

# Open Access Community Investment Program

**Resource:** *History of Media Studies*

## The Request

*History of Media Studies* is a new, peer-reviewed, scholar-run, diamond OA journal founded to augment our understanding of the ways that media have been conceived, investigated, and studied around the world. The journal has three overlapping aims.

1. to address the absence of publishing outlets for rigorous work on the history of the overlapping fields of communication research, cultural studies, film studies, information science, media studies, speech, and rhetoric.
2. to provide a platform for scholarship on these fields' complex institutional, social, and intellectual histories from around the world, reaching beyond the North American and Western European lens of much existing literature.
3. to take advantage of open access, multimedia publishing, on the assumption that historians of media studies might illuminate these fields' pasts in dialogue with new forms of scholarly communication.

The journal has modest costs, inclusive of professional copy-editing/proofing, software, platform hosting, memberships, and other infrastructure and overhead. All other editorial and production labor is volunteer, which helps keep per-article costs to \$750 while maintaining the highest quality standards.

The journal is low-volume by design, aiming to publish up to 10 full-length articles per year on a rolling basis, in addition to shorter contributions. We seek \$12,500 per year, which includes a 33 percent sustainability fund, with five-year commitments according to a four-tier structure, ranging from a \$250 to \$1000+ annual contribution depending on institutional classification.

The journal is published by [mediastudies.press](https://mediastudies.press), a scholar-led, diamond OA nonprofit publisher launched in 2019 with a [commitment to financial transparency](#).

## Overview

*History of Media Studies* is launching this fall as a new diamond OA journal on the [PubPub platform](#). The journal is published by [mediastudies.press](https://mediastudies.press), a scholar-led, no-fee publisher established in 2019. The press aims to demonstrate, on a small scale, an open-access publishing model supported by libraries and other funders, rather than author fees. The book-publishing side of the press is slated to be included in the [ScholarLed](#) investment bundle of the planned COPIM [Open Book Collective](#) marketplace, to be launched in spring 2022. The

press's sole journal, *History of Media Studies*, is seeking the community's support through the next round of the exciting and important OACIP collective funding scheme.

*History of Media Studies* has an unusually robust [open access policy](#), adapted from Jean-Sébastien Caux's [Genuine Open Access Principles](#). Our commitments include transparent nonprofit governance, the use of open infrastructure wherever possible, transparent finances, author copyright, open licensing and citations, and a no-APC policy. Authors select the [peer-review model](#), with a double-blind default and options for signed and community review.

The journal is co-edited by three leading scholars in the history of media and communication studies field: [Dave Park](#), [Pete Simonson](#), and [Jeff Pooley](#). We have recruited a notably international [editorial board](#), with members from nearly all continents and regions. Our aim is to maintain a far more participatory governance culture than is typical for journal editorial boards; we have, for instance, created a [Mattermost community](#) for the editors and editorial board to discuss policies and mission.

A sense for the journal's editorial commitments can be gleaned from our first special section, to be published in the fall. The section's peer-reviewed contributions come from a May 2021 conference organized by the editors, on "[Exclusions in the History and Historiography of Communication Studies/Exclusiones en la Historia e Historiografía de los Estudios de Comunicación](#)," which featured simultaneous English/Spanish interpretation. The special section, with articles to be published in both languages, speaks to our commitment to publish scholarship on the history of research, education, and reflective knowledge about media and communication—as expressed through academic institutions; through commercial, governmental, and non-governmental organizations; and through “alter-traditions” of thought and practice often excluded from the academic mainstream.

In concert with the journal's launch, the co-editors established a “History of Media Studies” [working group](#) at the [Center for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine](#) (CHSTM). At each monthly session since June 2020, a scholar has presented on a work-in-progress in [remote sessions](#) that have been attended by academics from around the world. The CHSTM working group and the conference have helped foster a genuinely international and inclusive community of scholars working on the history of media studies where none before existed.

The journal's publisher, [mediastudies.press](#), is a member of the [Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association](#) (OASPA) and the [Radical Open Access collective](#), with vetted affiliations including the [Directory of Open Access Books](#) (DOAB), [Project MUSE](#), and [OAPEN](#).

## The Funding Request

Beginning with the publication of the 2022 volume of the journal, *History of Media Studies* and [mediastudies.press](#) are seeking a total of \$9,500 per year to support the journal's operations (based on estimated article costs for 10 articles per year, with funds to cover additional smaller contributions, too). Five-year commitments are being sought for annual contributions of \$500 or \$1,000.

The journal has modest costs, inclusive of professional copy-editing/proofing, software, platform hosting, memberships, and other infrastructure and overhead. All other editorial and production labor is volunteer, which helps keep per-article costs to \$750 while maintaining the highest quality standards. The journal is low-volume by design, aiming to publish up to 10 full-length articles per year on a rolling basis, in addition to shorter contributions.

We are seeking collective funding support through OACIP on principled grounds. We believe that the existing APC-based OA regime excludes authors, [especially from the Global South](#) (despite a ramshackle and patronizing waiver system). We believe that a scholarly communication system open to both readers *and* authors requires a collective funding mechanism in the mold of OACIP.

## Impact

Our statement of impact is by necessity forward-facing. The 2020 annual statement of [mediastudies.press](#) can be read [here](#). We plan to secure membership in the Directory of Open Access Journals and other key indexes at the moment of eligibility. We are also committed to transparent reporting of metrics, inclusive of quantitative measures but also more qualitative evidence of impact.

Our commitment to de-Westernize what has been a narrow field is fundamental to the journal, as evidence by our launch special section on “[Exclusions in the History and Historiography of Communication Studies/Exclusiones en la Historia e Historiografía de los Estudios de Comunicación](#)” and our inclusive [editorial board](#).

We are open to a wide range of genres and are guided by a craft ideal of scholarship as communal inquiry and open to the affordances of online publication. And we seek to develop care-based and inclusive approaches to writing, research, and review while continuing to build a transnational community of scholars committed to the ideals of intellectual friendship.

We also aim to experiment with unconventional article formats, including contextualized republications of neglected works with new introductions, archival materials, and overlay republication of openly licensed materials.

## Organization & Governance

As expressed in our [Open Access Principles](#), *History of Media Studies* is committed to scholar-led editorial decision-making, which means that all editorial processes of the journal are run by the community, and all editorial decisions are taken by active professional academics, using exclusively scholarship-based criteria.

The journal is published by a nonprofit, [mediastudies.press](#), with a commitment to transparency in all its operations, including finances.

All authors retain copyright and articles are published with a Creative Commons BY-NC [by default](#), with flexibility for other CC licenses depending on author(s) preferences.

Our publisher, [mediastudies.press](#), has a wide-reaching and multi-modal [preservation policy](#) which, however, acknowledges the limitations of existing text-based preservation strategies. The publisher is closely following the ongoing discussions hosted by COPIM, Portico, CLOCKSS, and NYU Press, and Duke University Libraries.

As media scholars, and historians of media scholarship, we are committed to multimedia formats—one of the principal reasons for selecting the open-source MIT [PubPub platform](#).

Our existing operations, as with many new nonprofit organizations, are currently dependent on donations. This funding proposal, and future appeals to the COPIM Open Book Collective marketplace for book publishing, are issued in accordance with our principled endorsement of collective funding mechanisms as a just alternative to author-excluding APC-based funding models. All of our expenses and income data are available to the public [here](#).