

International Conference
Journalism Research in the Public Interest

19—21 November 2009, Winterthur/Zurich, Switzerland

IAM Institute for Applied Media Studies, ZHAW Zurich Universities of Applied Sciences
Institute of Mass Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich

Call for Papers

Submission deadline: April 1, 2009

Given the crucial importance of journalism as a social institution, journalism research has always exhibited a strong normative concern linking the field to the notion of the public interest. The realization of journalism's centrality in social processes has driven the development of journalism research into a thriving, interdisciplinary and highly innovative field of studies that resonates with and responds to changes in an increasingly mediated society with far-reaching implications for public communication. The relationship between journalism, academic journalism research and society at large has not always been an easy one, however. Of central concern in this respect is the transfer of knowledge from journalism research to the relevant social institutions, such as legislators, regulatory authorities, media organizations, journalism education and training, and the journalists themselves.

For that reason, the international conference "Journalism Research in the Public Interest" intends to provide a venue for the theoretical, critical and empirical engagement with the social relevance and applicability of journalism research in both national and international contexts. A central goal of the conference is to address the question: what does the field of journalism research have to offer to issues of public interest and debate, and what are the key factors for a successful transfer of knowledge between journalism research and its social contexts?

Submissions from all theoretical and methodological perspectives are welcome. Proposals may be based on empirical evidence, criticism and/or conceptual ideas. The following topics shall be seen as some suggestions that the papers could be focused on (but they should not be seen as restrictions):

- Journalism research and social intervention: e.g. the advocacy of civic journalism, peace journalism, development journalism;
- Journalism research and transfer of knowledge: e.g. journalism education and training; application for media organizations or public relations;
- Journalism research and global inequality: e.g. knowledge transfer from the north to the south; applications of comparative research;
- Journalism research and democracy: e.g. strengthening journalism's role in deliberative democracy; the development of concepts for transitional democracies;
- Journalism research and its public image: e.g. the media coverage of journalism research as academic discipline.

Proposals should be submitted in abstract form (approximately 500 words) and in English, along with contact information by April 1, 2009. All abstracts will be subjected to peer review; notification of accepted proposals will be sent out by June 1, 2009. If an abstract is accepted for the conference, a full draft paper should be submitted by October 1, 2009.

Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to the joint organizing chairs, Vinzenz Wyss (vinzenz.wyss@zhaw.ch) und Thomas Hanitzsch (th.hanitzsch@ipmz.uzh.ch).

The conference "Journalism Research in the Public Interest" is a joint effort of the Journalism Studies Sections of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), the Swiss Association Communication and Media Research (SGKM) and the German Communication Association (DGPK), with the support of the Journalism Studies Division, International Communication Association (ICA) and the Journalism Research and Education Section, International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR).