



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: UNMEDIATED

Non-canonical and thoroughly unorthodox, UnMediated is an interdisciplinary, student-led research journal housed in LSE's Department of Media and Communications. We welcome agitative and original works at the intersection of politics and communication, and are committed to generating new thinking and action on issues of personal and political import. UnMediated is published online and in print, and operates a review process that combines student mentoring with the rigour of peer review.

### ISSUE 02: DISRUPTION

As the destabilisation of established political institutions gives way to reactionary enclaves and the politics of until-recently peripheral movements creep nearer to normalisation, the very bounds of public life seem to writhe and contort with an unfamiliar and frenetic energy. That the mediation and mediatisation of politics have compelled this moment into being is something of an understatement. Whether through written word or visual narrative, contributors to the second issue of UnMediated are therefore asked to explore and engage the notion of *disruption*. Questions and themes which might be considered include, but are by no means limited to:

- **Alt-media and new Authoritarianism:** Whereas 'alternative' media has historically been associated with dissident voices of the progressive left, the emergence of the Alt-right illustrates that alternative media might just as easily be underpinned by the impulses of competitive chauvinism, populism, and xenophobia. What lessons might be taken from this, and what does this say of the amorphous nature of countervailing voice?
- **Digital aesthetics of collective action:** Digital environments are an integral component to the aesthetics of protest and mobilisation. How is the rhetoric of present-day movements made and remade through on- and offline engagements? How might the primacy of English-language digitalism be critiqued or subverted in the symbology of online visual communication, or through advances in emergent media (e.g. VR or AR)?
- **Net-neutrality, hegemony, and economic dislocation:** From distributed moderation to marketised higher education to cryptocurrencies, emergent trends in ICT development carry tremendous transformative potential. Against a global backdrop of austerity and recession, how do such trends variously shape and respond to collective understandings of labour, employment, and a life well-lived?
- **Networked knowledge and the continual present:** It has been said that media bridges spatial and temporal separations, such that ideas, information and cultural representations might be re-heard, re-seen, or re-imagined. What becomes of time and place in a state of perpetual broadcasting and updating? Put differently, how do existent conceptions of past, present, and future fare in an era of perennial mediation?
- **The Internet of Us:** From computational design and architecture to self-monitoring Apps, social relations are increasingly regulated by the enjoinder of panoptical surveillance, aggregate data flows, and algorithmic inference. Intended or accidental, the modern material environment is thus embedded with the capacity to act upon us in ways previously unimagined. Why and how might such trends be resisted?



## GUIDELINES

In keeping with the multimodal nature of UnMediated, we invite the submission of text-based, visual, filmic, or otherwise imagined contributions within the purview of politics and communication. Potential contributors are asked to submit an abstract or pitch of between 200-300 words by **March 1, 2018**. The subsequent deadline for receipt of accepted submissions is **June 15, 2018**.

- Long-form articles may be up to 3,000 words in length, and will introduce a new perspective, ongoing project, or novel finding at the intersection of politics and communication.
- Polemics may be up to 1,500 words in length, and will aim to upend established thinking on a given topic. Submissions should aim to strike a balance between constructive commentary and agitation.
- Reviews may be up to 1,500 words in length and will critically examine a piece of recent time-based media (e.g. documentary film, multimedia installation, or public performance) or publication (e.g. refereed articles, academic publications, fiction, or interactive media).
- Interviews may be up to 1,500 words in length and will engage a key decision-maker in extended dialogue. Submissions should aim for concision over exhaustiveness.
- Photo essays and visual narratives will be assessed on a case-by- case basis. Submissions which exploit the interplay of words and images are particularly encouraged.

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