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Charles University



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What is M.A.R.S.?

The Master in Media and Area Studies (MARS) combines two important contemporary fields of study: Media Studies and Area Studies. This combination provides in-depth and critical knowledge about processes of mediation and signification, and how

space and geography – the political and social specificities of an area – intersect with them. In particular, MARS will enable a thorough understanding of the role of context. Media (and communication) studies has a long tradition of emphasizing the importance of context, in dealing, for instance, with media production, content and interpretation/reception. And, of course, contexts are also spatial. Regions and countries, with their imagined communities, their

politics, their institutional structures, their insides and outsides, are particular, and they impact in particular ways on media (infra)structures, media content and audience practices. MARS will generate a better understanding of the complexity of this context.

Regions and countries are not internally homogeneous,

and they cannot be studied in isolation and as structurally different from other regions and countries. MARS still takes into consideration that these regions and countries are particular socio-political and cultural entities that have characterizing but complex (and sometimes contradictory) particularities, which are extremely significant for the study of the media spheres that are embedded in these regions and countries.

The backbone of MARS is a groundedness in Prague, the Czech Republic, Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union. This enables for two particular spatial focal points, which provide the backbone of the MARS programme, namely Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union. At the same time, MARS avoids an exclusive focus on Central and Eastern Europe, and offers (mostly but not exclusively through the electives) knowledge about other European regions, or about Europe as a whole. A second extension relates to more transnational and transcultural approaches, moving away from the logics of nation-state homogeneity, with emphasis on internal conflict and exclusion. This MARS backbone is combined with and strengthened by two main components: A theoretical component, which consists out of a combination of post-colonial theory, media sociology, memory studies and political geography. Moreover, also a methodological component provides the required support. These two focal points and the theoretical and methodological components structure the MARS programme. MARS is a collaboration between the Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism (ICSJ FSV UK) and the Institute of International Studies (IIS FSV UK).

Study

media

&

politics

Program

The basics

Programme Duration: 2 years

Language of Instruction: English

Academic Supervisor: doc. Nico Carpentier, PhD. (nico.carpentier@fsv.cuni.cz)

Programme Coordinator: Jan Miessler (jan.miessler@fsv.cuni.cz)

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Study

Who is this programme for?

MARS is ideal for students who want to gain better knowledge about the societal role of media and politics, and who want to understand how different contexts interact with each other. MARS welcomes students who want to sharpen their critical and inquisitive minds, and who wish to gain in-depth knowledge about how the Czech Republic, Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union function.

in & on

Central-Eastern Europe & the European Union

Why are Media Studies and Area Studies important?

Media are omnipresent in society, and play a key role in circulating a wide variety of representations about an equally large diversity of issues. More than ever, different technologies and organisations have become very active in mediating our worlds. These representations, technologies and organisations are not neutral in themselves, but actively intervene in how we see our worlds. Moreover, they are crucial locations to understand how processes of making-making function. Area studies is based on the premise that space matters, and that particular spaces have specificities that need to be studied in their own right. But at the same time, area studies is characterized by the permanent reminder that no space is homogeneous and that spaces influence each other, for instance in contexts of globalisation and post-coloniality. Finally, area studies also critically focusses on power relations within and among different areas, thematising issues of domination and resistance.

Course Structure

Total credits

Compulsory courses: 69 credits
Compulsory courses - final thesis: 15 credits
Compulsory optional courses: 24 credits
Elective courses: 12 credits

Compulsory courses

Media and Society
Communication and Politics
Czech Media System in European Comparison
Conflict and Media in Southern Europe
Introduction to Post-colonial Theory
Political Geography
Theorizing Memory: Social and Cultural
Remembering
Political Systems of East European Countries
Today
EU Institutions
Grand Debates of European Integration
Methodology of Social Sciences
Academic Writing

Compulsory courses - final thesis

Master Thesis Seminar I
Master Thesis Seminar II

Compulsory optional courses

12 credits to select from list 1:

Audiovisual Interpretation of Reality
Cultural Studies
New Media and Convergence Culture
Political Economy of Communication
Media and Technical Images
Contexts of Television
Praxe

12 credits to select from list 2:

Culture and politics in Europe
Migration and mobility: comparative issues in
Western European Countries
Transnational history of contemporary Europe
Current Challenges in Europe
Concepts and Interpretations of Central
European History
Social Exclusion and the Roma in Central
Europe
Ethnic Conflicts in Central and Eastern Europe

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