

Call for papers

Conference

**Computerized Mediations of Authority: new forms of writing,
new recognition practices?**

March 17-18, 2016

ISCC/CNRS

20, rue Berbier-du-Mets, 75013 Paris

GRIPIC, CELSA Université Paris-Sorbonne – ISCC/CNRS – ComSol, Université Clermont-Ferrand 2

The generalized use of digital technologies in all fields of human activity, and the subsequent transformations of human relationships in professional, cultural, and social spheres, seems to have ushered in a new era. The emergence of new devices has transmuted previous forms of writing, but also textualizes communication and exchange practices that previously remained extra-textual. In this new media context, the processes of dissemination, recognition, legitimization, and authorization to speak are being transformed. Digital networks (self-publishing sites, collaborative platforms, open archives and social networking websites...) form an apparatus that now defines the conditions of dissemination of works and of self-valorisation as well. Digital audience techniques, such as "buzz" or the interconnected "profiles" and CVs of professionals, researchers, amateurs, and artists lead to questions about the practices of reputation and professional or social visibility building.

This conference will be mostly devoted to the discussion of the mediations of authority in the context of media changes implied by digital technologies: how does "presence" in the digital media space affect authority? What is to be retained from the definitions of this concept today, given the complexity of its history and the multiplicity of its forms? What differences and what complementarities with related concepts as "popularity", "visibility", "reputation", etc. may be understood? Are we facing the emergence of new standards of legitimation? What links are being established between self-publishing practices, self-editing, self-promotional texts and authoritativeness? What is the viewpoint of participants in digital spaces that are dedicated to debating and discussing? Can digital spaces contribute to the formation of new "authorities"?

Independently of their particular focus and approach, contributions are expected to analyse social processes with respect to media writing modalities, that i.e. in accordance with the material aspect of apparatuses (*dispositifs*) and practices.

We propose to address the concept of authority in three ways:

I. Practices of legitimation - or how one becomes authorized

What specific tools and instruments are used by the different agents of an authority-building project? What user figures are being presented in digital writing? How do the different technology users keep current with the new possibilities offered by online communication? This is about analysing authority as a process of personal and/or collective authorization, implying legitimization and qualification in an area of expertise and/or knowledge.

II. Loci of authority built by media devices - or what is making reference

Socio-digital and/or info-documentary environments (websites of socio-professional networking, digital publishing devices...) can be seen as discursive institutions, areas of discourse, committing specific authority processes, specific recognition modes and notoriety. What are the sources of this institutionalization?

III. Transformation and Continuity of "author jobs" - or how writing is being re-composed

We consider in this axis changes in professional specialisations related to the online development of new modes of authority. How is the concept of authority in journalism, fiction writing, essays, publishing and scientific publicizing etc., being redefined? Are we facing the emergence of new professional avatars in the fields of writer activities?

Submission terms

Proposals of 5000 characters (including spaces) must be sent in two versions (both in .doc format), one of them completely anonymized and the other identical to the first but with the authors' coordinates, to autoritecolloque@gmail.com, before **July 30, 2015**.

The full text of 25,000 characters (including spaces) is to be delivered by **January 15, 2016**.

Important dates and deadlines

July 30, 2015: Submission deadline (about 5000 characters including spaces, plus the bibliography).

September 15, 2015: Notification of reviewers' reports (with suggestions).

January 15, 2016: Submission deadline of Camera-ready papers (up to 25000 characters including spaces).

March 17-18, 2016: Conference.

End 2016 (tentative): Publication of the proceedings.

The registration deadline and a preliminary program are to be announced later in the autumn.

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