

media in AMERICA AMERICA in media



CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

Media in America, America in Media

25-26 March 2021

“The American media plays a bizarrely outsize role in American elections, occupying the place of most countries’ national election commissions. Here, the media actually assembles the results from 50 states, tabulates them and declares a victor. And — we can’t really help ourselves — the media establishes the narrative to explain what happened.”

Ben Smith, *How the Media Could Get the Election Story Wrong*
The New York Times, August 2, 2020

We invite the submission of abstracts for *Media in America, America in Media* international conference to be held online on 25-26 March 2021. This is the third edition of a joint effort of the American Studies and Political Science scholars who aim to generate a cross-disciplinary debate that brings together divergent yet complementary voices reflecting on American media environment and America’s portrayals in media across the globe.

The one thing we have certainly learnt since our first conference in 2017 is that there are no media trends that cannot be reversed. While in 2019 we hailed the dawn of the TV era, the 2020 annual media report prepared by the Reuters Institute and the University of Oxford in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic showed the increased consumption of traditional sources of news, especially television... However, some new digital behaviours that are likely to have long-term implications have also emerged in this crisis. Many have joined Facebook or WhatsApp groups for the first time and have engaged in local groups’ online activities. Young people of Generation Z (aged 18-24) have consumed more news through services like Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok and the use of Instagram for news has doubled since 2018 and looks likely to overtake Twitter over the next year. Video conferencing has become as a new platform for personal communication but has also changed the face of government press conferences. The media have embraced these new technologies in terms of remote working, but also in terms of the production and distribution of content. Due to falling revenues from traditional media outlets, in the last 12 months more publishers have started

charging for digital content or tightening paywalls and this is also beginning to have an impact. There is a growing fear of information inequality, where people with less money become more dependent on social media and other lower-quality news spreading damaging misinformation. There is also a question of a growing bias, yet interestingly, this is not a global phenomenon. Comparing 2020 with data from 2013, the Reuters report has shown the increased preference over time in the UK (+6) for news that has 'no particular point of view'. At the same time, the proportion that prefers news that 'shares their point of view' has declined by a similar amount (-6). On the other hand, in the United States, where both politics and the media have become increasingly partisan over the years, we do find an increase in the proportion of people who say they prefer news that shares their point of view – up six percentage points since 2013 to 30%.

Since the conference is being held under the patronage of the Polish Rhetoric Society, we are honoured to present our Keynote Speaker, [Dr. Jim A. Kuypers](#) (Virginia Tech's School of Communication), a pioneer in the area of rhetorical framing analysis in political communication.

The conference *Media in America, America in Media* addresses a wide variety of topics across the disciplines of media, political science, language and cultural studies. They may include the following themes, among others:

I. Media in America

1. Media and their representations in America

- Mass media, social media and personalized media
- Rhetoric of media in America - ideology, persuasion, manipulation past and present
- Media roles in the election process
- Media as a tool in identity formation

2. Media theories in America

- Contemporary American theories of communication and media
- Mediatization – American model vs. European model
- Rhetorical perspectives on *logos, ethos and pathos* in media
- Visual media studies, game studies – intertexts and intermediality

3. Media technologies in America

- Technological revolutions – trends and implications
- Media personalities - the role and ethos of a (digital) journalist
- Advertising - role, medium, case studies, micro-rhetorical situations
- Big Data, fake news, bots and apps – new concepts, new challenges

II. America in Media

1. Images of America in American media

- Representations of the majority and the minorities: ideological, feminist, religious, racial, ethnic, LGBTQ+ and other
- New phenomena, new audiences – America in TV series, podcasts, games, hashtags, infographics, tweets, pins...
- Adaptations in the media: history, literature and art in a new form

2. Images of America in foreign media

- American models – political and advertising campaigns, streaming platforms, newsrooms, sitcoms, talk shows, etc.
- American media and international reception – a comparative study
- Whose America? – a homogeneous or heterogeneous media image

Abstracts (150-250 words) in English + a short bio should be sent by **January 15th, 2021** to **media.ameryka@gmail.com**. There is no registration fee. The details can be found on the conference website <https://mediainamericainconference.wordpress.com/>.

For the 2021 edition of *Media in America, America in Media* conference publication we are pleased to announce the cooperation with two peer-reviewed open access academic journals: [Res Rhetorica](#) and [New Horizons in English Studies](#). The post-conference volumes are scheduled for publication in 2022.

Due to the interdisciplinary character of the conference, the invitation is addressed to representatives of all scientific disciplines dealing with the topic of media.

We look forward to seeing you at our online event,

The Organizing Committee

Anna Bendrat, Ph.D.
Elżbieta Pawlak-Hejno, Ph.D.
Anna Oleszczuk, M.A.
Agata Waszkiewicz, M.A.
Lidia Kniaź-Hunek, M.A.