

Online Video Paper Presentations

Individuals whose papers were accepted for presentation at the originally scheduled ISMRC 2021 conference in Stigtuna, Sweden have been invited to participate virtually in the ISRMRC symposium through an online presentation option.

All videos are available at [ISMRC 2021 YouTube channel](#). Below you will also find a list of papers and direct links.

List of Paper Presentation Videos

(in alphabetical order of Author's Last Name)

Arkaprava Chattopadhyay

Digital Hinduism: A Study of Virtual Congregations and 'E – Gurus'

A descriptive summary of the digital innovations adopted by Hindu disciples, in pursuit of religious contentment, in post pandemic India.

Link: https://youtu.be/xH_2lwl_KwQ

Hannah Dick, PhD

The Sexual Politics of State “Secularism”: The Case of Québec’s Bill 21

In this talk, Hannah Dick, PhD, investigates the cultural politics of a secularism law passed in the Canadian province of Québec in 2019.

Link: <https://youtu.be/eZwSVTQlrF8>

Miriam Díez Bosch and Sílvia Pascual

Finding Religious Identity in Youth: The new digital scenario due to Covid-19

Youth has been impacted by the pandemic in a way that they were not able to gather with the religious community. Consequently, religious entities have developed innovative and creative faith formation initiatives.

Link: <https://youtu.be/x4qo6lqQcs0>

Mehak Dua

Religion in the times of Covid-19: Celebrating Durga Puja Online

The presentation summarizes Dua’s paper ‘Religion in the Times of Covid-19: Celebrating Durga Puja Online’, reflecting on the use of digital media for religion during the pandemic.

Link: <https://youtu.be/IHlqQZfrFWc>

Verena Marie Eberhardt, M.A.

World-views and Values in the Light of Socialisation. Debating Religious Diversity in Media for Children

The video highlights aspects of Eberhardt’s doctoral thesis about representations of religious diversity in German-language media, which are intentionally produced for children.

Link: <https://youtu.be/E4j3ZcsdJQg>

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VOLUME 4: ISSUE 2: DECEMBER 2020

Dispelling the Diversity Myth: Analysis of the Publishing Industry in India

Sumedha Durani & Padmini Ram

Abstract-Unprecedented rise in the popularity of mythology in Indian commercial fiction was accompanied by impressive growth in the publishing industry and a number of significant mergers and acquisitions in the sector. The said events signal towards a possibility of concentration or conglomeration as a result of free market capitalism, which may have a positive or negative impact on the diversity of the content, as per the different theories of political economy of media. Diversity of content was assessed by analysing 10 popular mythology titles and understanding consumer perception of diversity through a survey of 65 readers. Further, interviews with various industry experts and 12 bookstores were carried out to understand the ownership structure of the publishing industry as well as diversity of content. The data was collected from October 2019 until January 2020, spanning a total of four months. The research showed that the publishing industry displayed signs of concentration with a few major players largely controlling the landscape of Indian publishing, by holding a major market share which makes the sustenance of smaller players difficult. Content analysis of popular books in the genre of mythology revealed a lack of diversity in gender, geography, religion and caste through trends like token feminism, underrepresentation of South and Northeast India, religions other than Hinduism and disadvantaged castes. Ownership in the publishing industry was found to significantly impact the diversity, flow and type of content produced. Furthermore, the lack of diversity due to concentration of ownership pointed towards the possibility of a dominant ideology being propagated through the genre of mythology.

Click [here](#) to read the full paper

Immersive Journalism: Emerging Practices and Challenges in Indian Media

Krishna Sankar Kusuma & Mehak Dua

Abstract- News outlets have started employing 360 degree video techniques for journalism, to further expand the scope of immersive journalism. The paper focuses on 360 and VR stories and technologies used for journalism in India. Existing news theories would benefit from a perspective on emerging new media formats. VR, AR and 360 degree technology have given rise to new forms of theory and practice, not only in terms of news presentation but news gathering as well. While the use of virtual reality and 360 degree camera techniques for news seems exciting and full of opportunities, it is also replete with challenges. The study presents the lived experiences of seven practicing journalists through in-depth interviews by employing a qualitative method of key informant technique. The study also uses a theoretical framework to understand the practicing journalists' views on the challenges faced in deploying innovative technologies for journalism in India and reveals that there is a long way to go. The key findings include that seamless integration across media platforms due to the availability and affordability of the technology for the media houses as well as for the public at large is a matter of debate and contestation. The technologies provide best possible perspectives on news events but are not suitable for all types of events. Training of the journalists on the newer formats is another challenge. Indian journalism is still adopting them in slow phase but experimental pieces have been produced, which have successfully engaged audiences through its interactive and immersive storytelling.

Click [here](#) to read the full paper