Call for paper

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Central Topic
Connectivity and media. Approaches, uses and resignification from diverse sociocultural contexts.

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Presentation

A tour around the globe can offer different scenarios of the current extension of digital technologies in many of the daily activities. They are so many that it is difficult to imagine contexts where connectivity is absent. Even so, there are places where the digital divide (access problems) remains to be bridged and digital inclusion (more related to appropriation) needs to be expanded. At the same time, there are other places where even with all the technology implemented, inequality remains in access to information and communication technologies in conjunction with those associated to socio-economic aspects. These contrasts diversify the ways in which people approach technology and the media, the uses they make of them, and the resignification from the local contexts.

Digital technologies and the media have dynamized the ways we communicate, inform and interact with our groups or in the creation of new ones. Although at the present time this statement is a notion, it is interesting to reflect on it in the light of the intermediary people that expand the possibilities of uses and appropriation. Who best exemplifies this mediation is the figure of the hacker, but there are a number of interactions with other people that also influence us in the approaches to the technologies and in their different uses, sometimes not necessarily linked to the technologies and media, but to the creation of content from the communication and information resources. On the other hand, it is precisely the closeness of these resources in our lives and in our activities that allows us to be generators of diverse content (sometimes banal, and sometimes significant for certain collectivities), and also of practices that resignify these digital resources and social relations. Some

examples worth mentioning are activism around the construction of more local and safer networks, the different manifestations of cyberfeminism, as well as the construction and maintenance of community media.

Alternatively, it is evident that the diversity of socio-cultural contexts also affects the diversification of approaches, uses and resignification of digital technologies and the media. Thus, it is different to observe access to ICTs in the Wichí villages of northern Argentina compared to the Miskito villages in Honduras, not to mention that there would be other differences with Afro villages, or inhabitants of metropolitan conurbations, or among inhabitants of different neighborhoods of the same city. In this sense, we conceive that local contexts conform, at the same time that they have been formed, from different power relations, by inequalities, from differentiations, which together present features from which interactions are made with technological resources and towards other actors and other social spaces.

Descriptors

1. Connectivity in heterogeneous and unequal contexts,
2. Media and digital practices of diverse subjects,
3. Subversive proposals and practices from media and digital technologies,
4. Citizenship and communication,
5. Narratives generated with the support of digital technological resources and the media.

Questions

1. Connectivity in heterogeneous and unequal contexts: What conflicts are linked to unequal access to digital technologies and the media? What are the key actors involved in changes in access, use and appropriation of digital technologies and the media? How are people and groups approaching digital technologies and the media? (State, civil associations, groups, indigenous regions, migration areas, urban peripheries)

2. Media and digital practices of diverse subjects: What media and / or digital practices are generated in relation to their own socio-cultural expressions? What are the processes of production and media and digital consumption of the diverse subjects? What is the impact of connectivity and the use of the media around the stance of diversities? (expression of identities, perception of exclusion, stigmas, and dynamics of socio-cultural conflicts)

3. Subversive proposals and practices from the media and digital technologies: What are the alternative proposals that are being generated in the Latin American

context in relation to the social and critical use of digital technologies and the media? What practices are linked or can be linked? How are different kinds of digital activism (feminist, social movements, among others) dynamizing? How can subversion be rethought based on connectivity and the use of media? (community broadcasters, hackers, audiovisual media)

4. Citizenship and communication: What are the proposals for legislation regarding the use and appropriation of the Internet, and the appropriation of community media? What strategies are being promoted to improve citizen participation and community organization? What processes are involved in the negotiation of community values? How are issues such as freedom of expression, network neutrality, security, data management and internet governance being raised at the local and collective level?

5. Narratives generated with the support of digital technological resources and the media.: How are the stories that the social groups make of themselves (as self-reflection and as presentation to other groups) being adapted with the support of digital technologies and the media? How are different socio-cultural problems being expressed and told? What platforms or resources are used to share content and stories? What interactions are emerging or becoming dynamic in a context where there are more possibilities to self-relate and reflect on those narratives, precisely? How do they help to balance relations of inequality, visibility, and positioning?

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