

Digital Platforms and Democracy:

Journalism and Political Communication
in a World of Polycrisis

#AMIRetreat2023

3-5 November

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#AMIRetreat2023

Digital Platforms and Democracy: Journalism and Political Communication in a World of Polycrisis

3-5.11.2023
PIRAEUS, GREECE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



ANNE-CECILE ROBERT

Journalist, Deputy Director of Le Monde diplomatique,
Professor at the Panthéon-Assas University Paris II



LEFTERIS KRETSOS

Honorary Senior Lecturer at City University London,
Lecturer at Brunel University of London and Director for
the PhD Programme with Ahlia University at Bahrain



SOFIA IORDANIDOU

Journalism and Communication Associate Professor,
Journalist,
Advanced Media Institute Chairwoman

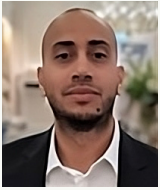
Welcome to the Digital Platforms and Democracy Conference

The conference seeks to build bridges between academics, policy makers, journalists and strategic communication specialists. It provides a venue for researchers and practitioners from the fields of media studies, journalism, political science, and law to discuss and advance ideas on how public discourse and journalism evolve in the digital society, the creative avenues they find, the challenges they face and the opportunities that lie ahead. At the core of our quests are presentations that describe emancipatory communication experiences that have been disruptive, successful, and beneficial.

We live in a time and a world characterized by change and uncertainty. The study of communication in all its forms and functions stands at the core of the effort to comprehend the causal factors of change, to create the knowledge that will help us to master change to reduce uncertainty. Nowadays journalism and political communication operate within a world of polycrisis. The modus operandi of digital platforms interact with political processes to further facilitate and enhance the aspect of crisis both in domestic and international politics. Digitalization mediates the crisis of both humanity and democracy. The upsurge of extremist public discourse and hate speech, aggression in the expression of online opinions, the constant battle against the intractable problem of misinformation and disinformation, the propagation of conspiracy theories and the incitement to violence and facilitation of all types and forms of radicalization in digital spaces contaminate contemporary media ecosystems and society at large. The proliferation and, to a large extent, the normalization of toxic, harmful or abusive content is mediated and largely assisted by modern digital platforms which are being leveraged or often weaponized by actors with diverse political agendas.

Against this background, the immediacy of digital communication has altered journalists' roles and the position they often assume over any current issue. The challenge to go for "now" has proved overwhelming; double-checking or even checking has fallen prey to this. If combined with the long-standing appeal of image as opposed to text, with all the slippage that angle or focus under pressure can bring along, little room is left for reliable news reporting.

Additionally, the retreat of the traditional media business model, along with the constraints digital media have been working under, has pushed journalists to venture at the wilderness of social media and owner-operated sites and/or blogs. Initially experienced as freedom-of-expression havens, they have often brought about a hard landing to receding journalistic standards. The effort to get on-board some sort of sponsored content and/or much-needed advertisement has had a detrimental impact on editorial decisions and the overall quality of new content.



NAEL JEBRIL

Chair, Media Studies Program

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy

This year's conference represents a new milestone in our ongoing effort to foster collaboration with academic scholars and professional journalists aiming to advance our vision of bridging the gap between academic scholarship on digital media and its real-world impact on society as well as to reflect on journalism and political communication practices in varied digital media environments.

I am delighted that this year's conference is co-organised with the Media Studies program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, among other academic partners in Europe. This partnership marks a significant step forward in our shared aim to address the pressing issues and challenges to democracy that continue to arise, particularly in emerging media markets, as digital and social media platforms continue to infiltrate our lives.

Over the past few years, we have held several international conventions and published three academic books with international publishing houses that address journalism, society, and politics in the digital era; journalism and political communication in emerging media markets; and political discourse and media in times of crisis. These publications document the unique academic discussions that took place during our previous international gatherings. We aspire this year to offer our participants more opportunities for discussion and potential collaboration during this international conference, which centers around digital platforms and democratic challenges in a world of polycrisis, and to further expand our written work on this subject.

