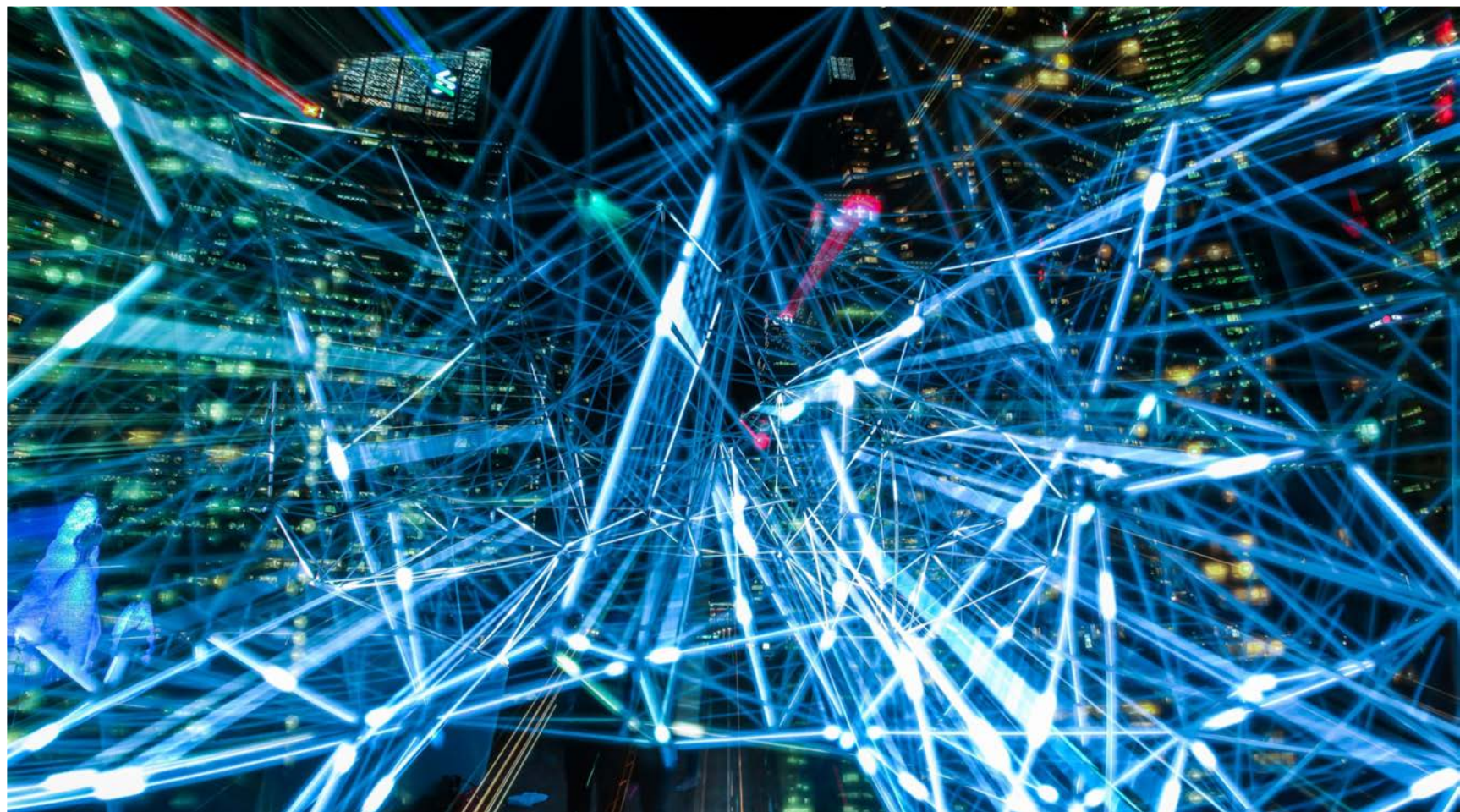


10-12  
September  
2020



Politecnico di  
Torino | DIST

Castello del Valentino  
Viale Mattioli, 39 - Torino

ESA-RN18  
mid-term  
CONFERENCE

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

CALL FOR  
PAPER

We live in times of deepening economic, political, social, ideological and ecological crises that are expressed 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.

Turin was the place where Gramsci lived, was politically active and where he set up the weekly newspaper 'L'Ordine Nuovo' and acted as editor of the newspaper 'Il Grido del Popolo'. Gramsci exerted influence on the study of culture and communication in society. ESA RN18's mid-term conference in Turin is an occasion for media/communication/cultural sociologists to ask: 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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Dipartimento Interateneo di Scienze, Progetto e Politiche del Territorio  
Eccellenza 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 Political Economy of Media, Information and Communication
3. Critical Media Sociology, Gramsci and Hegemony
4. Critical Media Sociology and Cultural/Communication/Digital Labour
5. Critical Media Sociology, Consumption and Production in Urban Processes
6. Critical Media Sociology, Ecology and Climate
7. Critical Media Sociology, Gender, Social Inequality, Identity and Subjectivities
8. Critical Media Sociology, New Nationalism and Authoritarianism
9. Critical Media Sociology, Democracy and the Public Sphere
10. Critical Media Sociology, the Commons and Alternatives

## Abstract

Abstracts should be sent to the Conference Organising Committee: [esarn18conference@gmail.com](mailto:esarn18conference@gmail.com)

Submission deadline: 1 April 2020

Notification of selected abstracts: 15 May 2020

Abstracts should be sent as an e-mail attachment (400-600 words including title, author name(s), email address(es), and institutional affiliation(s)). Please insert the words "ESARN18 Submission" in the subject. Although we do not provide a template for the abstract submission, we expect abstracts that include a rationale, research question(s), theoretical and/or empirical methods applied, and potential results and implications. Each abstract will be independently reviewed by two members of the ESA RN18 Board based on the call for papers.

## Support for PhD students

Participation support for four PhD students and/or independent researchers will be available. If you want to apply for participation support, please send an extended abstract (600 - 800 words), biographical information (up to 250 words) and indicate this in your abstract submission by adding the sentence 'I want to apply for participation support for PhD students / independent researchers'. The notifications about participation support will be sent out together with the notifications of acceptance or rejection of presentations. Additional information to prove your position as a PhD student or independent researcher will be requested.

## Supporting Partners Organising Committee

The conference is organised by European Sociological Association (ESA) - Research Network 18: Sociology of Communications and Media Research, in cooperation with the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST) of the Polytechnic University of Turin and the University of Turin; the Italian National Sociological Association (AIS) – Section: Cultural Processes and Institutions; the Italian Scientific Society of Sociology, Culture, Communication (SISCC); the Fondazione Istituto piemontese Antonio Gramsci

The ESA RN18 organising committee is led by:

- Dr Marisol Sandoval, Coordinator of ESA RN18, City University London, UK
- 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

The local organising committee is led by: Dr Tatiana Mazali, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy

