



**MEDIA@LSE**  
Department of Media and Communications

## RESEARCH NEWSLETTER 2012



The Department of Media and Communications at LSE has continued to develop and expand its vibrant research and teaching environment since our 2011 newsletter was published. Having reached a critical mass of 15 permanent faculty, plus postdoctoral researchers, research visitors and part-time teachers, and with a couple of new lecturers due to arrive in 2012–13, we are now focused on enhancing the quality, visibility and impact of our research.

Complementing the global outreach work of our media think-tank, Polis, with its impressive line-up of events and speakers throughout the year, the Media Policy Project – begun this year – has gone from strength to strength, stimulated by the Leveson Inquiry, the announcement of a new Communications Act, and a Brussels-led coalition among CEOs working towards children's internet safety, among other key developments in the policy sphere.

The Department is host to several externally funded research projects, some of which are detailed in these pages. Faculty and research students participate in an array of multinational collaborations and thematic networks and this year, as ever, have presented their work at the key international conferences in our field.

Our research activities inform our multidisciplinary research-led teaching in the MSc Media and Communications (including Media and Communication Governance), MSc Politics and Communication, MSc Global Media and Communications (with Fudan University and with the University of Southern California), and MSc Media, Communication and Development. Together with our Doctoral programmes in Media and Communications, these attract some 225 students each year from around the world.

In the pages of this newsletter, we offer a snapshot of new findings, recently published books, research developments, doctoral student news and more. To learn more about our work, email us at [media@lse.ac.uk](mailto:media@lse.ac.uk) or join our regular email list for notices of public events at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sonia Livingstone'.

Professor Sonia Livingstone

Head of Department of Media and Communications

## ‘Terror as usual’: media cultures in an age of terror



Photo: Jens Franz

On 25 May 2012, Media@LSE, the London Screen Studies Group and Birkbeck College held a one-day symposium entitled “‘Terror as usual’: media cultures in an age of terror’. The day was organised by LSE’s Dr Shakuntala Banaji and Birkbeck’s Dr Dorota Ostrowska and deftly chaired by Dr Rachel Moore, Professor Chris Berry and Professor Mandy Merck from the Screen Studies Group.

The symposium’s focus encompassed a cross-disciplinary take on topics such as terror and the news; riots; the aesthetics of terror on screen; terror and the everyday; affective responses to terror in the media; and online jihadi networks; as well as

narratives/discourses of terror across media, formats and genres. We invited presentations which conceptualised terrorism in the wider context of the social production and distribution of fear and anxiety by and in the media.

A series of provocative presentations by Goldsmiths’ Professor John Hutnyk, LSE’s Senior Visiting Fellow Mina Al-Lami, Salford’s Dr Cristina Archetti, Queen Mary’s Dr Guy Westwell and SOAS’s Professor Mark Hobart were debated, sometimes fiercely, by an audience of 50 academics, research students (including LSE Media and Communications master’s students) and practitioners working with local diasporic communities or within the media. Questions were raised about almost every aspect of the study of media and terror, including the perspectives that work best, the type and extent of links between media and governments in perpetuating a culture of fear, the potential of particular technologies or genres to act as conduits for ‘radicalisation’ and the ways in which a historical perspective might inform current media and cultural research in these areas.

## Professor Nora Cruz Quebral awarded honorary doctorate

On 15 December 2011, the Department celebrated the award of an honorary doctorate to Professor Nora Cruz Quebral for her pioneering and continued contribution to the field of development communication. The awarding of the degree followed the department’s nomination, which was strongly supported by the global community of practitioners in development communication. The award is a symbol of appreciation for the role played by the College of Development Communication, University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), in institutionalising development communication teaching and research.

The award was presented as part of a colourful ceremony at LSE, after which the school hosted Professor Quebral and her family at a dinner.





## Demonstrations, riots and uprisings

### Mediated dissent in a changing communication environment

Report by Keren Darmon (PhD student)

Professor Simon Cottle visited LSE on 29 February 2012 to discuss both the theory and practice of the relationship between media and communications and demonstrations, riots and uprisings. He addressed the issue of the new media ecology and its implications for the reporting and representing of various forms of dissent.

In a discussion chaired by Dr Bart Cammaerts, Professor Cottle set out to:

- interrogate earlier findings from the research literature;
- discuss the changing media environment and the inter-penetration of new and old media and their dynamic interaction over time.

Professor Cottle started by setting the discussion in a historical context of media and protests, in

Twitter tends to trend after the event rather than before. In many ways, he stated, it was really a mobile phone revolution and not a social media one and that the same can be said about the British summer 2011 riots.

In addition, Professor Cottle stressed the importance of time in the study of recent protests and noted the case of the summer riots. He discussed how the frame of violence was predominant during the riots themselves and in their immediate aftermath, and how since then space has opened up to consider alternative frames such as social (in)justice.

This discussion led to a review of Lance Bennett's (1993) indexing model and Noam Chomsky's (1988) theory of manufacturing consent. He agreed that in Western democracies the media do tend to follow elites' line but contended that in times of disruption,

*'Twitter and Facebook have not been as instrumental in recent protests as first assumed, particularly in the context of the Arab spring'*

particular, the historically unequal power relations between the media and protestors; the implications of the fact that activists require media attention in order to gain legitimacy and to reach a wider audience; and the way in which the media have used language to denigrate the politics and personalities of those involved in protests.

