2025 ECREA Communication History Workshop

Communication Networks Before and After the Web Historical and Long-term Perspectives
Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation

CERN, Switzerland, 5-7 February 2025

Program at a Glance

Wednesday, February 5			**Thursday, February 6**		**Friday, February 7**
		09:00-10:15	Parallel Session 1	09:00-10:15	Session 5
		10:15-10:45	Coffee Break	10:15-10:45	Coffee Break
		10:45-12:00	Parallel Session 2	10:45-12:00	Session 6
		12:00 - 13:00	Stand-up Lunch Break	12:15 - 12:30	Final remarks
		13:00 - 14:15	Parallel Session 3	12:30 - 13:30	Stand-up Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:30	Registration (badge and check in)	14:30 - 15:45	Parallel Session 4	13:30 - 15:30	CERN FacilitiesVisit
15:30 - 16:00		15:45 - 16:15	Coffee Break		
16:00 - 17:00		16:15 - 17:00	Business Meeting		
17:00 - 17:15	Workshop Kick Off (Local Organizers and ECREA Communication History Section Management Team)	17:00 - 18:30	Keynote speech Nicole Starosielski		
17:15-18:45	Roundtable: In the footsteps of the early Web	18:30 - 19:30	Archeological Walking Tour "Where the Web Was Found"		
From 19:00	Welcome Reception	From 19:30	Dinner		

Local organizing committee:
Gabriele Balbi, Deborah Barcella, Martin Fomasi, Petra Mazzoni & Jens Vigen.

Full Program

Wednesday - 5 February 2025

14.00 – 17.00: **Registration, badge and check in** (Building 500, Main Hall)

17.00 – 17.15: **Workshop Kick Off
(Local Organizers)**
Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre

17.15 – 18.45: **Roundtable: In the footsteps of the early Web**
Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre

Web Founders:
- Robert Cailliau
- Jean François Fluckiger
- Pier Giorgio Innocenti

Chairs: Valérie Schafer and Lori Ann Emerson

From 19.00: **Welcome reception**

9.00 – 10.15: PARALLEL SESSIONS 1

Panel 1A: Paper Networks: News, Infrastructures, and Communities in History

Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre
Chair: Thomas Schmidt

Fredrik Stiernstedt; Anne Kaun	Network Disappearance: Changing Valuation of Newspaper Carriers as News Networks
Peggy Cassidy	Networks of Fellowship, Debate, and Exchange: Amateur Journalism and Nineteenth Century American Youth Culture
Jacinto Godinho; Carla Baptista	The Carnation Revolution between censorship and freedom: Journalistic Networks in Dictatorial and Democratic Regimes.
Andreas Schulz-Tomancok; Eva Tamara Asboth; Gabriele Melischek; Michael Alexander; Julian Wenger; Josef Seethaler	Diachronic and synchronic perspectives on the Austrian news media landscape since 1848: Insights from the Austrian News Media Infrastructure project
Jerome Bourdon	Epistolary networks: reconsidering the history of communication technologies.

Panel 1B: Telecommunication's Networks: Making, Dismantling, Maintaining Nervous Systems

Room 28/S-029
Chair: Lars Lundgren

Riccardo Ferrigato	Manufacturing Switzerland. The first telegraph network as a workshop for the 1848's Constitution
Chris Silver	The vast nerve system': journalism, telegraphy, and empire at the *Glasgow Herald* (1873-1883).
Matt Parker	Telegraph Towns: A Cultural Ecology of Transoceanic Wireless Landscapes
Julia Velkova	The poles that never died: a material history of dismantling the landline communication network in Sweden

10.15 – 10.45: Coffee Break

Panel 2A: Colonial and anti-colonial communication networks: origins, entanglements and continuities

Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre
Chair: Eva Tamara Asboth

Wendy Willems	From the "Black Atlantic Communication Network" to #BlackLivesMatter: Addressing Short Memory in Digital Media and Communication Studies
Lee Grieveson	The Digital Imperium
Burçe Çelik	Networks of Domination and Violence: Colonial Communication and Power
Nelson Costa Ribeiro	Creating a Network for Colonial Propaganda: The Angolan Broadcasting Plan, 1961-1974
Simon J. Potter	British Imperial Broadcasting Networks, 1939-1989

Panel 2B – (Pre)Histories of the Web

Room 28/S-029
Chair: Martin Fomasi

Carlos A. Scolari	HyperCard, or the hypertext for the rest of us. An evolutionary analysis of its life cycle.
Valérie Schafer	CD-ROMs as connectors in the early development of the Web
Niels Brügger	Priming for the web: Pre-histories of the Danish web
Vânia Maia; Jacinto Godinho	Portugal's Digital Dawn: Investigative Journalism, Hacker Communities, and the Rise of the Internet (1991-1995)
Ashwin Nagappa	Decentralised Media and Emergent Cultures in Web History: Narratives from Blockchain Integration to Social Media

12.00-13.00: Stand Up Lunch Break

13.00 – 14.15: PARALLEL SESSIONS 3

Panel 3A: Localizing Imaginaries, Rhetoric, and Metaphors of Networks (1960s - 2020s)

Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre
Chair: Valérie Schafer

Anya Shchetvina	Networks Against the Internet: a History of Concept Through the Lens of Countermovement Rhetoric
Susan Aasman	The never-ending promise of video as an alternative media network
Jesper Verhoef	Imagining Revolutionary Connections: the Fax as Proto-Internet
Nathalie Fridzema	From Digital Cities to Networked Societies: Vernacular Socio-technical Imaginaries of the Public Web between 1994 and 2004
Natalia Stanusch	Networked Mediality: (Re)assembling the Imaginaries of Black-Boxed Technologies from the Stars to the Data Points

