

Zeitschrift: Studies in Communication Sciences : journal of the Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research

Herausgeber: Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research; Università della Svizzera italiana, Faculty of Communication Sciences

Band: 6 (2006)

Heft: 2

Rubrik: Call for papers

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Call for Papers

Studies in Communication Sciences (SComS)
An International Journal

Special Section on:

VISUAL COMMUNICATION

THE ROLE OF IMAGES IN INTERPERSONAL AND MASS MEDIA COMMUNICATION

The special section of a forthcoming issue of the international journal 'Studies in Communication Sciences' will be dedicated to the role of *images in processes of communication*. We thus invite high-quality, original contributions that examine benefits, risks, modalities, quality attributes, or prerequisites of images as catalysts for communication, ranging from dyadic, group, community, and corporate communication to mass media contexts.

Article Format & Topics:

Article submissions can be in English, German, Italian or French. Submissions in English are particularly encouraged. Submissions should not exceed 7'000 words. Article submissions should contain a one-paragraph abstract (in English), up to five key words and an alphabetical bibliography using APA style.

The special section will be labelled as 'Research on Visual Communication' and can encompass short (4'000 words) or full papers (up to 7'000 words). Visual communication has become pervasive in today's society, economy, and culture. Newspaper photography and infographics, internet maps, desktop icons, TV clips, corporate slide presentations, or marketing brochures – pictures abound around us. Hence researchers from different disciplines have begun to investigate these phenomena systematically. But the field of visual communication research is still fragmented and the various relevant disciplines do not yet fully profit from each other to better understand the role of pictures in communication processes. Contributions that provide synthesis and overview thus seem necessary, both in terms of clarifying the emerging research agenda in this domain and in providing guidance to students and scholars of communication. We consequently invite researchers to submit articles that shed light on this intriguing issue. We encourage not only submis-

sions that present new empirical findings on visual communication, but also articles that discuss the 'big picture' of visual communication research and provide synopsis and orientation on this dynamic field of inquiry.

Possible topics or questions to address may be, but are not limited to:

- How can images be analyzed and described with regard to their use in communication?
- What are the (documented) benefits and what are the (demonstrated) drawbacks of visual communication?
- What are exemplary contexts of visual communication? How can they be researched?
- What are differences between visual communication and other forms of communication? How can they be expressed? How can they work together?
- Which disciplines examine the use of images in communication? How do they complement each other?
- What are interdisciplinary ways of studying visual communication?
- What is the research agenda for the field of visual communication?
- What is visual literacy and how can it be fostered?
- How are pictures abused or misused in contemporary media?
- What is the role of pictures in the era of interactivity and Web 2.0?

Key Dates:

Submission deadline:	15 th of September 2007
Notification of Acceptance (incl. reviewers' comments):	15 th of October 2007
Final Paper version due:	30 th of October 2007
Publication of the Journal:	Early December 2007

Contact Information:

For questions or to submit your article contact: info@scoms.ch

The Journal's website (incl. notes for contributors) can be found at:
www.scoms.ch

Mission and Scope of *SComS*

Studies in Communication Sciences aims to be a multi-lingual, international platform for interdisciplinary research from different regions and cultures (German-speaking, French-speaking, Italian-speaking, English-speaking) and diverse research traditions and methods, focusing on the rich research realm of communication in all its forms and facets (from interpersonal to mass communication). It is a double blind peer reviewed academic journal dedicated to high-quality, original and relevant research that helps improving our understanding of communication processes and institutions. The journal is jointly edited by the Swiss Media and Communication Research Association and the Communication Faculty of the University of Lugano (USI). Each issue contains a topic-focused special section. The journal appears twice a year, with the possibility of additional, occasional special issues. Articles submitted to *SComS* may be written in English, German, Italian, or French. We strive for approximately half of the content to be in English in order to facilitate the dialogue with the international scientific community. In addition to full research papers, *SComS* contains the following section formats:

- book reviews
- conference reviews
- community information and news
- a laboratory section for work in progress, emerging debates, and PhD programs.

Studies in Communication Sciences aims to cover the relevant fields of communication research. It provides a printed and on-line platform for the exchange of research that examines communication in different functional areas or applications contexts (for example: economy, education, politics, art, religion, science, etc.) in different academic traditions (such as media studies, semiotics, journalism research), and in different modalities (i.e., verbal, non-verbal, visual). A special emphasis in the journal is given to the epistemology of communication sciences in order to further develop the conceptual foundations of this interdisciplinary field.

