

Call for Articles:

## “Social Representations, ICTs and Community Empowerment”

Special Issue of **Semiotica**, the Journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies

### Special Issue's Editors:

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### Objective

This special issue will provide an overview of the use of Social Representations Theory (SRT) (Moscovici, 1961), for empowering local communities, with a specific focus on the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), such as the Internet, desktop and mobile devices, radios, etc.

SRT has been extensively contributing to reflection on the appropriation of information and communication technologies, as well as on empowering communities. Yet, few studies explore the intersection of the three domains altogether.

Articles on a range of issues surrounding applications of SRT, ICTs and empowering communities (especially in developing/emerging regions) are welcome for submission. Articles lengths are expected to be 7000 to 9000 words, including references.

We welcome articles presenting literature reviews, theoretical and methodological issues, as well as case and comparative studies.

Examples on topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Reflections on the use of the theory within developing contexts and ICT4D/community informatics interventions
- Data generation methods for research on social representations within the given domains
- Comparisons among social groups' conceptualizations of ICTs in developing contexts
- ICTs-mediated social representations of disadvantaged communities
- Case studies applying SRT to ICT4D research and practice
- Case studies applying SRT to community informatics research and practice
- Use of social representations to inform governments, policy makers, donors, and practitioners

### Audience

This thematic issue covers areas of high interest to the academic community interested in semiotics, meaning making, and social representations. Results are like to be interesting also for practitioners and policy makers.

### Submission Procedure

Interested researchers are invited to submit an abstract proposal (word file) of about 500 words via e-mail.

Abstracts should be accompanied by the following information about each of the authors:

- Name
- Position
- Affiliation
- Contact Information

The deadline for *abstracts* submission is **November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014**.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014**.

*Full articles* are expected to be submitted by **April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

All submitted articles will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis, and results of the review process will be notified within the month of **June 2015**.

*Final articles* have to be re-submitted by **August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

The *publication* of the special issue is foreseen for **mid 2016**.

### Inquiries and submissions can be forwarded electronically to:

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