

Press release

Europe's cultural journals: Quality media in times of fake news and disinformation

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[Eurozine](#), the network of European cultural journals, together with the Estonian journal [Vikerkaar](#), the [Institute of Social Studies at the University of Tartu](#), and the Estonian cultural organisation [SA Kultuurileht](#), will jointly hold the 28th European Meeting of Cultural Journals in Tartu, Estonia, on 20–22 October 2017.

Over the course of three days, 100 cultural journalists and media professionals will participate in a public programme discussing the effects of technology on democracy, and its contribution to phenomena like 'post-truth' and fake news. The keynote lecture will be given by leading internet analyst Vladan Joler, and there will be panel discussions with experts from across Europe, as well as practical workshops on social media and publishing. The digital revolution has had a devastating effect on the economics of journalism, and poses unexpected challenges to democracy itself. 'Fake news' and disinformation have been revived, while social media platforms and the data harvesting they allow have served to create a new political campaigning tool, one with unpredictable impacts on democratic outcomes.

Conversely, the digital revolution also offers new possibilities for the more active involvement of citizens in their societies, and novel opportunities for collaboration among media outlets – including journals like those in the Eurozine network.

How do we assess the democratic pros and cons of the digital revolution? Can technology provide the solutions to society's ills? What is the role of cultural journals in this? This conference will seek to explore these questions, and more, from a range of theoretical and practical perspectives.

Sponsored by the [European Union \(Creative Europe\)](#), the [National Endowment for Democracy](#), the [Open Society Initiative for Europe](#), [Eesti Kultuurkapital](#) and the [City of Tartu](#).

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Additional resources

Conference website, including programme: www.eurozine.com/tartu2017

Visuals



Visual: 1200x675px JPG ([download](#))



Visual: 600x600 px JPG ([download](#))

Eurozine, based in Vienna, is an independent, non-profit media organisation committed to the establishment of a European public sphere. Eurozine is a network of European cultural journals that links 78 partner journals in 31 countries (<http://www.eurozine.com/journals/>) as well as 12 associated publications and institutions. Eurozine's network consists of cultural journals that produce and promote long form, in-depth essays, and are committed to the dissemination of quality journalism in almost all European languages. Eurozine is also a netmagazine (<http://www.eurozine.com>) that publishes outstanding articles from the network – with additional translations into the major European languages – as well as its own articles on culture and politics. The network facilitates communication and perspectives that extend beyond linguistic and geographical barriers, offering to a global readership a Europe-wide overview of themes and discussions and enabling communication and exchange between partners. In this way, Eurozine has for decades successfully provided a public space for transnational debate. Eurozine emerged in 1998 as a non-profit organization from an informal network of European cultural journals that had been active since 1983. The Vienna office is responsible for coordinating the network and editing the netmagazine.

<http://www.eurozine.com>

Professor Vladan Joler is the director of the Share Foundation and chair of the New Media Department at the University of Novi Sad, Serbia. He leads Share Lab, an investigative data reporting lab. He and his team of cyber-forensic analysts research and visualise data exploring different technical aspects of the intersections between technology and society. The Share Foundation is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to protecting citizens' Internet rights and promoting openness, decentralisation, and free access to and exchange of knowledge and information.

twitter: @TheCreaturesLab

Vikerkaar is an Estonian cultural monthly published since 1986 by Periodika Publishers in Tallinn. Vikerkaar covers new developments in Estonian literature and tries to promote and provoke discussions in many fields. Besides poetry and fiction, every issue contains essays, interviews, book reviews, and a selection of works by contemporary Estonian artists. Generally, its double issues (4 per year) have a specific thematic focus, which in the past have included anarchy, animals, Arabian culture, body, censorship, central Europe, the Enlightenment, the environment, evolution, globalization, the Holocaust, intellectuals, music, nationalism, OULIPO, the USSR, utopia, war, and writing.

www.vikerkaar.ee

The Institute of Social Studies at the University of Tartu provides a high-level education in journalism, communication, media, social work and policy, sociology and information sciences and is an esteemed centre of competence in these fields. QS University Rankings by

Subject has placed the institute's media and communication research among the world's best for six consecutive years; there are over 700 students enrolled in its programmes. The Institute hosts 10 curricula at all levels of study, which are constantly renewed and updated based on recent developments in the fields of research, the requirements of the job market, societal change and student feedback.

<http://www.yti.ut.ee/en>

Kultuurileht is an Estonian foundation that publishes Estonian cultural journals and magazines. These include Eurozine partner journals Akadeemia and Vikerkaar. The foundation has been operating since 2004. <http://kl.ee>