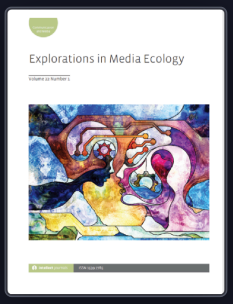
A JOINT INITIATIVE

The **PhD in Media Ecology** — created jointly by Universidad Panamericana and the Institute of General Semantics — and *Explorations in Media Ecology*, the journal of the Media Ecology Association (Intellect; indexed in Scopus, Q2), pursue the same end by different means: to sustain rigorous, genuinely international scholarship on media as environments. The programme forms researchers; the journal publishes them. It is in that spirit that we invite you to submit your proposals to the Special Issue set out below.

SPECIAL ISSUE · CALL FOR PAPERS

Media Ecologies, Identity and Community

Family, culture and discourse in the digital era



VOLUME TO BE CONFIRMED
ISSN 1539-7785

JOURNAL

Explorations in Media Ecology, the journal of the Media Ecology Association. Editor-in-Chief: Peggy Cassidy.

GUEST EDITOR

Laura Trujillo-Liñán, Universidad Panamericana — President, Media Ecology Association. ltrujill@up.edu.mx

ABSTRACTS DUE

30 September 2026 — 300 words plus a short biographical note.

TARGET PUBLICATION

March 2027 — Volume to be confirmed.

We welcome contributions for a Special Issue on "Media Ecologies, Identity and Community: family, culture and discourse in the digital era" to be published in Explorations in Media Ecology.

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The 26th convention of the Media Ecology Association, held in June 2025 at the Universidad Panamericana in Mexico, brought together researchers from diverse disciplines to reflect on processes of mediation and their impact on human life. Although many panels focused on artificial intelligence, other discussions emerged that centred on how digital media shape identity and community. The panel *Connecting Families Across Time and Space* analysed kinkeeping and family timebinding practices and the gendered discursive functions involved in maintaining kinship ties. *Media and Identity* examined the impact of algorithms on our perception of reality. *Media and Radicalization* explored how monetizing interactions on X (formerly Twitter) influences the polarization of public opinion. There were also debates on digital communication for sustainability and the possibility of hidden agendas in organizational strategies, the role of urban communication with widows, orphans and strangers, contemporary photography as a technological narrative, and the influence of digital media on generational differences and critical thinking in the classroom.

These discussions show that the Association is also interested in how media act as environments that shape identity, family relations, community belonging, cultural memory and activism. Since *Explorations in Media Ecology* has already published a special issue on "Artificial Intelligence and Media Ecology," it is timely to devote a special issue to these other questions: how technological mediation reconfigures human bonds, popular culture and social polarization.

We invite research articles, theoretical essays, ethnographic work, case studies and creative proposals that analyse the relationship between media, identity and community from an ecological perspective.

POSSIBLE TOPICS

Welcomed topics include, but are not limited to the following. Other proposals will be considered provided they relate to identity, community and media ecology.

Algorithms and the construction of reality

How social media algorithms shape perceptions of the world, influence individual and collective identity, and affect the way wars and conflicts are narrated.

Family connectedness, genealogy and family memory in the digital era

The ecology of family timebinding practices and their representation in media — for example, talking tombstones — and the gendered discursive functions involved in maintaining kinship networks.

Media and discourse

How monetizing interactions on platforms such as X (formerly Twitter) affects the polarization of public opinion; polarizing dynamics among young audiences and strategies for restoring dialogue.

Photography and visual culture

Contemporary photography and other visual arts as technological and ethical narratives in the twenty-first century, and their role in constructing identities and memories.

Digital communication, sustainability and social justice

How organizations use digital communication for environmental or social-responsibility issues and whether hidden agendas exist within these strategies; digital and financial inclusion in contexts of extreme poverty; communication aimed at sustainability.

Generations, education and critical thinking

Generational differences in the use of digital media and their impact on critical thinking in the classroom; media literacy at various educational levels.

Neighbourhood, community and urbanism

Forms of communication with "the neighbour, the widow, the orphan and the stranger" in urban environments; urbanism, inequality and media ecology.

Family, identity and health

Identity, mental health and wellbeing in digital contexts — for example, the psychological effects of networks such as TikTok and Instagram on young people and adolescents.

Creativity and popular culture

How social networks influence fashion, music, film and other creative industries, and how the boundary between human and algorithmic creativity is negotiated.

Polarization and social cohesion

The influence of media on political, religious or cultural polarization, and strategies to strengthen community cohesion.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Articles PEER REVIEWED

The longer and more formal works of the issue: full scholarly arguments, empirical studies and sustained theoretical essays. All articles are sent out for peer review.

Probes EDITORIAL REVIEW

Shorter and less formal pieces: an observation, a provocation, a first sounding of an idea. Probes are reviewed by the guest editor and the editorial team.

Pedagogy EDITORIAL REVIEW

Work about teaching: syllabi and course designs, classroom exercises, and reflections on what identity, family and polarization look like from the front of a room.

Book reviews EDITORIAL REVIEW

Reviews of recent books on media, identity, community and discourse. Please propose the title to ltrujill@up.edu.mx before writing.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Abstracts of 300 words and a short biographical note should be submitted by **30 September 2026** by email to Laura Trujillo-Liñán, ltrujill@up.edu.mx, with the subject line "EME Special Issue – Identity and Community." Please indicate which section you are writing for. Questions about scope, fit or format may be sent to the same address at any point before the deadline.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION	NOTIFICATIONS (MANUSCRIPT REVIEW)	FINAL MANUSCRIPT	TARGET PUBLICATION
30 October 2026	November 2026	1 December 2026	March 2027

Contributors are asked to submit original papers in the journal's requested manuscript format. Formatting guidance: Notes for Contributors (PDF).

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Explorations in Media Ecology, the journal of the Media Ecology Association, accepts submissions that extend our understanding of media (defined in the broadest possible terms), that apply media ecological approaches, and/or that advance media ecology as a field of inquiry. As a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary publication, EME welcomes contributions embracing diverse theoretical, philosophical and methodological approaches to the study of media and processes of mediation.

SPECIAL ISSUE GUEST EDITOR

Laura Trujillo-Liñán

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Laura Trujillo-Liñán is Full Professor-Researcher at the School of Communication of Universidad Panamericana in Mexico City, where she has taught since 2008, and a member of Mexico's National System of Researchers (SNII, Level I). She currently serves as President of the Media Ecology Association and as a Trustee of the Institute of General Semantics in New York.

Her research brings Aristotelian philosophy — and in particular the notion of formal causality — to bear on media theory. Her book *Formal Cause in Marshall McLuhan's Thinking: An Aristotelian Perspective* (Institute of General Semantics, 2022) received the MEA's Marshall McLuhan Award for Outstanding Book in 2023, and she received the Louis Forsdale Award for Outstanding Educator in 2025. She publishes in Spanish and English on media ecology, general semantics, the ethics of technology, and the effects of artificial intelligence on human reason and public discourse.

She organized and hosted the 26th Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association at Universidad Panamericana in June 2025 — the convention from which this special issue arises — and co-designed, with the Institute of General Semantics, an international doctoral programme in media ecology. She is also the founder and president of the Asociación Mexicana de Semántica General. As guest editor, she is committed to an issue that is rigorous in its scholarship and genuinely international in its authorship, and she especially welcomes work from scholars writing beyond the field's traditional centres.