

**RC14 NEWSLETTER**  
**SPECIAL PORTO ALEGRE FORUM ISSUE**  
**FEBRUARY 2021**



## Table of Contents

<i>Letter from the President</i> .....	3
<i>The Agenda of the RC14 BM of Porto Alegre</i> .....	4
<i>RC14 Sessions (and joint sessions) in Porto Alegre Forum</i> .....	5
<i>Forthcoming Workshop in Paris</i> .....	7
<i>Call for contributions for the thematic issue on Media and Identities</i> .....	8

## *Letter from the President*

Dear colleagues,

As it is known, the Porto Alegre Forum (scheduled initially for July 2020 and being postponed to February 2021, because of the pandemic) will take place online from February 23<sup>rd</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup> 2021.

In order to inform you about RC14 news we have thought of editing a special Newsletter issue with information about RC14 Porto Alegre sessions, other RC14 activities and specially about our Business Meeting which will “take place” ONLINE on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2021, at 9.00 in the morning (but in Brazilian time zone –so you will have to “check” about the corresponding time in your home time zone).

We all regret being obliged not to meet physically and exchange; there is an opportunity to “meet all” even virtually via the “online possibility” given to all members in good standing; the condition for it according to ISA rules is: “only registered participants will be able to access online sessions. Colleagues who are only interested in attending RC14 Business Meeting can opt for View Only registration, with regular fee \$50 and student \$20. Registration link: <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/registration/call.cgi>”.

If you do not intend to participate but are still interested in RC14 decision making, you may **send me your ideas/concerns/ suggestions until February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021** and we will include them for discussion. We will also discuss other possibilities of online members’ meetings which can include the participation of all members in good standing, everywhere in the world: I remind that according to the ISA rules the RC management is very important and that together with the “scientific issues” which interest us all, we have to decide together and manage activities, publications, membership, events (the number of sessions accorded to each RC depends on the number of its’ members); so it is also important to discuss about all these “practical” issues.

In this Newsletter you will find the forthcoming BM Agenda as scheduled by the RC14 board. As already notified, if you wish to make discuss some extra issue(s) please contact me by mail ([christiana.constantopoulou@panteion.gr](mailto:christiana.constantopoulou@panteion.gr)), till February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 I’ll include it/them in the Porto Alegre Agenda.

Wishing to “meet” you soon,

Many regards,

**Christiana Constantopoulou**

Professor of Sociology, Panteion University, Athens/ RC14 Porto Alegre Program Coordinator

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**The Agenda of the RC14 BM of Porto Alegre**

*To be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2021, from 9.00 to 10.30 Brazil time zone*

**A. Information:**

- 1) **Activities after Toronto (Midterm in Athens, Publications, Forthcoming scheduled up to now)**
- 2) **Finance and RC14 grants**
- 3) **Newsletter and Social Media**

**B. Other issues:**

- 1) *Suggestions for other activities* (Participation in conferences in Chiapas México, Alicante, Online Seminar –Ottawa, Online conference of expert-s)
- 2) *Suggestions for cooperation with well-known journals* for thematic issue by RC14 (ESSACHESS?/other?)
- 3) *Questions/ Further Discussion*
- 4) *Members' other propositions (mailed till Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 2021)*

**RC14 Sessions (and joint sessions) in Porto Alegre Forum**

*Please notice that the hours follow the Brazil time zone (please be sure to follow them in your home time zone, as the Forum takes place online).*

**Tuesday, 23 February 2021:**

**17:45 - 19:15**

*Cultural Management and Consumption: Case Studies from the Global South* [#15121]

**Wednesday, 24 February 2021:**

**09:00 - 10:30**

*Globalization, Communication and Cultural Change: Conceptual Issues and Empirical Reality* [#13558]

**10:45 - 12:15**

*Civic Engagement, Political Consumerism and Participatory Communication: New Challenges of Social Media at 21st Century* [#14537]

**14:15 - 15:45**

*Reproducing Knowledge: Media and Social Representations* [#15225]

**Thursday, 25 February 2021:**

**09:00 - 10:30**

**RC14 Business Meeting** [#15258]

**10:45 - 12:15**

*Postmodern Mythologies: The Contemporary Society (reflected) in Media Narratives* [#13332]

**14:15 - 15:45**

*Television: Productions, Representations and Receptions* [#14609]

**16:00 - 17:30 (joint session RC14 & RC48)**

*Revisiting the Role of Digital Media in Social Movements. Part II* [#14423]

**Friday, 26 February 2021:**

**10:45 - 12:15 (joint session RC 07, 14 & 23)**

*Contesting Digital Formations: Power, Values, and Visions* [#15204]

**14:15 - 15:45**

*Environmental Aesthetics and Socio-Territorial Conflicts throughout Media* [#12583]

**16:00 - 17:30**

*Media, Democracy and Development: Historical and Present Connections* [#14591]

**Saturday, 27 February 2021:**

**09:00 - 10:30 (joint session RC 14 & 37)**

*Taste and Cultural Practices in the Prism of Intersectionality* [#14648]

**10:45 - 12:15 (joint session RC07, RC14, RC16, RC18 & WG01)**

*Presente y futuro de la sociología como ciencia y profesión en un mundo en cambio. Un diálogo global de experiencias entre ALAS e ISA* [#13499]

**16:00 - 17:30**

*The Conflict of Values in the Socio-Cultural Space* [#15042]

## *Forthcoming Workshop in Paris*

*On May 28th 2021, RC14 organizes a one-day conference on national identities and media in French. Here follows the CFP (in French):*

### **Identités nationales et médias : conscience nationale dans les sociétés contemporaines (à l'occasion des 200 ans d'existence de la Grèce moderne)**

Les Universités de Bucarest, Panteion d'Athènes (EURCECOM), Paris Descartes (Philépol), Haute-Alsace, Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III, les Comités de Recherche Sociologie de la Communication de l' AIS et Socio-anthropologie Politique de l' AISLF et l' AMOPA-Grèce, organisent une Journée d'Études sur le thème *Identités Nationales et Médias : conscience nationale dans les sociétés contemporaines* **le 28 mai 2021** à la Fondation Hellénique à Paris (si besoin l'événement s'organisera en ligne).

