

GROUPE DE RECHERCHES ET D'ETUDES SUR LA RADIO

CALL FOR PAPERS

International colloquium organized by GRER

Towards 'Post-radio' Issues in the Transformation of Radio Objects and Forms.

PARIS, November 26th, 27th and 28th 2009

University Paris I - Sorbonne - Pantheon
(National Institute of History of Art; Rue des Petits Champs; 75001 PARIS)

The French Radio Research and Studies Network (GRER) is organizing its fourth international symposium. Following Bordeaux (2001 and 2004) and Lyon (2006), it will take place in Paris in November 2009. An international call for papers is now launched, as described below. Submissions are hereby invited, with a deadline of May 1st 2009.

Building on past experience and on what we know today in France and elsewhere, the conference aims to explore the main characteristics of, and the different stages in, the development of an emerging 'post-radio': to measure in a dynamic way resistance and acquiescence towards such trends, as well as to identify the stakes in play, the potential and the risks inherent in such change.

Following on from so many previous developments, radio is going through big changes. Just as happened with the transistor in the 1950s and the emergence of television as a medium of mass communication in the 1960s, as well as FM in the 1970s and 1980s, the arrival of digital transmission is changing the media. Past developments have allowed radio to adapt on the one hand to the new media landscape and on the other to new expectations of the public: expectations born of political, sociological and cultural change. Thus has radio emerged strengthened and more prosperous from each of these 'radiomorphoses', even though some people had predicted its demise. Going into the digital domain cannot simply be a digitisation of analogue radio, but it must instead be an evolution of the medium itself.

This evolution will embrace content, technology, reception and also the economy of radio and its very status. Some change won't happen immediately: there is some resistance, some of which will persist, and it is reasonable to suggest that the future of radio will consist of irreversible change and some compromises between old and new forms of radio broadcasting.



What we call 'Postradio' is rich in potential and dynamic innovation. It must allow the transmission of richer programs: better-quality sound will be enhanced by associated metadata accommodated by digital production. The economy of the production of programming and transmission will change as well. Methods of listening, and thus practice usage, and listeners will change, too. These changes are already outlined in current and emerging trends including:

- the multiplication of transmission platforms (RNT, broadband and wifi internet, satellite, mobile phones...);
- richer content (accompanying data) is available as are new programme formats, and new ways of programming are possible;
- increased choice of programmes for more-specific niches markets, and their corollary, the personalisation of programmes offering the chance to share one's tastes with different groups of listeners;
- different ways of listening and uses for radio are emerging, thanks to radio sets with special features (pause, rewind and record...), so timeshifting of listening is possible, thanks to the internet and podcasts;
- growth in listening on the move, so that listening to the radio, which has been 'national' in character since the second world war, then more commonly local, can now become world-wide or without geographical positioning.

Nevertheless, is this evolution uniform and univocal? The transitional period could yet be delicate and perhaps long. Avoiding purely technical or determinist discourses, the possible pitfalls, obstacles and delays should not be concealed:

- disputes over technological choices exist as do delays and inconsistencies in the availability of digital equipment, access to resources, participatory options, and the costs related to developing and supporting digital infrastructure in general over time;
- inequalities of the radio sectors in light of the persistent "digital divide" (particularly for emerging nations at the global level) risk a digital 'radio gap', as much from the point of view of the operators as from that of the listeners, from social or geographical points of view;
- conditions of regulation of broadcasting raise other concerns;
- doubts in the adoption of new radio technologies by the public and in particular their commitment to traditional forms of broadcasting;
- and finally, the end of "radio" as we know it, due to convergences and media hybridizations.

Themes (not exhaustive) to be considered for the conference, including panel sessions:

- Radio's new status (social status, status at the heart of the media landscape and media systems)
- Linkages and additionality in radio (acquiring new characteristics, practices and uses)
- New financial models, new forms of regulation
- History (lessons to be learnt from past experience)
- New radio technology
- Documenting web radio – selected by whom? (archiving)
- New producers/new productions/new programmes
- Accompanying discourses, strategies or visions for digital radio

CALL FOR PAPERS INFORMATION AND AGENDA

During this conference, presentations must be made in a combination of **two languages**, one of which must be **French: one spoken** and the other in an accompanying visual form, such as a **Power Point presentation** (or equivalent). It could be, for example, a French verbal communication and a Power Point presentation in English or Spanish, or an oral presentation in English, Spanish or another language and, in this case, it would have to be a Power Point presentation in French.

