



From Post-Nazi Propaganda to Trump's Fake News: International Perspectives on Media and Democracy

What is the role of the media in contemporary democracies? How does media create, reflect or challenge national narratives that shape our perception of a historical time? With perspectives from Latin America, Europe and the Middle-East, this panel examines how different forms of media communication can reinforce or break democratic systems.

The biggest opportunity for the US to influence global opinion and politics is the US Presidential Elections. How did the world look at the dramatic 2016 elections? Did these elections hurt US influence abroad? **Dr. Khazaal's** focus in answering such questions will be on international publics in the Middle East.

PR films commissioned by the administration of West Germany's first federal chancellor Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963) played an important role as both election propaganda for Adenauer's CDU party and in inviting West Germans of all political colors to join in the project of building up the West German postwar democracy. **Dr. Uelzmann** will briefly introduce key films and their production process to demonstrate how political "founding discourses" of the nascent FRG resting on Adenauer's politics are reflected and reinforced in them.

Debates about post-truth and fake news increased during the Trump administration. News and entertainment media have been at the center of these debates, with contemporary hybrid forms of political communication—like satiric infotainment—gaining relevance in public discourse since 9/11. What is the role of these forms of "politainment" in the digital age? What is the place of media in today's conflicted democracies of the Americas? **Dr. Alonso** will focus on answering these questions.

Speakers:

Paul Alonso

Associate Professor of Spanish, School of Modern Languages, Georgia Tech

Natalie Khazaal

Assistant Professor of Arabic, Director of Middle Eastern and North African Studies Programs, School of Modern Languages, Georgia Tech

Jan Uelzmann

Associate Professor of German, Associate Chair, School of Modern Languages, Georgia Tech

Moderator:

Juan Carlos Rodriguez

Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor of Spanish, School of Modern Languages, Georgia Tech

