

International Conference

## Journalism across Borders

### The Production and “Producership” of News in the Era of Transnationalization, Destabilization and Algorithmization

September 26 – 28, 2018 | Ilmenau, Germany

Joint Conference of the Journalism Studies Division and the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the German Communication Association (DGPK)

Hosted by the Institute of Media and Communication Science, Technische Universität Ilmenau (Germany), in collaboration with the Media School, Indiana University Bloomington (USA)

Conference chairs: Martin LÖFFELHOLZ, Liane ROTHENBERGER, and David H. WEAVER

#### Outline

Journalism is crossing borders since mass media and nation-states co-emerged in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Both news agencies and the professional role of the “foreign correspondent” first appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century contributing to the institutionalization of “foreign news coverage”. Since cross-border journalism stems from the “increasing connectedness, boundarylessness and mobility in the world” (Berglez 2008, 855), the era of the internet has further advanced the border-transcending production, dissemination and reception of news. Transnational co-operations like the European Broadcasting Union, Eurosport, 3sat, or BBC World News demonstrate different kinds of cross-border journalism.

According to Castells, the “network society diffuses in the entire world, but does not include all people. In fact, in this early 21<sup>st</sup> century, it excludes most of humankind, although all of humankind is affected by its logic, and by the power relationships that interact in the global networks of social organization.” (Castells 2005, 5) Likewise, we may argue that global networks of communication, including cross-border journalism, do not reach out to everyone; however, directly or indirectly all news producers and consumers alike are affected by the opportunities, obstacles and outcomes of transnational journalism.

Against this background, the conference *Journalism across Borders* intends to critically analyze both cross-border news production and “transnational journalism cultures” (Hellmueller 2017) challenged by technological advances, the wide-ranging transformation of traditional media and innovative forms of news production (Jallow 2015). Social media, for instance, encourage developing “news networks” (Domingo & Wiard 2016) comprising actors beyond classical newsrooms. Besides, we take into account the ongoing (economic) globalization persistently influencing national economies, including media markets, despite instabilities related to political actors claiming to re-nationalize politics and policies.

Consequently, the conference aims at both providing insights into the current state of the global scholarly discourse on cross-border journalism as well as giving an outlook to its future challenges. We have systematized the presentations and discussions in six topical areas deliberately covering a wide range of research questions. Major areas of interest are related to (1) political, legal, economic and further contexts, (2) actors, organizations and networks, (3) production, “producership”, audiences and products, (4) trends and future challenges as well as to (5) conceptual and (6) further theoretical and methodological aspects of cross-border journalism.

**(1) Political, legal, economic, and further normative contexts of cross-border journalism:** How do political or legal realignments set the frame of reference for advances or regressions in cross-border journalism? Who sets the (legal) boundaries for journalism across borders? How do developments in the economic sector influence cross-border journalism? Are there interconnections between cross-border journalism and emerging populism, and political as well as social destabilization? What is the value of cross-border journalism for different target groups (audiences, politics, economy, etc.)?

**(2) Actors, organizations, networks and routines of cross-border journalism:** Who are the (new) actors in cross-border journalism? How do production networks of cross-border journalism change? How do transnational journalists collaborate with each other and in automated production environments? Which qualifications do journalists working in transnational environments require? Which milieus do influence journalists working in transnational arenas? Which limitations and opportunities influence cross-border journalism on the organizational level? How do foreign news coverage, international news agencies, foreign correspondents or international broadcasting change in the digital age? How does cross-border journalism adjust to structures such as online journalism, blogs, SNS?

**(3) Production, “produsage”, products and audiences of cross-border journalism:** How did production processes of cross-border journalism develop in the era of digitalization? How does the “produsage” of news via social media affect transnational journalism? How do we define “transnational products” of journalism? What are the quality criteria of cross-border journalism? How transnational are the audiences of transnational journalism? How do cross-border media projects benefit from their transnational audience?

**(4) Trends and future challenges of cross-border journalism:** How does cross-border journalism cope with automation and algorithmic journalism? Does computational journalism influence actors’ roles, routines or structures of cross-border journalism? How do cross-border journalists handle the Internet of Things and Services? Which further effects do globalization and digitalization have on cross-border journalism? Does virtual and immersive journalism contribute to an expansion of cross-border journalism? Which role do platforms and search engines play in cross-border journalism, shaping media coverage and the awareness, availability and reception of journalistic coverage by means of algorithms? How do cross-border journalists deal with social bots or fake news destabilizing democracies?

**(5) Conceptualization of cross-border journalism:** How do we define cross-border journalism? Which dimensions characterize cross-border journalism as to the micro-level (e.g. journalistic roles), meso-level (e.g. transnational organizations), or macro-level (e.g. influence of cultures)? How did the understanding of cross-border journalism change over time or in different regions? How does cross-border journalism relate to journalism cultures in nation-states? Assumed we conceptualize cross-border journalism as the collaboration of individuals or organizations from different journalistic cultures, how is this collaboration being set up, who collaborates with whom? Which factors are in conflict with such collaborations, i.e. regarding professional standards or role perceptions?