Among the key questions we ask this year are: In what ways can digital media be organised to serve the wider public interest and benefit society as a whole? How can media be empowered to fulfil their normatively ascribed roles in society and strengthen democracy in digital spaces? How can journalists provide a platform for truthful and comprehensible public political discourse, facilitating the formation of a conducive 'public opinion'? And how can citizens be properly informed in an environment flooded with diverse and unverified media content? To address these questions, our conference panels include themes relating to the challenges of online political communication, digital places and technology, social media and public debates, digital platforms, ideology and democracy, and media and politics in polycrisis.

We aim for these panel discussions to provide a foundation for academics and professional journalists to contemplate optimal journalism practices within today's digital media landscape amidst the prevailing democratic and media challenges facing our societies today.



YIANNIS MORALIS

Mayor of Piraeus

It is both an honor and a pleasure for our city to host a conference on such a crucial topic. When we talk about journalism and communication in our era, we're discussing the tools that shape public opinion, values, and our understanding of reality.

Our city, like many others in Greece and around the world, has faced the challenges of multiple crises - economic, social, and environmental. In all of these, journalism and communication have played - and continue to play - a pivotal role.

Today, more than ever, we need journalists who seek the truth, who delve deep, and present facts with neutrality, accuracy, and transparency. We need communication professionals who convey messages clearly and honestly.

As the Mayor of Piraeus, I recognize the power of the media and the importance of accurate, precise, and responsible journalism.

I believe it's our duty to support independent and reliable journalism that seeks and promotes the truth for the public good.

I wish you all a constructive and informative conference.

Let's gain knowledge, exchange views, and find ways to make journalism and political communication tools work for the benefit of the citizens in these challenging times.

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Digital Platforms and Democracy: Journalism and Political Communication in a World of Polycrisis

We are pleased to announce the Call for Papers for presentations at the forthcoming international conference entitled **“Digital Platforms and Democracy: Journalism and Political Communication in a World of Polycrisis”**, which will be held in November 3-5, 2023, in Piraeus, Greece. The conference is organized by:

- Advanced Media Institute
- “Communication and New Journalism” MA program, Open University of Cyprus
- School of Law, University of Nicosia
- Media Studies Program, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies
- Department of Digital Media and Communication, Ionian University
- Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Cyprus University of Technology

Conference Theme & Topics

In principle, having as many opportunities as possible for everyone to be “heard” in the public space would enhance meaningful discussion and deliberation in digital interactive environments, contributing to the deepening of democratic norms and values, by fostering the development of robust global digital publics, in which everyone has a voice.

However, humanity and democracy are currently in a major crisis and digitalization mediates this crisis. It is hard to question the upsurge of extremist public discourse, political flaming and hate speech, aggression in the expression of online opinions, the constant battle against the intractable problem of misinformation and disinformation, the propagation of conspiracy theories and the incitement to violence and facilitation of all types and forms of radicalization in digital spaces - phenomena that contaminate the current media ecosystem and society at large. The proliferation and, to a large extent, the normalization of toxic, harmful or abusive content is mediated and largely assisted by modern digital platforms, which are being leveraged or often weaponized by actors with diverse political agendas.

Against this background, the immediacy of digital communication has altered journalists’ roles and the position they often assume over any current issue. The challenge to go for “now” has proved overwhelming; double-checking or even checking has fallen prey to this. If combined with the long-standing appeal of image as opposed to text, with all the slippage that angle or focus under pressure can bring along, little room is left for reliable news reporting.

Additionally, the retreat of the traditional media business model, along with the constraints digital media have been working under, has pushed journalists to venture at the wilderness of social media and owner-operated sites and/or blogs. Initially experienced as freedom-of-expression havens, they have often brought about a hard landing to receding journalistic standards. The effort to get on-board some sort of sponsored content and/or much-needed advertisement has had a detrimental impact on editorial decisions and the overall quality of new content.

