

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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Svetlana S. Bodrunova is Doctor of Political Science, Professor at School of Journalism and Mass Communications, St.Petersburg State University. She has published two books, several chapters, and over 40 research papers in Russian and English on Russian and European journalism, media and politics, social media, and ethnicity in communication. Her research interests today include studies of social media via big data methodologies, hybridization of media systems, and Russian media in comparative perspective. She leads International Media Research Center in her university and collaborates as a guest researcher at Laboratory for Internet Studies (LINIS), Higher School of Economics in St.Petersburg.

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Svetlana is Docent of Journalism at the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the University of Tampere, Finland. She has been a researcher on various projects, on media and journalism in Russia, Central Europe, and the BRICS countries, funded by the Academy of Finland, the Finnish Ministry of Education, and the European Union. She worked as a journalist and editor at Murmansk Radio. She earned her doctoral degree in social sciences at the University of Tampere in 2007. She is author of two monographs and over 20 of peer-reviewed chapters and articles in platforms including *The Global Journalist in the 21st Century*, *European Journal of Communication* and *Nordicom Review*. She co-edited with Jyotika Ramaprasad a special issue of *African Journalism Studies* (2015) and currently works as co-editor and author on the forthcoming book *Contemporary BRICS Journalism: Non-Western Media in Transition* for Routledge.

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Dr. Lilia Raycheva is Professor at the Communication and Audio-Visual Production of the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication of the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. She has served as Vice-Dean for Scientific Research and International Affairs (1998-2001) and Head of Radio and Television Department (1999-2001). For seven years she has also served as a member of the Council for Electronic Media - the regulatory authority for radio and television broadcasting in Bulgaria (2001-2008) and as a member of the Standing Committee on Transfrontier Television at the Council of Europe (2005-2008). She has been extensively published. She is the author of 5 books, of numerous scientific publications and the editor of 14 books. Her main scholarly interests include communication and media studies, audiovision, political communication. Her professional authorship portfolio includes a large number of TV programs.

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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). 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.

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Gabriella Szabó (PhD in Political Science) is a full time research fellow at Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Her research interests lie in the area of political communication, studies on public sphere and media. Gabriella Szabó has participated in four research projects funded by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA), two EU FP7 projects, and a COST Action. She has experience and expertise in leading scientific consortium (International Visegrad Fund) and act as principal investigator (Incubator funding scheme of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences). Dr. Szabó has published several peer reviewed articles in international journals (incl. International journal of Press/Politics and East European Politics & Societies) and book chapters in English.

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Prof. Dr. Jaromir Volek, the Czech Republic

Jaromír Volek lectures media and communication theories at Masaryk University, Czech Republic. He has earned his PhD in sociology in 2000, and in 2004-2011 he was the head of the Media Studies Program at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism. His main research topics are critical analysis of media, media audiences, and journalists' professionalism. More recently, he directs a research project "Czech Journalists in Comparative Perspective: an Analysis of the Process of Professionalization, Professional Socialization, and Journalistic Career" funded by Czech Science Foundation (GACR). He is also interested in media literacy research. He is coauthor (with Art Siverblatt) of a book entitled *Mediální gramotnost. Jak rozumět obsahům médií* (Keys to media literacy). He has currently finished (with Marina Urbániková) a book entitled *Čeští novináři v komparativní perspektivě: hybridní, virtuální a mizející žurnalisté v post-transformační fázi* ("Czech journalists in Comparative Perspective: Hybridized, Virtualized and Disappearing Newsman in the Post-transformation Phase"). He is the author of several analytical papers on the media performance in the process of political communication - in national, presidential and EU election campaigns.

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