

## *merzWissenschaft* | medien + erziehung call for papers 2020

### Remembering and Memory in and with Digital Media

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In media communication the past is not retained as such, but rather is reconstructed with changing references to the present. Here the past and its medial representation reflect current personal and societal requirements and are used for individual and joint projections in the future. There is no society without remembering. Bringing the past to the present is a fundamental function and condition of society and has considerable significance in the development of identity and the social embedding of the individual. Remembering makes existing experiences and knowledge, patterns of interpretation and action relevant and realizes them in current individual, social and cultural reference frameworks. Media are associated directly and in a widely varied manner with the individual and communicative task of remembering and with the transmission of cultural memory. Accordingly the transformation of media technologies and forms of communication are linked with the changing options for establishing re-collective references to the past. The mnemonic potential of a large number of media, ranging from cuneiform tablets to the role of popular media such as film, television and the newspaper, has been consequently investigated. Digitally networked services, technologies and applications have increasingly been the subject of scientific interest in the recent past.

In this context the *merzWissenschaft* special issue addresses the question of what remembering means in the context of a society that is increasingly being permeated by and with digital media services and the associated possibilities. What does the practice of remembering look like today? Which stakeholders are involved? What content and topics are addressed? Which media (services) are utilized in remembering? Under what legal, pedagogical, cultural and technological conditions does remembering take place and what are the associated implications?

The connections between remembering, identity and a sense of community are on the one hand intuitive and on the other hand are difficult to understand in detail because of their complexity. Memory is group-specific and creates community. It is thus at the same time potentially marginalizing and can be investigated in terms of questions on conflicts, power and interpretive authority. This involves state institutions such as museums just as much as civil-societal groups and individuals. Forgetting is also a prerequisite to remembering, since the reconstruction of the past is always selective. It is not possible to remember and archive everything, even with access to storage possibilities of unprecedented capacity. The discussion regarding the "Right to Be Forgotten" in the context of the Internet also references the political and ethical dimensions of the modified conditions of remembering and the potential immediate consequences for individual persons.

The 2020 *merzWissenschaft* special issue looks forward to receiving empirically based and theoretical-conceptual articles addressing remembering in and with digital media. The articles can examine individual, group-specific, institutional and/or societal levels and will address among other things the following topic areas:

- The relationship between the nature of media and remembering: What is the impact on the processes of remembering that results from the availability of images and audio-visual materials and from the ability to digitally produce and artificially generate images? What are the (memory-cultural) consequences of the permanent social media availability of images and texts, even above and beyond their active use?
- Individual as well as collective practices of remembering with digital media: How do cultures of remembering change? Who can (not) participate in the process? What are the local and translocal forms of digitally conveyed remembering?

- Journalism and collective remembering: For a long time popular media enjoyed a unique position when it came to societal remembering. To what extent has this role changed, what new forms of remembering can be observed? What are the consequences of the fact that memories in social media can be (re-)negotiated, interpretations can be called into question and/or new interpretations can be put forth?
- Significance of institutions (of remembering): What roles do museums, archives and libraries play with regard to digitalization and the accessibility of (image) information? What influence does the ability to experience socially relevant events "live" and from the protagonists' point of view using social media have on their classification in cultural memory?
- History and memory: Digital media enable other means of accessing history and memory (e. g. VR glasses, Augmented Reality) in conventional and unconventional educational contexts. How does this change access to and understanding of the past?
- AI, information, data and remembering: How does remembering re-manifest itself when today's digital services use algorithms to externalize remembering processes (calendars, etc.) and/or to curate medial artefacts of remembering (e. g. a selection of images from smartphone storage which are exactly one year old, etc.).

*merzWissenschaft* provides a forum advancing scientific analysis in media education and promoting progress in the theoretical foundation of the discipline. For this purpose qualified articles are called for from various relevant disciplines (including media-educational, communications sciences, (developmental) psychological, legal and philosophical perspectives), also with an interdisciplinary approach, for the continuing development of expert media-educational dialog.

Of interest are original papers with an empirical or theoretical foundation, presenting new findings, aspects or approaches to the topic and which are explicitly related to one of the topic areas or questions outlined above or which explore a separate topic within the scope of the overall context of the Call.

Abstracts with a maximum length of 6,000 characters (including blank spaces) can be submitted to the editorial team of *merz* (merz@jff.de) until February 17, 2020. Submissions should follow the *merzWissenschaft* layout specifications, available at <https://www.merz-zeitschrift.de/manuskriptrichtlinien>.

The length of the articles should not exceed a maximum of approximately 35,000 characters (including blank spaces). Please feel free to contact Susanne Eggert, tel. +49.89.68989.152, e-mail: susanne.eggert@jff.de with any questions.

## Summary of deadlines

- February 17, 2020: Submission of abstracts to merz@jff.de
- March 13, 2020: Final decision on acceptance/rejection of the abstracts
- June 12, 2020: Submission of papers
- June 15 to July 20, 2020: Assessment phase (Double-blind peer review)
- August/September 2020: Revision phase (with multiple cycles, when appropriate)