



(algorithmic) tools that allow for concealed, but powerful forms of discrimination, while they dominate debates about the social divides that matter and the (digital) solutions to bridge them. This Summer School inquires into the theoretical and methodological tools Media Studies has and needs in order to better understand and study these phenomena. The sessions will engage students into this critical reflection by focusing on different spheres of media practice and representation, as well as a wide range of social exclusions and efforts to overcome them.

## Preliminary program

Each day of the Summer School has a specific focus; its sessions are structured accordingly. Day 1's keynote and two interactive sessions offer a rather theoretical and normative approach to (practices of) representation in relation to social in-/exclusion, as well as implications for their study. In day 2 students choose between two possible workshops. In smaller groups, they will have the opportunity to gain more specific insights and some hand-on experience into two specific, highly topical areas of research into the role of media in social in/exclusion. That day's keynote will further strengthen the links between theory and research practices. Finally, on day 3, two sessions and a keynote will focus on emerging media technologies and innovative approaches to study existing and possible relations between the digital, power inequalities and social change. Additional interactive sessions are meant to strengthen group dynamics and facilitate more informal exchanges among students and between them and lecturers.

### Monday 21 June 2021

09.30-10.15 **Welcome and introductions**

10.30-12.00 **Session 1** – Practices and politics for the representation of inequality

12.00-13.30 Break

13.30-15.30 **Session 2** – Moving away from methodological nationalism: How (not) to study cultural representations

15.30-16.00 Break

16.00-17.00 **Keynote 1** [Gavan Titley](#) - The politics of representation and communicative abundance

17.00-18.00 **Social event**

### Tuesday 22 June 2021

09.30-10.30 **Keynote 2** [Saskia Witteborn](#) - Migration and technology research revisited: Theoretical challenges and opportunities

10.30-11.00 Break

11.00-12.30 **Session 3: Workshop 3A or 3B**

12.30-13.30 Break

13.30-15.00 **Session 3: Workshop 3A or 3B** (*continued*)

### Wednesday 23 June 2021

10.00-11.00 **Keynote 3** [Ayona Datta](#) - Thick time': Experiments with feminist urban future in COVID19 community podcasts

11.00-11.30 Break

11.30-13.00 **Session 4** - Digital vigilantism, mediated visibility and their impacts on marginalized communities

13.00-14.00 Break

14.00-15.30 **Session 5** - Technologies as discourse; discourse as technologies

15.30-16.00 Break

16.00-17.00 Closing session

## Overview keynotes and sessions (seminars and workshops)

Session 1 - Practices and politics for the representation of inequality

### Isabel Awad

In contemporary news and academic literature, we regularly come across accounts that treat people in poverty as poor victims of unfair circumstances and refugees as just trying to survive. This session engages critically with these and other well-intended, yet dehumanizing, practices of representation. We will first examine their underlying logic as well as their political and empirical risks and limitations. That will allow us to identify and assess practical/methodological, as well as theoretical tools for more productive and just representations. Informed by feminist and ethnographic approaches, we will pay special attention to practice theory and to the notion of recognition.

#### Readings

- Awad, I. (2021). What about the actors involved in news about poverty? Disrupting determinist accounts. In S. Borden (Ed.). *The Routledge companion to news media and poverty* (pp. 192-201). Routledge.
- Georgiou, M. (2018). Does the subaltern speak? Migrant voices in digital Europe. *Popular Communication*, 16, 45–57.
- TBD

Session 2 - Moving away from methodological nationalism: How (not) to study cultural representations

### Mélodine Sommier

The limitations of methodological nationalism are well known by now. However, research on cultural representations in media texts often revolves around national dimensions, leaving other aspects such as race, gender, or social class aside and unexplored. How to embrace and capture the complexity of cultural representations in research? In this interactive session, we will discuss different ways of investigating the (re)production of cultural realities in media texts. Engaging with the concept of intersectionality will remind us of the need to include other social dimensions, while exploring different levels of analysis will highlight the importance of considering the interplay between local and global discourses. Reflexivity and researchers' positionality are central to this discussion and will also be actively tackled during this session.

#### Readings

- Bonilla-Silva, E., & Zuberi, T. (2008). Toward a definition of white logic and white methods. In T. Zuberi & E. Bonilla-Silva (Eds.) *White logic, white methods: Racism and methodology* (pp. 3-30). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Zapata-Barrero, R. (2019). Methodological interculturalism: Breaking down epistemological barriers around diversity management. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 42, 346–356. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2019.1538527>
- Neely, B., & Samura, M. (2011). Social geographies of race: Connecting race and space. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 34(11), 1933-1952. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2011.559262>

## Keynote II: Migration and technology research revisited: Theoretical challenges and opportunities

### [Saskia Witteborn](#)

This keynote presentation focuses on how (forced) migration research has to attend to the tension between exploring technology practices by migrants as well as datafication processes structuring mobilities and the lives of migrants. The talk will point to opportunities for migration and technology researchers, including the study of human and nonhuman practice assemblages and the nexus between embodied and digital practice.

