European Humanities University

Call for Participation

Media Strategies in the Age of Information Wars

Interdisciplinary conference, organized by the
Laboratory for Studies of Visual Culture and Contemporary Art,
European Humanities University,
Vilnius (Lithuania)

December 14-15, 2023

The full-scale Russia's war against Ukraine could not help but have an impact on the modern media sphere. On the one hand, the war served as a catalyst for a range of negative processes characteristic of contemporary digital media, such as the constant growth of manipulative potential in communication tools, the escalation of disinformation, the accumulation and direction of emotional reactions, and the increased potential for political surveillance of users. On the other hand, modern media — particularly social networks like YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and, first and foremost, Telegram —play a role as platforms for discussion, fostering productive differentiation of positions, the formation of new solidarities and support networks, which are especially important in the context of an ongoing surge of political repression in aggressor countries. Additionally, modern (network and cloud) media serve as spaces for accumulating evidence of the victims and their suffering in the war, as well as evidence of committed war crimes.

The primary goal of the conference is to contribute to the understanding of how modern media and ongoing catastrophic events unfolding in Eastern Europe influence each other.

We welcome contributions from different scholarly fields and disciplines (media and communication studies, film studies, philosophy, gender studies, political sciences, art theory, law, history, etc.), that engage with the topics and questions addressed below:

- Digital strategies of anti-war resistance
- Gendered mediascapes of the war
- Networked affectivity in the war times
- The effects of statism in media sphere
- "More media": political actions in oversaturated communicative environments
- Film culture as a tool of war propaganda and/or as a means of anti-military resistance
- Social media: between conflict and solidarity
- "Operative imagery": mediated images as agencies in war and resistance
- Connectedness: communication between act and disposition (dispositif)
- The gaze of a drone: the scopic regimes of the warfare in a digital era
- The burden of proof: visual evidences of the war crimes
- The practices of commemoration of the war victims in a digital environment
- Generative media: AI and new regimes of representation

Submission of abstracts:
Please, send your abstract (300-500 words) and a short bio with contact details (max. 150 words) to mediainfowarsconf@gmail.com

Dates and deadlines:
The deadline for submissions: **November 15st, 2023.**
The applicants will be notified about selection by **November 20th, 2023**

Conference registration:
There will be no conference fees. The participants are expected to cover their own expenses for travel and accommodation in Vilnius. Travel grants (up to 200 euro) and hotel accommodation in Vilnius may be provided upon individual request (for PhD students, independent scholars, scholars at risk).

Conference language: English

Conference format:
Time framework – 30 minutes for each participant (presentation and discussion). Participation/presentations online (Zoom) are also possible. Please, inform the organizers of the format of your participation in advance – preferably, when you submit your proposal, but in any case no later than one week before the conference.

Conference venue: European Humanities University, Savičiaus g. 17, Vilnius, Lithuania

Publication of conference proceedings:

We ask authors of abstracts during the application process to indicate whether they will agree to work out their presentations into full-fledged articles.

Organizing Committee:

Almira Ousmanova (European Humanities University, Lithuania)

Ilya Inishev (European Humanities University, Lithuania)

Andrei Gornykh (European Humanities University, Lithuania)

Olena Pavlova (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine)

Michael Finch (Bryan College, USA)