



MEDIA@LSE

Department of Media and Communications



New Research Newsletter - Media and Communications Department at LSE

We launch the first of our updates on research in the Media and Communications Department at time when the department is growing in academic staff numbers and has just had its strong position in the communication, culture and media studies field in the UK confirmed by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. 75 per cent of our research was judged to be 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' and on grade point average, we were rated third-best in the UK of 47 ranked departments.

Rapid change in media, technology and society demands dynamic, imaginative and critical research to keep pace with it and this has been our aim since we were established as a department at LSE in 2003. Our research encompasses the global and the local, the institutional and the everyday. We develop interdisciplinary perspectives on issues and themes including Communication, Identity and Difference; Democracy, Politics and Journalism Ethics; Globalisation and Comparative Studies; Innovation, Governance and Policy; and Media and New Media Literacies.

Our department is home to the media think-tank POLIS, a joint initiative with the London College of Communication, directed by Charlie Beckett, which is the leading UK forum for debate and research into contemporary media, hosting high-profile events for journalists, activists, politicians and academics.

We have many research projects underway, international conferences being planned for 2009 and 2010 and 35 PhD students who are working closely with our 10 academic staff. Our Masters programmes in Media and Communications, including Media and Communication Governance; Politics and Communication; Global Media and Communications; and Media, Communication and Development, attract some 225 students each year from around the world.

This is an exciting department. If you would like to join our regular media@lse email list for notices of events, please join at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/media@lse/>

We hope this newsletter which profiles recently completed work will peak your interest in us. Email media@lse.ac.uk for further information about topics or researchers included in this issue.

Professor Robin Mansell,
Head of Department of Media and Communications

What is Financial Journalism for? A report by Dr. Damian Tambini

When the LSE awarded seed research funding to Dr. Damian Tambini in late 2007 to develop a study on financial reporting, few could have predicted the timeliness of the research. The project was initially conceived just before the Northern Rock scandal of September of that year. “It started as a rather obscure subject in 2007 but because of the financial crisis, it has become very topical,” said Dr. Tambini. Without a doubt, the financial crisis that has gripped the world economy has made questions surrounding the role of financial reporting in global economics all the more pressing. The joint Polis and LSE Media and Communications Department initiative included more than 50 interviews conducted internationally with some of the leading financial and business journalists, editors, regulators and other experts from London, New York and Hong Kong.

A first report, published by Dr. Tambini and POLIS in November 2008 represented the initial London phase of the project. It focussed on an examination of the profession of financial journalism. It found that few financial journalists shared identical views of what constitutes their role. Some saw themselves as simply serving the interests of shareholders while others viewed themselves as financial watchdogs who bear certain ethical and social responsibilities to the public. Where the journalists did agree on, however,

is the importance of the challenges facing their profession which included: dealing with the speed and complexity of financial information circulating globally, the issues of public relations between financial services and the wider public, and finding sustainable business models for financial reporting. The global response to the report is positive with write-ups in the Columbia Journalism Review, the Guardian, and by the BBC4's Today Programme and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Dr. Tambini was also invited to submit evidence to the Treasury Select Committee Inquiry on The Banking Crisis.

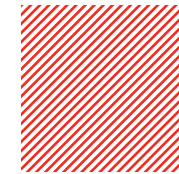
POLIS is developing a second phase for comparative analysis with New York and Hong Kong. Following on from a presentation by Dr. Tambini on 20 January based on the report, a second event organised through POLIS, The Media Society and the Society of Editors on “Why did nobody see it coming? Reporting the Global Crash of ‘08” will take place on the 23rd February. The panel is chaired by Howard Davies, and includes Evan Davis of the BBC; Alex Brummer of the Daily Mail, Vince Cable MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor, and Gillian Tett, Assistant Editor, The Financial Times, and Professor William Butler of the LSE.

You can access the Financial Journalism report at: <http://www.polismedia.org/research/>



“People prefer traditional regulation based on supervision, enforcement and consumer protection[...].”

