

EUROZINE

The 23rd European Meeting of Cultural Journals

Changing Media – Media in Change

Linz, 13–16 May 2011

THEMATIC OUTLINE

Under the heading "Changing Media – Media in Change", this year's Eurozine conference will address the challenges and transformations facing media in the wake of the digital revolution.

Media throughout the world are in a state of flux unprecedented since the invention of the printing press. While the **newspaper crisis** is the most striking manifestation of change, media as a whole is faced with new and profound challenges. Recent political, social, economic and technological developments transform not only the concept of publishing itself but have effects on copyright legislation and **free speech** as well as the fundamental functioning of the public sphere. All fields of publishing and culture are affected, from the literary book trade to the academic production of knowledge, from cultural journals to radio and television.

The Linz meeting will provide an ideal opportunity to discuss issues that have considerable impact on all journals in the Eurozine network. What alliances between different types of media and media outlets are made possible – and necessary – in a changing media landscape? What lessons about editorial processes can be learned from WikiLeaks and other networked organizations? What are the possibilities and potential pitfalls of **new forms of publishing**, such as blogs and citizen journalism? Would the collapse of print media really mean the demise of **quality journalism** or is it not rather so that every medium has the potential to function as an outlet for quality content? If so, the relevant question to ask is not how to preserve a certain medium, but how to finance editorial structures that can produce quality content.

The digital revolution also raises difficult questions about how to weigh different interests against each other. The Google Books project and Open Access publishing are only two – intrinsically different – endeavours that highlight the need to reconsider the concept of **intellectual property rights** in the light of new communication technologies. Furthermore, as publishing becomes an international rather than national business, different concepts of copyright clash. How can a revised notion of copyright combine public interest with authors' claims to intellectual property?

The reports of **the death of the book** have so far been greatly exaggerated. However, as electronic reading devices such as Amazon's Kindle, Sony's Reader and Apple's iPad become better and more functional, the traditional book trade is bound to change. Are book and magazine publishers better prepared to handle the digital revolution than music companies were when the file-sharing boom hit the industry ten years ago?