



# Research Talks

Online,  
Summer Semester  
2021, 11:30 a.m.



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**12 April 2021**  
**Processing the News in Times of Identity Politics**  
**Ming Manuel Boyer**

Citizens are not rational processors of the news. Instead, they are motivated to interpret the news favorably to their political 'tribe'. However, the news often refers to both political groups as well as groups such as gender, ethnicity or national identities. How do citizens process news about such 'identity politics', and how does that shape their political opinions? In this project, I investigate how news media and social inequality affect the psychology of news processing regarding identity politics, as well as its consequences for democracy and citizens' identification with certain groups.



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**12 April 2021**  
**Testing the Mechanisms between Incidental Exposure to Political Information and Political Outcomes**  
**Andreas Nanz**

Today, citizens can access a mass of political information online. However, a substantial share of the population does not actively follow politics. Scholars discuss the phenomenon of incidental exposure to political information in online environments as a way in which citizens may learn about politics, get mobilized, or get motivated to engage politically. This talk gives insights into a dissertation that aims to test a recently published and one of the first comprehensive theoretical frameworks concerned with the effects of incidental exposure.



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**3 May 2021**  
**The Content and Consequences of the "Fake News" Debate**  
**Jana Laura Egelhofer**

Since 2016 the term "fake news" is ubiquitous in public discourses around the globe where political, journalistic and private actors use it to describe various phenomena. This cumulative dissertation project makes a distinction between fake news as genre of disinformation and fake news as a politicized label to delegitimize journalism. In five studies it embeds "fake news" in political communication theory, maps how the term is used by journalistic and political actors and tests how its usage affects citizens' perceptions of media, politics and science.



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**3 May 2021**  
**Music between Virtuality and Materiality. The Meaning of Live-Music and Physical Records in the Age of Online Media and Digitization**  
**Raffaella Gmeiner**

Today, music recordings are most frequently received online via streaming technology. Music can be reproduced any time, at any place, as often as desired, at low cost and in high sound quality. At the same time, analogue audio records are currently experiencing a revival and the live music business is – apart from the pandemic – increasing popularity. In how far have online media and digitization affected the meaning of physical records and live performances? The interdisciplinary PhD project combines theories from communication science and musicology and uses empirical social sciences methods: semistructured guided interviews are mixed with documentary approaches.



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**31 May 2021**  
**An Intersectional Approach to Exploring Audience Expectations of Journalism**  
**Sandra Banjac**

Audience expectations reveal how well they believe journalism is performing its societal roles. In an increasingly fragmented media and audience landscape, it has become important to consider how social identity shapes audience expectations. However, studies have tended to examine expectations based on single identity categories providing a crucial but disassembled insight into audiences' perceptions of journalism. I will discuss intersectionality as a useful framework to explore audience expectations. Considering the intersection of class, race, and gender as mutually constitutive modes of power/oppression, I show the expectations of diverse audiences in South Africa are rendered (in)visible to journalism's dominant ideology.



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**31 May 2021**  
**The Communicative Constitution of Ethically Oriented Organizational Cultures**  
**Daniel Wolfgruber**

As part of my cumulative dissertation, which deals with organizational ethics from a communication studies perspective, the ethically oriented organizational culture plays the leading part as culture is considered the context in which decisions and actions take place. Due to the fact that ethically oriented organizational cultures have oftentimes been conceptualized and studied from an exclusively functionalist perspective, my aim is to dig deeper and investigate their communicative emergence and preservation by applying a communication as constitutive of organization (CCO) approach. My talk focuses on the concept of cultivation through and in the repetitive ventriloquation of (moral) values.



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**14 June 2021**  
**Mapping European Migration Discourses on Social Media**  
**Tobias Heidenreich**

The topic of migration is ubiquitous in the public sphere of European societies. Frequently subject to media and political discourses, the issue is known to be important when it comes to the formation of attitudes but also voting decisions. While recent studies shed light on discourses in traditional media sources, we still know relatively little about how the topic is discussed on social media. This thesis, therefore, addresses political migration discourses on social media. Analyzing the communication of political and media actors in different European countries, patterns across countries, political camps, and platforms are unveiled.



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**14 June 2021**  
**The Impact of Country-Level Economic Constraints on Atypical Journalism Cultures in Six European Countries**  
**Phoebe Maares**

Economic forces in the media system promote the casualization of journalistic work. Research indicates that access to resources and belongingness are relevant to work freelance per choice. From a Bourdieusian perspective, the unequal distribution of resources affects how journalists think about their professional role and which truths about the profession they take for granted, which might also have an effect on journalism's 'fourth estate' function. This study investigates how country-level economic constraints affect the working conditions and thus norms, role perceptions and practices of atypical journalists in six European countries (AT, DK, FR, NL, PL, UK).