Next, he examined the way in which the media have used images to empty out the political message of protests and, by and large, successfully relegated protests and their participants to the realm of gratuitous violence. Professor Cottle expressed amazement that, even in the current media environment, most British daily newspapers used the same violent image to represent the first night of the summer 2011 riots in London.

Considering the new media environment in more detail, Professor Cottle asserted that Twitter and Facebook have not been as instrumental in recent protests as first assumed, particularly in the context of the 'Arab spring'. Research shows, he claimed, that

cracks are created in which contestation of elite frames can be formed more easily. He then considered whether indexing theory is too nationally prescribed, especially in the case of transnational protest.

In the transnational context, Professor Cottle further considered whether spectacle and dramaturgy can now become vehicles for politics, to make us think and feel. This was discussed especially considering the new media ecology. He also asked whether new social media can be considered as the new public sphere or whether they are, in fact, just new public screens.

To conclude, Professor Cottle stressed that the important thing to consider in the discussion of mediated dissent in the new media environment is the inter-penetration and interaction between new and old media. The question to ask is: are new media changing mainstream reportage of dissent and, if so, is this a change towards a mainstream media that is more engaged with protests and their participants?

## Dial M for Murdoch

### *LSE public conversation*

Chaired by Damian Tambini, Martin Hickman and Tom Watson MP discussed their new book *Dial M for Murdoch* on 9 May 2012. *Dial M for Murdoch* 'looks to uncover the inner workings of one of the most powerful companies in the world: how it came to exert a poisonous, secretive influence on public life in Britain; how it used its huge power to bully, intimidate and cover up; and how its exposure has changed the way we look at our politicians, our police service and our press.'



## Polis LSE Literary Festival event

On 29 February 2012, Polis director Charlie Beckett spoke along with Heather Brooke and Nick Cohen on the subject of 'Censorship in an age of freedom', as part of the Polis LSE Literary Festival. The discussion focused on concerns about the extent to which secrecy still abounds, despite our living in a new media age where the increasing availability of information ought to enhance democratic debate.

## Engaging political Islam and the realities of the new Middle East

### *Middle East Centre Arab Uprisings Lecture Series*

On 17 January 2012, Wadah Khanfar (former director general of the Al Jazeera network) spoke about elections in Tunisia and Egypt and the arrival of Islamist parties into power. Chaired by Charlie Beckett, the discussion focused on the rise of Islamist parties across the Arab world, debates in the West about the 'problem' of political Islam, and tensions between Islamists and secularists within Arab countries.

## Mediatization in transcultural and transnational perspectives

The Department was delighted to co-sponsor the 'Mediatization in transcultural and transnational perspectives' workshop, together with Goldsmiths, University of London, on 30 and 31 March 2012. Sonia Livingstone is vice-chair of the ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association) Mediatization working group.

## Tubes: behind the scenes at the internet

### *LSE public lecture*

On 3 July 2012, Wired magazine's Andrew Blum gave an LSE public lecture, chaired by Ellen Helsper. The lecture discussed the internet as it exists in tubes, and argued for the importance of understanding the internet as a physical infrastructure rather than as an abstract 'cloud' of connectivity.

## MSc Global Media and Communications degrees awarded in California

On 11 May 2012, as part of the University of Southern California's (USC) 129th Commencement Ceremonies, graduates of the Department's MSc Global Media and Communications double degree were among some 872 USC Annenberg students celebrating the conferral of their degrees.



## NSPCC report

*'Sexting' from peers more concerning than 'stranger danger' to young people, warns the NSPCC*

An in-depth study launched by the NSPCC reveals the level that 'sexting' has reached among teenagers, with schoolgirls facing increasing pressure to provide sexually explicit pictures of themselves. Launching the study at a House of Commons event on 14 May, lead researcher Jessica Ringrose from the Institute of Education said: 'Girls are being pressured by text and on Blackberry messenger to send "special photos" and perform sexual services for boys from an early age. In some cases they are as young as eleven. Even while we were interviewing them they were being bombarded with these messages.'

The qualitative study, undertaken by the Institute of Education, King's College, the London School of Economics and the Open University, was based on focus groups and in-depth interviews with 35 young people aged 13–15 in two London schools. It shows that, while girls are increasingly savvy at protecting themselves from so-called 'stranger danger', sexting poses a new challenge they are unprepared

for, and that they feel unsupported by the culture of silence that surrounds this at school. While some girls are developing sophisticated techniques to deal with this pressure, others are left struggling to cope and feeling unsure of what to do.

As the Department's Professor Sonia Livingstone commented: 'Our study shows that some far-from-new practices of sexual harassment at school are now being amplified by the widespread availability of mobile phones, since these permit such rapid sharing, storing and manipulation of images. To address this problem, we need teachers and parents who both understand the technology but who can also understand how flirtatious or playful sexual banter among teens can so easily become coercive, especially for girls.'

The full report may be downloaded from the NSPCC website: [http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resources-forprofessionals/sexualabuse/sexting-research-report\\_wdf89269.pdf](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resources-forprofessionals/sexualabuse/sexting-research-report_wdf89269.pdf).

## Faculty teaching at LSE Summer School

Dr Shakuntala Banaji, Dr Myria Georgiou and Dr Ellen Helsper each taught on the 'IR140: Global Communications, Citizens and Cultural Politics' course, as part of the LSE Summer School. The course explores the role of media and communications with respect to contemporary issues of identity, citizenship, culture and conflict. It is framed within lively debates in relation to questions such as how films, television, music and new media impact on, and shape the lives and politics of, diverse groups of citizens and, in turn, what roles these media play in urban, regional and global processes of cultural change.