Panel 3B: Visible and Invisible Networks, Visible and Invisible Societies

Room 28/S-029
Chair: Marie Cronqvist

Anne-Katrin Weber	Narrating Eurovision's first Decade on Swiss TV: Making Visible Transnational Network Infrastructures
Javier Jurado	Continuity in Transition: The Evolution of Spanish Television Networks from Franco to Democracy (1959-1989)
Torbjörn Rolandsson	Rewired: Imaginaries of technologically networked crime and police work in HBO's *The Wire*
David Andersson	Raw Punk: Glocality, Creative Processes, Inner Logics and Networks
Christian Wasner; Alessandra Colaceci; Thomas Birkner	(Hidden) Ties between Media and Politics? How networks of politicians and journalists evolved from the analog to the digital

Panel 4A: The Past is Emergent: Transformation and Continuities in Networking

[Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre](#)
Chair: Christian Schwarzenegger

Hernâni Zão Oliveira; Helena Lima	Trolling from the past: the heavy legacy of the world's first vaccine coverage and the anti-vaccine leagues counterpart
Julie Momméja	"Opening the doors to cyberspace and discovering this was a hospitable territory": Community Memory, an electronic social network in the pre-digital age
Elif Grant	Understanding the Continuity and Transformation of Mobile Media Over Time: Insights into the Dynamics of Communication and Control
Eduardo Campos Pellanda; Mágda Rodrigues da Cunha	The transformation of networks through mobility and the inclusion of cities as a territory of social practices
Christine Davidsson Sandal	Communication and networks before the digital age

Panel 4B: On the Earth, In the Sky: Transportation, Satellite, and Alarming Networks

[Room 28/S-029](#)
Chair: Susanne Kinnebrock

Lars Lundgren	Nautical charts are not networks
Rachel Hill	Produced A Demand for an Island: Military Satellite Communications, Ground Bases and Empire.
Marwan M. Kraidy	The pan-arab satellite network, 1990-2015: narratives and affects
Marie Cronqvist	The Acoustemology of Sirens: A Century of Urban Communication Infrastructures of Fear and Public Sonic Warnings
Rita Luís	An Iberian *nordvision?* Transnational Integration and Protectionism: The Role of Television in Iberian Dictatorships.

15.45 – 16.15: **Coffee Break**

16.15 – 17.00 **Business meeting** ECREA communication history section ([Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre](#))

17.00 – 18.30 **Keynote speech Nicole Starosielski** chaired by Andreas Fickers ([Room 31/3-004 - IT Amphitheatre](#))

18.30 – 19.30: **Archeological Walking Tour "Where the Web Was Found"**

From 19.30 **Dinner**

9.00 – 10.15: PARALLEL SESSIONS 5

Panel 5A: The Materialities of Wireless and Wired Networks: Transmitters, Imaginaries, Connections

Room 6/2-004
Chair: Petra Mazzoni

Chris Scheidler	Reclaiming Wires: Antecedents to networked communication
Vincent Kuitenbrouwer	Towers of Prestige: Dutch Radio Transmitters and Public Relations
Anne MacLennan	Forging Networks: Imagining national, international, and local radio spaces in early Canadian radio
Jamie Medhurst	The cultural and political significance of broadcasting transmitters in Wales
Inga Schuppener	A History of Bluetooth

Panel 5B: Social Networks (Whatever it Means): Origins and Changes in Networks' Cultures

Room 6/2-024 - BE Auditorium Meyrin
Chair: Gabriele Balbi

Kevin Driscoll	Virtual communities by post: The hobbyist computer magazine as a network forum
Erik Koenen; Christian Schwarzenegger	Historicizing Gaming Cultures as Networked Cultures
Emmanuelle Bermès	Skyblog stories
Rasmus Helles; Klaus Bruhn Jensen	The glocal genesis of Facebook tracking, 2010-2025
Yinan Sun	Understanding the Social Network of WeChat

10.15 – 10:45: **Coffee Break**

Panel 6A: Computer Networks: Histories, Imaginaries, Thinking

Room 6/2-004
Chair: Deborah Barcella

Steve Jankowski	Can three computers agree? Computer scientists and the political imagination of 1980s distributed computing.
Mirjam Mayer	Computers as Infrastructure. On the new Digital Environment in the Swiss Federal Administration, c. 1990
Michał Owczarek	BBSes and Fidonet: connecting computer users before social media.
Leah A. Lievrouw	Network Thought Before the Web: From Metaphor to Archetype
Paolo Bory	The end of the network hope?

Panel 6B: "Seeing" Research Networks. Indexes and Communication Networks for (Astro)physicists

Room 6/2-024 - BE Auditorium Meyrin
Chair: Lori Emerson

Lai Ma	*Science Citation Index*: Mapping the Networks of Science
Xavier Nueno	The War Map of Science". Citation Indexing and the Statistical Order of Knowledge
Phillip H. Roth	The Physics Preprints Exchange Network
Monica Marra	Pioneering experiences in the creation and uptake of Usenet newsgroups for astrophysicists (1983-1994)

12.15 – 12.30: **Final Remarks** (6/2-024 - BE Auditorium Meyrin)

12.30 – 13.30: **Stand-Up Lunch break**

13.30 – 15.30: **Visit of CERN facilities**