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Autor: Eppler, Martin J. / Rigotti, Eddo / Romano, Gaetano

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

It is a great pleasure for us to be able to present to you the third issue of *Studies in Communication Sciences*. Unlike the previous issues that were constructed around a specific theme, this issue focuses on a particular group of authors, that of young researchers. We believe that this special attention is crucial to our field. Communication and media sciences are still in their early years compared to other long-established disciplines on the Swiss and international research scenes and therefore do not require only experienced researchers who undertake important projects, but also new ideas and approaches that will become future standards. We give the floor over to young researchers in this issue of SComS in order to give them the opportunity to present their research to the scientific world.

The inspiration behind such an approach comes from the two patrons of the journal, the *Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research* on the one hand, in particular its president Prof. Gabriele Siegert and its vice-president Prof. Daniel Perrin, overseeing the continuity of the research community, and the *Università della Svizzera italiana* on the other hand. The editors of the journal have also adopted this concept. We believe that SComS should not only publish articles by well-established, internationally renowned researchers, but should also present more humble works of younger researchers who may have been around for a shorter period of time, but who can boast works of quality.

Our project received a truly unexpected number of submissions: some 50 papers from ten different countries were submitted to the editorial board. We were very happy to meet with such success, and we must also admit that this unexpected popularity caused us a significant headache. How does one tackle such a quantity? How not to disappoint so many hopefuls? We have grouped the accepted papers according to two main themes, namely visual communication and journalism, with two further synoptic articles regarding Italian language in Switzerland and doctoral students in communication at Swiss universities. Despite our best efforts,

we did not include all the proposals and followed in our selection the indications of our reviewers.

All proposals were indeed subjected to the usual process of double blind reviewing. Thus, even though the articles you are going to read are the works of young researchers, they have undergone a strict selection process and have thus the required scientific level for an international journal. Those whose work has not been chosen have no reason to be discouraged: being constantly subject to the critique of one's peers is the harsh reality of research work. Moreover our reviewers have given them indications that will enable them to further strengthen their scientific writing skills and improve their paper so that it can be submitted to another journal.

This issue is also the fruit of the ten-day European Summer University held in September 2006 in Geneva, where more than forty European PhD students in the fields of information, communication and the media could exchange their views and submit them to the helpful and constructive critique of experienced researchers. This event could not have taken place and this publication could not have been realised without the scientific support of three academic societies: the *Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research* (SACMR), the *Société française des sciences de la communication et des médias* (SFSIC), and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Publizistik und Kommunikationswissenschaft* (DGPuK), or without the financial support of numerous institutions, most notably the Robert Bosch Foundation, but also the *Swiss National Science Foundation* (SNSF), Lombard, Odier, Darier, Hentsch & Co, the *Société académique de Genève*, the University of Geneva, the *Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research*, Ringier AG, the German Embassy in Geneva, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Geneva, the French Embassy in Bern, as well as the doctoral workshops "European Studies" and "Information, communication and the media" organised by the University of Geneva. We would like to express our most sincere thanks for their help and support.

Martin J. Eppler
Eddo Rigotti
Gaetano Romano
Philippe Viallon