## New UKCCIS report

Written by Sonia Livingstone and Tink Palmer, a new report from UKCCIS's Evidence Group, 'Identifying vulnerable children online and what strategies can help them', reveals the latest findings from researchers, clinicians and child protection experts on what makes some children vulnerable on the internet.

## The Class

In collaboration with Dr Julian Sefton-Green, Sonia Livingstone's work on *The Class* in the newly funded MacArthur project on Connected Learning launched in 2012. The Connected Learning Research Network joins a series of innovative new projects seeking a common approach for how to expand educational opportunity in the digital age. For more about the connected learning community, visit [www.connectedlearning.tv](http://www.connectedlearning.tv) and [www.clrn.dmlhub.net](http://www.clrn.dmlhub.net).

## Success at Campus MovieFest

MSc Global Media and Communications student Yuliya Kogay was on the team that produced 'Mind the Gap', one of nine UK finalists in the world's largest student film festival. The film is available to view on the Campus MovieFest website (<http://www.campusmoviefest.com/movies/11098-mind-the-gap>).



## Researching children's experiences online

*EU Kids Online II is a major cross-national research project co-ordinated by Professor Sonia Livingstone and Dr Leslie Haddon, surveying European children's experiences of the internet, with a focus on uses, activities, risks and safety.*

### EU Kids Online



In the past year, EU Kids Online has entered the third phase of its work – networking multi-disciplinary teams in 33 countries. The project has several goals:

1. To update our European evidence database, originally started in 2006. There has been lots of recent research in Europe and beyond, and we'll be including summaries of key findings on children's internet use and risk on our searchable database at: [www.eukidsonline.net](http://www.eukidsonline.net)
2. To conduct in-depth analyses of our 2010 EU Kids Online survey dataset, including making comparisons to other datasets, past and present.
3. Next year we will be conducting focus group interviews with children around Europe, examining their perceptions and understandings of the changing online environment.
4. In the meantime, we continue to advise on national and international policy and research initiatives. For example, our latest report focuses on evidence-based recommendations to the European Commission's CEO Coalition on making the internet a better place for kids – see: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/44213/>.

Examples of recently published findings include the following:

- children who experience more than average psychological difficulties also encounter more online risks and more harm, while their parents often lack confidence to support them. See: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39385/>
- around 60% of those who bully others have been bullied by others – this applies to on-line and offline bullying. See: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39601/>
- 38% of European 9–12 year olds have a social networking profile and a quarter of those have their profile 'set to public'. See: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/35849/>
- findings on how parents can keep their children safe online are at: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/id/eprint/42872>
- an overview of all our policy recommendations is summarized here: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/39410/>.

EU Kids Online has now lodged its dataset with responses from children in 25 countries (25,142 of them in all) in the UK Data Archive – so now any researcher can mine the dataset for further insights.

## Facilitating dialogue in a changing media environment

Against the backdrop of the ongoing Leveson Inquiry into press standards, this year the Department aimed to advance discussions on media concentration and plurality and its implications for ethics, accountability and citizens' rights and freedoms as rulemaking in the field moves steadily towards increased convergence and harmonization.

Now in its second year, the LSE Media Policy Project (LSE MPP) continues to facilitate dialogue between academics, media practitioners, civil servants and civil society groups on pertinent regulatory issues in a changing media environment. Intent on feeding new research findings into current legislative debate, its recent efforts have included:

- the Pan-European Forum on Media Pluralism and New Media in Brussels on 27 June, which was organized by a coalition of civil society organizations, along with the European Parliament and the European Commission, and was attended by more than 700 participants. The LSE MPP is currently drafting a report on the forum that will be discussed at a follow-up workshop in Florence in September with officials from the European Commission.
- a policy workshop at the House of Commons on Nick Anstead and Ben O'Loughlin's policy brief on semantic polling, co-organized on 6 July with the Hansard Society. The gathering generated a lively discussion, including a constructively critical view from renowned pollster Bob Worcester, senior adviser to Ipsos/Mori and a governor of LSE.
- a breakfast meeting with LSE corporate relations on media plurality on 7 July, which was chaired by Polis director Charlie Beckett and drew



Actor Hugh Grant spoke at the Pan-European Forum in Brussels on 27 June. Damian Tambini, director of the Media Policy Project and a co-organizer of the event, also spoke.  
(Photo: SpreePiX - Berlin)

in representatives from the government, the independent media regulator Ofcom and the Leveson Inquiry.

- the publication of the MPP's sixth and seventh policy briefs on reforming the Press Complaints Commission and on media plurality and power, both of which were widely circulated and submitted officially as evidence for Lord Justice Leveson's consideration. LSE MPP director Damian Tambini was subsequently asked to give oral evidence to the inquiry on 18 July.

For more information on its activities and initiatives, visit the LSE MPP blog: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mediapolicyproject>.

### Other key MPP topics

- net neutrality, online rights and the web-blocking provisions of the Digital Economy Act
- media literacy, universal broadband and the Digital Agenda for Europe
- open data and the right to information
- privacy, online security and mobile filtering

The LSE MPP project is managed by Dr Damian Tambini and made possible by a generous grant from the Open Society Foundation Media Program.

