

**Call for Contributions for a Special Section of Global Media Journal –
German Edition– Summer 2027**

Deadline for full paper submissions: 15 January 2027

**Representations of (Post-)Industrial Communities:
Voice, Visibility and Value**

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Industrialization across the globe, and particularly in North America and Europe, was associated with profound societal transformations, most notably the urbanization of populations and the creation of mass workforces (Cowie & Heathcott, 2003). Across generations, many families expected their children to follow established occupational trajectories into mines, steelworks, docks, mills, and factories (cf. Gildea, 2023). For much of the twentieth century, heavy industries offered relatively stable employment, social security, and a decent standard of living, contributing to gradual improvements in working-class conditions up to the 1960s (Russo & Linkon, 2009).

Deindustrialization, by contrast, has often been experienced as a process of decline and loss – in economic, social and cultural terms. As industries disappeared, so too did the social infrastructures that sustained everyday life (Cowie & Heathcott 2003; Russo & Linkon 2009). Urban spaces fell into decay, amenities declined, and the voices, values and identities of communities were increasingly marginalized within broader national imaginaries. The result has been a growing sense of diminishing pride, security, self-worth and trust among post-industrial working-class communities (Cowie & Heathcott, 2003), which continues to shape experiences of being voiceless, unrepresented, and neglected (Emery, 2018). In a number of contexts, such experiences have also provided fertile ground for neo-authoritarian movements – including illiberal, anti-democratic, nationalist, and populist ones (Rodríguez-Pose et al., 2018, 2023) – which mobilize narratives of loss, resentment, and national re-framing (Emery, 2018; Morrison, 2022).

These dynamics have been particularly pronounced in major industrial regions that later experienced significant decline, such as the Rust Belt in the United States (Campbell, 2017; Cowie & Heathcott, 2003) as well as Northern England and the German coal regions (bpb, 2021). Comparable processes of political radicalization can be observed across Europe, in regions shaped by different political and economic systems (Rodríguez-Pose et al., 2018, 2023). These include both long-established capitalist economies as well as former state-

socialist contexts, such as Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Wallonia, and Upper Silesia (Domański, 2015; Leboutte, 2009).

This special issue seeks to explore these dynamics by examining the media, political and wider public communicative processes around (de-)industrialization. It aims to take a pluralist approach to industrial transformation, attending both to macro-level public discourses and to the lived experiences of communities navigating industrial decline and post-industrial restructuring, along with the political responses to these developments. By foregrounding communication as a central site through which industrial transformation and political challenges are interpreted, negotiated, contested, and experienced, the special issue invites critical engagement with questions of inclusion/exclusion, voice, visibility, (mis/under-) representation and inequality in societies shaped by ongoing processes of deindustrialization.

We welcome submissions from scholars across disciplines and regions, including historical and contemporary analyses, that address communication processes around (de-)industrialization. Submissions may engage with, but are not limited to, the following research areas:

- *Public discourse*: The role of mass media, political communication, popular culture and wider public debate in shaping narratives of industrial change, decline, renewal, and loss.
- *Everyday/interpersonal communication*: Constructions and experiences of loss, value and belonging by affected communities and practices through which they articulate, negotiate or resist dominant public representations; communicative practices of memory, identity and belonging; political attitudes/orientations among (post)-industrial communities.
- *Media structures and representation*: Structural absences and inequalities in media institutions, including the exclusion and/or mis/under-representation of working-class voices in media production, ownership and decision-making, and the implications of these absences for public visibility, voice and the recognition (or denial) of lived experience.
- *Journalism*: Journalistic practices, norms, routines and cultures in sourcing and reporting stories about the impact and implications of industrial transformation and communities affected; relationships between journalists and deindustrialized communities; authority, authenticity and legitimacy of competing voices in representing working-class lives.
- *Data, digitization, and media technologies*: The role of digital platforms, data practices, automation, algorithmic systems and generative AI in reshaping visibility, value and participation; the communicative implications of platformization for post-industrial work and community life.
- *Media use and reception*: Media use and communication by affected communities that is directed at making sense of industrial change; levels and forms of media reception and (dis-)engagement among (post-)industrial communities, agenda-setting and media effects; use of participatory, community and/or alternative media and information sources.
- *Theoretical and methodological considerations*: Conceptual and methodological approaches to researching the mediation of deindustrialized and marginalized communities in the digital era, including ethical questions of access, voice, representation and participation in communication research itself.

This special section follows the pre-conference, “Representations of (Post-) Industrial Communities: Voice, Visibility, and Value,” hosted by the IAMCR Communication in Post- and Neo-Authoritarian Societies Working Group on June 27, 2026, in Dublin. Funding for language editing and proofreading will be provided by the IAMCR Section/Working Group Project Fund.

Requirements for Submitting Contributions to the German Edition

Contribution formats:

Academic articles (peer-reviewed); essays; media practice & research reports; graduate section; interviews

Style Guide & Submissions Requirements:

- Please adhere strictly to *Global Media Journal – German Edition* formatting and **APA 7th edition** citation style.
- Manuscript lengths depend on the chosen contribution format:
<https://www.globalmediajournal.de/index.php/gmj/submission-guidelines>
- Please refer to the [Style Guide for GMJ](#)
- All submissions for academic articles will undergo **double-blind peer review**.
- GMJ-DE is **Diamond Open Access**; no APCs (no author processing charges)

Full manuscript submission:

- Full manuscripts should be submitted via <https://globalmediajournal.de> **by 15 January 2027**.
- Please select “**Special Section Representations of (Post-)Industrial Communities: Voice, Visibility and Value**” in the drop-down list when submitting your manuscript.

Timetable:

- Submission of full papers: 15 January 2027
- Response to authors (first review): 31 March 2027
- Publication date: July 2027

If you have any questions, please contact GMJ-DE editor Katharina Nötzold (gmj@polsoz.fu-berlin.de)

The GLOBAL MEDIA JOURNAL – GERMAN EDITION (ISSN 2196-4807) is a diamond open access, peer-reviewed journal for the publication of scholarly contributions dealing with issues of international, transnational, intercultural and transcultural communication and media, published in English and German twice a year. No article processing charges (APCs) are incurred. The journal is indexed in DOAJ, ERIH PLUS, EBSCO, EuroPub, BASE and Ulrich`s. Website: <https://www.globalmediajournal.de>

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