What is the role of Journalism in the current environment, which is being shaped by the internet, social media and personalized practices of information generation, reproduction and dissemination? How can media be empowered to fulfil its normatively ascribed roles in society and strengthen democracy in digital spaces? What are the challenges to media's roles in defining and management of issues? In which way can digital media be organized so that they behave in the wider public interest or for the good of society as a whole? How can journalists provide a platform for truthful and comprehensible public political discourse, facilitating the formation of conductive 'public opinion'? How can citizens be properly informed in an environment that is flooded with diverse and unverified media content?

The conference themes speak to the past, present and future, as a reflection of the role of media and journalism in the 21st century. We invite theoretical, methodological, and empirical submissions that address the following themes, in an effort to spark meaningful conversations and probe multiple perspectives about the challenges facing democracy today. We hope that our discussions will help set a stepping stone for both academics and professional journalists to reflect on the ideal types of journalism practice in the current digital media environment as we continue to encounter challenges to and transformations of our digital media landscapes.

Conference Topics

Key Dynamics in the Digital Media Landscape

- The Political Economy of the digital News Environment
- Algorithmic power and content moderation
- Social media analytics and metrics
- Shareability, speed, affective content, and viral content
- The perils of hyper-personalization
- The formation of audiences in digital spaces
- Digital fatigue, digital detox, and news avoidance
- Digital inequalities, digital divides, and digital literacies

Content Creators and the Creator Economy

- The emerging Creator Economy ecosystem (creators, tools, platforms)
- Content creation, ownership, and data control
- Debating the shift from an "attention economy" and advertising dependency to an "independent creator economy"
- Does the Creator Economy recommend "democratization" and "decentralization" of the information process?
- Will the inequalities, network effects and winner-takes-most that characterized the platform economy be eliminated in the new creator economy?

Digital Journalism and Democracy in Context

- Digital Journalism and news-gatekeeping
- The normative functions of digital journalism
- Journalists' ideology and roles perceptions in the digital age
- Journalism ethics in the digital media era
- Trust in the media as sources of information
- The implications of economic concentration of media to pluralism and democracy
- Accountability and the material conditions of contemporary journalism
- The roles of media in democratic, transitional, and authoritarian societies

Digital Journalism Models in Practice

- Technological innovation and digital journalism
- Transmedia, data driven and interactive storytelling
- Artificial Intelligence applications in journalism and the media
- Entrepreneurial, constructive, and solution-based journalism
- Professional and citizen war journalism
- Citizen and community journalism
- Fact-Checking or Journalism?

Political Communication in the Digital Media Era

- Civic activities and identity politics online
- Media, social movements, and political change
- Political communication and political structures
- Ideology and political discourse online
- Political participation and political communities
- Political rhetoric and campaigns

Challenges of Online Political Discourse

- Freedom of expression and online censorship
- Surveillance, personal data, and privacy
- Misinformation, conspiracy theories, false news, and post-truth culture
- Propaganda, political flaming, and the weaponization of social media
- Information cocoons, filter bubbles, and echo chambers
- Computational propaganda and disinformation campaigns
- Spam, scams, identity theft, phishing, hacking and spyware

Imagining a Better World in Digital Spaces

- How can media, corporations, governments, and the public disrupt positive change in digital spaces?
- How can media enhance social cohesion and understanding in the face of multipolarity and heterogeneous values?
- Supporting fact-based knowledge and ensuring safety and freedom of oppression
- Empowering diverse voices and providing tools for collaborations
- Social media regulations and technology policy issues

Conference Participants

The CFP is addressed to members of the academic community from the fields of media studies, journalism, political science, and law to discuss and advance ideas on how public discourse and journalism evolve in the digital society, the creative avenues they find, the challenges they face and the opportunities that lie ahead.

The conference also seeks to build bridges between academia and the profession and between the media actors and experts of their regulation. Practitioners who wish to present their work and reflect on the conference's interdisciplinary themes are welcome. We welcome laboratories and workshops to demonstrate innovative practices, discuss ideas and share best practices regarding any of the conference themes. We are particularly interested in presentations that describe emancipatory communication experiences that have been disruptive, successful, and beneficial.