## Dr Nick Anstead

Nick Anstead spoke at a lunchtime seminar at the Rand Corporation in Los Angeles on 17 May. Drawing on recent research conducted with Professor Ben O'Loughlin, Royal Holloway, University of London, Nick spoke about the evolving nature of public opinion measurement, especially in the light of newly developed techniques to examine large quantities of social media data with sentiment analysis techniques.

## Dr Bingchun Meng

Bingchun Meng's published articles in 2012 include:

- 'Commons/commodity: peer production caught in the web of the commercial market' (with F. Wu, *Information, Communication and Society*).
- 'Underdetermined globalization: media consumption via P2P networks' (*International Journal of Communication*, 6, 467-483).

## Dr Ellen Helsper

Ellen Helsper published a number of articles in 2012, including:

- 'A corresponding fields model of digital inclusion' (*Communication Theory*).
- 'Patterns of digital engagement: the validity of cross-cultural comparisons' (*The Information Society: An International Journal*, 28(2)).
- 'Meeting online strangers among European children' (with D. Smahel, M. Barbovski and L. Dedkova, proceedings of the 15th European Conference on Developmental Psychology, Bologna, Italy, 419-22).
- 'Which children are fully online?' (in S. Livingstone, L. Haddon and A. Goerzig (eds) *Children, Risk and Safety Online: Research and Policy Challenges in Comparative Perspective* (Policy Press: Oxford).
- 'Digital literacies: different cultures, different definitions' (in S. Stergioulas and H. Drenoyian (eds) *Pursuing Digital Literacy in Compulsory Education*, New Literacy and Digital Epistemology Series (Peter Lang Publishing Group: Oxford).

## Dr Bart Cammaerts

Bart Cammaerts edited *Mediation and Protest Movements* (with A. Matoni and P. McCurdy, Bristol: Intellect). In the wake of myriad stories about social upheaval from Tunisia to California over the past year, the book explores the nature of the relationship between protest movements, media representation, and communication strategies and tactics. This edited collection aims to bridge the often-perceived gap between social movement theory and media and communication studies, bringing together scholars from social movement theory who have reflected on the importance of media and communications in protest movements with scholars from media and communications studies who have engaged with social movement theory.



## Dr Shakuntala Banaji

Shaku Banaji published a number of articles and chapters in 2012, including:

- 'A tale of three worlds: young people, media and class in India' (in Hensler, C. (ed) *Generation X Goes Global*, New York/London/New Delhi: Routledge).
- 'Social media and self-curatorship: reflections on identity and pedagogy through blogging on a masters module' (with John Potter, in *Comunicar: Scientific Journal of Media Education*, 38(XIX), special issue: Media Literacy in Multiple Contexts).
- "Bollywood" adolescents: young viewers discuss childhood, class and Hindi films' (in Benwell, B., Proctor, J. and Robinson, G. (eds) *Postcolonial Audiences: Readers, Viewers and Reception*, London, New Delhi and New York: Routledge).

She will also publish *The Civic Web: Young People, the Internet and Civic Participation in Europe* (with D. Buckingham, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press) in 2013.



## Professor Robin Mansell

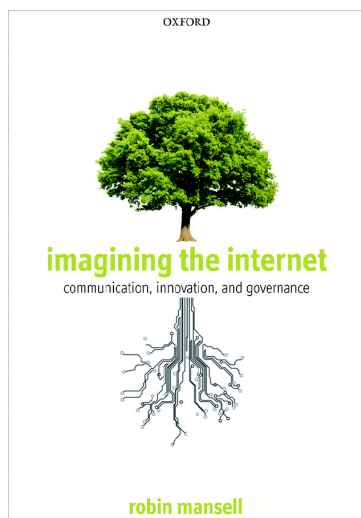
Robin Mansell's new book *Imagining the Internet: Communication, Innovation and Governance* offers a critical synthesis of key challenges in the internet age. It tackles challenging issues for policy and regulation (including network neutrality, intellectual property rights, privacy and surveillance issues), and provides an interdisciplinary framework drawing upon theories in the social sciences, including science and technology policy studies and media and communications, to examine the paradoxes of life online in the 21st century.

Do innovative network technologies, including the internet, contribute to progress, social cohesion, democracy and growth, or do they privilege certain goals over others? *Imagining the Internet* is a critical analysis of the way we experience the internet in front of the screen and of developments behind the screen. It suggests ways in which governance might move to enable greater citizen empowerment. Chapters focus on: fast forwarding through the information society; social imaginaries of the information society; communication, complexity and paradox; communication systems in everyday life; emergence and communication systems; and political firestorms in communication policy.

Robin has presented lectures highlighting arguments in the book at Free University of Brussels, Tallinn University (<http://tlu.toru.ee/?page=detail&id=91b1ec-eafd64>) and Roskilde University (<http://orecomm.net/videos/>, available at bottom of webpage).

She will give an LSE Public Lecture on themes in the book on 16 October 2012. The book was published by Oxford University Press in July 2012 (see <http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199697052.do>).

Robin is also working with a team (Evangelia Berdou and Gerry Bloom) at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, and others based in Sri



Lanka, India and Bangladesh. The project has won £100,000 from the Institute's 'Tomorrow Today' initiative to bootstrap the preparation of externally funded proposals on the theme "Not Just Talk": Practice, Power, Knowledge and Information and Communication Technologies (TPPI).

