



Team of Baltic International Summer School 2018

Media Literacy and Democracy: Baltic Perspective



Jānis Rungulis

Janis Rungulis has been a part of the EU's East Stratcom Task Force since 2015, as a seconded expert from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For the last two years Janis has been developing communication campaigns across the Eastern Partnership region to raise awareness about tangible benefits that the EU is bringing to people there. He also takes part in the team's efforts to address pro-Kremlin disinformation: Janis has been responsible for the visual side of the EUvsDisinfo social media accounts. Previously Janis Rungulis was the spokesperson of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU in Brussels dealing with telecommunications, transport, energy, environment, education and other topics. Janis has also worked for the leading public relations (Porter Novelli), advertising (DDB) and media agencies (Omnicom Media Group) in Latvia.



Anneli Kimber

Anneli Kimber is a communications professional with more than 16 years of experience in the public and international development sectors in the EU and in its Eastern Neighbourhood. Since 2015, she works as a strategic communications expert at the EU's East Stratcom Task Force. Her main task is to improve the perceptions of the EU in its Eastern partner countries and last year she led the EU's communications campaign for the Eastern Partnership summit. In addition, Anneli is responsible for the team's efforts to support independent media in the region and she developed a new website for the EUvsDisinfo campaign. Previously she has worked as the press secretary for the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; as a press diplomat at the Estonian Embassy in London and for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Before taking up her current role at the East Stratcom team, she worked as a senior communications consultant for the EU and the UNDP in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.



Andra Siibak

Andra Siibak is a Professor of Media Studies and program director of the Media and Communication doctoral program at the Institute of Social Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia. Since 2017 she is also leading the Center for the Information Society in the University of Tartu. Her main field of research has to do with the opportunities and risks surrounding internet use, social media usage practices, intergenerational relationships on social media, new media audiences and privacy. She has published more than 60 peer reviewed papers in international journals and edited collections on the topics surrounding young people's practices online; e.g. self-presentation on social media; teacher/parental mediation of young people's internet use; privacy strategies and imagined audiences on social media, touch-screen usage of toddlers, digital literacies, etc. In her most recent projects she analysis para-social relationships between micro-celebrities and their followers; teachers'-students' interactions on social media and sharenting. She has been a member of various international research projects and networks (e.g. EU Kids Online) and acted as expert consultant on Estonia for different projects initiated by the European Parliament, European Commission, European Council and OECD. In 2015 she was awarded the Young Scientist Award by the President of Estonia and in 2017 she was awarded The Outstanding Young Person of Estonia (TOYP) award.



Solvita Denisa Liepniece

Dr. Solvita Denisa-Liepniece is an Assistant Professor at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences. She also is a Consultant on Media Literacy at the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence. She has 15 years of experience working at the media, including Latvian Public Broadcaster. She has also more than 10 years of teaching experience, including at the University of Latvia, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences and RISEBA. Dr. Denisa-Liepniece has engaged in various projects of different think-tanks, such as Advanced Social and Political Research Institute, Centre for East European Policy Studies, Latvian Institute of International Affairs, as well as the NATO StratCom Centre of Excellence and European Endowment for Democracy. She has trained journalists and editors from Latvia, Russia, Moldova and Georgia. Her areas of scientific interests are strategic political communication, media research and information security.

Dr. Renata Matkeviciene

Dr. Renata Matkeviciene, researcher at Vilnius University since 1999. The main area for research: application of communication and information methods in organizational activities. As a researcher (after defense of doctoral dissertation) she has written several articles in scientific monographs analyzing information and communication quality, she has published series of articles in scientific peer-reviewed journals mostly related with the political communication issues such as political image, political corruption and political election campaigns, political populism as communication style, she has participated in number of scientific conferences in the field of communication (PR and CSR) research as well. For a couple of years she was a coordinator for PR awards competition in Lithuania "Patirtis" ("*Best practice*"), as well she is a member of council of Lithuanian communication association.

