Notes on Contributors

Paško Bilić
is a media theorist and critical media sociologist. He is Senior Research Associate at the Department for Culture and Communication, Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb, Croatia. Previously, he was an International Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Westminster (London, UK), a short-term researcher at Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey) and the University of Bremen (Germany), as well as Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Canada). He is vice-coordinator of the European Sociological Association’s (ESA) Research Network 18: Sociology of Media and Communications Research. He published in journals such as Javnost (The Public), Political Economy of Communication, Triple C: Communication, Capitalism & Critique, New Media & Society, European Journal of Communication, and Big Data & Society. He is the author (with Toni Prug and Mislav Žitko) of The Political Economy of Digital Monopolies: Contradictions and Alternatives to Data Commodification (Bristol University Press, 2021), Sociology of Media: Routines, Technology, and Power (Jesenski and Turk – in Croatian, 2019) and editor (with Jaka Primorac and Bjarki Valtysson) of Technologies of Labour and the Politics of Contradiction (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018). Currently, he is preparing a special issue for the journal Critical Sociology titled Critical Sociology of Communications and Media: Theoretical Contributions to a Disconnected Field.

Viktorija Car
is a full professor at the University of Split, Croatia, at the Communication and Media Studies. She teaches Social History of the Media, Media Construction of Social Reality, Media Capture: Politics, Market and Technology, Public Service Media and Media, Social Diversities and Cross-cultural Communication. She is a Research Fellow of the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University, USA. In the focus of her scientific research are public service media, visual culture and visual media, media narratives, digital activism, media and gender studies, media and human rights, media and minority studies. She was the founding Editor-in-Chief of the Media Studies journal (2010–2017; www.mediastudies.fpzg.hr), and a founding director of the regional conference Media Accountability (2010–2018). She was member of the HRT Program Council.

Nikoleta Daskalova is a researcher in media studies. She has been managing the Media Monitoring Lab at the Media Democracy Foundation in Sofia since 2008. Her research interests are in the structural processes of the Bulgarian media system, comparative media studies, media and popular culture, political communication. She was lecturer in Radio Advertising, Internet Culture and Mass Media and Culture at the University of Sofia (2007–2010). Daskalova is part of the Bulgarian national team contributing for the Media Pluralism Monitor research project within the European Union (2014, 2016, 2017, 2019), funded by the EU and coordinated by the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy). Her recent projects are on the current state of the Bulgarian press market, gender issues and communications, the information habits of people with hearing disabilities, media representations of civil society organizations. Daskalova is the author of numerous articles in the field of media monitoring and analysis, published both internationally and in Bulgarian scientific journals and books. She is co-author of To Be a Journalist: The State of the Profession (2017) and Hate Speech in Bulgaria: Risk Areas, Vulnerable Groups (2016).

Marijan Gubic is the CEO of Strategic Global Insights, a consultancy advising enterprises on global investment opportunities, strategy and major trends in globalization. He has served as advisor to the first president of Croatia and as a senior diplomat at the Croatian embassy in Washington, D.C. with the rank of Minister and deputy chief of mission, as well as consul general at the Croatian consulate in New York. He received his master’s degree in international affairs from Monash University, where he also received a Bachelor (Hon) in Politics and earned a Degree in Laws. He also completed an executive course for senior government managers at the J.F.K. School of Government at Harvard University as a fellow of the Luksic Foundation. He has taught at Monash University as a tutor in politics and as a consultant with the Centre for Russian and Euro-Asian Studies at the University of Melbourne and delivered lectures in the United States at numerous universities, colleges, and institutions.
Simon Huxtable

is a media historian whose research focuses on Eastern Europe in a global context. He is currently a researcher on the Connecting Three World project at Birkbeck, University of London, exploring coverage of Soviet-African health-care exchanges in the Soviet press. He recently published News from Moscow: Soviet Journalism and the Limits of Postwar Reform (Oxford University Press, 2022), a history of post-wwii Soviet newspapers from the viewpoint of the journalists who wrote and edited them. His current research explores how battles over the meaning of ‘freedom’ – one of the defining ideological conflicts of the Global Cold War – played out in a range of communications projects, ranging from training schemes for post-colonial journalists in the 1960s to post-1991 schemes to propagate liberal notions of media freedom after the fall of communism.

Jelena Kleut

is an assistant professor at the Department of Media Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia, where she is also a coordinator of the Media Centre. She is currently involved in several research projects and networks including “Digital Media Technologies, Social and Educational Changes” and “APPLY: European Network Argumentation and Public Policy Analysis” (COST 17132). Her research interests include audiences and journalism in new media contexts.

