

Call for Papers:

ICA-Preconference: Media Performance & Democracy – Defining and Measuring the Quality of News

Sponsored by the Political Communication Division

Organizers: Josef Seethaler, Linards Udris

Time: June 9, 2016, 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Location: Hilton Fukuoka Sea Hawk (Conference hotel)

There is broad consensus that the quality of democracy depends on the quality of the information communicated to the public by the media. But opinion is divided on the nature of such quality and the criteria by which it should be measured, including the question on which levels quality should be measured (content, organizational characteristics, financial commitment, media system structure, audience preferences), and how the various levels interact. However, in times of accelerated changes in media production, distribution and consumption, it seems to be more important than ever to define reliable and valid measures of “media performance” (as Denis McQuail has labeled the idea of media quality in the public interest), to discuss how awareness of media quality can be fostered in today’s society, and to reflect on the role academics should play in this process, e.g. by implementing large-scale projects on the democratic quality of news that aim to stimulate debate not only in academia but also in public.

The preconference therefore aims to discuss topics like (but not limited to)

- defining and adjusting news quality concepts in accordance with changing notions of democracy and expectations of citizens,
- the relations between media structures, organizational standards, newsroom investment and content characteristics,
- different quality demands for different news media and different styles of journalism,
- and implementing quality criteria in editorial and educational practice.

The preconference would like to bring together researchers from different backgrounds, including theoretically, methodologically, and practically oriented researchers, both inside and outside academia, in order to exchange innovative ideas for the further development of research on media performance.

Abstracts of 500 words (without any identifying information) must be uploaded to <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=mpd2016> (“MPD 2016”) by January 20, 2016. All submissions will be blindly peer-reviewed and acceptance notifications will be sent out on February 15, 2016.

The preconference is open both to presenters and non-presenters, but authors of accepted abstracts are expected to attend the preconference and present their work. Registration opens on January 15, 2016. Participation fee (including coffee break) is \$ 40 USD.

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