

Foreword

The 14th Nordic Conference on Media and Communication Research was held in beautiful summer weather on the 14th–17th August 1999, in Kungälv, on the west coast of Sweden. Hosts of the meeting were the Swedish Association for Media and Communication Research, FSMK. More than 350 scholars from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden gathered to discuss current research and research findings. Some dozen colleagues from the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania also attended.

As usual, the conference programme comprised working groups, plenary sessions and a number of social and cultural events. The unifying theme of this year's conference was *Where do the front lines of mass communication research run today?*, a question which particularly the two plenary sessions addressed. Two prominent scholars from outside the Nordic region, professors Sonia Livingstone, Department of Psychology, London School of Economics and Political Science, and Horace Newcomb, Radio-Television-Film Department, University of Texas at Austin, had been invited to contribute their perceptions from a broader international horizon. They were joined by roughly a half dozen Nordic colleagues who spoke on the conference theme.

Working groups have been the meat of every Nordic conference to date, and the fourteenth conference was no exception. More than 170 papers were presented and discussed in 20 different working groups:

Media and Global Culture	Reception and Audience Studies
The Structure and Economics of Mass Media	Children, Youth and the Media
Multi Media and Internet	Media Education
Local and Regional Media	Popular Culture
Media History	Film and Television Fiction
Public Service Broadcasting in Transition	Pictures in the Media – Reality and Metaphor
Radio Research	The Language and Rhetoric of the Media
Political Communication	Media Constructions of Gender
Journalism Research	Public Relations and Purposive Communication
The Sociology and Aesthetics of News Reporting	Mediated Risk and Crisis Communication

A number of conference papers have been revised by their authors for publication in this special issue of *Nordicom Review*. The articles, which were selected with the advice of the working group chairmen, include the work of both senior and younger researchers. They provide a good idea of the breadth and depth of inquiry in the field of media and communication research in the Nordic countries today. All addresses to the plenum are included here, as well.

May I take this opportunity to thank the authors for the time and effort they have put into making this anthology possible.

The Nordic conferences for media and communication research play an important role in the development of the research field in the Nordic countries. We hope that the contents of this anthology will also interest our colleagues abroad.

Göteborg in September 2000

Ulla Carlsson

Editor