

7th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF UNESCO CHAIRS IN COMMUNICATION (ORBICOM)

Lima, Peru: May 8, 9, and 10, 2018

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON: “COMMUNICATION, CITY AND PUBLIC SPACE”

CONVENER:

- UNESCO Chair in Communication and Culture of Peace of the Faculty of Communication at the University of Lima
- The International Network of UNESCO Chairs in Communication, ORBICOM

INTRODUCTION

The International Network of UNESCO Chairs in Communication, ORBICOM, and the UNESCO Chair of Communication and Culture of Peace of the University of Lima, invite all network members, and those interested, to participate in the International Congress on Communication, City and Public Space. The events will be held at the University of Lima, Peru, from Tuesday, May 8 to Thursday, May 10, 2018.

The VII Annual Meeting of members of ORBICOM will also be held during this event.

DESCRIPTION:

According to the World Bank, in 1960 one-third of the world's population lived in urban areas; currently more than 54% of the population is concentrated in the cities and the urbanization process has an annual growth of just over 2%. Cities are becoming increasingly important in the configuration of human life, not only from the point of view of space, economy and consumption, but also as a communication structure, as a system in which interrelations are woven among all their inhabitants who are shaping the identity and the underlying nature of each specific city.

Daily life is carried out mostly in the cities; whether by simply making use of spaces of coexistence, by having political, social and cultural interventions carried out there, or just by commuting from one space to another by different means of transport which we are obliged to use. These means of transport are indeed an entire field of ethnographic and communication study, in which the character and level of progress of a society is revealed.

Cities are also the places where 80% of the world's GDP is produced, including its impacts, such as welfare possibilities, and even destruction if no proposals are implemented to fight climate change and reduce the high percentage of pollutant emissions that are produced as a result of urban and industrial development.

From a human development point of view, cities may become real areas of social inclusion or exclusion, depending on how their spaces are configured and according to the range of the economic inequality, digital divide and public services gap appearing in them, exacerbated by migration, both internal and external, thus giving way to other processes of religious, racial and cultural nature. These processes can broaden our vision in terms of acceptance of multiculturalism as a value, and interculturalism as an ability to put ourselves in other people's shoes and to initiate the discussion.

Nevertheless, there are also other processes and expressions emerging in the cities and that respond to diverse structural and conjunctural causes. In that sense, one of the most worrying expressions is violence in all its forms, both the common [shown in everyday crime] and that associated with fanaticism of all kinds, which calls into question, transforms or limits our quality of life and constantly tests our capacity for tolerance and respect for diversity.

Throughout this framework, the ideas of public space, the privatization thereof, as well as the conversion of private spaces into public ones are essential to understand the dynamics taking place in our cities today and over which technology is juxtaposed and overlapped; either the one that today keeps an eye on us from the lens of a camera placed in streets, shopping malls and business in general, or the technology from applications that provide us with another way of interacting with city spaces, indicating our presence in them, geo-locating people and places, qualifying everything capable of arousing our emotions and opinions.

The growing impact of technology not only allows transforming citizens into prosumers willing to interact with everything happening around them, but also transforming each individual into data - whose information is collected by the traces left after been exposed to digital platforms and devices - exploited for various purposes by commerce, industry, government and other individuals, thus leaving little choice for privacy and the protection thereof.

In addition to the above, social networks have created a virtual public space, which, in many cases, replace activities that used to take place in squares and streets, discussions in bars and cafes and, in special circumstances, have caused some situations to move from the network to reality, from virtual activism to street movement. This virtual public space in which emotions and sensitivities are close to the surface of the smartphone we held in our hands, ends up revealing the main flaws we still face as society.

The metropolis and technology have transformed mutually and evolved into intelligent cities, the characteristics thereof should be evaluated from the point of view of their ability to provide us with welfare and opportunities to become more humans or, at least, not much dehumanized by several processes of economic development which are currently affecting us.

The International Symposium “Communication, city and public space” aims at analyzing and discussing the urban growth structure and its impact on communication and development of humanity. This will also be an opportunity to exchange diverse experiences about our cities and to offer a panorama of Lima, host city of this event.