Les identités collectives (comme le sont les identités nationales) sont objet de négociations et redéfinitions, en mouvement continu (aussi bien pour ce qui concerne les discours « privés » que les discours publics – politiques ou médiatiques). L'identité grecque moderne est issue (comme d'autres identités nationales) des théories romantiques du 19<sup>e</sup> siècle qui ont abouti à la création d'états nationaux ; on constate le règne d'identités nationales pendant les deux derniers siècles dans le monde entier ainsi que leur importance dans la mise en place des « frontières » dans les sociétés actuelles.

Étant donné que les médias jouent un rôle élémentaire dans l'enjeu des représentations sociales dans le monde (donnant sens à la "réalité sociale" -entre autres par la diffusion sélective de symboles consommés dans la vie quotidienne), l'image des identités nationales dans les narrations médiatiques s'avère être d'un grand intérêt pour l'approche des identités – tout spécialement des identités nationales - dans notre monde : comment les individus et les peuples se définissent ? Quels thèmes sont considérés « importants » pour la définition et la présentation du soi dans les sociétés dites « postmodernes » ? Dans quelle mesure les « autres » sont considérés importants et qui sont-ils (dans le cadre des discours « hégémoniques »)? La recherche sur les identités nationales est liée aux récits médiatiques et aux représentations (images et arguments) qui en sont reproduites (créant – avec d'autres institutions comme par ex. les institutions éducatives ou religieuses - le sentiment d'appartenance à une communauté) puisqu'ils offrent symboles et modèles communs aux populations, rendant l'identification nationale en une « partie déterminante » de la vie quotidienne, rapprochant les distances dues au temps ou à l'espace et indiquant l'événement considéré « remarquable » dans la sphère de la perception commune de tous les jours.

La journée d'études invite des recherches relatives à la formation des identités dans la société actuelle, tout spécialement dans le cadre des discours médiatiques. Comment les consciences (nationale, religieuse - ou autres qui peuvent paraître d'importance) sont-elles définies et par quels critères on se différencie des « autres » dans le cadre culturel mondial contemporain ?

La langue officielle de la journée d'études est le français et les résumés des propositions doivent parvenir jusqu'au **31 mars 2021** à l'adresse : [cconstantopoulou@gmail.com](mailto:cconstantopoulou@gmail.com)

**Call for contributions for the thematic issue on: Media Narratives on Contemporary Identities**

Collective identities (such as national identities) are an object of continuous process, negotiation and redefinition (in the field of private as well as in the field of public discourses – like media narratives).

Nowadays, Media play a crucial role giving meaning to current ideas and diffusing perceptive images of the ongoing social reality (through concrete symbolical forms). Thus, the sociological study of identities needs to observe the (mass and social) media narratives and the social representations (images and arguments) which are reproduced by them creating a “*feeling of community*”. This “*feeling of community*” is important because it determines the constitution and the symbolization of significant social links (the foundation of “being together” in any society). Common symbols (such as the national ones) are converted to a part of everyday life for the audiences, bridging distances in time and space and reporting “reality” in the sphere of everyday perception.

In times of globalization and of social and economic uncertainty (due to the economic crisis, the refugee and migration problems, the construction of supranational entities or the deconstruction of the existing socialist systems etc.), the contemporary societies redefine world borders and identities. Two centuries after the creation of the so called “romantic nations” (among which modern Greece), how the contemporary media reflect nations and the world? Are “national” identities still important or solidarities among people follow different (such as religious, technological or simply “monetary”) inspirations of “being together” (of “belonging” to a specific community)? How the contemporary “identities” are shaped and how are they “reported” by the contemporary media?

This volume intends to investigate ongoing media (either electronic or digital) narratives describing the contemporary meaning of “significant” identities (such as national identities for instance); references can be made to any shaping of identity given as considerable by current “news” and “narrations” (concerning either modern Greece or Europe and the World). It invites research approaches on definitions of identities in the postmodern society, especially in the media discourse. How national (but also religious and other) proclamations of “being together” are disseminated by different media and which are the main criteria used by the contemporary societies in order to justify present separations due to different identities?

Proposals should be made in English according to the SOCIAL COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL instructions (<https://ejournals.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/SCAD>); research works on Contemporary Identities in the Media Narratives should be original and not exceed 6.000 words including endnotes and references along with a short CV including affiliation, recent publications and current mailing address. Notes must figure at the end of the text together with the Bibliographical References (not a Bibliography in general) in Harvard System.

Interested parties should send their papers not later than June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 to the Special Issue Editor, Prof. Christiana Constantopoulou, [cconstantopoulou@gmail.com](mailto:cconstantopoulou@gmail.com)

*Dimitra Laurence Larochelle, Newsletter editor*