



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERES, CIVIL SOCIETY AND CIVIC MASS MEDIA

April 13-14, 2007 in Kaunas, Lithuania

Europe is celebrating its cultural diversity which becomes both the strength and the challenge for viable and lively democracy. Currently we may observe increasingly diverse public spheres where national and international players construct and transform public agenda.

The role of civil society and mass media in the development of European Public Sphere is intensively questioned by researchers. One example could be the debate about the birth of a post-national civil society and civic media in Europe, which has been widening during the last decade.

Indeed, Europeanisation of the national public spheres is clearly a *process* which could take place more intensively, thus there are many questions that need to be clarified in this respect: What is the role of the media and organized forms of civil society in it? What are the obstacles for creating European public spheres which are friendlier towards different groups in society? Do all Europeans have the same powers to act as citizens or non-citizens? What is the role of the media in constructing civic cultures in Europe?

The conference will address the research question under such headings:

1. European Public Space and Europeanization of National Public Spheres
2. Contentious Politics, Social Movements and the Role of Mass Media
3. Conflicts and Media Responsibilities: In Search for Civic Media in Europe
4. Legitimacy, Identity Politics and Mass Media
5. Antidiscrimination Agenda and Communication between Civil Society and the EU.

The conference is aimed at researchers, activists of transnational and national NGOs, media institutions in Europe. Young scholars, doctoral students and researchers from Eastern and Central Europe are encouraged to submit abstracts. The conference will be free of charge for paper-givers, although all participants should cover their travel costs.

The conference is organized by Social Research Center and Department of Public Communications at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania.

Conference language: English

Deadline for proposals: March 19, 2007

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