

THIS MONTH FORUM'S PICKS

02/26/2017

Anthropologies of Media and Mobility: Theorizing movement and circulations across entangled fields

Scientifique

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Conférence

Start date : 14 September 2017 09:00

End date : 16 September 2017 19:15

Where : Cologne | Allemagne

Hosted by : EASA

An International Workshop organized by the Anthropology and Mobility Network and the Media Anthropology Network (EASA) in collaboration with Locating Media (Siegen) and a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School (Cologne)

This international workshop seeks to theorize the relationship between media and mobility. While mobility has been defined as movement ascribed with meaning, one might in similar fashion define media as meaning ascribed with movement.

Interrogating the linkages between media and mobility can enable more thorough understandings of how various power structures produce, transform and reproduce social, material and discursive orders. People, devices, and data are increasingly on the move – movements that may transgress borders and boundaries, but which are also integral to the constitution and regulation of the barriers themselves. The movement of people triggers new imaginaries of territories and social spaces, which circulate through media, questioning and forging new ties between people, signs and things. More broadly, the mobilisation of tangible and intangible things demands a reconceptualization of what a 'thing' is, what constitutes the human, and what defines human collectivity. In such circumstances, reimagining circulations through the lens of media and mobility becomes an important step towards understanding current socio-cultural and political changes. While this lens has been applied broadly within anthropological research, its theoretical consequences merit further investigation and discussion.

With a focus on a comparative approach, this workshop invites papers that rethink the theoretical underpinnings of media and mobility studies in anthropology. In particular, we hope to encourage papers based on multidisciplinary and mixed-methods research between social anthropology and other disciplines, including sociology, geography, communication studies, and the digital humanities. We aim to select presentation proposals, across a wide variety of formats, from early and mid-career scholars.

Possible topics represented could include (but are hardly limited to):

Theoretical discussions that connect (or disconnect) media and mobility; Empirical case studies that contribute to the conceptualisation of media and mobility; Ethnographic research that brings into relief the politics of media and mobility; Comparative studies that challenge Anglophone and Eurocentric theorizations of media and mobility; Practice-based demonstrations of experimental approaches to thinking through media and mobility; Contributions on media and mobility that engage with broader theoretical debates in social and political theory.

In addition to paper presentations with discussion, we would like to encourage audio/visual, sensory and experimental formats that speak to the conference theme. Please specify the technical and spatial needs for your presentation in your proposal.