## Session 3 – Elective Workshop

### Workshop 3A: Digital participatory approaches to media and migration studies

#### [Amanda Alencar](#)

This workshop will address the intersections between migration, media and technologies and their application in empirical research on/with migrant populations in various contexts. Within media and communication studies, there has been an increased interest in examining digital technologies as integrated into migrants' lived experiences of place and belonging. Such a 'non-media-centric' approach to technology in everyday life can create better opportunities for understanding the spatial and socio-cultural aspects of migrants' media practices and their meaning for place-making processes. In this workshop participants will gain both theoretical insights and some hands-on experience into the analysis of digital practices by migrants in relation to their everyday life worlds and how this intersects with their identities, belonging, individual and collective aspirations, communication practices, well-being and livelihoods.

Specifically, we will study how digital participatory research methodologies can help create knowledge as a collective through different forms of collaboration, education and action, whilst also centering migrants' world views, agency and experiences. Students will have the opportunity to gather and examine some data of their own and as well as specific case studies focusing on migrants' experiences of place-making and settlement in different environments (refugee camps, shelters, urban centers, neighborhoods and online spaces), both in the Global North and South countries.

#### Readings

- Francisco-Menchavez, V., & Tungohan, E. (2020). Mula sa masa, tungo sa masa, from the people, to the people: Building migrant worker power through participatory action research. *Migration Letters*, 17(2), 257-264.
- Leurs, K., & Smets, K. (2018). Five questions for digital migration studies: Learning from digital connectivity and forced migration in (to) Europe. *Social Media + Society*, 4(1), doi: 2056305118764425. (link to article: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2056305118764425>)
- Witteborn, S. (2019). The digital gift and aspirational mobility. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 22(6), 754–769. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367877919831020>

### Workshop 3B: Racial/ethnic diversity and whiteness in popular entertainment

#### [Jacco van Sterkenburg](#)

This workshop focuses on the meanings given to race and ethnicity (and its intersections with gender) within popular entertainment, in general, and mediated sport, in particular. Mediated sport is an interesting and highly relevant platform to explore meanings given to race and ethnicity in contemporary entertainment culture given its combination of whiteness in media production and

display of racial/ethnic diversity of athletes. In Western societies, most positions in sports journalism are held by White men. Previous studies have shown how this impacts on the discourses journalists draw on when representing athletes of various origins. This applies, in particular, to televised men's football as one of the most visible platforms of racial/ethnic diversity representing players of a great variety of backgrounds to massive audiences on a daily basis. As such, televised football can be considered a key 'catalyser' for interracial relations in today's society.

Drawing on insights from media studies, cultural studies, Critical Race Theory and the sociology of sport, students will have the opportunity to gather some data of their own and examine specific ways in which mediated sport as a popular cultural practice relates to hegemonic discourses surrounding race and ethnicity that can help reinforce and/or challenge institutionalized forms of racism. Students will also get the opportunity to reflect on how such meanings intersect with other social dimensions such as gender and nationality.

### Readings

- Bruce, T. (2004). Marking the boundaries of the 'normal' in televised sports: The play-by-play of race. *Media, Culture & Society*, 26, 861-879. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0163443704047030>  
Weblink to article: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0163443704047030>
- Hylton, K. & Lawrence, S. (2015). Reading Ronaldo: contingent whiteness in the football media. *Soccer & Society*, 5-6, 765-782. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14660970.2014.963310>  
Weblink to article: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14660970.2014.963310>
- Morning, A. (2009). Toward a sociology of racial conceptualization for the 21st century. *Social Forces*, 87, 1167-1192. <https://doi.org/10.1353/sof.0.0169>  
Weblink to article: <https://academic.oup.com/sf/article-abstract/87/3/1167/2235029>

Keynote III: 'Thick time': Experiments with feminist urban future in COVID19 community podcasts

### [Ayona Datta](#)

This keynote presentation expands the idea of thick time through experiments with feminist urban futures. Drawing upon William Kentridge's ideas of a 'thick time' of postcolonial fragmentation and simultaneity, this lecture will explore the idea of a future time as contextual and heavy with the memories of the past, and struggles in the present. Thick time represents a thickening of space with temporal crises accumulated over generations, reinforced through the technologies of timekeeping, time-management and their resultant time-burdens. This paper uses experimentation as method of examining thick time through a number of podcast training workshops with young millennial women living in resettlement colonies in Delhi's urban peripheries. These workshops turned into a series of four community podcasts which reflected upon several gendered struggles during the COVID19 lockdown including with time itself. These podcasts are marked by fragments of speech, poetry, and music by those who are unable to speak to the state or to their families directly, and thus document new and emergent temporalities of a city under crisis. Thick time is marked by repetition, futility, in-betweenness and unremarkability, and the lecture suggests that podcasts as experiments in ethical and value-laden notion of thick time can reveal the potentialities of feminist urban futures.