Publication of ‘PURR’ Report



Professors Sonia Livingstone and Peter Lunt have recently published a report on the “Public Understanding of Regimes of Risk Regulation” (PURR) project. The project seeks to address how economic developments, technological advances, globalisation and other societal changes together shape contemporary approaches to the management of risk in an ever-shrinking world. One response is the shift from state regulation to various forms of self- and co-regulation, with new regulatory bodies being established which expect people to take increased responsibility for insuring themselves against risks. Exemplifying these changes, in the domains of financial services regulation and media and communications regulation, new regulatory bodies have recently been formed: the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in 2000 and, following this model in 2003, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). As such, this project aimed to understand how complex risk-related challenges faced by the public are being addressed, focusing on how particular policy regulators seek to represent the interests of the public, undertake consumer education, engage with stakeholders and influence wider policy formation. Thus the project asked both how the public is represented within the new culture of regulation and how the public understands its changing role within communications and financial service regulatory regimes, this potentially influencing personal responses to communications and financial risks.

Based on analysis of key actor interviews (34) with senior personnel in FSA and Ofcom, focus group interviews with 116 members of the public and analysis of media representations (17 national newspapers) and public policy documents, key findings revolve around three themes including: representing the public, public understandings or risk and the role of media in shaping public understanding. Some of the most compelling findings from each of these themes are as follows.

(i) Representing, and engaging with, the public in the work of the regulator.

Civil society bodies tend to be frustrated with the scale and imperviousness of the regulators’ activities, but they also struggle to justify how they represent the interests of the general public, and they also have difficulties in capacity that challenge their ability to respond critically to the mass of public consultations. Thus, although the shift towards a public facing regulatory regime is widely supported, in practice this is less inclusive or transparent than hoped for by many, and is increasingly ‘managed’ by the regulator in organisational terms.

(ii) Public understandings of changing regimes of risk regulation.

People are comfortable positioned as consumers but are critical of how consumer needs are met; they have little interest in participating as citizens in public consultation and engagement processes, presuming their views will not be heard. Indeed, a shared public agenda of dilemmas and concerns about risk and regulation foregrounds problems of trust, participation, self-efficacy and institutional legitimacy; people judge that real societal problems are neglected while faceless bureaucrats develop elaborate rules to constrain people’s freedoms. People often see themselves as outside the regulatory process yet pass up opportunities to become engaged, especially in forms of collective action but also in relation to complaints.

(iii) The role of the media and public debate in shaping public understanding.

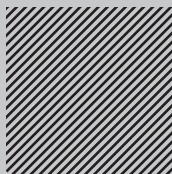
The above analyses point to a continuing task for the regulators in managing public expectations. People prefer traditional regulation based on supervision, enforcement and consumer protection, they worry about taking on the burden of risk management themselves as a cost of increased consumer choice, and their perceptions are coloured by a wider agenda of lack of trust in institutions and disaffection with routes to participation.

Perceptions are also shaped significantly by media representations, with stories and images from the news frequently cited in both stakeholder and public interviews. The public are not mentioned in most articles and, when they are included, the framing is that of harm, risk, vulnerability and (problems of) literacy. Further, public information is often disseminated in a context of discussions of social control, ‘the nanny state’ and the burdens of regulation.

The research project, Public Understanding of Regimes of Risk Regulation, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is part of the ‘Social Contexts and Responses to Risk Network’ (RES-336-25-0001), see: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/scarr/>

For the full report, project website and publications, see: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/PURRR/

Symposium on Humanitarian Communication in a Global Media Age



On November 21st 2008, scholars from the disciplines of media, law, business, and philosophy came together to debate the challenges of humanitarian communication today, with a particular focus for the moral, political and cultural implications they may have on the formation of contemporary global polity. Instigated by POLIS Research Director, Prof. Lilie Chouliaraki, organized by the LSE’s media think-tank POLIS, and co-sponsored by the Copenhagen Business School, the symposium was the last in a series of panels that combined scholarly insight with stakeholder expertise to open up discussion on different aspects of humanitarian communication.

Deconstructing the history behind the discourse of humanity and its contemporary versions of cosmopolitanism, Professor Costas Douzinas of Birkbeck College Department of Law, argued for the continuing relevance of a critique of humanitarianism based on the historical and systemic power asymmetries between the West and the Rest. While Professor Douzinas considered humanitarian campaigns as a collateral benefits tool for the West, Dr

Nash, of Goldsmiths College Department of Sociology, argued for the possibility of a positive cultural politics of humanitarianism that can promote a broad popular project of ‘extraordinary solidarity’ with vulnerable others.

