

CfP: *Navigationen. Zeitschrift für Medien- und Kulturwissenschaften* 1/2022

“NAVIGATION. PRACTICES – MEDIA – THEORIES – EPISTEMOLOGIES”

After the 'discovery' of space in the humanities at large (Schlögl 2003), it also percolated through German-language media and cultural studies in particular (among others Günzel 2007, Döring/Thielmann 2008, Günzel 2009). Following this reaction to the (supposed) obliviousness of space in classical media theory – prominently represented by Marshall McLuhan ("global village") or Paul Virilio ("overcoming geophysical space") – and the subsequent turn towards so-called geomeia (Lapenta 2011, McQuire 2016, Abend 2017, Fast et al. 2019), the focus on navigation seems to be a consistent and logical third step. For navigation, understood as practice, cultural and media technique as well as metaphor in the digital sphere unites two things: 1.) A dedicated spatial reference, an orientation and target finding in geographical and virtual space by means of routes, infrastructures, (hyper)links etc. 2.) as well as a realisation with and through geomeia.

Until the 20th century, navigation as a media practice remained limited to a narrow context of use, namely to professionalised seafaring (*navigare* as the steering of a ship). Only in the 20th century did destination and route finding rise to importance in the context of civilian actor's quotidian practices – recreationally as well as professionally. Historically, each temporal-geographical expansion of individual "day" or "week paths" (Hägerstrand 1970 & 1975) was an effect of different (transport) technological developments, which allowed people, artefacts and signs to be transferred more quickly and thus lent importance to questions of individual navigation across media boundaries – be it the bicycle as a "medium for land surveying" in the USA at the end of the 19th century (Lommel/Thielmann/Schulz 2018) or the automobile (Thielmann 2008).

But technological development is not only the condition for greater mobility. Conversely, alongside the 'discovery of leisure' in modernity, it is precisely the increase in and acceleration of mobility that has led to a heightened cultural and media-technological engagement with questions of precise wayfinding and self-location: From the cultural-technological practice of cooperative production as well as individual reading of analogue maps as "spatial media" (Dünne 2008) to the media-technological self-location of the subject through its digital "near-body technologies" (Kaerlein 2018), be it in the form of miniaturised, GPS modules integrated into smartphones (Borbach 2019) in interconnection with algorithmic wayfinding in "geobrowsing" (Abend 2013), or through automated processes of simultaneous localisation and mapping (Kanderske/Thielmann 2019).

Taking a literal approach towards the journal's name, the call addresses current research on the topic of navigation from a media & cultural studies perspective. Our goal is to provide an overview of the field, its researchers and their approaches, methods and theories. Taking the ubiquity of so-called smart devices in the post-digital as a starting point, the issue will ask about current media practices and techniques of civilian and military navigation as well as their methodological investigation and (re-)modelling. We welcome epistemological perspectives

that examine current navigational practices and techniques in their historical development, taking into account the variable, sometimes divergent conditions and historically marginal designs of the navigational – i.e. successful as well as failed media, infrastructures, practices and standards.

Therefore, a history of navigation has to follow the "traces of the whale" in the 19th century (Lüttge 2020) as well as the competing bureaucratic-formal cultural and mostly time-critical (e.g. Ernst 2013) media techniques of standardising space and time (Siegert 2012 & 2014). For – according to a first basic assumption of the volume – the discourse and practice of navigation evoked both a temporalisation of space as well as simultaneous spatialisation of time, whereby both categories are not metaphor or even a priori, but were initially addressed spatially and temporally qua media, subsequently formatted and finally standardised (Otto 2013). The focus on navigation makes it obvious that questions of space are always inextricably interwoven with questions of time - and vice versa. This applies to classical analogue positioning on the world's oceans with sextants, octants and chronographs as well as to technological digital self-location qua NAVSTAR GPS, where spatial differences are the result of time differences according to GPS time (the travel time of signals from satellites).

Possible subjects include (but are not limited to):

- Recent and historic media & data practices of navigation
- Epistemologies of navigation
- Navigational metaphors in digital space (logging in, navigating, social navigation ...)
- Different scales of navigation: navigation in acoustic space ("acoustic games") / micronavigation in buildings (room plans) / ...
- Failed or genuinely historical navigation systems and infrastructures
- Navigation and addressing: What is the status of the "address"?
- Standardisation processes as the basis of navigational practices: map data, time measurement and synchronisation, longitude & latitude, ...
- Navigation and logistics
- Navigation and meteorology
- Remedialisation: Navigation and maps in digital games
- Route knowledge and its inscriptions: From distance information inscribed in stones (antiquity) to network timetables in public transport and route guidance in digital games
- The proliferation of navigation in touristic contexts (car maps/bicycle maps/travel guides...)
- Methodological contributions: Divergent methods of studying the navigational

Abstracts (max. 7,000 characters) can be sent to max.kanderske@uni-siegen.de and christoph.borbach@medienkomm.uni-halle.de until February 28th 2021. They should include a short biographical note. Should the circumstances allow it, the participating authors are invited to present their texts for discussion at an author workshop in July 2021. It will be funded by CRC 1187 "Media of Cooperation" and held at the University of Siegen. Further information on the journal *Navigationen. Zeitschrift für Medien- und Kulturwissenschaften* are available at <https://www.universi.uni-siegen.de/katalog/zeitschriften/navigationen/>.

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