

Call for papers

Annual conference of the Biographical Research Section by the German Sociological Association (DGS)

The Medialization of Auto/Biographies: Different Forms and their Communicative Contexts

December 2nd - 4th, 2011

University of Hamburg

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Von-Melle-Park 9, 20146 Hamburg

People reflecting of their own biography and of others' may use various medialized means of communication. Their range encompasses diaries, letters, autobiographies, memoirs, novels, poetry, visualized artistic forms of expressions in pictures, photography, motion pictures, and theatrical staging or digital presentations in New Media. Taking this variety into account important questions emerge with regard to a medialized modulation and transformation of life stories. Auto/biographical reflections often develop their unique style through the use of motion pictures, pictorial and written works as well as by using corresponding communication spaces. Different auto/biographical forms of expression have an important communicative function in societies. They represent important social ways of imparting knowledge and information as well as an interactive exchange of experiences. This interdisciplinary conference on "*The Medialization of Auto/Biographies: Different Forms and their Communicative Contexts*" will especially focus on observable practices of public communication in which auto/biographies are revealed – and it will do so by dealing with theoretical, methodical and empirical aspects. The practical differentiation of medialized auto/biographical forms of communication poses great challenges for disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. New research perspectives in the social sciences and humanities are likely to ensue in the wake of different “turns” (linguistic turn, performative turn, medial turn, iconic/visual/pictorial turn, biographical turn). Persisting culturalistic self enquiries across all disciplines are leading to a dilution of social and cultural ontologies in favor of performative and media-based/media-related views.

The annual conference of the Section on “Biographical Research” of the German Sociological Association takes into account these new interdisciplinary developments. On the one hand, the conference explores the theoretical and methodological interplay of mediality and auto/biographical communication, on the other hand it focuses on the empirical research of auto/biographical self-presentation and reflection and relevant communicative contexts. We would welcome contributions to themes like the following:

- **Auto/biographical content in media-based/media-related presentations**
- **Institutions of auto/biographical communication and their media formats**
- **Communicative contexts of auto/biographical communication formats**
- **Methodology and theory of different forms of auto/biographical communication and media formats**

Apart from academic presentations, we warmly welcome various “performances” as well. In addition, we offer the opportunity to discuss “work in progress” in small working groups or workshops. In order to provide the working documents, we kindly ask you to inform us if you are interested in this kind of work.

Abstracts are welcome until **July 15th 2011**. Please send your abstract to the organisation team of the conference: biographie2011@orga-team.eu

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