



Networks, social movements and their myths in a hyperconnected world

Redes, movimientos sociales y sus mitos en un mundo hiperconectado

Thematic Editors

- **Dr. Toby Miller, Autonomous Metropolitan University of Cuajimalpa (Mexico)**
- **Dr. Eva Aladro-Vico, Complutense University, Madrid (Spain)**
- **Dr. Paula Requeijo-Rey, Complutense University, Madrid (Spain)**

Scope

In this issue of *Comunicar* we want to work on the analysis of the processes of human social activity online and offline, in networks and social movements. In order to focus on one particular aspect of this universe of phenomena, we want to analyze the forms of myth present in them. In social media, and in social movements, there are mythologies for the future, linked to the trends of evolution that emerge in society. Social networks and movements communicate mythologies. There is a deep language in the physical and digital networks related to popular forms, to the rejection of oppression, to the climate crisis, or to the political or gender hegemony that surrounds us. Other mythologies appear in relation to network communication, in memes, fake news, or in digital dystopian series.

In contemporary society, whose central feature is the abundance of information, in social networks and in forms of group communication, such as social movements, a clarifying language is sought in the face of the social complexities of current life. In social movements, in urban planning, in the creativity of networks, in the contents of digital communication, narratives emerge that express the main future trends in the social scenario. We want to study social networks and social movements, anchoring their analysis to these languages.

Analysing social movements and networks, in a hyperconnected society, is not simply describing or cataloguing its communicative forms or partial expressions, a content at the service of advertising, the attraction of votes or influence in fashion. In social movements and networks there are constructions with meaning that provide

explanations or responses to great human complexity. We wish to study its subtle presence, its capacity for dynamism and its constant fusion with social innovation movements.

We wish to study networks and digital communication focusing on the symbolic forms associated with myths. But also in physical spaces, mythologies emerge. Group movements with a social purpose are endowed with symbols and languages that respond to deep concerns. Digital communication, in its innovation aspect, unceasingly creates myths, in many cases dystopias, that aim to become meaningful narratives of human life, about what threatens us or could happen to us, and that creators build those works in the sectors mentioned, communicating their channeled energy through social media.

We hope to include and give visibility to those expressive forms of digital society, as heirs of the great archetypes, which have been transmitted down to the present time by the mirroring capacity of human communication in all forms of social dynamism, and whose fundamental function is to provide an answer, and take up a language that serves groups and individuals, thus describing an original aspect of the networked society.

Descriptors

- Hyperconnected communication and its connection to myths.
- Deep communication forms in social movements and social media.
- New forms of participation for youth in social movements, and their new languages.
- Urban planning, public spaces, human mobility: their new forms and languages.
- Culture, digital creations and the appearance of myth.
- Environmental and feminist movements, against hegemonies: their forms and symbolism.
- Language, society and mythological dystopia. The negative side of current mythical worlds.
- Mythologies in memes and in fake news.
- Myth, symbols and their importance as boosters of citizen participation.

Questions

- What forms, languages and deep communication do appear in social networks?
- What languages, mythologies and forms are used by the social movements of our time?
- Are there myths in present social life? What is their function? Are they new forms of human mythological grounds? Do they constitute a new language?
- How is the expressive language studied in our present communities? What does the language of urban planning, public space, or the human groups that use it convey?
- Are there any present mythologies linked to climate change, to the fight against gender-based oppression or to political arena? Are there myths connected to the fight against misinformation and fake news?
- What are the uses of networks at the political, associative and group levels? What communication is unique to them?
- Do youngsters use myths? Which mythological archetypes respond to the complexities of hyper-connected youth, as manifested in social networks? What is the relationship between dystopian forms of myth and contemporary social complexity?
- Is there a global culture based on the universal language of myth? What relation does it have with the Networked Society?

