SUMMER SCHOOL

MEDIA IN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND MOBILIZATION

26-30 June 2017
Istituto di Scienze Umane e Sociali
Scuola Normale Superiore

OVERVIEW

The Summer School will explore the complex relationship between media and diverse instances of political participation and mobilization. More in particular, the lectures during the Summer School will revolve around three main themes on which literature flourished in the past few years, providing new perspectives on the relationship between media and political participation/mobilizations: (1) media cultures; (2) media materialities; and (3) media practices.

Media cultures
Holistic approaches to media ecologies cast light on the ongoing shift from a media landscape in which the boundaries between different types of media were well defined to a landscape in which they are increasingly blurred. This media convergence affects the overall context in which political participation and mobilization develop - with the rise of so-called hybrid media systems - and facilitates the emergence of new forms of conventional and non-conventional political engagement. These deep changes, however, do not impact uniformly political participation and mobilization. The cultural dimension of political engagement is hence relevant to develop a more nuanced understanding of how media convergence and media hybridization affect the political realm. How do different movement cultures and cultures of participation inform the use, consumption, and development of media? Can these cultures be transversally related to one another? Ultimately, which conceptual and empirical tools can help us grasping the relationship between political mobilization and convergent media in all its complexity and stratification?

Media materialities

Over the past few years, innovative materialist critiques and ontologies have emerged across the social sciences and humanities. From media archeology to research in indigenous media to posthuman and nonhuman ontologies, these perspectives have redefined the relationship among humans, information technologies, and the environment by advancing modes of inquiry that do not identify human subjectivity as the exclusive site of thought and action. This set of approaches has thus posed particular problems to the analysis of media in political participation and mobilization. If media have a material dimension that cannot be overlooked, what are the politics of this materiality? For example, how do social movements problematize their own use of laptops, smartphones, and tablets that are often produced in exploitative working conditions and have a troubling ecological impact? Moreover, the relative autonomy of bots, intelligent agents , and a host of data mining technologies raises questions on the relationship between these nonhuman actors and the political actors who rely on them. What is the specific composition of these forces? Should we speak of a more-than-human political participation and mobilization?

Media practices
Recent years have witnessed a growing attention on audiences in media research, focusing on reception, uses and interpretations of media texts. This shift enabled a more socially grounded understanding of the media's significance, going beyond the theorization of media as organizations and institutions, on the one hand, and media as texts and contents, on the other hand. Such reconsideration of media power has been mirrored in agenda-setting theories, criticisms to the theory of a *bourgeois* public sphere, as well as a recent 'turn to practice'. In particular, scholars have increasingly focused on activist media practices through a diversity of approaches that emphasize the social construction of information technologies and acknowledge the changing affordances of technological platforms. The emphasis on media practices allow to go beyond one-dimensional accounts of "Twitter revolutions" and "Facebook revolutions" to answer multi-dimensional questions related the role of media in political participation and mobilization. How are the communicative and informative affordances of older and newer media embedded in the dynamics of political participation and mobilization? To what extent can we speak of the emergence of hybrid media practices that combine different types of media logics? And which are the challenges that such hybrid media practices pose to more conventional forms of political participation and mobilization?

DETAILED PROGRAMME AND TIME SCHEDULE

**** please note that the title of the lectures are provisional, and just refers to the main topic of the class ****

DAY 1 – 26 JUNE 2017
Pillar - Media Cultures

9:00-09:30
Welcome and registration

9:30-10:30
Lecture 1
Movement cultures and media cultures
Lecturer: Anne Kaun (Sodertorn University)

10:30-11:00
Coffee Break

11:00-12:00
Lecture 2
Parties cultures and media cultures
Lecturer: Augusto Valeriani (University of Bologna)

12:00-13:00
Common discussion

13:00-14:30
Lunch break

14:30-15:30
Individual Office Hours

15:30-17:30
Students' presentation roundtable

17:30-19:00
Keynote speaker: Donatella della Porta (Scuola Normale Superiore)

19:00-20:30
Welcome aperitivo

DAY 2 - 27 JUNE 2017
Pillar - Media Cultures

9:30-10:30
Lecture 3
Media as a field of contention
Lecturer: Jack Bratich (Rutgers University)

10:30-11:00
Coffee Break

11:00-12:00
Lecture 4
Hybrid media systems, ecologies and contexts
Lecturer: Bart Cammaerts (London School of Economics)

12:00-13:00
Common discussion

13:00-14:30

Lunch break

14:30-15:30
Individual Office Hours

15:30-17:30
Students' presentation roundtable

DAY 3 - 28 JUNE 2017
PILLAR - MEDIA MATERIALITIES

9:30-10:30
Lecture 5
The politics of media materiality
Lecturer: Finn Brunton (New York University) to be confirmed

10:30-11:00
Coffee Break

11:00-12:00
Lecture 6
Big data and social media in political participation and mobilization
Lecturer: Christina Neumayer (IT University of Copenhagen)

12:00-13:00
Common discussion

13:00-14:30
Lunch break

14:30-15:30
Individual Office Hours

15:30-17:30
Students' presentation roundtable

DAY 4 - 29 JUNE 2017
PILLAR - MEDIA PRACTICES

9:30-10:30
Lecture 7
Media practices in contexts of political participation and mobilization
Lecturer: John Postill (RMIT University, Melbourne)

10:30-11:00
Coffee Break

11:00-12:00
Lecture 8
Online repertoires of actions
Lecturer: Jennifer Earl (University of Arizona)

12:00-13:00
Common discussion

13:00-14:30
Lunch break

14:30-15:30
Individual Office Hours

15:30-17:30
Students' presentation roundtable

17:30-19:00
Keynote speaker: Nick Couldry (London School of Economics)

DAY 5 - 30 JUNE 2017
PILLAR - MEDIA PRACTICES

9:30-10:30
Lecture 9
Interest groups, public relations and media,
Lecturer: Marco Mazzoni (University of Perugia)

10:30-11:00
Coffee Break

11:00-12:00
Lecture 10
Protest, movements and the public sphere
Lecturer: Pollyanna Ruiz (University of Sussex) to be confirmed

12:00-13:00
Common discussion

13:00-14:30
Lunch break

14:30-15:30
Individual Office Hours

15:30-17:30
Students' presentation roundtable

20:00
Farewell dinner