

Editorial

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This special issue of *Studies in Communication Sciences (SComS)* is dedicated to DACH 21, the first three-country conference on communication science, held on April 7–9, 2021, and hosted by the Department of Communication and Media Research (IKMZ) at the University of Zurich. Titled “#Communication #(R)Evolution. Changing Communication in a Digital Society,” the conference addressed, for instance, structural transformations of the public sphere and how changing media and communication technologies impact politics, culture, news production, media usage, and everyday life (Bachmann, 2021). Accordingly, the 16 research articles in this special issue, written by scholars from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, and Norway, deal with such changes. They also shed a light on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the production, dissemination, and usage of news and science-related information. The guest editors, Thomas Zerback, Mark Eisenegger, Thomas N. Friemel, and Mike S. Schäfer organized the review process for this special issue and, in a separate editorial, introduce the contents of the articles chosen. We thank the guest editors and all of the authors for their outstanding work in making this special issue a reality.

We also wish to thank the guest editors of the last year. We had the honor to work with Cornelia Brantner (Karlstad University, Sweden) and Helena Stehle (University of Münster, Germany), who organized a Thematic Section titled “Visibility in the Digital Age” (Vol. 21, Issue 1) and consisting of five articles. Moreover, Dimitris Serafis, Jolanta Drzewiecka, and

Sara Greco edited the Thematic Section titled “Critical Perspectives on Migration in Discourse and Communication” (Vol. 21, Issue 2) and containing analyses of discourses in Spain, Italy, Greece, and Germany. We want to take this opportunity to thank all five scholars for their dedication to *SComS*. Furthermore, we are delighted with the development of and demand for this format. Currently no less than four Thematic Sections are under way.

In addition to the papers from DACH 21, this special issue features reviews of two books published in 2021. The first review, written by Nils S. Borchers, discusses Joseph Turow’s monograph “The Voice Catchers: How Marketers Listen in to Exploit Your Feelings, Your Privacy, and Your Wallet.” Voice profiling has grown considerably with the development of smart speakers and other voice devices that allow marketers to collect information about the identity of users and their actions. Turow’s work reveals the opportunities and the limitations of the commercial use of voice, and Borchers praises his methodological approach and the diversity of data that he, an occasionally oracular author, assembled for his research.

The second review, written by Richard Moist, focuses on a collection edited by Giuliana Sorce titled “Global Perspectives on NGO Communication for Social Change.” The book’s first part discusses communication practices, strategies, and media use by NGOs, whereas the second part presents case studies on NGOs. The authors of the various chapters carefully describe the sociopolitical contexts and successful media and communication-



based initiatives of NGOs, and Moist's review highlights the various forms of communication that NGOs mobilize.

We wish to conclude this editorial with two notices. First, we are very pleased to announce that our *SComS* Best Paper Award 2021, which honors the best article published by *SComS* in the past year, has been given to Nina Wicke and Monika Taddicken (2021) for their article on "quality expectations of media coverage on climate change from the audience's perspective." Congratulations to the authors! The jurors found that this article "not only offers refreshing qualitative insights into audience expectations on media coverage of climate change, but also paves the way for a broader discussion on quality criteria for science communication in general." Moreover, its findings "are also of relevance and topicality against the background of the communication of the COVID-19 pandemic." We would like to sincerely thank the jurors of this year's award for their excellent work: Hannah Früh, Werner A. Meier, Franziska Oehmer-Pedrazzi, Alexander Ort, Lilian Suter, and Davide Cino. Cino, together with Chiara Dalledonne Vandini (2020), won the *SComS* Best Paper Award in 2020 with their exploratory study on "governing children's digital footprints as a source of dialectical tensions between mothers and daughters-in-law."

Second, *SComS* has expanded its Advisory Board. A very warm welcome goes to two academics who have recently joined as board members: Marko Siitonen (University of Jyväskylä, Finland) and Didier Courbet (Aix-Marseille University, France). The Advisory Board now comprises 16 distinguished scholars with a broad spectrum of expertise in communication and media studies.

Amid major crises, we want *SComS* to continue bringing scientific knowledge to life and promoting free access to new scientific findings and theoretical developments. The research articles from DACH 21 contribute to these goals by reflecting on the role of communication during health crises and providing diverse perspectives on changes of media and society due to digitalization.

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