## Session 4 - Digital vigilantism, mediated visibility and their impacts on marginalized communities

### Daniel Trottier

Mediated visibility is a persistent condition in contemporary social life, with the potential to call attention to injustices and other actionable offences. People take to digital platforms to denounce and seek retribution against ideological opponents. In the age of #metoo and Black Lives Matter, this can serve to advance a progressive front against longstanding forms of discrimination. Yet digital vigilantism can also serve to reinforce hegemonic relations and bring harms to marginal communities. This session considers digitally mediated denunciation and shaming as fundamentally ambivalent practices. In particular we consider the ethical implications of handling data that – while already public – may bring further harm to targeted individuals and vulnerable groups.

#### Readings

- Gabdulhakov, R. (2019). In the bullseye of vigilantes: Mediated vulnerabilities of Kyrgyz labour migrants in Russia. *Media and Communication*, 7(2), 230-241. <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/mediaandcommunication/article/view/1927/1927>
- Jane, E. A. (2017). 'Dude... stop the spread': antagonism, agonism, and #manspreading on social media. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 20(5), 459-475. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367877916637151> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/297742013\\_'Dude\\_stop\\_the\\_spread\\_antagonism\\_agonism\\_and\\_manspreading\\_on\\_social\\_media/link/5bcfe4c64585152b14510ee3/download](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/297742013_'Dude_stop_the_spread_antagonism_agonism_and_manspreading_on_social_media/link/5bcfe4c64585152b14510ee3/download)
- Plesničar, M. M., & Šarf, P. (2020). 'This Web Page Should Not Exist': A Case Study of Online Shaming in Slovenia In D. Trottier, R. Gabdulhakov and Q. Huang (Eds.) *Introducing vigilant audiences* (pp. 187-213). Cambridge: Open Book Publishers. <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/10.11647/OBP.0200.pdf> (the following two chapters by Milbrandt and Douglas may also be of interest to students)

## Session 5 - Technologies as discourse; discourse as technologies

### Jiska Engelbert

Media Studies has always been characterized by converging (and sometimes even clashing) interdisciplinary intellectual histories, conceptual tools and methodological traditions. This session explores how this diversity provides a rich resource to map the myriad ways in which smart city technologies and applications feature in both social exclusion *and* in social change. Particular attention is paid to (appreciating) Media Studies' unique capacity to read smart city technologies as discourses that limit or enable inclusive urban imaginaries, but also to treat discourses about smart cities as technologies that govern the rules and conditions for social inclusion.

#### Readings

- Datta, A., & Thomas, A. (2021). Curating #AanaJaana [#ComingGoing]: Gendered authorship in the 'contact zone' of Delhi's digital and urban margins. *cultural geographies*, First published online, 24 March, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1474474021993415>. Vanolo, A. (2014). Smartmentality: The smart city as disciplinary strategy. *Urban Studies*, 51(5), 883-898.
- Zook, M. (2017). Crowd-sourcing the smart city: Using big geosocial media metrics in urban governance. *Big Data & Society*, 4(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951717694384>

## Bio notes keynote speakers and lecturers

### **Dr. Amanda Alencar**

Amanda Alencar is a digital migration scholar specialized in the study of media and social media in Europe and Latin America, with a focus on how communication technologies are shaping mobility and sociocultural integration processes of (forced) migrants. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media & Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Vice Chair of the Intercultural Communication Division within the International Communication Association (ICA). Alencar was a Research Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford University) and Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Amsterdam. She has guest edited two special issues in the (open-access) peer-reviewed journals *International Communication Gazette* and *Media and Communication* on the intersections between media, communication and forced migration processes.

### **Dr. Isabel Awad**

Isabel Awad is Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication and the Erasmus Research Centre for Media Communication and Culture. The main underlying theme of her research and teaching is the relationship between media and social justice. Within that theme, her work pays special attention to social actors' mediated strategies for social change. Her publications include articles in journals such as *Journal of Communication*, *European Journal of Communication*, *Journalism*, *Journalism Studies*, and *Information, Communication and Society*. Awad coordinates the Media, Culture and Society Master Program and co-leads the diversity and inclusion theme within the Erasmus Vital Cities and Citizens Initiative.

