

## Media – Knowledge – Education: Augmented and Virtual Realities

Call for Papers for the international conference at the Leopold-Franzens-University in Innsbruck (April 25-26, 2019)

Models and applications of augmented and virtual realities are booming: They come across as apps on smartphones, as avatars and assistive technologies, in the form of virtual communities, soundscapes, organizations, operating rooms, games and products of all kinds. On the one hand, the paradox here is that in many spheres of life, the information and communication technology conditions of processes of medialization, mediatization and normalization are becoming so obscure that alternative options of development hardly seem conceivable. On the other hand, pragmatic motives of routine practices, medial convenience, or monetarizability cannot hide the fact of a widespread discomfort in media cultures of digitality.

Digital technologies of extension, enhancement and virtualization are increasingly being tested and developed in learning and educational contexts. The spectrum ranges from early media education to virtual universities, from workplace learning to the use of photorealistic 3D replica of one's own person in relationship-ecological contexts. As in the context of fundamental historical media shifts, euphoric and skeptical perspectives can also be identified here.

Central questions in this context are: What significance can augmented and virtual realities have in educational contexts? How do dynamics of the mechanization of educational and knowledge spaces relate to tendencies of normalization and naturalization of media usage contexts? To what extent can learning potentials and educational values be identified in the networks of virtual infrastructures and in the repertoires of media-cultural practices? Which epistemological and normative aspects of relations of 'reality' (*Realität*), 'reality' (*Wirklichkeit*), 'possibility', 'potentiality', 'digitality' and 'virtuality' are relevant in this context? Which conceptual views are helpful with regard to future-oriented descriptions and target images? Which shift of emphasis in the field of tension between the experience of mediated realities and the medial realities of experience are emerging? And what are the consequences for the description, analysis and design of educational, learning and knowledge processes?

We would like to invite scholars, educators, teachers, activists and media representatives to submit contributions. The submissions should pertain to one of the following three subject areas:

I. **Theoretical considerations, inter-/transdisciplinary approaches as well as philosophical and meta-theoretical foundations**

Which epistemological, ethical and methodological concepts turn out to be necessary, relevant and fruitful in relation to the mentioned topics? And how can different disciplinary approaches be meaningfully combined? What are the similarities, differences and incompatibilities in theoretical, methodological as well as object and interest-related terms?

## II. **Target images and normative rationales**

What's behind models and practices of augmented learning in particular and of AR / VR in general? Which future perspectives and education-relevant scenarios of development play a role? Which normative and media-ethical patterns of justification can be distinguished? Which learning motives and educational goals, which anthropological, technological, socio-cultural and economic basic assumptions need to be explicated?

## III. **Specific concepts and examples of applications**

How do concrete tools as well as practical applications and projects try to meet their specific objectives? How can questions about the meaning and nonsense of augmented and virtual realities be answered with specific forms of action and intervention? What methods of learning in formal and informal educational contexts are inspiring and open to the future? Which strategies prove successful?

Range of conference formats:

- a. **Lecture (15-20 min.)**
- b. **Lightning talk: short lecture of 5 min.**
- c. **Paper discussion** (please, make the paper available in a PDF-format until March 30, 2019 – email to <mwb-conf@uibk.ac.at>)
- d. **Poster session**
- e. **Workshop**

Academic, pedagogical and artistic contributions can be submitted. The submissions can take the form of lectures on theoretical or empirical studies, design artifacts or workshops. The conference is discourse oriented and promotes open discussions between those attending. The languages of the conference are English and German.

The international conference is being organized by the interdisciplinary forum Innsbruck Media Studies and the Department of Media, Society and Communication at the University of Innsbruck in cooperation with Media Culture and Education Research Group of the Society for Media Studies (GfM), and the Media Pedagogy section of the Austrian Association of Research and Development in Education (ÖFEB) as part of the conference series "Media – Knowledge – Education".

### **Concept and planning for the conference:**

Lisa Blasch, Theo Hug, Petra Missomelius, Günther Pallaver und Michaela Rizzolli

### **Dates:**

- by December 1, 2018: submission of the abstracts (500 words max., plus bibliography, classification on content and format – for example, IIIc, IIa, Id etc. – and short biography) to <mwb-conf@uibk.ac.at>
- January 15, 2019: notification of the speakers and workshop leaders
- April 25-26, 2019 conference at Innsbruck University
- by May 31, 2019: submission of the manuscripts (appr. 3500 up to 7000 words max., incl. bibliography, abstract of 150 words max., brief biography and dispatch address)
- July 15, 2019: notification of the authors concerning the acceptance of the manuscript
- End of 2019: planned date of publication of the conference proceedings

**Conference website:** <http://medien.uibk.ac.at/mwb2019>

**Registration fee** for non-presenting participants:

- € 60.00 (€ 30.00 for members of one of the organizations involved)
- € 20.00 for students (unless actively involved)

**Conference venue:** Innsbruck University, Claudiana, Herzog-Friedrich-Straße 3 (1st floor), Oldtown (*Altstadt*) of Innsbruck

**Organizational support:** Ina Fleischer <mwb-conf@uibk.ac.at>