**(6) New methodological and theoretical challenges of cross-border journalism research:** How can we incorporate phenomena like social media, algorithmization, and produsage into models of cross-border journalism? What are the methodological challenges, opportunities and pitfalls of transnational journalism research? Which models and contributions to empirical studies and theoretical impulses did scholars who do not belong to the “Western” spectrum initiate? Do we still face biases in both the scientific community and the publishing system inhibiting the de-Westernization and factual transnationalization of cross-border journalism research?

In the era of an ongoing economic transnationalization, political destabilization and algorithmization of communication, it is both important and timely to analyze recent developments entailed by the evolution of cross-border journalism bringing together well-established scholars from across the globe as well as promising younger researchers of both research fields. Building on identifying current conceptual characteristics, new theoretical approaches as well as advances of empirical research methods, we will be able to better facilitate future studies in an area of research closely combining journalism and international and intercultural communication.

In addition to presenting empirical studies and conceptual considerations, the conference encourages discourse and mutual exchange to enhance future collaboration of researchers in an interdisciplinary and intercultural perspective. As the conference intends to inspire genuine global views, we are especially inviting contributions from non-western researchers.

The conference follows up on the symposium *Journalism Research in an Era of Globalization* hosted in 2004 by the Institute of Media and Communication Science of the Technische Universität Ilmenau, the School of Journalism of Indiana University and the Journalism Studies and Research Division of the German Communication Association DGPK. The 2004 conference resulted in publishing the volume: Löffelholz, Martin & Weaver, David (eds.) (2008), *Global Journalism Research. Theories, Methods, Findings, Future*. Malden, Oxford, Carlton: Blackwell Publishing.

The 2018 conference is also a **collaborative effort** of the Institute of Media and Communication Science of TU Ilmenau, the Media School of Indiana University and the Journalism Studies and Research Division as well as the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the German Communication Association DGPK. Building on the results of the follow-up conference in 2018, we are also planning to publish a state-of-the-art **handbook on cross-border journalism** in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Conference Program (draft as of January 25, 2018)

September 26, 2018			
13:00 – 14:00	Conference registration, EAZ, TU Ilmenau		
14:00 – 15:45	Workshop for international young researchers		
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break		
16:15 – 18:00	Workshop for international young researchers		
18:30	Get-together, Haus am See, Ilmenau		
September 27, 2018			
08:00 – 9:00	Conference registration, EAZ, TU Ilmenau		
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Welcome address</b> Martin Löffelholz, Liane Rothenberger (Germany), David Weaver (USA)		
09:15 – 10:30	<b>Roundtable 1: Conceptualizing cross-border journalism</b>		
10:30 – 11:00	Break		
11:00 – 12:30	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"><b>Panel 1: Actors, organizations, networks and routines of cross-border journalism</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"><b>Panel 2: Production, produsage, products and audiences of cross-border journalism</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel 1: Actors, organizations, networks and routines of cross-border journalism</b>	<b>Panel 2: Production, produsage, products and audiences of cross-border journalism</b>
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12:30 – 13:45	Lunch break		
13:45 – 14:15	<b>Keynote 1: Contexts of cross-border journalism in the digital age – the legal perspective</b> Ang Peng Hwa (Singapore)		

13:45 – 15:00	<b>Roundtable 2: Contexts of cross-border journalism in the digital age – cultural, political and socio-economic perspectives</b>	
15:00 – 15:30	Break	
15:30 – 17:30	<b>Panel 3: Presentation of accepted papers</b>	<b>Panel 4: Presentation of accepted papers</b>
17:30 – 18:00	Business meeting, Journalism Studies and Journalism Research Division, DGPuK Chair: Annika Sehl (Great Britain)	Business meeting, International and Intercultural Communication Division, DGPuK Chair: Carola Richter (Germany)
19:00	Dinner, Hotel Tanne, Ilmenau	
September 28, 2018		
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Keynote 2</b>	
09:30 – 11:00	<b>Panel 5: Presentation of accepted papers</b>	<b>Panel 6: Presentation of accepted papers</b>
11:00 – 11:30	Break	
11:30 – 12:45	<b>Roundtable 3: Theoretical and methodological challenges of cross-border journalism research</b>	
12:45 – 13:00	<b>Closing remarks</b> David Weaver (USA), Liane Rothenberger, Martin Löffelholz (Germany)	

### **Technische Universität Ilmenau (Germany)**

The *Technische Universität Ilmenau*, located on the northern slope of the lovely Thuringian Forest, can be reached by ICE fast train from the airports in Frankfurt or Berlin going to Erfurt, the capital of Thuringia. The University offers its students and employees an attractive campus and excellent conditions for study and work.

Founded in 1999, the *Institute of Media and Communication Science* is one of the largest institutions of communication studies in Germany. Innovative studies on online and mobile communication, political, strategic and international communication, communication management or virtual worlds are at the center of research and teaching.

The beautiful town of *Ilmenau* is situated in close vicinity to the medieval city of Erfurt, where Martin Luther, a seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation, lived from 1505 to 1511 and was ordained as a priest at the Cathedral of St. Mary, one of Erfurt's landmark buildings which is more than 1.200 years old. Other interesting visits include the city of Weimar or the Wartburg castle.