from diverse feminist perspectives.

The issue will interrogate how these future visions relate to extant shared understandings of “forms of social life and social order attainable through, and supportive of, advances in science and technology” (Jasannoff, 2015, 13). In the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS), Sheila Jasannoff conjoins the “normativity of the imagination with the materiality of networks” in her understanding of “sociotechnical imaginaries” “as collectively held, institutionally stabilized, and publicly performed visions of desirable futures” (Jasannoff, 2015, 13). Taking her definition as one possible point of departure, this issue of *Feminist Encounters* seeks to survey the ways in which feminist techno-imaginaries relate to current and mainstream technological developments, but also to peripheral technological pasts and possible futures.

For this purpose, we take the term techno-imaginaries broadly, as referring also to those visions that are not necessarily institutionally stabilized and are collectively held only in specific milieus. Feminist accounts (both future- and past-oriented) tend to remain on the margins of academic discussions about socio-technological entanglements, their histories, prognoses, and poetics.

Dominant societal understandings of technological transformations and their impact on thought, imagination, and society therefore tend to omit numerous paths not taken; inventions that turned out to be, or are presented as being, a cul-de-sac; developmental failures with unfulfilled potentials for furthering social justice; and an account of geopolitical inequalities in global technological competition, labour exploitation, and ecological impact.



Hegemonic techno-imaginaries also lack proposals for technologically-entangled radically different futures that would depart from present forms of labour exploitation and commodity consumption, from currently normative gender- and sexuality-scripts, from structural racism, the exploitation of natural resources with concomitant climate impact, and ways of restricting access. Reflecting upon diverse and intersecting feminist techno-imaginaries, we believe, can help us address and redress some of these shortcomings.

Feminist theory itself offers a rich archive of utopian, dystopian, and ambivalent technological imaginaries, such as Donna Haraway's powerful figure of the cyborg, Shulamith Firestone's proposal for externalising reproductive processes, echoed by xenofeminists today, Rosi Braidotti's writings on the posthuman, to name just a few. These proliferate also in feminist fiction, from Octavia Butler's complex interrogation of techno-scientific alienness in her xenogenesis trilogy, to Marge Percey's vision of a technologically enhanced utopian post-gender society

We are especially interested in affirmative takes on the feminist archive, as articulated by political theorist Kathi Weeks (2015), which can help us retrieve visions of alternative futures that can be productively repurposed today. These visions can also function as critical examinations of our past and present, yet are/were often overlooked in mainstream knowledge production.

They comprise sci-fi visions as Afrofuturism Africanfuturism, Arabfuturism, Sinofuturism, Disabled futurism, Indigenous futurism, Queer futurism, Ecotopia etc., as well as theoretical, philosophical, political, or historical interventions. As philosopher Michelle Le Doeuff has shown, while often declaratively excising imagery as the other of rational discourse, philosophical theories themselves almost always copiously deploy imagery, often to entrench socially sanctioned forms of exclusion (1980) – something that could most likely be said of theory more broadly.

This issue thus also offers an arena for discussing how images of possible futures are deployed, or how they implicitly animate philosophical discussions and theoretical discourse about technological innovation and techno-dispositifs, especially – seen from diverse feminist perspectives – what kinds of exclusions they perpetuate, or alternatively, what arenas for radical social imagination they open up. This issue takes cue from Afrofuturist articulations of painful pasts to imagine new futures rooted in black culture and innovation, and from queer theory take on queer utopianism, which includes “a backward glance that enacts a future vision” (Muñoz 2009, 4), which can be understood in terms of Walter Benjamin’s tiger’s leap into the past that retrieves unrealised emancipatory potentials of past events (1940).

Apart from offering feminist critiques of hegemonic or mainstream techno-imaginaries, this issue thus also centres peripheral or minoritarian techno-imaginaries of the past and present that enact alternative future vistas. According to Jussi Parikka, these peripheral futurisms or counterfuturisms ask: “What sort of discourses, narratives – including practices of time and futurism – are apt for a consideration of the current political moment and what forms of time can harbour any sort of liberating potential that work against the already existing times?” (2017, 2)

Thinking about future techno-imaginaries from diverse feminist perspectives may involve very specific questions, such as matrices of human : machine interaction, user experience, access to technology, or innovation and maintenance scenarios.

It may also involve thinking through techno-imaginaries and how they are activated in the context of different political paradigms of the past and the present, or in the context of utopian and dystopian visions of the future in critical theory and philosophy, literature, visual arts, music, cinema, TV, in the performing arts, on social media, and other cultural artefacts. Finally, it may involve memory work, i.e. unpacking locally or culturally specific past horizons of expectations regarding technological advances and their implications for future scenarios in various contexts, from policy to historiography and art.

This special issue of *Feminist Encounters on Feminist Techno-imaginaries* offers an opportunity to articulate in novel ways how, through diverse social imaginaries of technological innovation, technology and feminism impact one another in modern societies. Abstracts may be submitted on any topic related to this theme. These topics include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Techno-imaginaries in philosophy and ethics of technology, critical theory, STS, from feminist perspectives
- Historical techno-imaginaries from feminist perspectives ·Futurisms from different feminist perspectives (Afrofuturism, counterfuturism, Sinofuturism...)
- Memories of technological change and nostalgia for obsolete technologies, from feminist perspectives
- Technology, feminism, and decoloniality
- Gender politics, feminism, and techno-imaginaries in Eastern Europe and the global South
- Feminist techno-imaginaries of climate change and environmental policies
- Feminist imaginaries of sexuality and AI
- Feminist perspectives on imaginations of reproductive technologies
- Feminist perspectives on techno-imaginaries in mainstream media
- Techno-imaginaries in feminist media

Feminist Encounters invites submissions of articles of 8000-9,000 words on any aspect of the topic outlined above. We welcome diverse and divergent feminist perspectives on techno-imaginaries and their theoretical, practical, and poetic impact. Contributions may range from highly theoretical to more empirically based.

The special issue will be edited by Guest Editors: Dr Jasmina Šepetavc (Research Associate, Centre for Cultural and Religious Studies, Department of Cultural Studies, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Katja Čičigoj (PhD candidate, Department of Philosophy, Paderborn University, Germany) and Assist Prof Dr Natalija Majsova, (Centre for Cultural and Religious Studies, Department of Cultural Studies, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia).

Abstracts of 400 words and a short biographical note (not more than 100 words) should be sent to the guest editors directly at:

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The newsletter from the Gender and Communication section is distributed monthly to its members. If you have an event, publication or job ad that you would like to see included in the newsletter, please e-mail the sections' chair and/or co-chair, Dr. Carolina Matos (Carolina.Matos.1@city.ac.uk) or Dr. Patricia Núñez-Gomez (pnunezgo@ccinf.ucm.es). With the help of Alicia Abascal Astobiza, Jennifer Manzano Hidalgo, María Pérez San Bruno and Irene López de Francia, Complutense University students.



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