Submission process

Potential speakers should submit an abstract of 500 words (+/-5%) in English **by April, 30th, 2023, 23:55 (Eastern European Standard Time)**. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed.

Submissions should be sent to the email:

amiretreat23@advancedmediainstitute.com. Each participant can present only once as primary author, but there are no limitations as regards co-authors.

Abstract Guidelines

Abstracts should be 500 words long (excluding references) and include a title, the author(s) affiliation and contact details (excluded from 500 words), an introduction, a methodology part explaining in detail the methodological approach to the topic studied and (if possible) the main findings of the research. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed. Decision will be communicated by 21st May 2023.

Publication

As part of this conference, the scientific committee will publish a selection of papers in an edited volume in English after consultation with the author(s).

Full paper Guidelines

Selected papers will be published by an international publisher. Submitted papers should be 6.000 words (including references), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12. Please include a title, the author(s) affiliation and contact details, an introduction (theoretical background of the study), a methodological part including the methodological approach, the research questions or hypotheses, the findings section and a discussion/conclusions part.

Deadlines

April, 30th 2023, 23:55 (EEST): abstracts submission

May 21st, 2023: Notification of decision by scientific committee

May 21st, 2023: Registration opens

July 30th, 2023: Registration closes

August 30th, 2023: Full paper submission

Registration Fees

Academics: 200 Euro

PhD students, Journalists and Media Professionals: 130 Euro

Students and participants not presenting a paper: 80 Euro

Registration fees for the conference include a copy of the program, participation in the scientific and professional sessions, lunches, coffee breaks.

More information about the specific location of the conference and other activities are being announced on our website. For more information on registration, please visit the conference website.



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PROGRAMME
03/11 | FRIDAY

CONFERENCE OPENING

9:00–9:30

SOFIA IORDANIDOU

Advanced Media Institute, Open University of Cyprus

YANNIS MORALIS

Mayor of Piraeus

MARIA ANTONIADOU

Journalists' Union of Athens Daily Newspapers Chairwoman

9:30 – 11:30 PANEL 1 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):
Digital Places and Technology: Challenges and Practices

BANTIKI, EVANTHIA, Ionian University, Greece

VALIA KAIMAKI, Ionian University, Greece

“Unveiling Techno-Utopias: Navigating the Shifting Landscape of Journalism”.

DASKALAKI, EVGENIA, Ionian University, Greece

GEORGIOS P. HELIADES, Ionian University, Greece

“Investigating the role of communication technologies in the everyday life of people with disabilities”.

XU, YINGCHUN, Rutgers University, U.S.

“Enclaves of Cyber Surveillance and Censorship: Algorithms as Cultural Techniques Based on the Case Study of the #A4 Revolution in China”.

TSIMPOUKIS, PANOS, University Toulouse III– Paul Sabatier, France

“The politicization of Artificial Intelligence in the public sphere: influence of press and social media”.

Panel coordinator: SMYRNAIOS, NIKOS, Professor, Laboratoire d'Études et de Recherches Appliquées en Sciences Sociales, University of Toulouse, France

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall)

Keynote Speaker ROBERT, ANNE-CECILE,

Journalist, Deputy Director of Le Monde diplomatique, Professor at the Panthéon-Assas University Paris II

“The influence of new technologies as an appeal to intercultural work ethics building for journalists and media”.

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 – 16:45 **PANEL 2** (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):
Challenges of Online Political Communication

CHRISTOFORIDOU, A. DESPINA, Ionian University, Greece,

KAIMAKI VALIA, Ionian University, Greece

“Decrypting visual political communication on social media: The case of Nikos Androulakis, president of PASOK.”

PAPADOPOULOU, DORA, Open University of Cyprus

“Political Rhetoric and Prejudice. Female Politicians in Greece and Cyprus”.

