



MEDIA, PRIVATE SPHERE AND DAILY LIFE

Spring School on the intersection of Media Studies and the Sociology of Personal Life

Joint event of the PhD program in Communication Studies of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Research Center for Communication and Culture (CECC - research line "Media, Technology, Contexts") and Department of Media and Communication Studies, Södertörn University

3RD SPRING SCHOOL CECC-UCP & MKV-SH
LISBON, 11-15 APRIL 2016

Lecturers:

Deborah Chambers, Newcastle University

Stina Bengtsson, Södertörn University

Verónica Policarpo, Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Sofia Johansson, Södertörn University

Göran Bolin, Södertörn University

Organisers:

Rita Figueiras | Verónica Policarpo | Göran Bolin

Call for Applications:

Recent trends in the study of *personal life* have tried to build alternative conceptual frameworks to account for the diversity and fluidity of contemporary relationships. Among these, both the *sociology of personal lives* and *media and communication studies* have aimed at looking at the many ways in which people relate meaningfully to each other, across space and time, with different levels of commitment and emotional intensity, regardless any pre-given genetic or legal bonds. *Personal life* therefore encompasses actors and practices that include kin and non-kin, friendships, workmates, acquaintanceships, relationships across households, generations, cultures, workplaces and species. The scientific gaze turns both to *how they connect in time and space*, building memory and identity; and to *how they are made in everyday life*, by concrete daily life practices, where media are included.

Personal life has therefore been much studied as structured around the domestic space, the privatization of practices and its tensions with public space and public display. However, this same

domestic space is deeply connected, in modern life, to commodification processes, within the context of a consumer global culture in which the media play a determinant part both in the private and public sphere. This is also why contemporary personal experience cannot be understood outside the context of cultural and economic globalization.

Many empirical studies have already developed, within a communication or (social) psychology framework, specific issues that can be included in the broader category of "personal life", exploring its relation with the media. Examples include studies about children's uses of the internet, online intimacies, dating and friendships. However, not only have they remained quite dispersed, but also have they focused mainly on the impact of new communication technologies, such as internet in general, or social media in particular. It seems, therefore, that we face a scientific challenge: to bring together the contributions of social sciences that focus increasingly on intimacy and personal life, but often disregarding their inevitable intertwining with the media; and those of communication and media studies, which focus mainly in media use as a means to establish, enhance or disrupt intimacy, but outside the boundaries of a personal life framework. This spring course aims to address these gaps and bring together these current trends, related to the study of intimacy and personal life, in the context of everyday life practices, which should also be considered as media practices.

The third International Spring School in Communication Studies brings together researchers from different parts of Europe and welcomes participants that are interested in the study of intimacy and personal life, and its overlaps with the public sphere, crossing boundaries to encompass the meanings it assumes when looked at in the context of media cultures.

Thematic sessions:

Day 1 (April 11th):

"Social media and changing intimacies: online intimacies and networked friendship"

Deborah Chambers, Newcastle University (UK)

"Mediated childhoods and media parenting: new parent/child intimacies"

Deborah Chambers, Newcastle University (UK)

Day 2 (April 12th):

"Home, families and networked cultures: the case of touchscreen technologies and multiscreen homes"

Deborah Chambers, Newcastle University (UK)

"Media, ethics and everyday practice"

Stina Bengtsson, Södertörn University (Sweden)

Day 3 (April 13th):

"Putting media within the context of personal communities: the relational turn"

Verónica Policarpo, Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)

Day 4 (April 14th):

"Up-close and personal: the role of celebrity in everyday life"

Sofia Johansson, Södertörn University (Sweden)

Day 5 (April 15th):

"Everyday life in a world without privacy: surveillance and user tactics"

Göran Bolin, Södertörn University (Sweden)

This third Spring School seeks to assert itself as a multidisciplinary event, looking for contributions from several scientific areas including Media Studies, Sociology and Social Psychology. Original and high quality submissions are expected.

There will be lectures by invited keynote speakers and in the afternoon, will have paper sessions with rotating respondents.

Participants will have 20 minutes to deliver their presentations, after which there will be 30 minutes for questions and discussion of each presentation with the chairs and the other participants.

Abstract and paper submissions:

Proposals should be sent to springschool.fch@lisboa.ucp.pt no later than January 31st, 2016. Submissions should include paper title, abstract in English (500 words), name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation and a brief bio (max. 100 words) mentioning main research interests and ongoing projects.

For Whom? The School is open to 15 PhD and Master students, post-docs and junior researchers from Communication Studies, and related areas, as well as all social scientists interested in the study of intimacy and personal life, and its overlaps with the public sphere.

Where? In Lisbon, at the facilities of the Research Centre of Communication and Culture (CECC). CECC is located and the Faculty of Human Sciences of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in Lisbon. Elected by the British Academy of Urbanism The European City of the Year 2012, Lisbon is a



vibrant place:
<http://www.visitlisboa.com/Lisbon.aspx>

When? April 2016, from the 11th to 15th. Participants are requested to arrive 10 April. Over 5 full working days (Monday-Friday) they will attend lectures and take part in discussion groups where they will present their research projects. The working language is English. All participants will receive a Certificate of Completion.

How and when to apply? Applicants should send their **Curriculum Vitae**, a one-page **cover letter of intentions**, and a **draft of their work in progress paper** (7 000 characters maximum, references included) by email to springschool.fch@lisboa.ucp.pt, until January 31st. Candidates will be selected on the basis of the letter stating their motivations to take part in the Spring School, the paper outlining their research projects, their CV and the one reference letter. The organizing committee will notify all applicants until February 15th.

Fee: The enrolment fee is 100 Euro, to be paid only on acceptance of the application.

Contacts & Infos

E-mail: springschool.fch@lisboa.ucp.pt

Lorena Lamim

Blog: <http://springschool.wix.com/springschool2016>

Address: Palma de Cima 1649-023, Lisbon (Portugal)

Fax: +351 21 727 17 00