



The Perils & Pleasures of the Audiovisual on the Web

Ethical Challenges in Media Uses and Policy Making



Dr. Agnese Pastorino

Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, San Diego State University
 agnese.pastorino@sdsu.edu | agnese.pastorino@sdsc.edu | agnese.pastorino@sdsc.edu
 Department of English, Room 206, SDSU Main Campus

4pm, Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Music Building, Room 206 | SDSU Main Campus

Lecture Abstract: Nowadays, youths have access to an enormous variety of audiovisual contents, produced and distributed in a very fast pace through the Web. The rapid consumption and production of audiovisual contents is especially diffused amongst young adults. Recent studies have shown how the playful reception of these video materials can have negative consequences on their health and psycho-physical development. For example, numerous researches have been conducted on the impact of violent video games, or pornography. Also, recent public debate has focused on potential audiovisual risks for youths, such as child-pornography and terrorist videos. Although several influential voices have expressed concern about potential risky uses of harmful audiovisual contents, the Web is based on a liberal approach to media production and distribution. This perspective has been founded on the first amendment of Constitution of the United States, which defends the principle of freedom of expression. In this regard, European institutions are implementing policy initiatives aimed at proposing international solutions for a safer online environment. Based on several years of research on these issues, the lecture will show the perspectives of different stakeholders involved in media use and policy-making, by paying particular attention to young people and European institutions. Through a sociological eye, the author pays attention to some of the main contemporary ethical challenges: on the one hand, the hedonistic universe of media consumption and, on the other, the ethical approaches adopted by policy-makers with regards to online harmful contents.

Agnese Pastorino, PhD, is an associate researcher at the Sorbonne University in Paris (CERLIS research center). Since 2010, her research focuses on sociological and political issues concerning the use of audiovisual harmful contents for youths and adolescents. She has been awarded a Marie Curie fellowship by the European Commission from 2014 to 2017. She's a member of the ICA International Communication Association. Alongside her research activity, she worked on multimedia production and communication management in international organizations, such as European Commission (Safer Internet Programme, Luxembourg, 2013) and the United Nations (News & Media, New York, 2017).

AGNESE PASTORINO'S FEATURED LECTURE IS THE THIRD PRESENTATION IN THE WENDELMOOT SYMPOSIUM SERIES SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE @ SDSU—ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY MALAS, THE MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES; AND SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS.



Department of English & Comparative Literature

San Diego State University, College of Arts & Letters

literature.sdsu.edu | wendelmoot.sdsu.edu