

## Workshop

### **„EU communication transformed? Politics and media in crisis mode“**

8 March 2016

Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln

Peter-Welter-Platz 2 | D-50676 Köln | Germany

PADEMIA (<http://www.pademia.eu>) is a Europe-wide network of 56 academic institutions from 31 countries to promote research and teaching in reaction to growing European demands to study parliamentary democracy in Europe. PADEMIA seeks to enhance discussion among students, junior and senior researchers, also in exchange with stakeholders, on how to deal with the new challenges that parliaments and citizens across Europe are facing today. The PADEMIA-Work Package 5 „Parliaments and the European Public Sphere“, coordinated by the Institute for Media and Communications Policy (IfM), focuses on the actors that exercise representative functions within the European polity, notably the parliaments, their communicative dimension in the context of European politics, and their role in legitimising politics by publicising political processes and democratic decisions.

However, when it comes to representation, relevant actors may be situated at extra-institutional levels, too. Historically, the media have been key to the institutionalization of modern democracies, serving as technologies for publicity and, in a wider sense, means for social integration. Today, mass media as well as political parties, both intermediary organizations central to representative democracies, face fundamental challenges by social and technological change, notably the rising relevance of the internet and social media.

The question how, in an age of „communicative abundance“ (John Keane) and an increasingly fragmented media environment, the media, old and new, exercise their function in relation to other actors – including parliaments – is subject to intense debate. At the same time, a multitude of crises (Eurozone, Greek debt, Ukraine and refugees) has engulfed the EU over the past years, whose magnitude and speed render European politics essentially permanent crisis politics.

Against this backdrop, the PADEMIA workshop „EU communication transformed? Politics and media in crisis mode“ focuses on the changing communicative environment media and parliamentary actors find themselves in as well as on crisis discourses in the EU. We are particularly interested in empirical as well as theoretical and methodological insights into – but not limited to – the following aspects:

- Crisis coverage: the changes that the crises, and the political measures taken to respond to them, have brought to media reporting about the parliamentary actors and EU politics.
- Crisis communication: Communication efforts and strategies employed by political actors to respond to the EU's crises.
- The way the legislative and electoral functions of parliaments as well as the traditional "linkage function" of political parties are being transformed by social and technological change, notably the rising importance of the internet. How are extra-parliamentary movements, e.g. populist, anti-European networks, making use of the internet?
- Implications for parliamentary democracy and the public sphere at the European level.
- Patterns of politicisation through media and communication of EU politics in crisis situations

Proposals for presentations from different disciplinary strands, whether theoretical or empirical in focus, are invited.

(Partial) funding is available to support travel and accommodation expenses for speakers.

Proposals (no longer than 400 words) should be submitted via email **no later than January 8, 2016**, to

Dr. Leonard Novy  
Mitglied der Institutsleitung  
IfM - Institut für Medien- und Kommunikationspolitik gGmbH  
leonard.novy@medienpolitik.eu