Presenters also spoke about the framing of social responsibility by corporations and the professionalisation of news provision by NGOs. Professor Morsing of the Copenhagen Business School argued that companies who strive to improve their legitimacy through Corporate Social Responsibility campaigns risk public over-exposure followed by critique of hypocrisy. Speaking from the perspective of civil society, Dr. Fenton of Goldsmiths College pointed to the challenges faced by NGOs participating in mainstream news production and campaigning practices, arguing that this may not only create further divisions between ‘resource rich and poor’ organizations but may also have damaging implications for the project of advocacy itself.

Professors Luc Bovens of Department of Philosophy and Lilie Chouliaraki, of the Media and Communications Department, LSE, problematised the ethical implications of the visibility of suffering in photojournalism and in the popular iconography of recent humanitarian appeals. While Prof. Bovens drew distinctions between the sensationalisation of spectacles of human vulnerability and the desire to maintain the dignity of sufferers, Prof. Chouliaraki considered the idea of a “post-emotional humanitarian style of communication” that bypasses traditional notions of solidarity and empathy and engages the public in a more transactional relationship with humanitarian organisations.



A Tale of Open Source Software Collaboration to meet the needs of Europe’s SMEs.

The Department of Media and Communications at the LSE is proud of its commitment to interdisciplinary research. We are leading a European Commission funded project called OPAALS or Open Philosophies for Associative Autopoietic Digital Ecosystems.

This is an interdisciplinary, large network of researchers which is developing the social science, science and technology to underpin ‘Digital Business Ecosystems’, the new generation of Internet-based services that, in this case, are aimed at enabling small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to conduct their business on the global stage. Dr. Paolo Dini, Senior Research Associate, and Professor Robin Mansell, are leading this €9.1 million research network (of which €1.5m stays with LSE) together with partners representing computing science and the natural sciences based all over Europe.

We think that open and low-cost peer-to-peer architectures for contact sharing and business interactions, or Digital Ecosystems, represent the future of technical, social, and economic aspects of the connected world. Current eBusiness practices and technologies do not encourage openness because they promote models of proprietary eBusiness developments. A transformation of the web from a distributed and interconnected information repository to a platform for social networking and content sharing is underway – Web 2.0. In this project, we are committed to the idea that this development can be applied potentially to empower firms, no matter how small, to operate in the eBusiness market alongside large firms. This can be achieved by distributing the source of value throughout a network in much the same way as Facebook and Flickr do this. This approach enables different providers to offer services that can be used, composed and coordinated in a loosely-coupled way. In Europe, if these new services are widely taken up, it will be one entry point for millions of SMEs to participate in the knowledge economy.

From a research perspective, what is the ‘right’ way to build these new services and how can they be made trustworthy and secure enough for business? What are the legal, governance, and privacy implications?

Is it feasible for social scientists to take their place alongside the computing scientists who design the service architecture and the scientists who model how a complex technical system like this might work? It is possible and it is an exhilarating learning experience for all concerned. At LSE, we are employing PhD students to contribute insights on how these new media platforms become implicated in the mediation of new types of online relationships, how the vision of a new technology application comes to be translated into a working system, and how to assess and critically reflect on the languages used by others to express their ambitions for the ways they think that the new service platforms should be designed.



Our students are being immersed in work with others that would never happen if we stayed firmly planted on the more familiar terrain of the social scientist. Our LSE team is working with other social scientists in this project (led by Dr. Frauke Zeller University of Kassel, Germany who specializes in computational linguistics) helping to contribute insight into the politics of the technology. We may know there is a need for an open infrastructure that is interoperable and which allows SMEs to move freely in the market, avoiding lock-in to proprietary systems, information asymmetries, uncertainty and high risk, but we do not necessarily know how this should happen or what the consequences are for the SMEs. We are applying our theories about the power relationships which are mediating the emergence of new information and communication technology systems. Under what circumstances, for instance, is it likely that open source software service platforms developed in a participatory way can trump the endless stream of new proprietary ‘service infrastructures’ in which services running on a computing ‘cloud’ are made available to a firm so that it can build its higher level services even if the providers have brand names like Google?

The emulation in software of an apparently simple mechanism of service evolution actually requires an understanding of the structural principles and dynamical processes upon which it is based and a strategy for translating these principles and processes from physical and biological systems to information systems. That is the challenge for science. The challenge for social science is to understand how the human beings involved make their judgements about when to invest in the development of these services, how much, and whether it is likely that the benefits will be as widely distributed as the technologists and modelers claim. The social scientists are aware that choices may be made for all kinds of reasons – often not based on fully worked out models.