ICT applications, especially using mobile phones and the internet, are reaching rural and peri-urban communities and urban locations in the poorest countries. This is giving rise to claims about their potential for pro-poor development. For some this marks an historic shift from donor/state-driven ICT interventions towards bottom-up development. This new programme will aim to generate a critical and policy-relevant stream of research on the multiple interests and perspectives that are driving developments in this area. The overarching research question is: 'What specific opportunities and challenges do the latest wave of ICT innovations present for poor and vulnerable communities?'

The theoretical framework couples insights into the socio-cultural embeddedness of scientific and technical knowledge and the need to challenge 'expert' knowledge with traditions focusing on structural conditions and the political and economic interests of communities of actors involved in initiating ICT applications. Initially the empirical focus will be on ICT innovation for e-health interventions and on ICT innovation in crisis response situations.

## Charlie Beckett

Charlie Beckett's book *WikiLeaks: News in the Networked Era* (with James Ball) was published by Polity. It is the first book to examine WikiLeaks fully and critically and its place in the contemporary news environment. The book combines inside knowledge with the latest media research to argue that the significance of WikiLeaks should be seen as part of the shift in the news to a network system that is contestable and unstable.

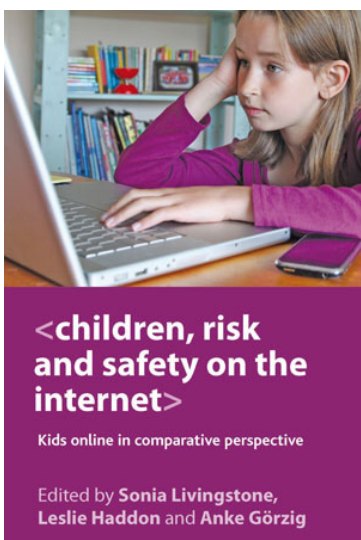
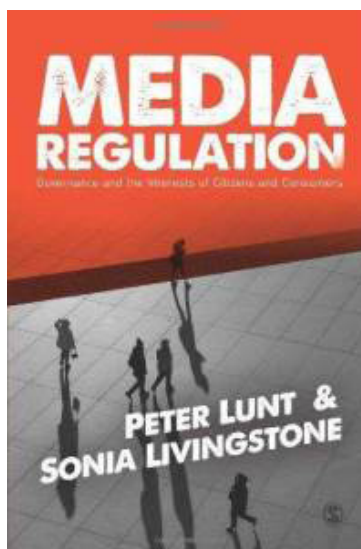


## Professor Sonia Livingstone

Sonia Livingstone published *Media Regulation: Governance and the Interests of Citizens and Consumers* (with Peter Lunt, SAGE). The book explores the way that regulation affects the relations between government, the media and communications market, civil society, citizens and consumers. Drawing on theories of governance and the public sphere, the book critically analyzes issues at the heart of today's media, from the future of public service broadcasting to burdens on individuals to develop their media literacy.

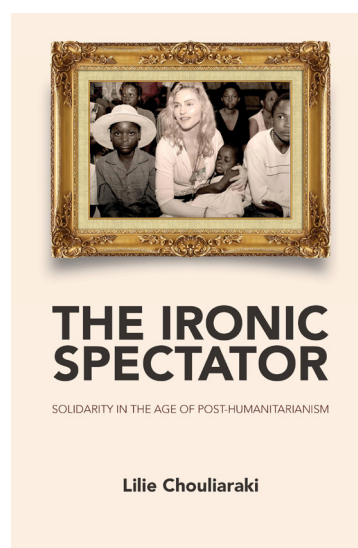
Lunt and Livingstone incisively lay bare shifts in governance and the new role of the public sphere which implicate self-regulation, the public interest, the role of civil society and the changing risks and opportunities for citizens and consumers.

Along with Leslie Haddon and Anke Görzig, Sonia also edited *Children, Risk and Safety on the Internet: Research and Policy Challenges in Comparative Perspective* (The Policy Press). As internet use is extending to younger children, there is an increasing need for research focusing on the risks, as well as the opportunities, young users are experiencing, and how they should cope. With expert contributions from diverse disciplines and a uniquely cross-national breadth, this timely book examines the prospect of enhanced opportunities for learning, creativity and communication set against the fear of cyberbullying, pornography and invaded privacy by both strangers and peers.



## Professor Lilie Chouliaraki

Lilie Chouliaraki published *The Ironic Spectator: Solidarity in the Age of Post-Humanitarianism* (Polity), which discusses how solidarity towards vulnerable others is performed in our media environment. It argues that stories where famine is described through our own experience of dieting, or where solidarity with Africa translates into wearing a cool armband, tell us about much more than the cause that they attempt to communicate. They tell us something about the ways in which we imagine the world outside ourselves. By showing historical change in Amnesty International and Oxfam appeals, in the Live Aid and Live 8 concerts, in the advocacy of Audrey Hepburn and Angelina Jolie, as well as in earthquake news on the BBC, *The Ironic Spectator* shows how solidarity has today come to be not about conviction but choice, not vision but lifestyle, not others but ourselves – turning us into the ironic spectators of other people's suffering.



Lilie also edited *Self-Mediation: New Media, Citizenship and Civil Selves* (Routledge), which explores the dynamics of mediated self-representation as an essentially ambivalent cultural phenomenon. Blogs, YouTube, citizen journalism, social networking sites and museum interactivity are hailed as a new, playful form of citizenship that enhances democratic participation and cosmopolitan solidarity. But, as *Self-Mediation's* chapters ask, is this celebration of self-mediation justified or premature?

