

Call for Abstracts

European Communication Research: What, whence, and whither?

50th Anniversary Conference of *Communications*:

The European Journal of Communication Research

Leipzig University, Germany

29–30 September 2025

Please submit abstracts to stefanie.averbeck-lietz@uni-greifswald.de by 15 April 2025. For more information, go to: <https://www.sozphil.uni-leipzig.de/institut-fuer-kommunikations-und-medienwissenschaft/professuren/professur-fuer-medien-und-kommunikationswissenschaft/european-communication-research-what-whence-and-whither>

In its 50th year, *Communications: The European Journal of Communication Research* invites to reconsider what European communication research is – and what it can be. From its start in 1975, the journal's mission has been to serve as a forum for scholarship and academic debate in the field of communication science and research from a European perspective. But what is in fact a European perspective?

The jubilee conference invites us to rethink what constitutes European communication research. This opens up a range of questions like: What are particular European preoccupations and key contributions to the wider debates? On which theoretical and methodological fundamentals does European communication research rest that set it apart from other inquiries? Is there a unique European contribution to global communication theories? How do assumedly European values of diversity, solidarity, or democracy shape communication research? How can European communication research explore the concept of a 'digital Europe'? Where does European communication research lead us, and what can or shall we expect from it that is different from work drawn out in other parts of the globe? How do we deal with linguistic barriers and the diversity of research traditions? And can we think of a European communication research beyond exceptionalism and essentialism?

These and similar questions had been around since the journal was launched, and they are still relevant today. They become virulent again in a context where Eurocentrism in research has been widely and rightly criticized while Europe's identity, its boundaries, its legacies, and values face increasing contestation. This ties questions of media and communication to Europe's political, legal, social, and economic formation that is in no way isolated, uniform, or static. Indeed, the attribute 'European' carries geopolitical as much as intellectual connotations with far-reaching consequences for the journal's scope, composition, and purpose.

The conference offers a moment to rethink what a European perspective could mean for scholarship and what kind of Europe is in fact evoked here. These reflections urge us to rethink the journal's role in fostering scholarship that is both inclusive and critically engaged with Europe's complexities. What kinds of questions can usefully be asked? What forms of critique are pertinent? What sorts of research should be drawn out? Which pathways should *Communications* follow to reaffirm its relevance and leadership in fostering impactful scholarship? Possible answers can come from a variety of areas given that the journal seeks to encompass the entire field of communication science as its domain of interest and the contributions published cover a wide range of subfields in communications.

The conference is open to theoretical and empirical approaches. It invites emerging and junior scholars as well as senior faculty to contemplate the peculiar character of European communication research.

Contributions can address, but are not limited to, the following aspects:

- Diversity and commonalities of European research traditions
- Legacies and foundations of European communication research
- Agendas and approaches in comparative research within Europe and beyond
- Regional and transborder communication
- Global dimensions, connections, and reverberations of European communication research
- Gaps and deficits of European communication research
- Pathways and pitfalls for European communication research
- Values and norms for European communication research

The conference will take place at the Department for Communication and Media Studies at Leipzig University, Germany. It is supported by de Gruyter publishers, the German Society for Communication Research (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kommunikationsforschung – DGKF), and the University of Greifswald.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts must be submitted via email (stefanie.averbeck-lietz@uni-greifswald.de) by 15 April 2025. Submissions must contain a front page with all information about the author(s) as well as an anonymized extended abstract (max. 500 words excl. front page and bibliographical references).

General Information

The conference will begin on Monday, 29 September 2025, and end on Tuesday, 30 September 2025. For updated information concerning the program, registration, accommodation, and travel, please visit our website
The registration fee is 150 Euro and includes lunch catering and coffee & tea breaks.

Key Dates

15 April 2025: deadline for abstract submissions
1 June 2025: notification of acceptance
1 July 2025: preliminary program online
15 August 2025: deadline for registration to the conference
29 to 30 September 2025: conference

Organizers and Contact

Prof Christian Pentzold, Leipzig University, Germany
Prof Stefanie Averbeck-Lietz, University of Greifswald, Germany
Prof Leen d’Haenens, Leuven University, Belgium

Email: stefanie.averbeck-lietz@uni-greifswald.de

Web: <https://www.sozphil.uni-leipzig.de/institut-fuer-kommunikations-und-medienwissenschaft/professuren/professur-fuer-medien-und-kommunikationswissenschaft/european-communication-research-what-whence-and-whither>

Conference Venue

Department of Communication and Media Studies, Leipzig University, Nikolaistraße 27-29, 04109 Leipzig, Germany