Anda Rožukalne

Anda Rožukalne is Doctor of social sciences and associate professor, she holds position of Head of the Department of Communication Studies at Faculty of Communication of Riga Stradiņš University in Latvia since 2011. She is well-known media expert, author of many academic publications on journalism quality, media systems and media regulation in Latvia and Baltics States. She has written the first academic monograph on Latvian media ownership "Latvia's Media Owners", published in English and Latvian in 2013.

Anda Rožukalne was working as the team leader of Latvia for the project "European Media Pluralism Monitor" (2015, 2016, 2017). Her research interests are related with the development of journalism values, innovative audience research methods, media literacy and media regulation.

In the beginning of 2016 Anda Rožukalne became a Chair of the Board of Baltic Centre for Media Excellence, which is the clearinghouse for journalists training and a facilitator of professional dialogues in the Baltics and beyond.



Barbra Ruth Burke

Associate Professor Dr. Barbara Burke, from the University of Minnesota, Morris (United States), started in radio at station WETL in her home state of Indiana. Over the years, she completed several internships and worked in print as well as broadcast media. A graduate of the University of Michigan and of Purdue University, she holds several advanced degrees. In addition to her position in Minnesota, during research leaves

she has taught as a visiting instructor at the University of Iceland, completed a fellowship at the Texas Social Media Research Institute, and had a Fulbright Scholar assignment with Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences in Valmiera Latvia. Burke studies the ways communication technologies may be used to shape or silence public opinions; how media may foster more-democratic and cosmopolitan sensibilities regarding globalization; and the roles media play in the communication of identity and belonging. In her spare time, Burke likes to cook, eat unusual foods (from all over the world), read, and go to the movies.



Helen De Michiel

Helen De Michiel is a filmmaker, author and multimedia producer. Her feature narrative and documentary, public television and pioneering new media projects have been screened and circulated around the world. Her co-authored book, *Open Space New Media Documentary: A Toolkit for Theory and Practice*, was published in 2018. She is currently in production on a new feature documentary, *Knocking On Doors*.



Jānis Buholcs

Jānis Buholcs is an assistant professor at the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences. He teaches courses on media economics, media ethnics, online information environment, and social media. His other academic interests include journalism, interpersonal communication online and social architecture. During his class at the summer school, Jānis will tell about how governments, organizations and other entities use social media to spread their messages online.



Pille Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt

Pille Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt, PhD, is a professor in media and communication, Malmö University since November 2016 and has previously worked in University of Tartu as a professor in media studies (2014-2015). Her research interests have focused around cultural citizenship and participation and engagement in museums, libraries and public broadcasting. She has also worked internet users and social applications of new technologies. She has been an active member in European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) and is currently the international director of European Media and Communication Doctoral Summer School. She has been project leader on different local projects, among them: "Developing museum communication in the 21st century information environment" (2009-2013) and country coordinator for international projects like "Hub Websites for Youth Participation" (2009-2011), "Nordic Research Network on Learning Across Contexts (NordLAC) (2011-2014)" and FET-open, FP7 research project partner in "UaESMC - Usable and Efficient Secure Multiparty Computation" (2012-2015). These projects have had her working on new and emerging technologies, youth participation and museum engagement questions. She has published over hundred articles both in journals and as book chapters and has been in the team of editors for more than ten books.

Liene Ločmele

Liene, PhD Candidate, works as a lecturer at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Latvia where she teaches courses in intercultural and mass communication, creative writing, and public speaking. Liene has BA in Communication and Public Relations from Vidzeme University of Applied Science in Latvia and MA in Intercultural Communication from University of Jyväskylä in Finland. On 2009 she received Fulbright student fellowship and started her doctoral studies towards PhD in communication at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, US. Her research interests include the interpersonal and intercultural aspects of human communication with the special focus on communication of Latvian identity in the context of migration and higher education.