This is the challenge for our researchers at LSE and the others in OPAALS with a social science training which enables them to respect and analyse the political nature of technical change, to understand its dynamics, and where possible, to feed those insights into the mix of technically-oriented decision making.

The ‘associative’ in OPAALS’s title signals the project’s commitment to studying the mediated associations between human beings in this area, whereas ‘autopoietic’ signals a commitment to understanding how this enormously complex, and some would say – self-organising - system of people and technology, is likely to develop.

OPAALS’ website is at: <http://www.opaals.org/>
For more information contact Paolo Dini, p.dini@lse.ac.uk or Robin Mansell, r.e.mansell@lse.ac.uk



“Dr. Paolo Dini, Senior Research Associate, and Professor Robin Mansell, are leading this €9.1 million research network [...]”

Internet-Mediated Participation Beyond the Nation State

A new book by Dr. Bart Cammaerts titled Internet-Mediated Civil Society Participation: Beyond the Nation State has been published through Manchester University Press. The book addresses one of the greatest challenges of post-modern democracy: how to bridge the perceived gap between citizens and democratic institutions. The book examines internet-mediated multi-stakeholder processes of international and regional organizations, focussing specifically on the European Union and the United Nations.

Cammaerts argues that their legitimation crisis is in part linked to a perceived democratic deficit in representative democracies at the nation state level. In political discourse and narratives, such participatory experiments are geared towards increasing the legitimacy of decision making and involving citizens. Two multi-stakeholder consultation processes beyond the nation state were evaluated from a citizen/civil society perspective - the UN/ITU World Summit on the Information Society and the European Convention on the Future of Europe.

Creative Commons and P2P in China

An article in the International Journal of Communication (2009, Volume 3) presents some of Dr. Bingchun Meng’s recent findings related to the introduction of Creative Commons in China. In the article, ‘Articulating a Chinese Commons: An Explorative Study of Creative Commons in China’, she introduces the use of the Creative Commons approach to China as a lens through which to examine the processes of framing arguments in a way that shape public attitudes.

Creative Commons (CC) has been organized as a social movement which tries to implement and render immediate, a cultural shift. Dr. Meng argues that how CC diffuses its message in China is key to understanding its effort to reframe attitudes toward the dominant paradigm of positioning copyright. She discusses CC as a global movement aiming at building a cultural commons for the future. She then explains the differences between the original context from which CC movement emerged and the Chinese one where CC is now picking up momentum. Dr. Meng finds that the combined effect of the ideological ambiguity of CC and local conditions ends up producing a different discursive positioning for CC China. Instead of acting primarily as a counter-force against the privatization of intellectual works, CC China is first and foremost about cultivating the “rights consciousness” of Chinese people and giving individual creators (especially marginalized groups) a sense of controlling their own work in a communication environment that is dominated by both the state and the market forces.

Dr. Meng has been awarded a seed fund grant from the LSE to examine Peer-to-Peer (P2P) file sharing in China. She will investigate why people engage in file sharing through volunteer work, such as translating subtitles for P2P distributed foreign movies. Key research questions include: how do file sharers relate to each other on and offline; what are the common cultural perspectives binding file sharers together; and how do file sharers seek to negotiate their position with state censors and commercial establishments in China and with what outcomes?

POLIS: Think Tank on Journalism and Society

As a joint initiative of the LSE and the London College of Communication, POLIS was created to work with academics, people in public life, and students to help journalists and the wider world examine and discuss the media and its impact on society. Charlie Beckett, its director, describes POLIS as an intermediary between academia and the public, fostering stronger relationships between the two through events and research. As such, POLIS’ primary mission is twofold: first, to provide a forum for public debate and policy intervention on key issues of news journalism, and second, to produce outstanding research on the impact of mediation and journalism in our societies.

Specific research projects include the POLIS Humanitarian and Development Communication in a Global Media Age and the POLIS Financial Journalism Research Project. Because of the difficulty of predicting what research will be topical or what issues will arise, POLIS is able to help the Department by maintaining relationships with outside organisations such as OXFAM in order to support future research projects. In addition to research on ‘Humanitarian Communication’ and ‘Financial Journalism’, this year’s events have addressed diverse topics ranging from the impact of participatory media, social networking and user-generated content (e.g. talks by Professor Clay Shirky on Feb. 3 and Professor Simon Cottle on Nov. 13) to photojournalism and revolution (an event featuring the work of Susan Meisalas, Gilles Peress and analysis by Paul Lowe on December 4). Other notable debate events include the the 2008-9 ‘POLIS Media Leadership Dialogues’ which bring together a range of experienced news, television and film industry professionals, such as award winning Emily Bell (Director of Digital Content for Guardian News and Media) and Caroline Thomson (Chief Operating Officer of the BBC), with students and other academics.

