

Call for Papers

18 ottobre 2025

Meaningful Media

Survey on the Search for Meaning in the Media Sphere

*Edite by Francesco Galofaro (Libera università di lingue e comunicazione IULM),
Nicolò Villani (LUMSA), Carlo Alberto Bondi (Università degli Studi di Palermo)*

It's been ten years since Netflix arrived in Italy, and we can now see a consolidation of post-Convergence logics within an increasingly multifaceted media market. In this context, there are today divergent views regarding the role that structural approaches can play within the debate on Media Studies. This issue aims to carry out a survey of methodologies, research, findings, and positions in the study of media, encompassing a broad disciplinary field — Semiotics, Ethnosemiotics, Sociosemiotics, Ethnography, Cultural Anthropology, etc. — that allows us to focus on how meaning is interpreted in the media today.

The goal here is to foster a fruitful dialogue between disciplinary approaches; this would serve as resources when engaging with the complex and heterogeneous debate that surrounds media studies.

From television to cinema, from the study of digital platforms to social networks, without neglecting the fluid formats that today characterize seriality in audiovisuals, and podcasts, the proposals for this issue seek to form a heterogeneity of objects of study and disciplinary perspectives. The aim is to highlight the multiplicity of investigation ways opened up by Media Studies.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of topics of interest for this issue:

- How does the structural approach contribute to media studies today? Through the analysis of texts, interfaces, data, and practices, what theoretical spaces open up for the traditional semiotic perspective?
- The disruption of traditional formats generated by streaming and digital Convergence has given rise to media objects that exceed the boundaries of their definitions. How should we approach the distinction between individual and serial texts today? Do we need new models, or are the existing ones still valid?
- Today, media practices have changed radically due to the now consolidated presence of digital realities, whether more institutional or open to user contributions. How are sociological and ethnographic perspectives addressing these changes?

- The breakdown of international distribution boundaries through now global commercial actors has in recent years led to discussions of the “glocalization” of content, between global and local, also because of EU regulations. What effects are generated across streaming and similar interfaces in different territories? How does this reflect the variably national identity of a commercial context?
- With the disappearance of an “institutionalized” and clearly recognizable form of cultural critics, discourse on the values of media products has multiplied and dispersed across different channels. How can we identify the discursivity that emerges from media texts, and what forms of interpretation can be brought into play?
- How can we interpret the role of automation — from recommendation systems to forms of generative artificial intelligence, including social algorithms — in understanding the functioning and effectiveness of the media landscape?

Both theoretical contributions and those focused on case studies will be considered, provided that they clearly highlight an approach or methodology.

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Deadlines

Abstract submission: **9 dicembre 2025**

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The abstract should be sent jointly to the three editors:

Francesco Galofaro: francesco.galofaro@iulm.it

Nicolò Villani: nv.nico.villani@gmail.com

Carlo Alberto Bondi: carloalberto.bondi@unipa.it

Informations:

- The abstract must be approximately 160 words and must be submitted in both Italian and English.
- Accepted languages: Italian, English, French.
- The acceptance of the articles and their publication is subject to double blind peer review. – There are no official limits of length to the articles, yet we recommend 40.000 characters as a reasonable maximum measure (including spaces, notes and references).
- Files format accepted are .doc, docx, .odt.
- The articles may include any kind of images.
- Images (photographies, graphs, tables) must be included in the main text file and submitted each as a separate file, in .jpg, .png, .tif, .eps, .psd formats.
- The Authors must send their contribution in two versions: one in anonymous form, to be sent to the reviewers, and the other containing name, position, email, website, biographic notes (100 words). Each version must be a separate file.
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The editorial team would like to thank you for your kind attention.