TSAOUSIS, GEORGIOS, University of Nicosia, Cyprus

“The regulation of political campaigns regarding the protection of personal data: the price of participatory democracy based on the Greek example”.

KAIMAKI, VALIA, Ionian University Greece

“The mirror frame: how foreign media is used to shape national politics, the case of Greece”.

Panel coordinator: PANOS, DIONYSIS, Assistant Professor, Cyprus University of

Technology and Director / Coordinator of the MA Program ‘New Media Journalism’, Cyprus University of Technology

16:45 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 – 19:00 PANEL 3 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):
*Social Media: Influences, Agenda Setting and
Public Debates*

ELAFROPOULOS, DIMITRIS, University of Toulouse, France

SMYRNAIOS NIKOS, University of Toulouse, France

“Tempi - The echo on Twitter: a mapping of the public debate”.

GIANNOULI, ILIANA, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Greece

ARCHONTAKI, IOANNA, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Greece

KARADIMITRIOU, ACHILLEAS, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Greece

PAPATHANASSOPOULOS, STYLIANOS, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens,
Greece

**“Medical Science in peril? Analyzing the echo chamber effect in the COVID-19 era and
the “triumph” of anti-vaccine rhetoric on Facebook”.**

KOUFAKOS, CHRISTOS, Ionian University, Greece

KAIMAKI, VALIA, Ionian University, Greece

**“When Twitter sets the agenda but cannot change the game: the failed attempt of
stopping the renovation works at the Acropolis”.**

PAPANAGNOU, VAIOS, Deree College – The American College of Greece

“The influence of social media on journalistic relationships: a case study of the Guardian”.

SMYRNAIOS, NIKOS, University of Toulouse, France

SEBBAH BRIGITTE, University of Toulouse, France

DILE-TOUSTOU JULES, University of Toulouse, France

RATINAUD PIERRE, University of Toulouse, France

**“Debating the French pension reform: media agenda-settings versus discussions in
social media”.**

Panel coordinator: SAMARAS, N. ATHANASIOS, Assistant Professor, University of Piraeus,
Greece and Director of the Strategic Communication & News Media Laboratory

19:30 Gala Dinner offered by the Mayor of Piraeus (by bus)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4

9:30 – 11:30 PANEL 4 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):

Digital Platforms, Democracy and Journalism

KYRIAKIDES, NICOLAS, University of Nicosia, Cyprus
ISAIA GEORGE, Operations Executive at Nomoplatform
“Nomoplatform: An example of efficient watchdog journalism”.

PAPA, VENETIA, University of Cyprus
KOUROS THEODOROS, Cyprus University of Technology
“Facebook and Google care deeply about journalism”? Mapping audience-based monetization projects and the impact on journalistic practices and values”.

PAPAEVANGELOU, CHARIS, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
“The Non-Interference Principle: Debating Online Platforms’ Treatment of Editorial Content in the EU’s Digital Services Act”.

SPILLER, RALF, Hochschule Macromedia University of Applied Sciences, Köln, Germany
KOCKS, FU JAN Berlin and Hochschule Macromedia University of Applied Sciences Berlin, Germany
DOBLER, THOMAS, Hochschule Macromedia University of Applied Sciences, Stuttgart, Germany
“Requirements for a democratic platform society”.

SPYRIDOU, PASCHALIA (LIA), Cyprus University of Technology
IOANNIDES, NIKANDROS, Cyprus University of Technology
“Are journalists willing to support democratic innovations? Professional role perceptions at times of political disconnection”.

Panel coordinator: STAMATOUDI, IRINI, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Nicosia, Cyprus and Ass. Head for Department of Law; Vice President, Blue Shield Greece; Editorial Board, Mass Media and Technology Law (ΔΙΤΕ).