You can read and comment on Charlie’s personal blog <http://www.charliebeckett.org>.

You can read more about POLIS events and papers at <http://www.polismedia.org>.





Early Career Researchers

David Brake: Networks and blogs

In a forthcoming article in *Children & Society*, entitled 'On the Rapid Rise of Social Networking', Sonia Livingstone and David Brake reviewed existing research, concluding that although some bullying takes place on such sites, concern over sexual predation is over-stated for most children. On the other hand, these services offer considerable benefits in terms of communication and relationships, and may also help children with learning and participation.

Additionally and based on interviews with 22 London-based bloggers, David's doctoral research found that although personal blog postings were available to anyone on the internet, bloggers often did not feel they were addressing more than a small group. For some, individual blogger audiences appeared irrelevant. The full research is reported in David's PhD, *Private Lives Lived in Public: The communicative contexts of personal weblogging* (supervised by Robin Mansell).

Niall Brennan: Knowledge

Niall Brennan has had his first peer-reviewed publication made available in volume 2, issue 1 of 'Networking Knowledge: Journal of the MeCCSA PGN', following last July's MeCCSA Post-Graduate Network Conference at University of Sussex.

Iginio Gagliardone: Grassroots diplomacy and conflict in Darfur

Between 2007 and 2008 the Stanhope Centre has interviewed a variety of people who have been affected by the conflict in Darfur as a way to understand what they think about its causes and possible solutions. The final goal is developing a form of grassroots diplomacy, using research to represent the voices of those who are usually left at the margins but who should be included in the negotiations to build a durable peace. Iginio Gagliardone, a PhD candidate in the Media and Communications Department has published a research paper based on this experience and aimed at helping other scholars doing research in crisis areas to build a workable methodology to assess opinions and promote new forms of representations during conflicts. The full paper is available electronically:
<http://stanhopecentre.org/2007/images/doc/grassrootsdiplomacy.pdf>

Indrek Ibrus: Creative metropolises and public policies

PhD student, Indrek Ibrus, together with associates from The Estonian Institute for Futures Studies won a €2.44 million public procurement bid to conduct research for the Tallinn City Government as part of the project 'Creative Metropolises: Public Policies and Instruments in Support of Creative Industries' (2008-2011, funded by Interreg IVC).

The aim of the project is to create a well-functioning, focused, flexible and efficient public support system for creative industries in the 11 participating cities: Riga (Lead partner), Helsinki, Oslo, Tallinn, Vilnius, Stockholm, Warsaw, Birmingham, Amsterdam, Barcelona, and Berlin. The project will provide ample opportunities for experience, exchange and learning among the municipalities, increasing understanding of decision-makers at all levels about the creative industries and their role in the overall economy. The objective is to increase awareness about the policies and approaches that have a positive impact on the growth and development of the creative sector, to better enable setting of the 'right' policies.

Zoetanya Sujon: Citizenship and technology

Zoe's doctoral research, entitled 'Technological Citizenship? Patterns of connection in mediated citizenship initiatives', examines emerging discourses of electronically mediated forms of citizenship and two new media citizenship initiatives (the BBC's iCan and Proboscis' Urban Tapestries). This research contributes to a fuller understanding of the ways in which new technologies articulate particular strategies of inclusion more readily for those who are culturally and technologically 'connected'. Although the case studies strive to extend publicly oriented citizenship frameworks, significant gaps emerged between formalized institutional and individual practices.

Nancy Thumim: Reality television, audiences and mediations

Nancy, an LSE Fellow, has co-authored the third most downloaded article in the 2008 'European Journal of Cultural Studies' (with Bev Skeggs and Helen Wood). The article, 'Oh Goodness I am Watching Reality TV', addresses one of the most striking challenges encountered during the empirical stages of an audience research project on class and reality TV (funded as part of the ESRC's Identities and Social Action programme). This challenge stemmed from how the different discursive resources held by our research participants impacted upon the kind of data collected. The key findings include the ways in which social class is reconfigured in each research encounter, not only through the adoption of moral positions in relation to 'reality' television, but also through the forms of authority available for participants. Therefore, understanding the form as well as the content of our participants' responses is crucial to interpreting our data.

