

Call for papers

"The borders of Radio"
"Les frontières de la radio"

an international conference at the University of Perpignan Via Domitia
June 4 and 5, 2015

A collaboration of the Centre de recherche sur les Sociétés et Environnements en Méditerranées (CRESEM), University of Perpignan, the Groupe de Recherche et d'Etudes sur la Radio (GRER) and the Radio Studies Network of MeCCSA (RSN), with the participation of Syntone.

UPVD <http://www.univ-perp.fr/>

GRER <http://www.grer.fr/>

RSN/MeCCSA <http://www.meccsa.org.uk/networks/radio-studies-network/>

TRE Transnational Radio Encounters <http://transnationalradio.org/>

Steering Committee:

- Ariane Demonget, *Associate Professor, CRESEM, Perpignan University, member of GRER.*
- Thierry Gobert, *Professor, CRESEM, University of Perpignan.*
- Pascal Ricaud, *Professor, University of Tours, member of GRER.*
- Peter Lewis, *Senior Lecturer, London Metropolitan University, member of TRE (HERA) and RSN.*

1. Introduction.

The international and interdisciplinary conference "The Borders of Radio" examines both the physical and immaterial borders of radio, in the fields of geography, technology, economics, formats, history, sociology, languages, contents, art and literature.

2. Scientific description of the project.

This international meeting focuses on the links between borders and radio. Radio broadcasting must be considered as both material and invisible. Radio waves usually ignore boundaries. But the medium has to face other kinds of limits, for example in political, economic, cultural or artistic fields. The borders of radio broadcasting concern infrastructures and contents. The way radio reacts to different kinds of constraints can be analysed in a number of areas such as:

Physical limits and other barriers

- *Radio station, physical borders and human geography:*

A radio station is set in a precise geographical area, its scope is technically limited and broadcast programmes are intended for a particular area and population. Border regions especially experience difficulties with frequent congestion on the FM band, but also encourage the emergence of cross-border projects.

- *Language and foreign languages on the radio:*

Radio language usually means words. So languages become barriers when something cannot be understood. The issue of language on the radio not only concerns the so-called "international" radio broadcasters and language is not only a conveyor of information. Sound material and the radio media combine to create utopian programmes, in which the language of sound goes beyond the barriers of languages and redraws cultural boundaries.

Creative territories of radio

- *Radio and literature, meeting or mixing of two universes:*

Walter Benjamin proposed during the last century some literary forms for radio, such as “Hörspiel”, “Hörmodelle” and “Funkspiel”. Writers and poets used to create special forms for radio broadcasting. The radio programmes of Jean Tardieu, Antonin Artaud or Armand Robin, for example, are amazingly diverse. Radio and literature belong to distinct worlds but sometimes their borders disappear.

- *Radio art:*

Some artists bring radio out of its usual context, for example in exhibition spaces or on stage. Others turn radio from its normal use into an instrument, others play with the formal classification of radio programmes, or write radio programmes exclusively with sounds rather than with words. How does creativity circumvent or play with the boundaries of radio?

Radio classification and its place in society

- *Radio types and formats:*

Radio stations and programmes are identified by type, by style, or even by political affiliation. Stations are classified as "generalist", "music", "all news" etc. The programmes themselves can be classified according to a typology, such as “drama”, “music”, “talk”, “current affairs” etc. Do these categories change? How do they change?

- *Economics of radio and place in the society:*

Private or public, community or national, the economic model implies an organising plan and operating procedures adapted to a variety of objectives. What connection can be made between the contents and the economics of radio stations? Can any station say everything?

An outdated medium or a revival

- *Broadcasting over the airwaves and the internet:*

Until the early 1990s, radio broadcasting was transmitted over electromagnetic waves – AM or FM. Then, broadcasting via satellites brought a higher quality of sounds over long distances. Now the widespread broadcasting of radio over the Internet thanks to new digital technologies impacts considerably on listening modes, contents and location of stations. Shortwave transmission has become obsolete while podcasting offers new frameworks for radio stations.

- *Transformations of radio:*

Online media, extensions of radio with pictures and videos, hybrid international and local radio broadcasting, a mix of on air and internet broadcasting, international dimension of campus radio stations, attempts to “Europeanise” radio (EuradioNantes, Euranet), multiplication of radio festivals: Radio broadcasting... moves in various directions. Is there something permanent about the medium, despite changes? Does radio have an immanent nature?

3. Organisation of the conference:

Meetings will be held on Tuesday 4 and Friday 5 June 2015 at the University of Perpignan. The web magazine Syntone will organise a listening session.

Academics researchers, radio professionals, artists will be asked to present their work and ideas in workshops or roundtables.

Audio playout will be possible and encouraged to play sounds.

The meetings will result in a publication designed to extend the proceedings and to highlight areas of scientific and artistic innovative research.

4. Conditions for submission of proposals:

Authors are invited to submit by February the 23th of 2015 a proposal for participation in French, Catalan or in English to: colloqueradioperpignan@gmail.com

The proposal in odt or word format should include a title, five keywords on a page / 400 words (including references).

Personal information (name, institutional affiliation, status, address and telephone and e-mails) must be submitted on a separate page.

Replies will be sent to authors from Monday, March 23, 2015.

Authors will be invited to submit the abstract and the digital presentation of their papers in calc or powerpoint format, no later than Thursday, April 23, 2015.

NB: The three languages of the meeting are French, English and Catalan. If your digital presentation is in English, your oral presentation must be French and vice versa. As the local cultural language, Catalan can replace French.

5. Time table reminder:

Monday, February 23, deadline for submission of proposals.

Monday, March 23, replies.

Thursday, April 23, deadline for submission of digital presentations and abstracts.

Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5, conference at the University of Perpignan.

6. Selection Committee:

Frédéric Antoine, Professor, University Louvain la Neuve, Belgium

Henri Assogba, Assistant Professor, University Laval, Québec

Alexandre Badenoch, Associate Professor, University Utrecht, Netherlands

Ines Bose, Professor, University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Jean-Jacques Cheval, Professor, University Clermont-Ferrand, France

Etienne Damome, Assistant Professor, University Bordeaux III, France

Béatrice Donzelle, PhD, ATER, University Paris Est Créteil, France

Golo Föllmer, Professor, University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Peter Lewis, Professor, University Metropolitan of London, United Kingdom

Philippe Maarek, Professor, University Paris-Créteil, France

Caroline Mitchell, Professor, University Sunderland, United Kingdom

Jonathan Pollock, Professor, University Perpignan, France

Céline Pardo, PhD, Associate Researcher, University Paris-Sorbonne, France

Emma Roderó, Professor, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

Raphaëlle Ruppen Coutaz, Assistant Professor, University Lausanne, Switzerland

Guy Starkey, Professor, University Sunderland, United Kingdom

Heidi Svømmekjær, Postdoc, University Copenhagen, Denmark

Bernard Wuillème, Professor, University Lyon II, France