

Editorial

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Dear SComS readers,

We are pleased to present to you the first of the three issues of *Studies in Communication Sciences* scheduled for publication in 2023. Beginning in 2022 and on a trial basis, SComS begun to publish three issues per year in response to the increased number of submissions. We are continuing our trial which allows us to offer two issues with Thematic Sections which have been very important to our community of readers. This still leaves us another full issue dedicated exclusively to general submissions. The current issue includes a Thematic Section titled: “Historizing international organizations and their communication – institutions, practices, changes.” The second Thematic Section will be published in issue 23-3 under the title: “Old media persistence. Past continuities.” We have enjoyed receiving very interesting proposals for Thematic Sections. At this moment, we already have Thematic Sections planned for 2024. If you are thinking of organizing one, please plan ahead and we look forward to receiving your proposal.

The General Section of this issue opens with two articles addressing two distinct issues, integration of findings across quantitative media studies to augment its explanatory powers, and creating a typology of children media users based on their media repertoires to assess risks and benefits of using media at an early age.

In the first article titled “How can we strengthen the integration of findings in communication sciences?”, Matthias Potthoff raises the issue of fragmentation and thus insufficient integration of findings from individual studies. He argues that such studies in and of themselves have limited power to explain complex phenomena – which could be

expanded by combining findings and their insights. Combination of findings would increase clarity of explanations and reveal general principles at work thus increasing application. While some findings are unrelated, others could be integrated taking into account different theoretical and methodological approaches. The author proposes that some common practices in the hypotheses building process as well as certain context factors hinder stronger integration across quantitative mass media research. The article then proposes a roadmap for integration consisting of six theses that explain how yet unrealized potentials for integration could be leveraged. The discipline of communication studies could thereby make its results more impactful and increase its relevance. This contribution is likely to generate a lively debate among scholars.

The second article by Hannah Früh and Andreas Fahr is entitled “Typology of children media users” and focuses on children media users from a media repertoire perspective. Media use by children has always been an important research topic in communication studies. As media have been found to yield both detrimental and desirable potentials, safeguarding and protecting children from harm due to media consumption is as essential as is promoting media literacy. Früh and Fahr present a study based on survey and interview data of 448 primary school children in the French-speaking part of Switzerland in which they identify children media user types based on the children’s media repertoires, thus including different kinds of media and their respective usages. Moreover, investigating the displacement hypotheses and the more-the-more hypothesis the children media user types are compared with respect



to children's use of non-media activities. The authors found that while some children who frequently use a high number of different media also use an extensive mixture of different non-media activities; for other groups the displacement hypothesis seems to be a better theoretical fit. The study provides detailed findings for the Swiss context and provides important stimuli for future research on media use by children in a repertoire-oriented perspective that combines both media and non-media activities.

As already mentioned above, the Thematic Section of this issue is entitled "Historizing international organizations and their communication – institutions, practices, changes" and was organized by the guest editors Erik Koenen, Arne L. Gellrich, Christian Schwarzenegger, Stefanie Averbek-Lietz, and Astrid Blome. The Thematic Section comprises five articles that examine different international organizations from the perspective of transnational communication and media history. In order to learn more about this fascinating and innovative topic and the single contributions we invite you to read the guest editorial by our guest editors to whom we are grateful for their initiative and for the perfect management of the review process.

Just as guest editors are important for ensuring the quality of our Thematic Sections, our Advisory Board members have been an important support for reflecting on the future directions of the journal and for helping in the review processes. We are pleased to inform our readers about the renaming of our Advisory Board. In line with international standards, we decided to use the name "Editorial Board" from now on. This has no effect on the tasks taken by our esteemed 17 members who will furthermore serve as guides to reviewers as well as being reviewers themselves. We are very grateful that some of them provided book reviews and articles themselves lately. The following scholars currently serve SComS as members of the Editorial Board (in alphabetical order): Corina Andone (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), Nils S. Borchers (University of Tübingen, Germany), Roberta Bracciale (Università di Pisa, Italy), Cornelia Brantner (Karlstad University, Sweden), Lorenzo Cantoni (USI – Università della Svizzera ital-

iana, Lugano, Switzerland), Didier Courbet (Aix-Marseille Université, France), Barbara De Cock (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium), José van Dijck (Utrecht University, Netherlands), Eszter Hargittai (University of Zurich, Switzerland), Diana Inghoff (University of Fribourg, Switzerland), Christine Lohmeier (University of Salzburg, Austria), Jörg Matthes (University of Vienna, Austria), Julia Metag (University of Münster, Germany), Dima Mohammed (NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal), Sophie Mützel (University of Lucerne, Switzerland), and Marko Siitonen (University of Jyväskylä, Finland).

Moreover, we would like to welcome a new member to the Editorial Board: Joan Ramon Rodriguez-Amat. He is principal lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, UK. His research interests focus on factors that shape communicative spaces. He thus focuses his research on the integration and entanglements of social interaction, mobile and digital social platforms, and physical-geographic space utilizing digital methods and both qualitative and quantitative analysis. We are very grateful to Joan Ramon Rodriguez-Amat for helping us create the shortlist for the SComS Best Paper Award. Together with the editors, six journal articles published in SComS in 2022 were shortlisted for the award. These are currently being evaluated by a panel of jurors. The winner will be announced in April at the SACM annual conference, shortly after this issue went to press. Moreover, in the past Joan Ramon Rodriguez-Amat has regularly served as reviewer for SComS submissions.

What is more, SComS is happy to announce an enhancement of its team and welcomes Philip di Salvo as a second book review editor. Philip is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Media and Communications Management at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. His main research interests are investigative journalism, Internet surveillance, and the relationship between journalism and hacking. We are looking forward to working together with him.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

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