

Foreword

The 17th Nordic Conference for Media and Communication Research was held in Aalborg, Danmark, 11th-14th August 2005. Arrangers and hosts for the conference were the Association of Media Researchers in Denmark (SMID) and the Department of Communication in the Faculty for the Humanities at Aalborg University. More than 320 scholars from Denmark (66), Finland (22), Iceland (2), Norway (77) and Sweden (65) gathered to discuss current research and findings. In addition, some participants came from further afield, for example, from Austria, the Baltic States, Germany and Great Britain in Europe, and from Ethiopia, Canada and the USA.

The conference proceedings included plenaries and thematic seminars in 28 different working groups, where about 240 research papers were presented. In addition participants enjoyed a number of social gatherings and cultural events. The Nordic conferences, held every second year, and particularly the working groups, have contributed greatly to the development of media and communication research in the Nordic countries. The working groups have the following headings:

Media and Global Culture	Language and Rhetoric in the Media
Media Structure and Economics	The Media's Construction of Gender
Medialization of Religion and Culture	Public Relations/Planned Communication
Media History	Mediated Risk, Crisis and War Communication
Film History	Digital Text: Genre, Form and Process
Television: Institution, Production and Text	Digital Culture: New Forms of Social Interaction and Communication
Radio and other Sound Media	Media and the Multiethnic Society
Political Communication	Media and Communication Theory: Research and Disciplines
Journalism Research	Intimidation Communication
The Sociology and Aesthetics of News Reporting	Marketing Communication and Aesthetics
Media Use. Perspectives, Methods and Theory	Media Development
Children, Youth and Media	Computer Games
Media Education	Interactive Television
Fiction in Film and TV	
Visual Culture	

A number of the papers presented at the conference have been revised and edited to become articles that were then submitted for review for publication in English. Together, the articles presented in this special issue of *Nordicom Review* give the reader some idea of the breadth and depth of Nordic scholarship in the area.

A supplement contains the lectures held in plenary sessions and a list of the papers presented in English.

Responsibility for arranging the conferences is divided into two parts. More comprehensive questions, such as the theme, keynote speakers, working groups and fees are the responsibility of a Nordic Planning Committee, whose members are appointed by the national media and communication research associations. Members of the Committee that planned the conference in Aalborg were Anne Jerslev, SMID (Denmark), Chair; Leif-Ove Larsen, NML (Norway); Thorbjörn Broddason, University of Iceland; Inka Salovaara-Moring, TOY (Finland), Mats Ekström, FSMK (Sweden); and Ulla Carlsson, Nordicom.

A Local Planning Committee, consisting of Gunhild Agger (Chair), Peter Allingham, Janne Bang, Christian Jantzen, Ole Prehn, Tove Arendt-Rasmussen, Henrik Sand and Jørgen Stigel, all at Aalborg University, were responsible for the arrangements and details of the conference. Henrik Sand served as coordinator for the conference as a whole.

The next Nordic conference is to be held in Helsinki, Finland, 16th-19th August 2007.

Göteborg in October 2006

Ulla Carlsson
Editor