

Aims and objectives

The Ethics of Mediated Suffering Temporary Working group aims at providing an open platform for European research and constructive dialogue around the implications of the mediation of distant suffering. It welcomes members of different subfields with an interest in the problem of communicating human vulnerability and intends to establish a strong international network, which will address the various theoretical, empirical and methodological implications of the issue.

In specific, the Temporary Working Group's objectives are:

- (a) to bring together scholars from different subfields and disciplines, building an interdisciplinary international network
- (b) to encourage and open up space for dialogue that will provide further insights into theoretical, empirical and methodological challenges in the field
- (c) to develop new research approaches and methodological innovations, furthering the knowledge of the field
- (d) to embrace and encourage junior researchers working in the field
- (e) to engage with the public, disseminating proceedings and outcomes with the broader community and relevant stakeholders

Questions and debates that the TWG will engage with include the following:

- The politics of representing suffering and the moral tensions inherent in the 'spectacularization' of human pain
- The relationship between spectators (media audiences and users) and the distant sufferers
- The mediation of cosmopolitanism and postnational solidarities
- The role of social media and eyewitness accounts in mediating suffering
- The characteristics of media audience and users as witnesses
- The role of journalists and the mainstream news media in the covering of crises and stories of human pain