### **Prof.dr. Ayona Datta**

Ayona Datta is Professor in Human Geography in University College London, UK. Her research focuses on postcolonial urbanism, smart cities, urban futures, and gender citizenship. She is co-editor of *Urban Geography*, editorial board member of various other prestigious journals, and trustee for the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* (IJURR) Foundation. Datta is the author of *The Illegal City: Space, law and gender in a Delhi squatter settlement* (2012 Ashgate), co-editor of *Mega-urbanization in the global South: Fast cities and new urban utopias of the postcolonial state* (2017 Routledge) and *Translocal Geographies: Spaces, places, connections* (2011 Ashgate). She is also the producer/director of two films, 'City Bypassed' and 'City Forgotten,' and numerous contributions for *ConversationUK*, *The Guardian* and *openDemocracy*. Her research is funded by the European Research Council, SNSF, ESRC, AHRC and British Academy. In 2019, Datta was awarded the Busk Medal from the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) for her research on smart cities.

### **Dr. Jiska Engelbert**

Jiska Engelbert is Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication and the Erasmus Research Centre for Media Communication and Culture (ERMeCC). She is a Senior Researcher Fellow (2018-2021) at the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centre for BOLD Cities and the Erasmus Institute for Public Knowledge and co-leads the smart cities and communities theme within the Erasmus Vital Cities and Citizens Initiative. Engelbert's research focuses on the discursive construction of public issues under neoliberalism and the political economy of smart cities.

### **Dr. Melodine Sommer**

Mélodine Sommer is working as an Assistant Professor in Intercultural Communication at the Department of Media and Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam. She received her Ph.D from the University of Jyväskylä (Finland) with her work on representations of secularism as part of the French national imaginary in newspaper texts. Sommer's research interests cover a variety of

themes related to intercultural communication, media representations, race and racism, migration, sustainability, and education. Within the field of intercultural communication, her work concentrates on the use of culture as a discursive and an interactional resource. She mostly relies on critical and discursive approaches to examine the construction of cultural realities and outcomes regarding the (re)production of difference.

### **Prof.dr. Jacco van Sterkenburg**

Jacco van Sterkenburg is an Endowed Professor 'Race, inclusion and communication – specifically in relation to football and media' at the Erasmus Research Centre for Media Communication and Culture, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He is also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Mulier Institute – Dutch Centre for Social Science Research in Sport, the Netherlands. van Sterkenburg's research focuses mainly on discourses surrounding race/ethnicity and whiteness in multi-ethnic society, with a particular focus on the case of sports media and sport management and leadership. He is currently leading a 5-year international project that explores how discourses of race/ethnicity and whiteness are connected in televised football production, televised football content and audience receptions within diverse European countries.

### **Dr. Gavan Titley**

Gavan Titley is Senior Lecturer in Media Studies at Maynooth University and Docent in Media and Communications at the Swedish School of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. His research focuses on the politics of race, racism and multiculturalism in European politics, freedom of speech and ideas of 'hate speech' in digital media environments, the future of public service media, and the integration of social theory to media theory. Titley is the author of *Is free speech racist?* (2020 Polity Press), *Racism and media* (2019 Sage), *The crises of multiculturalism: Racism in a neoliberal age*, written with Alana Lentin (2011 Zed), and the co-editor of *After Charlie Hebdo: Terror, racism, free speech* (2017 Zed), *National conversations: Cultural diversity and public service media* (2014 Intellect), as well as the book series *Challenging migration studies* (Rowman & Littlefield). He is also an occasional contributor to *The Guardian*.

### **Dr. Daniel Trottier**

Daniel Trottier is an Associate Professor at the Department of Media and Communication of Erasmus University Rotterdam. His current research considers the use of digital media for the purposes of scrutiny, denunciation and shaming. He is the PI of a five-year NWO-funded project on this topic, entitled "Digital Vigilantism: Mapping the terrain and assessing societal impacts". Trottier previously held appointments as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Social and Digital Media at the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI), University of Westminster, as well as Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Department of Informatics and Media at Uppsala University Sweden, and the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta, Canada. Trottier completed a PhD in Sociology at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada.

### **Dr. Saskia Witteborn**

Saskia Witteborn is Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). She specializes in transnational migration and technologies and has worked with migrants in the United States, Europe, and East Asia. She researches the political economy of mobility, technology and forced migration, data privacy, and how artificial intelligence structures migration. Her research has appeared in leading journals and in edited collections. She is co-editor of the *SAGE Handbook of Media and Migration* (2019).