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall)

Keynote Speaker KRETSOS, LEFTERIS,
Honorary Senior Lecturer at City University London, Lecturer at Brunel University of London and Director for the PhD Programme with Ahlia University at Bahrain
“Democracy in the era of Algorithmic Elections”

13:00 – 15:00 Tour of Piraeus and Lunch Break offered by the Municipality of Piraeus

15:00 – 16:45 **PANEL 5** (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):
*Concepts, Definitions and Terministic Control:
A Toolbox for Reflection on Media Theory and
Political Communication Practice*

SAMARAS, N. ATHANASSIOS, University of Piraeus, Greece

LIMNIOUDI, ATHINA, University of Piraeus, Greece

“Persuasive Definitions of ‘Character Assassination’: Exploring the Usages of the Term in Political Discourse and Social Media”.

KOLOVOS, KYRIAKOS, Open University of Cyprus

MICHAILIDES, ANDREAS, Open University of Cyprus

“Persuasive Definition as a Tool of Terministic Control: Political Communication Process in the Greek-Cypriot Public Sphere”.

CHRISTODOULOU, ZOI, Open University of Cyprus

SAMARAS, N. ATHANASSIOS, University of Piraeus, Greece

“Ethnocentrism as an Essentially Contested Concept in ‘News Ethnocentrism’ Literature. Interdisciplinary Differentiation or Strategic Use of Persuasive Definition?”

KOUTOUELA, CHRISTINA, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

“Persuasive Definition and the Power of Redefinition: A Conceptual Framework for Strategic Communication Analysis – The Case Study of Education”.

CHONDROKOUKI, DIMITRA, University of Piraeus, Greece

SAMARAS, N. ATHANASSIOS, University of Piraeus, Greece

“Moral Exclusion, Pseudo-apology and Blame Avoidance Strategies: A Theoretical Framework for Gender-Based Violence in the Digital Environment”.

Panel coordinator: DOGANI, MYRSINI, PhD in International Relations, teaching Rhetoric at the University of Thessaly, Greece and Intercultural Communication at the Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece, Member of the Strategic Communication and Media Laboratory of the University of Piraeus, Greece.

16:45 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 – 19:00 PANEL 6 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):
Uses of Digital Platforms and Ideology

BACCARIN, MATHEUS, University of Brasília

VILARINS, LORENA, University of Brasília

ABELIN, PEDRO, University of Maryland, U.S.

MOTA, AMANDA, University of Brasília

“The media is hiding information about the vaccines: Information sources among anti-vaccine activists during the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Brazil”.

ABOU SALEM, DINA, Prequel Enterprise, Los Angeles, U.S.

DEAN, RICHARD, California State University, Los Angeles, U.S.

“Democratic Ideals in an Unlikely Place: Tik Tok and the Power of #darien Among Asylum Seekers”.

STALD, GITTE, IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark

“I heard about it in the podcast ...’ Young Danes’ (re)discovery of podcasts for coherent information”.

VARGAS, MATIAS SERGIO A., University of Sonora, México

“From citizen journalism to on-demand journalism: the case of leftist youtubers”.

VATIKIOTIS, LEONIDAS, Open University of Cyprus

“Attitude comparison between Press and politicians and European citizens on the Russian-Ukrainian war”.

Panel coordinator: JEBRIL, NAEL, Associate Professor and Chair of the Media Studies Program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies Qatar

19:30 Dinner at Taverna Kritikia offered by Advanced Media Institute

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/iCUFMEXiDCKgsdQe7>

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

9:30 – 11:30 PANEL 7 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):

Media and Politics in Polycrisis

WANG, CHIAO-AN, University of Westminster, London, UK

“Digital platform democracy in Taiwan (R.O.C.): Adolescents participation in political affairs after the social movements”.

JEBRIL, NAEL, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies Qatar

MOHAMMED, EL BOUZIDI, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar

“Framing of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the British and French Press”.

HAZZOURI, HUSSEIN, University of Toulouse, France

“Navigating Lebanon’s Confessional System: Analysing the Objectives of Secular Parties on Facebook during the 2018 Parliamentary Elections”.

RAYCHEVA, LILIA, METANOVA LORA, VELINOVA NELI, TOMOV MARIYAN,

The St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, Bulgaria

“Critical Junctures of Five Digital Parliamentary Campaigns in Bulgaria (2021-2023)”.

