
PhD in media history at the Institute of Media and Journalism (IMeG), Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society, USI Università della Svizzera italiana

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take center stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative. Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness and responsibility.

The Institute of Media and Journalism (IMeG) is engaged in research activities in the areas of media economics, media history, media culture and society, as well as journalism studies. In the field of media history, IMeG's researchers are active in the field of the history of digital media, communication maintenance, the history of media theory, and media history in China. In media historical studies, IMeG's researchers adopt a long term, cross-media and multidisciplinary perspective, combining the political economy of communication, STS studies, media imaginaries, and media archaeology.

The Institute of Media and Journalism (IMeG) in the Faculty of Communication Sciences at USI (Università della Svizzera italiana) invites applications for 1 fully-funded PhD position (4 years), supervised by Prof. Gabriele Balbi. Upon successful completion of the program requirements, the candidate will earn a PhD in Communication Sciences. Further details of the program can be found here:

<https://www.com.usi.ch/en/study-communication/phd-doctoral-studies/phd-communicationsciences>.

The PhD position

PhD candidate will be expected to design and carry out research in the field of media and communication history, with a specific focus on maintenance of communication infrastructures and maintenance of media in diachronic perspective. Maintenance can be declined in different perspectives: politics of maintenance and the relation to power, economics and business of maintenance for private companies, the social construction of "maintenance cultures", the persistence and *longue durée* of communication technologies because of maintenance, the lack of maintenance and the abandonment of communication infrastructures, and others. The candidates should advance their theoretical framework, timeframes, methodological angles, and case studies. They will be discussed during the interview and later can be refined and changed during the research.

The PhD should author and present papers at conferences and write a monography or cumulative PhD consisting of three peer reviewed journal articles.

She/he will also be expected to provide support for the activities at IMeG, including support for teaching, research projects, service, and organization of events. Specifically, the candidate will be engaged in the "[Global Media and Internet Concentration Project](#)", of which the Institute is the Swiss partner (see <https://search.usi.ch/it/progetti/2634/global-media-and-internet-concentration-project>).

Candidates' profile

- Excellent English skills;
- Final score in the Master programme of 8 or higher (on a 10-point scale);
- Masters' degree in Communication, Media studies, History of technology, Innovation studies, and related fields;
- Ability to work in group, to present at conferences, and to be flexible in terms of time management and skills;
- Knowledge of Italian has to be reached by a maximum of two years.

Contract terms

The position is internally financed and the salary levels correspond to those set by the Swiss National Science Foundation for PhD researchers.

PhD scholarships are subject to annual review and successful completion of a progress report. Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Availability to travel to other parts of Switzerland and abroad (for purposes of collaboration and research) is required. The starting date is 1 October 2023.

The Application

Application should contain

- 1) a letter in which the applicants describe their research interests and the motivation to apply;
- 2) a complete CV;
- 3) the names and contact information of two referees;
- 4) university grade transcripts and certificates;
- 5) a 2-page PhD research project in the field of maintenance of communication and the media in historical perspective. The research proposal should include: a summary; most relevant existing literature on the topic; main research question(s); proposed methodology; case study the candidate plans to focus on;
- 6) an electronic copy of a research work (Master thesis or another scientific publication).

Please send your application in electronic form as a single PDF or request for further information to prof. Gabriele Balbi, gabriele.balbi@usi.ch.

Applications received before 5 June 2023 will be given priority. However, applications will be received until the position is filled. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview in June/July 2023.

USI strives to be an equal opportunity and family friendly employer and is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We guarantee that the selection process will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers.

As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Lugano, 3 May 2023