Presentation length at the plenary sessions will be fixed at **30 minutes**; the communications in the workshops will be limited to **15 to 20 minutes**.

Authors are invited to submit proposals for a paper in French, English or Spanish. The submission deadline is **May 1st, 2009**. Submissions should include: a title (and subtitle if appropriate), 5 to 8 keywords, and an abstract with a clear focus on one or more of the themes suggested above. It should contain no more than 5 000 characters (850 words). Paper proposals must include a problematic, a hypothesis and possibly a bibliography. Moreover, and separately, please be indicate: the names of the authors and of their institution(s), their job title(s), plus postal address(es) and their telephone and e-mail address(es).

These proposals must be sent by email to the two following email addresses:

grer.mail@club-internet.fr & sylviecapitant@rocketmail.com

An acknowledgment of receipt will be sent back to the authors. The scientific committee will peer review each proposal. Proposals may be subject to requests for modification prior to formal acceptance by the scientific committee. Notification will be sent to the authors on June 30th, 2009.

Power Point documents (or similar) will have to be submitted by **October 15th, 2009**.

2 plenary sessions will take place (the first on Thursday 26th November in the afternoon, the second on Saturday 28th in the morning). Parallel **workshops** will take place on Friday, November 27.

The authors are invited to deliver the text of their papers during the conference (on paper and in electronic form). These texts, with the agreement of the authors and of the Scientific Committee, could be **published on line** on the GRER web site (<http://www.grer.fr>).

PARTICIPANTS AND AUDIENCE:

Researchers, academics, professionals and radio listeners.

Registration: 50 Euros (full-price), 25 Euros (students, members of the GRER and participants from low incomes countries).

TIMETABLE SUMMARY:

May 1st 2009 – Deadline for abstract submission
June 30th 2009 - Responses to proposers
October 15th, 2009 – Delivery of Powerpoint presentations (or similar)

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GRER : GROUPE DE RECHERCHES ET D'ETUDES SUR LA RADIO

THE FRENCH RADIO BROADCASTING RESEARCHES AND STUDIES NETWORK

GRER was founded with the goal of promoting knowledge, recognition and development of radio broadcasting studies in France. Gathering academics, students and professionals working on or in radio, it had organized two international symposia in Bordeaux, in November 2001 and in April 2004, when the third, "From the Triode to Digital, radio broadcasting at the turn of the century", took place at the University Lyon 3 - Jean Moulin, from 18th to 20th May 2006. The fourth will take place in Paris, in November 2009, with its subject "Towards Postradio". GRER took an active part in the European research network IREN (International Radio Research Network), supported by the European Commission. It is engaged in new international projects.

Since October 2005, GRER is a French association open for membership to all those who share its values and intentions. The purpose of this association is the development and evaluation of research, of scientific and other studies, as well as the implementation of innovative practice around radio broadcasting. Its aim is to gather people or legal entities engaged in radio research (fundamental or applied). By bringing together theoretical and practical research, by being interested as well in structures, environment, content, practice and radio art, as with audiences and reception, GRER wishes to be a public space for reflection, in prospective dimensions, on the state of the art and on radio's future, on problems, new issues and concerns of these media. GRER already welcomes many young researchers, engaged in work which addresses relevant themes.

The activities on which the association focuses are as follows: to encourage and support studies and research in connection with radio broadcasting in all disciplines; to develop this work by organizing knowledge and dissemination by all necessary means, but in particular through its Internet website; to support communication among the researchers in France and in the world; to organize representation and the participation of French radio research within organizations, institutions or associations; to contribute to the dialogue with radio professionals; and in general, to take part in legitimising and evaluating the medium of radio.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.