## Dr Myria Georgiou

Myria Georgiou edited a special issue of *Ethnic and Racial Studies* entitled 'Gender, migration and the media: politics of representation in a mediated world' (volume 35, number 5, May 2012). The issue explores how mediated representations of gender, ethnicity and migration play an increasingly important role in the way these categories are understood in the public sphere and the private realm. As media often intervene in processes of individual and institutional communication, they provide frameworks for the production and consumption of representations of these categories. Thus media – in their production, representations and consumption – need to be analysed not only as reflections of pre-existing socio-

political realities, but also as constitutive elements in the production of meanings of the self and the other. The special issue includes nine articles that examine the articulations of gendered ethnic identities and of gendered citizenship as these are shaped in media production, media representations and media consumption.

In 2012 Myria also published:

- 'Between strategic nostalgia and banal nomadism: explorations of transnational subjectivity among Arab audiences' (*International Journal of Cultural Studies*).
- 'Watching soap opera in the diaspora: cultural proximity or critical proximity?' (*Ethnic and Racial Studies*, (35)5, pp. 868–87).

## Research Dialogues

### Keywords in media and communications

The fortnightly lunchtime Research Dialogues series brings together scholars from within the Department and beyond, with presenters invited to discuss their work in relation to key themes.

### Consumption/production

Week 3, Lent term

- Bingchun Meng, Lecturer, Department of Media and Communications
- Jannis Kallinikos, Professor of Information Systems, Department of Management
- Paolo Dini, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Media and Communications

### Subaltern/resistance

Week 5, Lent term

- Shakuntala Banaji, Lecturer, Department of Media and Communications
- Bart Cammaerts, Senior Lecturer, Department of Media and Communications
- Pollyanna Ruiz, LSE Fellow, Department of Media and Communications

### Agency/structure

Week 7, Lent term

- Alicia Blum-Ross, LSE Fellow, Department of Media and Communications
- Lars Nyre, Visiting Fellow, Department of Media and Communications

## The image and imaginary

Week 1, Summer term

- Robin Mansell, Professor of New Media and the Internet, Department of Media and Communications
- Shani Orgad, Lecturer, Department of Media and Communications

## Integration/segregation

Week 3, Summer term

- Vikki Katz, School of Communication & Information, Rutgers University
- Myria Georgiou, Lecturer, Department of Media and Communications

## Liminality

Week 7, Summer term

- Tal Morse, PhD student, Department of Media and Communications
- Rafal Zaborowski, PhD student, Department of Media and Communications

## Mediation

Week 9, Summer term

- Andreas Hepp, University of Bremen and Visiting Researcher, Goldsmiths, University of London
- Aleks Krotoski, Visiting Fellow, Department of Media and Communications
- Yinhan Wang, PhD student, Department of Media and Communications



*The Department hosts a number of Visiting Fellows from a variety of institutions around the world, and welcomed several new fellows in 2012.*

## Mina Al-Lami

Mina Al-Lami's article 'Mobilization and violence in the new media ecology: the Dua Khalil Aswad and Camilia Shehata cases' was published in the *Critical Studies on Terrorism* journal (co-authored with A. Hoskins and B. O'Loughlin). The article shows how digital media make it easy for political and religious movements to turn the suffering of individual women into propaganda opportunities, looking at two startling cases in Iraq and Egypt. It also argues, however, that processes of digital emergence are beyond anyone's control, leading to unintended consequences for many involved in these terrible events, as well as looking at online mobilization and connections between online narratives and offline action.

Mina published an article entitled '[Undercover] jihadists invite you to be friends on Facebook: the challenge of clandestine cells' (in *Caught in the Net? Global Google-Cultures* (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)). It explores how Facebook has been a recurrent target for jihadist propagation and recruitment efforts. With operational blunders that saw the failure of their first endeavour in late 2008, a year later jihadists learned their lesson and completely revised their 'Facebook invasion' strategy. Phase III of the 'Al-Nusra invasion' campaign plans a decentralized undercover operation that would overcome surveillance and detection and pose a challenge to all. But just how jihad-friendly is Facebook? This article looks at the jihadist 'Facebook invasion' strategies and efforts and a case study to illustrate the pros and cons of 'Facebook jihad'.

Mina was also part of an Open University project that looked at social media uses in the BBC's Arabic service, specifically how BBC Arabic mobilizes social media to foster a 'global conversation', and the differences that can be observed between the principles and empirical realities of social media debate at BBC Arabic. This project has so far resulted in a co-authored report for the BBC (with Marie Gillespie) entitled 'Social media and BBC Arabic', along with a conference paper entitled 'Dissenting citizens, Islamist politics and social media activism: the Egyptian elections 2011–12 and BBC Arabic'.

## Dr Pilar Carrera

Pilar Carrera was a Visiting Fellow in the Department (May–July 2012), based at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Dr Carrera's research concerns a genealogy of participation and interactivity for online environments. This involves a focus on how the emergence of social media has put traditional communications theory notions such as 'participation', 'interactivity' and 'feedback' squarely in the spotlight, yet in a manner that calls for greater contextualization of these concepts within the field of mass media.

## Christopher Dawes

Christopher Dawes is a Visiting Senior Fellow in the department for the period May 2012 – May 2014, researching UK and international media regulation.

## Dr Paolo Dini and Claire Milne

Paolo Dini and Claire Milne authored a May 2012 report (with Robert Milne) on 'The costs and benefits of superfast broadband in the UK' (sponsored through LSE Enterprise by Convergys Smart Revenue Solutions).

