MEDIA THEORY CONFERENCE: NAPLES 2027

Call for Papers: Media Theory at “L’Orientale”, organised by Simon Dawes & Tiziana Terranova.

June 23-25, 2027
Università Degli Studi di Napoli “L’ Orientale”, Naples, Italy

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Following on from the first Media Theory Conference in Toronto in 2025, our second instalment will take place in Naples in 2027. Held at the Università Degli Studi di Napoli “L’ Orientale”, the 2-day Media Theory conference (23-24 June) is being organised to coincide with a 1-day event on Mediterranean Technocultures (25 June).

At a time where all that we have understood as media is undergoing profound change – “in terms of scale, integration with everyday life, transformation of the archive, and the growing convergence of media platforms with other domains such as transport, logistics, finance, health, and e-commerce” (McQuire, 2017) – new terms and concepts, and radical rethinking of assumptions, are required. Emphasising the importance of

abstraction, conceptualisation and problematisation (Fazi, 2017) and recognising the need to self-critically geopoliticise knowledge production (Shome, 2017), contributions to the Media Theory Conference are particularly encouraged that focus on *problematising* the concepts of 'media', 'theory' and 'media theory', *deprovincialising* (e.g. media theory from the global south; queering media theory), or *radicalising* open access publishing (remixing; rethinking peer-review; theorising 'openness' and 'access'), or that seek to bring into dialogue diverse theoretical and methodological approaches, so as to develop a transnational and transdisciplinary forum in which to collectively enable media theory and generate debate on academic publishing (Dawes, 2017).

We therefore invite proposals for papers for the conference on any aspect of media theory, including the following:

– Rethinking definitions of 'media([tiza]tion)', and 'communication/s';

– Rethinking distinctions between 'theory/ies' and 'philosophy/ies';

– Transcending disciplinary boundaries and deprovincializing theoretical debate;

– Readdressing neglected theorists and proposing alternative histories of media theory;

– Critiquing blindspots in dominant approaches and critically engaging with alternative or marginalised perspectives;

– Debating openness, independence, open access, peer-review and the role of an academic journal;

– As well as critical perspectives and alternative visions of Mediterranean technocultures.

Proposals of up to 500 words, accompanied by an indicative bibliography and a short biographical note, for 15-minute papers should be sent to the organisers of the conference, Simon Dawes (UVSQ-Paris Saclay, France) and Tiziana Terranova (Università Degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale", Italy), at editors@mediatheoryjournal.org by **Friday 30 October 2026**.
Emails should be sent with the subject line "Naples Conference: Abstract".
Decisions will be confirmed by Friday 27 November 2026. Registration fees and other details will follow closer to the time of the conference, and registration will be for both *Media Theory* and 'Mediterranean Technocultures' events. Participants will also be

encouraged to submit full article-length versions of their conference papers to the journal by December 1st 2027. Following the usual peer-review process, accepted articles will be published in a special section of *Media Theory* in 2028.

INFORMATIONS COMPLÉMENTAIRES

Organised by: Simon Dawes & Tiziana Terranova
Organising Committee: Gennaro Ascione, Edoardo Biscossi, Simon Dawes, Immacolata Egizio, M. Beatrice Fazi, Tiziana Terranova, Gioacchino Orsenigo, Stamatia Portanova, Luca Recano, Antonio Ricciardi.
Keynote Speakers *Media Theory*: M. Beatrice Fazi, Yuk Hui, Luciana Parisi and Tiziana Terranova
Keynote Speakers 'Mediterranean Technocultures': Iain Chambers, Donatella della Ratta (plus more to be confirmed)

About the journal:
Media Theory was established in 2017 as an independent (scholar-led), online and (libre) open access journal of peer-reviewed, theoretical interventions into all aspects of media and communications. Resolutely international and interdisciplinary in scope, the journal encourages submissions that critically engage with the theoretical frameworks and concepts that tend to be taken for granted in national or disciplinary perspectives. Following the inaugural issue of 'Manifestos' from the editorial collective, the journal has published special issues on 'Geospatial Memory', 'Revolting Media, 'Rethinking Affordance', 'Mediating Presents', 'Into the Air', 'Pharmacologies of Media', 'Critique, Postcritique and the Present Conjuncture', 'Seeing Photographically', 'Violent Labour' and 'Stimulating Media', as well as special sections on Ed Herman, Paul Virilio, Michel Serres, Lauren Berlant and Charles W. Mills, with forthcoming issues on 'Videogame Theory', 'Media Architectures' and 'Transnational Technocultures'. Although the journal privileges an emphasis on theory, the editors are not only concerned with theory for theory's sake. Rather, we are interested in how theoretically-informed and -engaged interventions can contribute to the interpretation of empirical research and critique, as well as to the deprovincialization of theoretical debate – helping us understand, rather than dismiss or describe, objects of critique, and making us reconsider the validity, efficacy and legitimacy of our own particular methodological approaches.

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