

## Call for papers

ECREA Radio Research Conference 2019: **Radio as a Social Media: community, participation, public values in the platform society.**

19-21 September 2019

University of Siena (Italy)

The next conference of the Radio Research Section of ECREA will be held at the Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Sciences of the University of Siena, from 19 to 21 September 2019. The 2019 theme is: Radio as a Social/Convivial Media: community, participation, public values in the platform society.

## The topic

In the age of platformization of culture (Nieborg & Poell 2018) every media is being turned into a digital platform and every audience is being datafied and commodified. What is the role of radio within this new media ecosystem? Tim Wu (2011) showed how radio broadcasting too was eventually colonized by the ethos of profit, but along its history the radio medium has been able to partially escape its commodification and it has carved out a social role as a public service media and as a community/civic media, more open to audience interaction and participation than television and print media used to be.

In a media ecosystem increasingly shaped by algorithms, radio is the only medium that still has a relevant analogue component, especially in non-western areas of the world. The relevance of analogue broadcasting is not only a residual practice but could be also framed as a space of freedom, a practice of resistance to the process of platformization.

**“Radio as a social media”** is the theme of the 2019 ECREA Radio conference. What does it mean to be a “social media” in the era of digital “social media”?

Our proposal is that radio, in order to be “social”, needs to be “convivial”, in the sense proposed by Ivan Illich in its work “Tools for Conviviality” (1973), which also inspired the first hackers and makers of home computer’s history.

**Conviviality** is a concept that was introduced by Ivan Illich (1973). He imagined a world where people had an open relationship with the material world surrounding them, including the technologies they used: ‘I choose the term ‘conviviality’ to designate the opposite of industrial productivity. I intend it to mean autonomous and creative intercourse among persons, and the intercourse of persons with their environment’ (1973, p. 11). Conviviality is about being vigorously engaged in relationships, conscious of values and meanings. For Illich, a convivial technology was a tool that people could manipulate, transform, adapt and control. Convivial tools are ‘those which gave each person who uses them the greatest opportunity to enrich the environment with the fruits of his or her vision’ (1973, p. 21). Conviviality according to Illich revolves around the idea of free and equal access to empowering tools.

Conviviality, as David Gauntlett noted, “is therefore about having the power to shape one’s own world. Illich makes it clear that individuals *must* retain this power – society must not seek to drain it from them” (2011, p. 168).

Is it still possible a social/convivial use of radio in the age of proprietary algorithms-driven journalism and music consumption?

**This conference aims at gathering together all the scholars that are currently exploring, from different and/or interdisciplinary perspectives, the complex entanglement between radio/audio/digital media and society.**

The conference will try to situate radio studies within the broader contemporary media ecosystem and aims at starting a dialogue with and accepting contributions from Internet Studies, Platform studies, Social Media studies, critical political economy of the media, Media History, digital media management, Cultural Studies, production studies, ethnography, sound studies, social sciences.

ECREA Radio Research 2019 is not only a conference, it wants to be also a festival. A festival for the community of scholars with an interest in radio.

Take a chance to enjoy Tuscany at its best (late September)!

**DEADLINE for abstract submissions: EXTENDED until JANUARY 30, 2019 (18:00 hours Greenwich Mean Time)**

The Scientific Committee of the conference will select the proposals that could deal with the following topics:

**Radio AS a social media**

Community/civic/free/pirate/alternative/radical/DIY not for profit radio  
radio and conviviality (Illich)  
radio audiences, empowerment, participation  
radio and the diaspora  
radio and migration  
Migration, identity, radio  
copyright, copyleft and radio creation

**Radio AND social media**

Doing radio in the age of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Snapchat...)  
Datafication of listening  
radio and music streaming platforms  
radio curation vs. algorithmic curation  
music radio programming vs. music platforms programming  
radio, music platforms and the listener's agency  
networked listeners  
Access, Interaction, Participation (Carpentier)  
social media for radio: between exploitation and participation  
radio as an app  
"haptically-mediated" radio listening

**Radio AS public media**

Who care for...Public service radio?  
Public service radio and innovation  
radio and cultural diversity  
Radio and the public sphere(s)

## **Radio (retro)Futurism**

radio innovation and multi-platform delivery

radio-vision

radio and Artificial Intelligence

Smart speakers and audio/radio listening

Transnational radio

Analog stories

Podcasting

the second age of podcasting: a new digital mass media

repurposing radio content on new platformsdistribution technologies

hybrid radio/hybrid future

DAB, streaming or LTE broadcasting?

Streaming kill the digital (DAB) star

What's the frequency, Kenneth (frequencies and transmission studies)

## **Radio as a Research field**

Political economy of the radio

Radio and gender studies

Radio genres

Radio art

Politics of listening

Poetics of listening

Philosophy of listening

History of listening

Audio vs. Radio

Radio audiences and commodification

Production practices/studies

Reception/Production ethnographies

Digital ethnography

Digital Methods

Network analysis

Radio history

Radio journalism

Radio and the music industry

Ownership, regulation and governance of radio

## **SPECIAL ISSUE OF "THE RADIO JOURNAL"**

We invite delegates of the conference to submit their full papers no later than October 30, 2019 to be selected for a special issue of The Radio Journal, edited by the ECREA Radio Research board, to be published in the second issue of 2020.