CENTRAL THEMES

Without being exhaustive or exclusive of other possibilities of approaching our main topic, the following central themes are proposed for researchers who wish to submit papers-articles to the Symposium:

- Social inclusion and exclusion.
- Safety, surveillance and violence.
- The city as narrative.
- Social mediation.
- Media representations of the city.
- Virtual public space.
- Multiculturalism and interculturalism in the city.
- Artistic and cultural interventions in the city.
- Citizenship and activism.
- Politics and public space.
- Transport, public services and citizen welfare.
- Radicalisms and sociocultural openness in the city.
- Smart cities.

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

The three days symposium will be organized under nine main themes. Each day, three themes will be discussed, based on the central themes mentioned above. For each theme, speakers will be appointed. Papers supported with evidence and a clear methodological strategy will be prioritized.

ORGANIZATION

The organization committee will cover accommodation, food and local transport for authors chosen during their stay in Lima in the event dates.

In case of papers in co-authorship, the organization will only finance the accommodation, food and local transport of one of the authors. Besides, the paper will be taken in charge by one speaker only, in representation of co-authors.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Investigators interested in participating may send their abstracts or summaries indicating the investigating issue, methodological strategy and results to Gerardo Arias Carbajal, General Coordinator of Symposium [garias@ulima.edu.pe] until December 11 at 12:00 hours (Peru time). Abstracts or summaries should have a maximum length of 800 words including spaces, Times New Roman font, 12-point font size. A summarized résumé of author(s) should also be attached.

The Academic Committee shall evaluate abstracts and inform the approval thereof to their authors on December 22. Once the approval is informed, the author shall send final papers by April 1 at 12:00 hours (Peru time).

Final Papers should be original, and they may be written in Spanish, English, French or Portuguese. Simultaneous translation to Spanish, English, French and Portuguese will be available during the Congress.

Final papers will be published by ORBICOM in the collection *Écritures du monde*, by the publishing house, L'immatériel of Paris, France, in Spanish, English and French (and exceptionally in Portuguese). The cover of the book will be presented in the 3 official languages of ORBICOM.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PAPERS

The final papers will be sent to garias@ulima.edu.pe until 1 April at 12.00 hours in Lima.

They must be original and can be written in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese; which will have to respect the following:

1. Papers should be between 20 to 25 pages (including biography and footnotes)
2. All papers should contain an abstract of half a page (the language of your choice)
3. Font: Arial 12
4. Spacing: 1, 5
5. Margins: 2,5 cm top; 3 cm right; 2,5 cm bottom; 4 cm left;
6. Title of the article: Arial 14 in bold
7. Name of the author: Arial 14 in bold
8. Title of the author: Arial 12, 1 line spacing
9. Subtitle: Arial 12 underline
10. End notes: Arial 12. Notes need to be at the end of the document. No footnotes please.
11. Bibliography: Selected works only; Arial 12

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Two cultural activities focused in urban art developed in Lima will be offered, as well as videos showing an outlook of the city taking into account the symposium approach. Also, a nighttime city tour will be offered to foreign visitors.

The Organizing Committee recommends foreign participants to consider the possibility to extend their stay a few days and take this opportunity to visit some of the cities with highest cultural tradition in Peru. The most practical thing is to organize these trips from their countries. Cuzco and Machu Picchu, considered one of the seven wonders of the modern world, are the highlight among the options. [Early May is an excellent time to visit this place since the flow of tourists increases considerable as from May 15].

Arequipa [with a large colonial tradition and located to the South of Lima] or Trujillo in the northern area [with great archeological sites of pre-inca cultures] are also recommendable places.

ORGANIZING TEAM:

GENERAL COORDINATION:

Gerardo Arias Carbajal	General Coordinator
Luis Miguel Pango Jordán	General Assistant Coordinator
Walter Neira Bronttis	Dean of the Faculty of Communication
Yves Théorêt	General Secretary, ORBICOM
Pierre Giguère	Deputy Secretary-General, ORBICOM
Carmen Rico de Sotelo	Member of ther board of director, ORBICOM

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE:

Javier Díaz Albertini Figueras	Professor, University of Lima
Lilian Kanashiro Nakahodo	Professor, University of Lima
Carlos Rivadeneyra Olcese	Professor, University of Lima

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