

Call for Papers: Media – Bridge – Cultures Conference

10. + 11. December, 2015 – Kadir Has University, Istanbul

The *Media-Bridge-Cultures* conference in Istanbul will address transnational bridging functions of the media as connecting agents between cultures and countries. A special emphasis will be placed on mediated bridges between Germany and Turkey.

While TV and radio channels as well as print and digital media offer portrayals and images of cultures and countries (such as Germany and Turkey), users consume these media offerings for the purpose of networking and cultural identity building in transnational spaces. The existing literature, however, deals especially with the role of the media for the integration of migrants into countries such as Germany, and largely neglects the bridging role of the media between cultures. Questions about the media as mediators of cultural identities and social cohesion lack in the current literature. Considering diverse (trans-)migration movements and the complexity of social networks, increasingly reaching beyond the borders of nation states, however, questions about the media's role in forming cultural identities and social cohesion are ever more pressing.

It is for these reasons that we would like to discuss the following questions at the *Media-Bridge-Cultures* conference in Istanbul:

- How do digital and mass media influence relationships between Turkey and Germany (and other countries)?
- Which German and Turkish media outlets (and those of other countries) represent Germany, Turkey (and other countries) and how?
- In what ways do the media depict cultural identities of the citizens of these countries? How do they (re-)produce or deconstruct stereotypes?
- How do German and Turkish media correspondents (and those of other countries) influence the relationship between (the two) countries?
- In which ways do media users make use of different media offerings for networking, identity construction and group membership purposes in transnational spaces?
- How do the media facilitate (or hamper) the emergence of transnational bridges and networks between Turkey and Germany (and other countries)?

Although the conference has a special focus on Germany and Turkey, papers dealing with other cases related to the conference topic are equally welcome. In addition, we invite both empirical and conceptual papers and welcome critical approaches.

Please submit your short abstracts (max. 200 words) through the conference website at <http://mediacult2015.user.jacobs-university.de/> until August 20, 2015. Authors of accepted contributions will be notified until September 15.

The conference takes place in the framework of the German-Turkish Year of Science and is supported by the German Ministry of Education and Research. It thus aims to not only address academics but also journalists and other practitioners interested in the topic. There will be two keynotes, one held by Prof. Dr. Christine Ogan (Indiana University, Bloomington) and the other by Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp (ZeMKI, University of Bremen). There will also be panels including Turkish and German media correspondents and producers of diasporic media.

The conference will be held in English; simultaneous translation into Turkish and German will be provided for keynotes and panel discussions by media correspondents. Please contact Çiğdem Bozdağ (cigdem.bozdag@khas.edu.tr) or Özen Odağ (o.odag@jacobs-university.de) for further questions.