

Second call for papers: extended deadline for abstracts 28 May 2010

Global Media and the 'War on Terror': an international conference

Organized by Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) of the University of Westminster, London, in collaboration with the Department of Media and Communications, Goldsmiths, University of London.

Venue: University of Westminster, 309 Regent Street, London

Dates: Monday 13 - Tuesday 14 September 2010

Conference organizers: Professor Daya Thussu, University of Westminster, and Dr Des Freedman, Goldsmiths, University of London.

As we enter the tenth year after the events of 9/11, it is an appropriate time to evaluate the media's relationship to a changed geo-political environment and to pose questions about media performance and influence in relation to this post-9/11 period. Have the media contributed to exacerbating the political, cultural and religious divides within Western societies and the world at large? Has the digital revolution given voice to a multiplicity of views that have helped to counter hegemonic media discourses? How can media be deployed to enrich not inhibit dialogue and to what extent has the media, in all its forms, questioned, celebrated or simply accepted the unleashing of a 'war on terror'? This international conference brings together leading scholars and eminent journalists from across the globe to examine and discuss how the world's media have been influenced by 9/11 and its aftermath.

Although nearly a decade has passed, the continuing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the persistent phenomenon of terrorism, and the domestic repercussions of the 'war on terror' (including Islamophobia, a growing surveillance culture and restrictions on civil liberties) still shape media discourses around the world today.

Suggested topics for papers include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Rethinking the politics of terrorism – global and national perspectives
- Representations of terrorism in popular culture – from TV to gaming
- Public opinion in the post-9/11 era
- Surveillance, spying and subversion of democracy
- Comparative studies of global terrorism
- Cultural contexts of 9/11 – demonization of Islam and the West
- Spinning the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Reporting and conducting the wars online
- Media strategies of terrorists
- Frontline forum – journalistic experiences of covering terrorism
- Hollywoodization and Bollywoodization of the ‘war on terror’
- Evaluating the ‘al-Jazeera effect’

Keynote speakers:

Professor Todd Gitlin
Columbia University, USA

Professor Tariq Ramadan
University of Oxford, UK

Professor Barbie Zelizer
Annenberg School of Communication, USA

Other plenary speakers to include Professor Jean Seaton, University of Westminster; Professor Rune Ottosen (Norway); Dahr Jamal (US-based independent journalist); Professor Toby Miller (USA); Professor Stig Arne-Nohrstedt (Sweden); Professor Elena Vartanova (Russia) and Professor Lena Jayyusi (UAE).

The conference reflects the substantial and growing research in international journalism within CAMRI which runs numerous innovative and international conferences every year. In its 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, the UK's Higher Education Funding Council ranked CAMRI as the best media and communication research centre in the country.

Conference fee: £150, with a concessionary rate of £50 for students, to cover attendance at all sessions, refreshments and lunches as well as conference documentation. Conference registration will be open to all and not conditional upon presenting a paper.

Abstracts: These should be between 200-350 words and must include the presenter's name, institutional affiliation, email and postal address, together with the title of the paper and a brief biographical note. Two copies of the abstract should be sent, one to Professor Daya Thussu at D.K.Thussu@westminster.ac.uk and another to Helen Cohen, Events

Administrator for the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at journalism@westminster.ac.uk.

New extended deadline for abstracts: Friday, 28 May 2010. The abstracts will be peer reviewed and successful submissions will be notified asap.

A selection of the best papers will be published in a book and in a special themed issue of the journal *Global Media and Communication*, which is supporting the conference.