About the Thematic Editors

PhD. Toby Miller, Autonomous Metropolitan University -Cuajimalpa (Mexico)

Professor Miller is an international interdisciplinary social scientist specialised in Media Studies and Cultural Studies, of Anglo-American-Australian nationality. He is the author of a huge number of books and articles, with dozens of specialized books on popular culture, film studies, communication and gender, television or the evolution of the media, on television culture, postmodernity, identity, on climate change and media ecology, edited by the world's leading firms such as Routledge, Oxford University Press or Palgrave MacMillan. Bilingual author in Spanish and English, his works have been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, French, Farsi, German, and Swedish. Miller is an absolute authority in the study of current culture in its multiple manifestations, from public space to popular culture, from the ecological view to communication and gender, having clarified the phenomena of contemporary communication in multiple aspects and manifestations. He also works as a critic and commentator on media and television throughout the English speaking area. Director of the Department of Media and Cultural Studies at the University of California, Riverside, for years, he has also been a professor at New York University, and at the Institute of Media and Creative Industries at Loughborough University, in London. Educated in Great Britain and Australia, Miller is also an ecology activist and has a personal site, associated with one of his latest publications: <https://www.tobymiller.org/> ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4957-7770>

ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Toby_Miller

PhD. Eva Aladro-Vico, Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)

Professor Aladro works in the Department of Journalism and New Media, at the Faculty of Information Sciences in Complutense University, Madrid (Spain). She is specialised in Information and Communication Theories. Coordinator of the Academic Journal CIC 'Cuadernos de Información y Comunicación' (Latindex, IBSS, SA, Ebsco, Ulrich's, DOAJ, etc), she is director of the consolidated research group "Communicative Structures and Interactions between the Different Levels of Interpersonal Communication" (Group Number 940820) at Complutense University. Award of Excellence in Teaching 2015-2016, at Complutense University of Madrid, she has written a variety of books such as Information Theory and Effective Communication, The Ten Laws of Information Theory, Communication and Feed Back, Symbols, Metaphors and Power, The Determining Information. She has published dozens of articles in top-indexed academic journals in Spanish and some contributions have been also published in English. Main Researcher in multiple research projects and innovative educational projects, she has been visiting scholar at the Universities of Melbourne, Frankfurt, Thessaloniki, Athens, Crete, Sardegna and Monterrey, in Mexico. As a polyglot writer and translator she has achieved a huge amount of Spanish translations of reference authors in the area of Communication and Information. She is also a cultural activist, acting as the leader of the Platform to Save the Albeniz Theatre in Madrid, or the Platform for the Re-structuring of Complutense University. She is a writer of a blog and of poetry, with six books of poems edited until now. She publishes articles about Ecology and Information Theory in the Spanish digital newspaper eldiario.es

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1986-8312>

ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Aladro_Eva

PhD. Paula Requeijo-Rey, Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)

Assistant Professor at the Complutense University of Madrid. Accredited as a Tenured Professor for Public and Private University by the Spanish national evaluation agency, she has a Master's Degree in Radio Nacional de España and Universidad Complutense (2007), and has been a journalist in Radio Nacional de España. FPU Fellow, she has been a visiting researcher at the University of California (USA) and the National Autonomía University of Mexico (UNAM). Member of the consolidated research group 940820 "Communication Structures and Interactions at the different levels of Communication" (UCM), she has already been part of 5 European Research Projects, the last one, on Innovative Research in Mythology. She has as well participated in 2 competitive R&D projects, the last one in force, about cultural production with a gender perspective. With teaching evaluations of Excellence, she is also a professor at the Master in Political Communication in Camilo José Cela University (Madrid) and at the Advanced Political Communication Master in CesNext (University of Lleida). She has coordinated and edited research books with relevant international publishers (Peter Lang,

Pearson), and she has written research papers published by first indexed journals (EPI, RLCS), about her main study interests, ranging from the study of social movements, to political communication and its techniques and strategies, through Communication Theories at all levels.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2801-9996>

ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Paula_Requeijo

Guidelines for authors and submission of contributions

Editorial guidelines are available at:

www.revistacomunicar.com/index.php?contenido=normas&idioma

Contributions to the Special Issue should be submitted through the OJS platform:

<https://www.revistacomunicar.com/ojs/index.php/comunicar/submissions>

Deadlines

Initial date for proposal articles: 2020-06-01

Deadline for submission of articles: 2020-12-30

Date of publication of this issue:

Preprint version: 2021-05-15 / **Print edition:** 2021-07-01

Journal website:

www.revistacomunicar.com

Institutional Co-editors

