

13:30 – 13:50

Welcome and Introduction

13:50 – 14:35

Leah Lievrouw

Respondent Stefan Huber

Discussion

14:35 – 15:20

Barbara Thomass

Respondent Corinna Wenzel

Discussion

15:20 – 15:50

Coffee Break

15:50 – 16:35

Natalie Fenton

Respondent Amjad Shehadeh

Discussion

16:35 - 17:20

Helena Sousa

Respondent Nelly Grünangerl

Discussion

17:20 – 17:30

Closing Session



Joint Symposium by the **Euromedia
Research Group, ICT&S, Department of
Communication, University of Salzburg**

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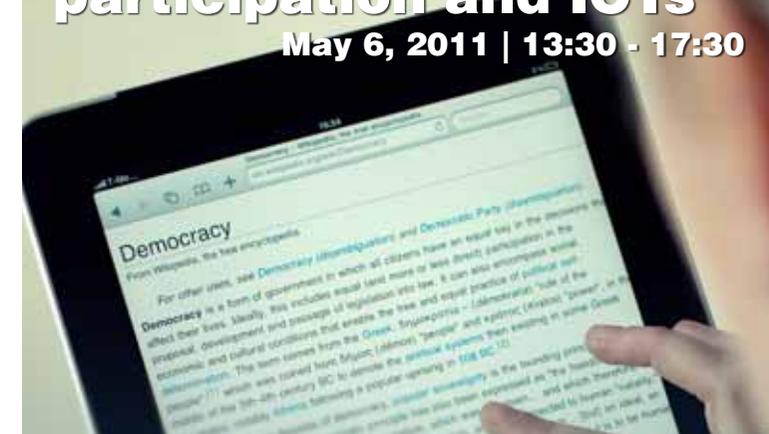
ICT&S Center

Advanced Studies and Research in Information
and Communication Technologies & Society
University of Salzburg

THE
**EUROMEDIA
RESEARCH
GROUP**

Changing democracy:
Journalism, civic
participation and ICTs

May 6, 2011 | 13:30 - 17:30



**Conference Chairs: Josef Trappel and
Ursula Maier-Rabler**

Speakers:

Natalie Fenton, Goldsmiths College, University of London,
United Kingdom

Leah Lievrouw, Department of Information Studies,
UCLA, California, United States

Helena Sousa, Communication and Society Research
Centre, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

Barbara Thomass, Institute for Media Studies, Ruhr-
University, Bochum, Germany

Department of Communication
University of Salzburg, HS 380
Rudolfskai 42

The peoples' uprising in Tunisia and Egypt is just the latest showcase of how communication, technology and civic participation interact to establish or improve democracy. Changing patterns of media and communication use together with the ever growing penetration of private and professional life by technology applications undermine conventional thinking. Can journalism serve the communication needs of contemporary democratic societies? Are social media here to stay? What is the meaning of such networks for participatory or complex democracies? To what extent are ICTs a democratizing force?

Natalie Fenton, Goldsmiths College, University of London, United Kingdom

De-democratizing the News? New media and the structural practices of journalism

The contemporary history of news tells a thrilling story of abundance, as the space for news in the digital age is expanded, and a sorry tale of retraction as the business model for commercial news practice falls apart. Both stories have purchase in reality. This paper undertakes a critical evaluation of each and brings to fore a re-consideration of what we want news for and how it can be delivered in the future.

Leah Lievrouw, Department of Information Studies, UCLA, California, United States

Journalism in the Age of Participation: New Spaces and Practices of Civic Action

Recent worries about the demise of journalism tend to focus on the challenges posed by new media technologies to the institutional role and professional authority of news organizations and industries, especially their position as gatekeepers or mediators between state power and the public. However, it can also be argued that the same communication technologies have encouraged a sort of renaissance in journalism practice with important implications for civic participation and action. In this presentation, I review recent perspectives on so-called participatory, grassroots, or citizen journalism. I suggest how amateurs, activists, and advocates (what journalist and blogger Jay Rosen has called "the people formerly known as the audience") are increasingly merging journalistic methods, ethics and standards with new techniques of online interaction, information retrieval and representation, and new media storytelling, to generate new forms and arenas of civic action and citizen engagement.

Helena Sousa, Communication and Society Research Centre, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

Changing Journalism, Changing Participation

In this communication, we will address the relationship between participation and journalism in one Southern European country - Portugal. After the introduction of different typologies of societal participation and journalism participation, we will examine these different modalities of partaking and discuss the power relations embedded in the citizens' involvement in journalism production.

Barbara Thomass, Institute for Media Studies, Ruhr-University, Bochum, Germany

Title to be determined

Barbara Thomass is Professor for International Comparison of Media Systems at the Institute for Media Studies, Ruhr-University in Bochum, Germany. Her main fields of interests are media systems in Western and Eastern Europe, media politics, media and journalism ethics.