## Dr Anke Görzig

Anke Görzig will be working in the Department as a Visiting Fellow until November 2014. She is based at the Anna Freud Centre, University College London. She is working with Professor Sonia Livingstone on the ongoing EU Kids Online project.

## Nadje Hahn

Nadje Hahn is a Visiting Fellow with Polis who is exploring how the quality of journalism changes online. She is a reporter at the Austrian broadcaster ORF and is visiting as the first fellow invited under a new research fellowship offered to enable journalists to study in the Department (supported by the European Broadcasting Union).

## Dr Stijn Joye

Stijn Joye is based at Ghent University, Belgium. He visited the department over the period January – April 2012 as a Visiting Fellow, focusing on 'The role of media in representing distant suffering from a discourse analytical and audience-oriented perspective'.

## Dr Aleks Krotoski

Based at *The Guardian*, Aleks Krotoski visited the Department as a Visiting Fellow during the period January – August 2012. Her current research focuses on ‘Can you programme love? The design decisions in web technologies that “clean up” the “messy” human attributions of relevance, value, identity, relationships, access and privacy’. With Jeremy Hunsinger, Aleks edited *Learning and Research in Virtual Worlds* (Routledge).

## Dr Joe Khalil

Joe Khalil is based at Northwestern University, Qatar. He visited the Department during the period May – June 2012 as a Visiting Fellow, focusing on ‘The making of youth-generated media’.

## Dr Fatima el Issawi

Fatima el Issawi is a Visiting Fellow with Polis (January 2012 – May 2013). She is working on a four-country study of how the mainstream Arab media is adjusting to the new post-revolutionary environment in the region (with funding from the Open Society Foundation).

Entitled ‘Arab revolutions: media revolutions’, the project aims to study the implications of the ‘Arab spring’ for the practices and values of the Arab media scene in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Bahrain. The project strives to investigate the transformations brought by the changing political landscape to Arab media (state and private) towards democratization and the elaboration of an informed public opinion. Using case studies and qualitative interviews, the project aims to provide original empirical data that will shed light on ‘media revolutions’ encouraged by unprecedented political change in the Arab world.

The project will also look into the interactions between social media and traditional media and the influence of social media on the production practices of traditional journalists, as well as their uses of new media platforms. The research will reflect the ‘media revolution’ from the perspective of the newsrooms of mainstream media, taking into account different actors such as reporters and editors and the role of professional unions, the legal framework, regional and global news media and citizen journalism.

## Uvindu Kurukulasuriya

Based at the Colombo Telegraph, Uvindu Kurukulasuriya is a Visiting Fellow in the Department over the period May 2012 – April 2013. He is focusing on the ‘Role of journalists’ unions in media self-regulation’.

## Dr Frederik Lesage

Frederik Lesage visited the Department as a Visiting Fellow over the period January – May 2012. Based at Simon Fraser University, his research focuses on the infrastructural transformation taking place within cultural and creative practices related to digital design, and the way industry professionals articulate the personal desktop metaphor as a means of organizing their digital design work.

## Dr Lars Nyre

Lars Nyre’s Visiting Fellowship at the Department ended in February 2012. Based at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies at the University of Bergen, Lars’s research is entitled ‘Lack of anonymity in smartphone use: a qualitative experiment with tracking of informants in rural western Norway and urban London’.

## Dr Charo Sadaba

Charo Sadaba is a Visiting Fellow in the Department during the period May 2012 – June 2013. Based at the School of Communication, University of Navarra, her current research is entitled ‘Exploring the relationship minors-ICTs, with a particular focus on Latin American countries’.

## Dr Shenja van der Graaf

Based at IBBT-SMIT, Shenja van der Graaf is a Visiting Fellow in the Department during the period May 2012 – April 2013. Dr van der Graaf’s research focuses on media users and cultures, socio-digital systems, and usable privacy, security and trust.

## John Carr

John Carr is a Visiting Senior Fellow for the period May 2012 – April 2015. His research will focus on the uses of the internet and associated digital technologies by children and young people.

## 5th Media@LSE PhD Symposium

*Report by Naya Hadzipani (PhD student)*

On Friday 15 June 2012 we celebrated the fifth Media@LSE PhD Symposium. Inspired by recent social and political events around the globe, this year's Symposium was devoted to the theme of 'Cosmopolitanism, new media and protests'. It brought together an impressively diverse group of research students from all over the world, including the UK, USA, France, Israel, Germany, Russia, Belgium and Denmark, from a great variety of disciplines and universities.

Professor Lilie Chouliaraki, Director of the Department's PhD programme, opened the symposium by highlighting its interdisciplinary nature and international orientation. 'One of the key aims of this annual landmark event is to facilitate a lively intellectual conversation among members of an international PhD research community,' Professor Chouliaraki commented.

In his keynote address, Dr Bart Cammaerts, Senior Lecturer in the Department, delivered a stimulating argument on 'Transnational networks of contention: mediated movement spill-overs', which set the tone for the day. In total, the symposium included 13 papers by PhD research students which explored the mediation of protests through new media platforms as they expand within and beyond national borders. The presentations provided original analytical frameworks and empirical data on the crucial role new media and the internet have played in recent global events, including the revolution in Egypt, the Occupy movement, social and religious protests in Israel, citizen empowerment movements in China and Russia, and anti-fascist protests in Europe.

Participants engaged in intense discussions on the challenges and opportunities of new media platforms for the constitution of cosmopolitan communities, activism and social change. At the same time, the conference reflected on the distinction between the symbolic and the material, the online and offline, and the tension between the local and the global.

