

NordMedia 2013 Welcome to Oslo!

2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the NordMedia conference. In 1973, the first NordMedia conference took place in Oslo, and we are happy to bring the conference back to the Norwegian capital for the first time ever since. The 2013 conference will be hosted by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, which is located downtown Oslo. The conference dates are 8-11 August.

We promise you interesting discussions on important topics, new divisions, and an exciting social program including an original venue for the 40th anniversary conference party.

Conference Theme

The conference will be devoted to a timeless, yet currently much debated topic, namely the relationship between media and democracy. The conference title is “Defending democracy. Nordic and Global diversities in Media and Journalism”. This theme points to the central role the media play in democracies and processes of democratization. However, democracy is not necessarily a precondition that allows journalism and media to play a significant role in societies. This ambiguous relationship between journalism/media and democracy has today been further complicated by the increasing importance of unedited, personal and social media. Traditional media institutions, and with them professional journalism, are no longer by default the main stewards of freedom of expression and hence democratic principles in a modern society.

Equally important is the fact that Nordic societies and hence the Nordic media are becoming increasingly globalized. The Nordic countries today represent a diversity of different cultures, social groups and ethnicities, and they are characterized by increased migration and transnational interaction and cooperation. The media field’s political economy and the increasing diversity of the various media practices and media cultures are also more and more influenced by global trends. This makes it essential to view media and journalism’s relation to democracy and free speech in a transnational perspective, which not only includes the Nordic countries, but also other parts of the world.

Keynotes and Panelists

To discuss this theme the conference organizers will invite internationally renowned media scholars and practitioners who are particularly interested in the relationship between media, journalism, democracy and free speech – for example:

- *Stephen JA Ward* (Canada/USA), James E. Burgess Professor of Journalism Ethics and chair of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- *Natalie Fenton* (United Kingdom), Professor of Media and Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London. Fenton chairs the Goldsmiths' Leverhulme Media Research Centre and Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy.
- *Kamel Labidi* (Tunisia), chairman of the Tunisian Human Rights Commission, and president of the National Authority for Reform of Information and Communication (INRIC) in Tunisia.

Division Structure

The NordMedia 2013 conference will extend the number of divisions from 11 to 14 (new divisions in **bold**):

1. Environment, Science and Risk Communication
2. Journalism Studies
3. Media and Communication History
4. Media, Culture and Society
5. Media, Globalization and Social Change
6. **Media and Migration**
7. Media Literacy and Media Education
8. Media Organizations, Policy and Economy
9. Media and Technology
10. **Media Aesthetics and Visual Culture (or similar)**
11. **Film Studies**
12. Organization, Communication and Society
13. Political Communication
14. Theory, Philosophy and Ethics of Communication

In addition, the NordMedia2013 conference will allow for the establishing of temporary working groups. Please consult the web site for additional information.

PhD Pre-Conference

We intend to organize a pre-conference for PhD-students on 6-7 August 2013. The theme of this pre-conference will be in line with the conference theme, and a call for participants will be announced together with the general call for papers to the conference. Please consult the NordMedia2013 web site for additional information (see below).

Deadlines

These are the deadlines to be aware of (might be revised – please consult web site for updated information):

- 15 October 2012: Proposals for temporary working groups
- 15 February 2013: Abstract submission
- End June/beginning July 2013: Paper submission

More Information

Please consult the NordMedia2013 website – <http://www.hioa.no/NordMedia-2013> – where updated information will be available. Call for conference papers/panels/posters will be announced in October 2012.

Please do not hesitate to contact the chair of the organizing committee, Steen Steensen (steen.steensen@hioa.no), or the vice-chair Anne Hege Simonsen (anne.hege.simonsen@hioa.no), if you have any questions.

See you in Oslo!