Among other publications, Nancy's doctoral research is being extended in a forthcoming monograph provisionally titled 'Mediation, Self-Representation and Digital Technology' (London: Palgrave Macmillan).

Hong Zhang: Globalization and Chinese TV

Hong's doctoral research addresses whether the Chinese party state, which used to have monopoly power in shaping China's television, still plays an important role in the global transformation of Chinese television since China's reform and opening up in the late 1970s. The findings of the thesis complement the global transformation theories with evidence from a transitional Communist country that the (party) state remains not only a key dynamic for globalization, but also a profoundly changed entity itself in response to globalization. Hong's doctoral thesis, 'The Globalization of Chinese Television: Internationalization, Transnationalization and Renationalization' was supervised by Professor Terhi Rantanen and passed without revisions in January 2009.

Niall Brennan, Mehita Iqani and Frederik Lesage win 2009 MeCCSA Conference award

A MeCCSA 2009 conference paper co-authored by Niall Brennan, Mehita Iqani and Frederik Lesage, three PhD Students in the Media and Communications Department, has been awarded this year's Art Design Media Higher Education Authority Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Prize. The paper, titled "Student-centred Student Teachers: On Maintaining Teaching Opportunities While Expanding Learning Support Offerings", addresses the challenge of maintaining practical pedagogical training opportunities for PhD students through the creation of a series of seminars for providing high-level learning support for MSc students. The paper takes as its case study the Support Seminar Series designed by GTAs in close collaboration with the Head of Department, Robin Mansell, and the LSE's Teaching and Learning Centre at the end of 2007/8. The Support Seminar Series has been offered to MSc students for the first time this academic year. The paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of ADM-HEA magazine, *Networks*, and the prize was presented during the MeCCSA conference in January 2009 at the University of Bradford.



Announcements and Appointments

Sonia Livingstone has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Erasmus University Rotterdam as "one of the most talented scholars of her generation" in the field of media and communication and "as the leading international expert in the media use of children and young people and the domestic, familial and educational contexts of new media access and use".

William Melody, one of the department's visiting professors has stepped down as founding director of LIRNE.NET (www.lirne.net) and the World Dialogue on Regulation (WDR, www.regulateonline.org) but is continuing as advisor and researcher. Bill is also a Guest Professor at the Center for Communication, Media and IT (CMI); Copenhagen Institute of Technology, Denmark; Visiting Professor, at the LINK Centre, University of Witwatersrand, S. Africa; and has been appointed as a new member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Next Generation Infrastructures Foundation, Delft University of Technology, NL; and Advisory Board for Competition and Regulation in Network Industries.

Claire Milne, a visiting research associate in the Media and Communications Department, has helped to re-launch the Consumer Forum on Communications (CFC). The CFC includes more than twenty national and regional consumer and disability organisations such as Age Concern, Action with Communities in Rural England, Consumer Focus, Mediawatch, National Federation of Women's Institutes, and the Royal Institute for the Blind. The CFC constitutes one of the bodies that reports to Ofcom for engaging with the public and its interests. Its new website: <http://ofcomconsumerforum.collectivex.com>

Mark Poster, Centennial Professor of Film and Media Studies at LSE, has a new book coming out this year, entitled, *Deleuze and New Media*, edited with David Savat (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press). Mark has also been appointed to the advisory boards of several journals including: *Journal of Critical Studies on Business and Society*, and the *Journal of e-Media Studies*.

Suzanne Stein, a PhD candidate, has been appointed the Deputy Director, SMARTlab, University of East London as of February 1st, 2009.

Panayiota Tsatsou, a doctoral student in the department, has been appointed as a Lecturer in Media and Communication Studies at Swansea University: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/staff/academic/Arts/tsatsoup/>

Liza Tsaliki has received funding from the Greek General Secretariat for Youth to conduct a 'grkids go online' study; a study that targets six hundred 9-18 year old students in order to compliment the 'UK children go online' project in the Greek context. Amongst many other publications, Liza has an article coming out in a special issue of *Journal of Children and Media*, entitled 'Looking for Trouble: Similarities and differences in the factors that shape online risk experience for children in Europe'.

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