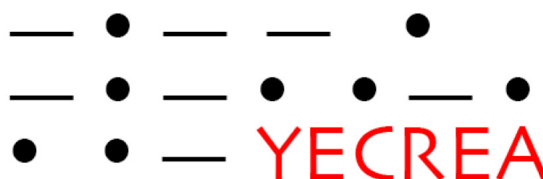




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**Call for Participation: Writing the Past beyond Boundaries? Transnational versus Comparative
Approaches in Communication History
Young Scholars Workshop
3 June 2010, Potsdam/Berlin (Germany)**

Young Scholars Communication History Network of the German Communication Association (DGPuK)

YECREA – ECREA Young Scholars Network

in cooperation with the Center for Research on Contemporary History (ZZF), Potsdam

Public and private communication transcending national and cultural borders is not a new phenomenon since the last decades of digitalization and globalization. Since their emergence mass media expanded beyond national borders, and technologies like letterpress and telegraph connected the world and forwarded international communication flows. Merely because transnational connectivity and interrelationships become increasingly apparent given the conditions of digital and online communication does not imply that they could not also be witnessed in the past either, nor does it imply that current phenomena could be adequately understood without their historical dimension. Communicative spaces may have always overlapped with nationally defined territories but not necessarily. There might (have always been?) be more commonalities between members of respective social or cultural groups in different nations than between distinct groups within a state. Hence the concept of nation states as social entities' containers needs to be supplemented by approaches that are sensitive to the actual transboundary character of media content, media audiences, media production and ownership as well as to the subnational cultural cleavages now and in earlier times. Communication history could combine such sensitivity with an interest for the constitution of communication spaces, for change and persistence of communication processes.

Transnational and comparative approaches in Communication history could help to raise new questions and to find new or complementary answers to existing research issues. How can communication and media history be understood beyond the context of nation and culture? Which analytical potential do transnational and

comparative approaches have for the research into communication history? Where are their limits and to what extent can they be combined?

Young Scholars Communication History Network of the German Communication Association (DGPK), YECREA and ZZF would like to invite young scholars to participate in a workshop focused on these issues. The workshop is dedicated to the reflection upon theory, the state of research as well as to methodical aspects of transnational and comparative perspectives in communication history. Its aim is to identify research potentials within international communication history research. Thus, it aims to create a discussion forum for European perspectives on transnational and comparative communication history from different disciplines such as communication studies and history. The workshop is targeted at PhD candidates concerned with communication and media history.

Dealing with comparative and transnational perspectives in a historical dimension is promising not only because there have been demands to integrate theory into this research fields for a long time but also because a comparative, cross-cultural or transnational historical perspective allows for analyzing differences and commonalities of media systems and of communication cultures as well as the interconnections between them. A rewriting of media history from a transnational perspective also helps to transcend national borders and to focus on structures beyond them. Such an understanding of European or world communication histories has to be regarded as a vital part of European and global historiography.

The idea behind the workshop is to discuss concrete theoretical and methodological issues of doing communication history transnationally or comparatively within working groups and in a plenary session. The aim of this working method is to optimize exchange and networking between PhD students and experts in the respective fields of research. At the beginning of the workshop there will be keynotes presented by these experts in transnational and comparative research from all over Europe. Prof. Dr. Marcel Broersma (Groningen), Prof. Dr. Andreas Fickers (Maastricht), Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp (Bremen), Prof. Dr. Sonja de Leeuw (Utrecht) and Dr. Josef Seethaler (Vienna) are requested.

The workshop is open to all PhD students concerned with communication history though interest in theoretical and methodological aspects of transnational and comparative research is expected.

Applications should include a short CV and a statement of not more than 500 words outlining the dissertation project and its reference to (or their interest in) transnational or comparative communication and media history as well as the stage of development of the project. Additionally a set of questions or problems (concerning doing the PhD in general or thematic specifics) that the applicant would like to be discussed during the workshop is to be included. This information will be used to identify common problems and issues to be tackled in the workshop.

For further information please email to: loeblich@ifkw.lmu.de

Please send your application via email to: loeblich@ifkw.lmu.de

Deadline: 15 February 2010

Notification of acceptance: 1 March 2010

Conference venue: Center for Research on Contemporary History, Potsdam (Germany)

Organization

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Susann Trabert, M.A. • Young Scholars Communication History Network of the German Communication Association (DGPuK)

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University of Vienna, Department of Communication / RWTH Aachen University, Institute for Language and Communication Studies

Thomas Grossmann, M.A.

Center for Research on Contemporary History (ZZF), Potsdam

Please note that the workshop will take place the day before the inaugural conference of the ECREA Communication History Section. Workshop applicants are highly encouraged to participate in the conference and are welcome to submit papers to the conference call (<http://www.ecrea.eu/events/seminars>). The farewell drinks of the young scholars workshop will be combined with the get-together of the conference.