Organized by PhD students in the Department, the Media@LSE PhD symposium was established in 2008 to give research students the opportunity to develop not only their academic interests but also a cluster of professional skills. Dr Cammaerts, who will take over as the new director of the MPhil/PhD programmes in the 2012-13 academic year, commented: 'The Media@LSE PhD symposium not only provides a convivial atmosphere for PhD researchers to share their work and reflect on the symposium's theme, but also constitutes a learning experience for all those involved, in terms of how to organize an academic event, review abstracts and chair a session, as well as how to engage and network with peers.'





## PhD student news

### Gregory Asmolov

Gregory was an invited lecturer at the Department of Media and Communications at Moscow's Higher School of Economics where he gave a course on 'Social network, new media and democracy: an introduction to the network society' to master's students.

Gregory was chosen as the Polis Silverstone Scholar for 2012. He spoke about the Russian elections and social media as part of a discussion entitled 'It's a social world: how is social media changing the way we report the world?' at the 'Reporting the World' Polis journalism conference.

Gregory was also an organizer and speaker for a panel discussion entitled 'Information technologies and the Russian elections: does the internet matter?', which took place at the Internews Network in Washington DC.

### Max Hänsa

Max co-authored a study on the role of social media in communicating the 2009 post-election protests in Iran and in the Arab uprisings of 2011. The study argues that collaborations between ordinary citizens reporting the protests through social media and professional journalists evolved over the period 2009–11. The study was published as 'Who's reporting the protests? Converging practices of citizen journalists and two BBC World Service newsrooms, from Iran's election protests to the Arab uprisings' (with Roxanna Shapour, *Journalism Studies*).

### Sally Broughton-Micova

Sally's chapter 'Born into crisis: public service broadcasters in South-East Europe' was published as part of *Regaining the Initiative for Public Service Media* (Gothenburg: Nordicom), edited by G.F. Lowe and J. Steemers.

### Vivi Theodoropoulou

Vivi was successfully examined on her thesis in February 2012 and was awarded her PhD (entitled 'The introduction of digital television in the UK: a study of its early audience') in March. It explores the diffusion and adoption of interactive digital television in the UK by its 'first-generation' audience/users, drawing on both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Revealing a slice of time in British media and audience history, the thesis argues that a number of forces and factors (technological, historical, political, legal, market and consumer) influence the shaping and meaning construction of a new medium.

The thesis exemplifies these by analysing early digital television in terms of the circuit of culture and re-counting its biography as manifested in the moments of production and design, representation, and particularly consumption. In empirically addressing the relationship between new media diffusion and social change by drawing on domestication theory, its key theoretical contribution is in advancing the theory of diffusion of innovations, expanding its theoretical and methodological scope by examining social and cultural processes within the household and people's lives.

## Members of staff leaving

Dr Linje Manyozo and Jean Morris left the Department to pursue new opportunities. The Department would like to thank Linje and Jean for their hard work and contribution over the years.

## New members of staff

The Department welcomed Al Challis and Gemma James as Research Administrator and MSc Administrator respectively. Furthermore, in January 2013 Dr Alison Powell and Dr Wendy Willems will join the Department as Lecturers.

## Noam Schimmel

Noam's recent conference presentations include 'The role of empathy in Barack Obama's political rhetoric and vision of social solidarity' (at the 'Empathy, Self, Society and Culture' conference, University of Indiana, 12 November 2011); 'Appropriating conservative rhetoric for liberal ends: libertarian ideas in Obama's healthcare reform' (Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 18 November 2011); 'Obama's delicate balance: moral and practical emphases in Obama's healthcare reform rhetoric' (American Political Science Association, Seattle, Washington, 3 September 2011); and 'The evolution of healthcare reform policy from Truman to Obama: the triumph of conservatism' (2012 Policy History Conference, Richmond, Virginia).

Noam also published several articles during the 2011–12 academic year, including 'The moral case for restorative justice as a corollary of the responsibility to protect: a Rwandan case study of the insufficiency of impact of retributive justice on the rights and well being of genocide survivors' (*Journal of Human Rights*, volume 11, issue 2, 2012); 'The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village: community development for Rwandan orphans and its impact on orphaned genocide survivors' (*Progress in Development Studies*, volume 11, issue 3, 2011); and 'An invisible genocide: how the Western media failed to report the 1994 Rwandan genocide of the Tutsis and why' (*International Journal of Human Rights*, volume 15, number 7, 2011).

## PhD alumni news

### Dr Ranjana Das

Ranjana Das was appointed Lecturer at the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Leicester in April 2012.

### Dr Michael Skey

Michael Skey currently teaches sociology at the University of East London. His book, *National Belonging and Everyday Life: The Significance of Nationhood in an Uncertain World*, was published at the end of 2011 (Palgrave Macmillan). It focuses on ethnic majorities in Western settings and argues that their largely taken-for-granted status is used to underpin claims to key material and ontological benefits.

#### National Belonging and Everyday Life

The Significance of Nationhood in an Uncertain World

Michael Skey



# MEDIA@LSE

Department of Media and Communications

Department of Media and Communications  
London School of Economics & Political Science  
Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE, UK  
[www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse](http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse)  
[media@lse.ac.uk](mailto:media@lse.ac.uk)

Twitter  
Media@LSE – @medialse  
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LSE Media Group – @lsemediagroup  
Polis – @PolisLSE