

Proceedings of the 10th Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association, 2009

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Over 100 members of the Media Ecology Association convened at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, in June 2009 for the group's 10th convention. Crafted around the theme of places and spaces, both physical and rhetorical, the convention found a welcome from the Ong Center for Language and Culture, named for Fr. Walter J. Ong, S.J., a long-time Saint Louis University faculty member and a tremendously influence figure in MEA history.

The call for papers expanded the theme in this way: "We have special interests in the places and spaces of media interactions: Silicon Valley or St. Louis; screen, studio, library, or street. Does place matter? Local systems, larger systems, and changing relationships in the ecology of media. The role(s) of media in different ecological systems. The changing geography of media: . . . Because the 2009 MEA Convention will meet at Saint Louis University, where Walter J. Ong was a faculty member, papers on any aspect of his work are especially welcome." This variety appears in the papers selected for these Proceedings.

First, since the Convention itself featured plenary sessions that explored literacy of all types, the Proceedings presents several of the plenary addresses. Then, chosen from the 50 panels in which MEA members and non-members shared ideas and research, these Proceedings publish eight papers that reflect the convention theme in different ways. Some, like Jason Kalin's top student paper, examine place and what he terms "hybrid-space walking," the complex interaction between people, media, and place; others, like Matthew Killmeier's top convention paper, focuses on the body as the medium that communication media disembody. In work closely aligned with themes (and historical "places") found in Ong's work, several papers examine rhetorical spaces and places. Jean-François Vallée explores Renaissance dialogue, asking why an age of writing and print placed such an emphasis on dialogue. Moving ahead to Elizabethan England, Thomas M. Dieckmann notices the residual orality in the work of Sir Philip Sidney. Bringing Ong's concerns to the present day, Vincent Casaregola connects the voice to its place, particularly to its role in discourse while James Scott turns his attention to film and the ways in which Clint Eastwood's *Unforgiven* redefines generic places. Finally, returning to themes of the body's inter-

action with media within and outside, Ronan Hallowell explores the drugs people take as creating a media world. More theoretically, he also introduces the biology of cognition produced by the Chilean biologists Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela as a fruitful area for media ecology's reflection.

The Proceedings depend, of course, not only on the scholarship of our members, but on the generosity and expertise of those who helped choose the essays. The referees this year include Mary Ann Allison, Stephanie Bennett, Peter Fallon, Thom Gencarelli, Stephanie Gibson, Ray Gozzi, Paul Grosswiler, Jerry Harp, Sheila Nayar, Valerie Peterson, Ellen Rose, Sara van den Berg, and Anthony Wachs. With thanks to all.