

Code: BMI-FLMD-314E.30, BMI-MEDD-601.SL6

Course title: Televised media events

Course convenor: László Strausz

Class time and place: Biweekly, Monday 9-12:15, Room 251
Class dates: March 6, March 20, April 3, April 17, May 8, May 22

Course type: Seminar

Course content: According to the general consensus, everyone remembers where s/he watched 9/11. The live television broadcasting of crucial events that interrupt our daily routine—media events—play a fundamental role in the ways viewers construct history. In this course, participants will first study the debates around the concept of the media event itself, and later conduct case studies in which these processes of the live construction of important social, political, economic and cultural events becomes visible. During the second part of the semester, student will form study groups, research the ways in which individual media events have been produced and interpreted, and present their findings to the seminar's participants.

Participants can propose media events to be studied during the semester by the entire group. The events we will look at include:

- Landing on the Moon
 - Regime change 1989: Bucharest and Budapest
 - 9/11
 - Arab Spring
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Requirements: (1) Continuous attendance is required. (2) Each participant has to participate in a group presentation about a chosen media event during which s/he demonstrates the ability to recognize and interpret the device in question. (3) Dossier: student have to submit a written, 3-page analysis of one aspect of the media event discussed. Topics have to be run by the instructor before submission.

Learning outcomes: Participants will become familiar with the basic perspectives of television text analysis, the various debates on media events, and develop critical thinking, presenting and writing skills in correlation with the construction of media events.

Indicative Reading: Gray, Ann. *Televised Remembering*. In. Research methods for memory studies, 79-97.
Flusser, Vilém. *Towards a Philosophy of Photography*. Reaktion Books 2000.
Dayan, Daniel—Katz, Elihu. *Media Events – The Live Broadcasting of History*. Harvard University Press, 1992.
Couldry, Nick. *Media Rituals: A Critical Approach*. Routledge, 2003.
Cottle, Simon. "Mediatized Rituals" *Media, Culture & Society*, May 2006 28: 411-432.
Couldry, Nick—Hepp, Andreas—Krotz, Friedrich (eds.) *Media Events in a Global Age*. Routledge, 2010.
