

## **14-16 Film, Media and Visual Studies workshop.**

**[N.B: If the workshop finishes early, we may be able to join the Letta report discussion that starts at 15h - see main program]**

### **Rethinking Communication in the Face of Communicative AI**

**Göran Bolin, Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden**

There are, as of course well known in the philosophy of communication, several conceptualisations of the phenomenon of communication throughout media and communications research. Examples include the intersubjective sharing of experience, or intersubjective sharing of understanding, and many conceptualisations boil down to James Careys oft-cited distinction between a ritual and a transmission approach to communication. Many, if not most, of these conceptualisations presuppose two individuals that each constitute a “morally autonomous self”, as John Durham Peters has pointed out. With the rapid spread of Communicative AI (ComAI), this perception needs to be re-evaluated. Much mediated conversation today occurs not between humans but between humans and machines, and there is a rapidly growing body of research that suggests new ways of conceptualising these communicative relations. Still, most communication theory suggest the social to be an important ingredient in communication. The paper will discuss some social situations in which ComAI has been implemented, and the implications this might have for our understanding of the concept of communication.

### **Ambivalent Soundscapes under Colonial Rule:**

#### **Using African Languages to Promote and Counter Authoritarianism**

Nelson Costa Ribeiro

University Catolica Portuguesa, Lisbon, Portugal

This paper discusses how the first programmes broadcast in African languages in Mozambique and Angola brought an end to more than two decades of all-white radio in the Portuguese Empire in Africa. First aired in the late 1950s, such programmes altered the colonial broadcasting *status quo* by allowing indigenous languages, music and oral traditions to be listened to on the airwaves. It argues that the programmes first aired in the mother tongues of the black population were marked by ambivalence: while they allowed for a preview of Mozambicanness and Angolaness soundscapes, they also served the colonial agenda by promoting the ideology of the Portuguese authoritarian regime. The paper concludes that even in authoritarian contexts the media can be used in creative ways to express dissent.

### **Media for Democracy**

Zrinjka Peruško

University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

The question discussed is on contribution of media to deliberative democracy, all the more urgent again among the growing autocratization trends in Europe and the world. The discussion presents results from a 14 country comparative project studying the role of journalism, legal framework for freedom of expression, media accountability and media usage and media competences, in ensuring deliberative communication. The study also shows what factors other than those of the media system play a part in the relationship between media and democracy. In face of the creeping autocratization in which independent media and freedom of expression are the first target of autocrats, the understanding of what can media do for democracy is increasingly urgent.