

Seminar 5 – questions for preparation

For the individual essay assignment “Interaction between storytelling and search: a meta-perspective”

The seminar in week 5 provides an opportunity for kick-starting your individual essay.

Preparations:

- Read the instruction for the essay carefully. Make sure it is clear what the assignment is and what is expected in terms of the essay and taking a reflective, meta-perspective.
- Reflect on the example research question below. What research question could you ask? It can be similar to the ones below or different, as long as it meets the criteria from the essay instructions.

Example research questions for the essay:

- Individual reflections on how searching for the story shapes the story, and the interaction between search and storytelling
- Reflect on the (non)availability of certain material (based on van Gorp and Kiewik, 2018)
- Reflect on how the search affordances of the Media Suite shape your research question and your understanding of the topic (based on Hagedoorn & Sauer, 2018)
- Reflect on your role as a storyteller and how you think the Media Suite influences this role (based on Hagedoorn & Sauer, 2018)

Bring your answers to the following **questions for preparation** to class in week 5:

- Which theoretical discussions, concepts, approaches from this course (and based on which readings) would you like to dive into further for your individual essay?
- Which self-sought literature would be useful? Are you interested in media texts, or do you want to take a more social approach, or a media production approach? Is your main interest in concepts like interactivity, or something like authenticity, or the relation between politics and entertainment? Do you want to think about local and global formats, or rather explore trans or cross medial exchanges? Is your main focus on the visual, the oral or the written media expressions, or a combination?
- What type of essay do I want to write: a close analysis of a particular story? A theoretical reflection on certain types of storytelling? A critical reflection on certain current phenomena in storytelling?
- Select a clear case you think is worthwhile exploring. Shortly explain why you would like to work on this. Reflect on the specific materials you would need to analyse and how many to be able to answer your questions.
- Prepare to share your focused essay topic and research question in class.

Tip: take notes throughout the process, useful for your essay!

*In this course we take three overarching perspectives as entry points to discuss various media forms and formats: formats of yesterday and the role of innovation; content and its relationship with form; and finally, formats of today and the future. The first perspective (themes weeks 1 and 2) focuses on innovative formats to discuss makers, and prompts questions such as how storytelling can be historicized in terms of media production practices. The second perspective (themes weeks 3 and 4) centres on the notion of content, presenting innovative audio-visual formats (like the digital cultural heritage database Media Suite) and asks students to critically reflect on how media form and content inform one another. Using case studies, students unearth how specific media afford particular kinds of storytelling, and how form plays an important part in the way we make sense of stories and therefore the world. The third perspective (themes weeks 5 and 7) investigates the contemporary ideas and examples of innovative formats of the future, and the role of media audiences in shifts in forms and formats.