



ESPRit Newsletter No. 3, March 2011

1. Welcome

In this third newsletter we proudly announce the inaugural conference of the *European Society for Periodical Research*. The conference will take place in Manchester on December 9 and 10 of this year and will be hosted by the Centre for Periodical Research at the University of Salford (see: <http://www.espach.salford.ac.uk/page/periodicals>). One of the aims of the conference is to explore ways for researchers to collaborate on European periodical research and publish together. We hope to welcome as many ESPRit-members as possible!

2. ESPRit event

CALL FOR PAPERS

Periodicals Across Europe

9-10 December 2011

Keynote speakers

Professor Sophie Levie (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)

Professor Barbara Mittler (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)

Dr Sascha Bru (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

The conference will be held at [The Burgess Foundation](#), Manchester.

To mark the foundation of the [European Society for Periodical Research \(ESPRit\)](#), the [Centre for Periodicals Research](#) at the University of Salford is hosting the *Periodicals Across Europe* Conference on 9-10 December 2011. The theme of the conference is the comparative study of European periodicals and periodical cultures, and the conference organizers now welcome proposals for contributions.

We take 'periodical' in its widest sense to mean magazines, journals, newspapers and any other form of serial publication. 'Comparative study' is equally broadly defined. The conference aims to consider the differences or similarities in periodical cultures between European nations and languages; between historical periods; and between European and non-European periodical cultures. The organizers anticipate that this comparison will arise from the juxtaposition of papers, so individual papers need not be explicitly comparative. Topics for proposals may include, but are by no means limited to

- Periodicals and national culture
- Internationalization of and in periodicals
- Trans-European periodical culture
- Europe seen from abroad in periodicals
- The language of periodicals
- Cultural exchanges between periodicals
- Periodical genres (such as the illustrated newspaper; satiric, fiction or poetry magazines; the review; the woman's magazine; little magazines; trade journals)
- Imitation/Influence/Borrowing in periodical culture
- Periodicals and print and image technologies

While we welcome proposals in any of these areas, we seek especially work on non-Anglophone and/or post-1900 periodicals. While the study of nineteenth-century Anglophone periodicals is well-established, part of ESPRit's mission is to open up periodical research beyond this field.

In line with ESPRit's stated aims, the organizers hope to bring together some of the 'many European scholars in different disciplines—historians, sociologists, literary scholars, media studies scholars—who use periodicals in their work'. Ideally, the conference will put experienced researchers from the established field in dialogue with more recent arrivals. Accordingly, we also welcome contributions which are focused on questions of theories and methodologies of periodical research, as well as proposals dealing with teaching periodicals, and the impact of digitization on periodical research.

The organizers are looking for proposals for conference papers of 15-20 minutes length or for panels of related papers. However, we also encourage proposals which vary from the conventional format; for example, roundtable debates, workshops, posters, etc.

The conference will be held at [The Burgess Foundation](#), an attractive venue in central Manchester. It is convenient for hotels and restaurants and a 2-minute walk from Oxford Road Railway Station with direct links to Manchester International Airport.

Proposals of no more than 250 words should be sent to

espch-pae2011@salford.ac.uk.

Deadline: 11 July 2011.

3. Upcoming events of interest to ESPRit members

W. T. Stead: Centenary Conference of a Newspaper Revolutionary British Library, London, 16 & 17 April 2012

When William Stead died on the maiden voyage of the *Titanic* in April 1912, he was the most famous Englishman on board. He was one of the inventors of the modern tabloid. His advocacy of 'government by journalism' helped launch military campaigns. His exposé of child prostitution raised the age of consent to sixteen, yet his investigative journalism got him thrown in jail. A mass of contradictions and a crucial figure in the history of the British press, Stead was a towering presence in the cultural life of late Victorian and Edwardian society. This conference will aim to recover Stead's extraordinary influence on modern English culture.

This conference marks the centenary of his death but also a major moment in the history of the journalism. In 2012 the British Library will open its state of the art newspaper reading rooms. In Stead's spirit we will also investigate our own revolution in newspapers and print journalism in the age of digital news.

The conference organisers—consisting of Professor Laurel Brake, Ed King, Professor Roger Luckhurst, and Dr James Mussell—aim to use Stead as a focal point, using aspects of his career to develop multiple avenues into the history of his time and ours. This is not a narrowly focused specialist conference, but one that aims to adopt wide cultural perspectives. For further details please send an email to stead2010@googlemail.com or see: <https://sites.google.com/site/stead2012>

4. Next newsletter

The next bi-monthly ESPRit newsletter will appear in May. If you have news of interest to ESPRit members, send an e-mail to esprit@let.ru.nl and we'll include it in our next newsletter and on our website.