PETROU, S. AIKATERINI, Ionian University, Greece

“The impact of social media in political and emotional data analysis; from the polities’ development to public policies and implementation of institutions”.

Panel coordinator: **PLATANAKIS, HARRY**, Assistant Professor, University of Athens, Greece

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:30 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall)

Media Professionals Conference:

“The Procrustean influence of new technologies to the real life of journalists, today”

There was in Greek mythology an unpleasant character, Procrustes. He was a bandit from Attica who preyed on passers-by going from Athens to Eleusis, stretching those who proved to be too short or cutting off their legs if they were too tall to make them fit an iron bed that he used to size people “correctly”.

The way in which new technologies, especially the digital arsenal has influenced the media world – and the real life of journalists – ever since the turn of the century reminds one unpleasantly of Procrustes’s habits. Indisputably, the array of digital tools put at the disposal of newsgathering, analysis, background search, projection and diffusion, instant communication etc. has radically altered the lives of journalists. Their grasp of the news as they evolve, their very understanding of complex situations, their communication with their audience, even their own potential independence – all have undergone changes.

On the other hand, the business model of media outlets – of every sort and size, as we gradually came to realize – has been eroded, hollowed, and finally upended. Looking for income, the media have gradually changed their agenda. This, in turn, has changed the very status of journalists and their modus operandi.

When trying to deal with a world of polycrisis, therefore, both the media system and the individual journalist must deal with this dual reality, a reality that operates in quite a Procrustean way for a journalist’s own experience, work and life.

(Procrustes was ultimately eliminated by Athenian hero Theseus. The modern Theseus that will deal with modern media realities is still missing).

Speakers:

PAPAGIANNIDIS, ANTONIS, Journalist, Lawyer

MOURDOUKOUTAS, VASSILIS, Communication Consultant

TZIMA, RANIA Journalist

CHONDROGIANNOS, THODORIS, Journalist

Panel coordinator: IORDANIDOU, SOFIA, Journalism and Communication Associate Professor, Journalist, Advanced Media Institute Chairwoman

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:30 PANEL 8 (Georgios Kassimatis Hall):

*Leadership Rhetoric and Parliamentary Discourse –
Facets of Political Communication in the Era of Polycrisis*

DOGANI, MYRSINI, University of Thessaly, Greece

KOLYVA, ANASTASIA, University of Piraeus, Greece

KOUTSOCHERAS, STAVROS, University of Piraeus, Greece

VOULGARIS, PHOEBUS, University of Piraeus, Greece

“National Self-Image Perceptions as ‘Cringe’ Experience: An Auto-Ethnography Approach over Greekness”

IOANNOU, ALEXANDRA, University of Piraeus, Greece

LAMPROPOULOU, IRIDA, University of Piraeus, Greece

“Ethotic Arguments as Tools of Image Enhancement and Proactive Crisis Management: An Analysis of Mitsotakis’s Address at the U.S. Congress”

LIMNIOUDI, ATHINA, University of Piraeus, Greece

SOURMELI, DIMITRA, University of Piraeus, Greece

“Homophily as a Rhetorical Tool for Building Common Identity in Leaders’ Discourse During Crisis: Mitsotakis Vs. Erdogan”

KAIMAKI, ELPIDA, Advanced Media Institute, Cyprus

SAMARAS, N. ATHANASSIOS, University of Piraeus, Greece

“Rhetorical Attacks During the COVID-Pandemia: Rally-Around-the-Flag Effect Versus Campaign Mode”

LAOUTARIS, GEORGE, Advanced Media Institute Cyprus

SAMARAS, N. ATHANASSIOS, University of Piraeus Greece

“Instruments and Techniques of Character Assassination in the Greek Parliament - The Case Study of Pavlos Polakis”

Panel coordinator: TSENE, LIDA, Communication Consultant, Open University of Cyprus & Open University of Greece Lecturer, COMICDOM founder

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