Adina Marincea

is a researcher in media studies at the “Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania”. In 2022 she finished a postdoc fellowship at the New Europe College, Bucharest, where she studied the spread of right-wing and neo- legionary discourse on social media in Romania. She has a PhD in Communication Sciences and over ten years of research experience in the field of social and political sciences in international projects like DEMOS – Democratic Efficacy and the Varieties of Populism in Europe (Horizon2020), Media Pluralism Monitor (European University Institute, European Commission grant), EUENGAGE (Horizon2020), Less Hate More Speech (EEA Grants) and European Media Systems Survey. She is specialized in the content and social network analysis of different types of mediated communication (mass-media and online platforms). Adina Marincea has also published several analyses for the general public on national and international media platforms on topics like right-wing discourse and movements, discrimination and online hate-speech, artificial intelligence, the spread of conspiracy theories on social media, among other topics.
Martin Marinos completed his Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. He is currently a postdoctoral research scholar at the Harriman Institute in Columbia University where he is working on a book manuscript entitled Free to Hate: The Liberalization of Socialist Media after 1989. The book analyzes the affinity between commercial media and right-wing populism. His research areas of specialization include transnational media history, political economy of media, socialist mass communication, media production studies and media populism. His work has appeared in Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European Media, Communication, Capitalism and Critique, Global Media Journal, Social History, Radical Philosophy, Advances in the History of Rhetoric and other publications. In the past ten years he has taught a wide variety of courses including “Global Media,” “Introduction to Global Studies,” “Social Media,” “Introduction to Communication,” “International Communication,” “Public Speaking,” “Public Relations” and others. At the Harriman Institute he teaches “Global Media in Socialist and Post-Socialist Contexts” at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Sabina Mihelj is professor of Media and Cultural Analysis in the Centre for Research on Communication and Culture at Loughborough University. Her work examines how the cultural dimensions of social life – such as cultural belonging and exclusion, cultural consumption, or narratives about the past – intersect with the mediation of politics and public life and contribute to democratic successes and failures. Having made key contributions to debates on media and nationalism, Cold War media and culture, and comparative media research, her current work investigates the role of media in contemporary ‘culture wars’, driven by the rise of illiberalism and populism. She is the author of Media Nations (2011), Central and Eastern European Media in Comparative Perspective (2012), and From Media Systems to Media Cultures: Understanding Socialist Television (2018).

Ana Milojević is an assistant professor at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science, Serbia. She researches the intersections of emerging media technologies, political communication and journalism. Her scholarly work has been published in high ranked journals such as Journalism and European Journal of Communication. She is a principal investigator for the Journalism Role Performance project in Serbia.
Višeslav Raos
is an associate professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. He received his MPhil in Political Science from the University of Vienna and his PhD in Comparative Politics from the University of Zagreb. He teaches courses on Comparative Politics, Electoral Systems, and the Political System of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His research interests include voter behavior, electoral systems, party competition, Europeanization of politics, and power sharing in deeply divided societies.

Orlin Spassov
holds a PhD in Sociology and is associate professor at Sofia University, Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication. He teaches Media and Communication Studies, Internet Culture and Media and the European Public Sphere. He was the head of the Chair for Radio and Television at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication. Since 2010, Spassov is executive director of Media Democracy Foundation (fmd.bg). Spassov has been involved in numerous projects dealing with media pluralism, media freedom, media and power relations, hate speech in the media, journalistic practices, and many others. In the last couple of years, he is the project manager of the Bulgarian team of the Media Pluralism Monitor (an initiative involving all EU countries, managed by European University Institute in Florence and sponsored by the European Commission). Recently, Spassov co-authored the books To Be a Journalist: The State of the Profession (2017) and Hate Speech in Bulgaria: Risk Areas, Vulnerable Groups (2016). He is the author of Sport and Politics: Media Rituals, Power Games (2013), Transition and the Media: Politics of Representation (2000) and editor and co-editor of more than fifteen books, including Media and Democracy (2013), Media and Politics (2011), New Media, New Mobilizations (2011), New Youth and New Media (2009), Quality Press in South East Europe (2004) and New Media in South East Europe (2003).

Barbara Thomass
studied journalism, political science and economics in Berlin and Grenoble and received her doctorate from Universität Hamburg in 1998. Since 1995, she has taught at the universities of Hamburg, Lüneburg, Bremen, Göttingen and as a guest lecturer at the Nouvelle Sorbonne in Paris, the University of Vienna and McGill University in Montreal. She has also worked as a lecturer in international journalism training. From 2003 to 2020, Prof. Dr. Barbara Thomass held the professorship for “Media Systems in International Comparison” at the Institute for Media Studies at the Ruhr University Bochum. There she is co-director of the
research training group “MEDAS21 Media Development Assistance in the 21st Century”. Prof. Dr. Barbara Thomass has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Media Research, Hans-Bredow-Institut, in the EUMEPLAT project since March 2021. Her work focuses on international communication, the politics and economics of media and communication, and media systems in Western and Eastern Europe. She has worked on issues of European media policy, media ethics and journalistic ethics as well as on media development cooperation and media in democratization and transformation processes.

Snježana Vasiljević

M. Phil (Cantab), Ph.D (Zagreb), University of Zagreb, works as an associate professor of European Public Law, Fundamental Rights in the European Union and European Anti-discrimination Law. She is appointed ad hoc judge of the European Court of Human Rights. She works as an expert member of the Committee for Justice of the Croatian Parliament, and a national expert for the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Council of Europe. She was a leader of the Jean Monnet module “EU Law and Gender: Making Equality Effective” (2016–2019) and currently she is a management board member and researcher of the COST Action “Women on the Move” (2020–2024). She is the editor of five books and the author of a number of scientific articles and chapters in books published for the most distinguished publishers in the area of gender equality, multiple discrimination and fundamental rights in the EU. She is also a management board member of Documenta – Centre for dealing with the past which contributes to the development of individual and social process of dealing with the past, in order to build sustainable peace in Croatia and the region.

Rory Yeomans

is an independent researcher. He is the author of Visions of Annihilation: The Ustasha Regime and the Cultural Politics of Fascism (Pittsburgh: 2013) and The City of the Dead: War and Martyrdom in Fascist Croatia (forthcoming: Harrassowitz), co-editor with Anton Weiss-Wendt of Racial Science in Hitler’s New Europe (Nebraska: 2013) and editor of The Utopia of Terror: Life and Death in Wartime Croatia (Rochester: 2015). He is currently editing a multi-author collected volume about the Holocaust and the economics of everyday life in Southeastern Europe and is writing a book about emotion and memory culture of the Second World War in socialist Yugoslavia.