Invited Special Issue: ‘Gender and Media Ecology’

We welcome contributions for an invited Special Issue on ‘Gender and Media Ecology’ to be published in Explorations in Media Ecology (Intellect), www.intellectbooks.com/explorations-in-media-ecology.

This special issue seeks research contributions that explore the intersections of gender and media ecology. Studying media as environments and environments as media, media ecology explores how human-made artefacts shape the way we think, feel and act (Postman 1970, 1995). Hence, the term ‘media’ includes any technology from the printed book, telephone, television and the internet, to clothing, architecture and vehicles. Such media can be understood as extensions of human faculties (McLuhan 1964), which inherit certain ‘biases’ and create certain ‘effects’ for the human condition (Strate 2017). This special issue seeks to advance the ‘meta-discipline’ of media ecology (Nystrom 1973) with attention to the gendered dimensions of such environments and extensions.

‘We shape our tools and thereafter they shape us’, argues Culkin through a media ecological lens (1967: 52). Yet, who is ‘we’ and ‘us’? Media ecological work into what role gender plays in the philosophies, expressions and intellectual tendencies that go into and come out of media is limited. This is especially the case for contemporary and emerging concerns in, with and through various media, from revenge porn to the #MeToo movement along with other media manifestations of gender discrimination, subversion and emancipation.

According to McLuhan, ‘the hybrid or the meeting of two media is a moment of truth and revelation from which new form is born’ (1964: 63). The analytical bridging of media ecology and gender studies can be such a revelatory meeting of two media. Here, we also include related research in feminist theory and feminist technoscience for producing fruitful frictions. What could the resulting subfields of ‘gendered-media ecology’ and ‘feminist media ecology’ contribute to our understanding of media as environments and environments as media?

New research into gender and media ecology is beginning to take form (see for example several recent panels on gender and media ecology at the 2019 National Communication Association Annual Convention and 2020 Media Ecology Association Annual Convention; see also Sharma and Singh, forthcoming). This special issue aims to establish a forum for media ecologists, in which the gendered dimensions of media extensions and environments can be problematized.

Possible topics welcomed in this special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Gender and media
- Gendered environments and technologies
- Gender and language
- Gender as figure and/or ground
- Gender biases and effects
- Gender and the global village
- Gender and formal cause
- Gender and the ‘laws of media’
- Gender and medium theory
• Feminist technoscience and media ecology
• Feminist readings of media ecology
• Gender in the media ecology literature
• Sexuality and media ecology
• Intersectionality and media ecology

Abstracts (300 words) and a short biographical note should be submitted by 20 August 2020 via email to Julia M. Hildebrand hildebjm@eckerd.edu with the subject line ‘Gender and Media Ecology’.

About the journal Explorations in Media Ecology:
Explorations in Media Ecology, the journal of the Media Ecology Association, accepts submissions that extend our understanding of media (defined in the broadest possible terms), that apply media ecological approaches, and/or that advance media ecology as a field of inquiry. As a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary publication, EME welcomes contributions embracing diverse theoretical, philosophical and methodological approaches to the study of media and processes of mediation.

Important Dates:
• Abstract submission (300 words): 20 August 2020
• Manuscript submission: 15 October 2020
• Notifications: 30 November 2020
• Final manuscript submission: 15 January 2021
• Target publication date: May 2021

Paper Submission Format:
Contributors are asked to submit original papers between 4000-6000 words in the journal’s requested manuscript format. You can find more information about formatting here: www.intellectbooks.com/asset/8837/1/NfC_EME_16_1.pdf

Special Issue Guest Editors:
Dr. Julia M. Hildebrand is Assistant Professor of Communication at Eckerd College. Her research bridges critical media studies, mobilities research and feminist theory, with a special interest in mobile technologies, visual communication and human-machine interactions. Her work has been published in such journals as Media, Culture, & Society, Digital Culture & Society, Mobile Media & Communication, Explorations in Media Ecology and Mobilities. She serves on the executive board of the Media Ecology Association.

Dr. Julia C. Richmond is Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Relations and Advertising at Rowan University. Her research focuses on the intersection of critical studies, media studies, and feminism. Her work has been published in Communication Theory, ETC: A Review of General Semantics and Public Relations Review.

References: