Prof. Simone Natale

Associate Professor in Media Theory and History
Department of Humanities
University of Turin
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Current positions

University of Turin, Italy
Associate Professor in Media Theory and History, Department of Humanities   Since 2020

Loughborough University, UK
Visiting Fellow in Communication and Media Studies   Since 2021

Media, Culture & Society (Sage Journals), Impact Factor 2022: 3.248
Editor   Since 2023
Assistant Editor   2019-2022

Past positions

Loughborough University, UK
Senior Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies   2019-2020
Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies   2015-2019

Humboldt University Berlin, Germany   2014-2015
Research Associate, Institute for Cultural Theory and History
Lecturer in the "Diversity of Knowledge" Programme

Columbia University, USA   2013-2014
Research Fellow of the Italian Academy

University of Cologne, Germany   2012-2013
Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Media Culture and Theater

Concordia University, Montreal, Canada   2009-2011
Visiting PhD student and Research Associate, Mobile Media Lab, Department of Communication Studies

Education

Ph.D. in Communication Studies, University of Turin, Italy   2008-2011
Dissertation title: "The Spectacular Supernatural: Spiritualism, Entertainment, and the Invention of Cinema." Evaluated as "Excellent" by the review panel. Supervisor: Prof. Peppino Ortoleva
Visiting Doctoral Student, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, Oct. 2009-Oct. 2010

M.A. in Mass and Multimedia Communication, University of Turin   2003-2005
Summa cum laude
Visiting Student, University of Cologne, Germany, Sep. 2003-Jun. 2004

B.A. in Communication Studies, University of Turin   2000-2003
Summa cum laude and special academic distinction

List of publications

Monographs

Natale, S. *Deceitful Media: Artificial Intelligence and Social Life after the Turing Test*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

> Italian translation: Natale, S. *Macchine ingannevoli. Comunicazione, tecnologia, intelligenza artificiale*. Torino: Einaudi, 2022.
> Chinese translation: scheduled for publication in Spring 2024 with Fudan University Press, Shanghai, China.
> Portuguese translation: Natale, S. Inteligência Artificial, Comunicação e Enganação. *Fronteiras - estudos midiáticos* 23.3 (2021): 1-15. doi: 10.4013/fem.2021.233.01 (introduction only).

> Selected reviews:
> *New Media and Society* – by Leona Nikoliç, https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448231173310
> *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly* - by T. Dodds, https://doi.org/10.1177/10776990211063526
> *Leonardo* – by Anthony Enns, https://doi.org/10.1162/leon_r_02232
> *Prometheus: Critical Studies in Innovation* – by Domenico Napolitano, https://www.jstor.org/stable/48682291
> *Spheres: Journal for Digital Culture* – by Fabio Iapaolo, https://bit.ly/3VlULM3
> *American Literature* - by Christopher Grove https://doi.org/10.1215/00029831-10575260

Natale, S. *Supernatural Entertainments: Victorian Spiritualism and the Rise of Modern Media Culture.* University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 2016 (reprinted as paperback in 2017).

> Selected reviews:
> *Los Angeles Review of Books* - by Pericles Lewis, available at http://bit.ly/2ofbYKP
> *Media History* - by Susan Zieger, https://doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2016.1195607
> *Film Quarterly* - by Matthew Solomon, https://doi.org/10.1525/fq.2017.71.1.121
> *Victorian Studies* - by Christine Ferguson, https://doi.org/10.2979/victorianstudies.59.2.14
> *Public Books* - by James P. Stanley, available at http://bit.ly/2a8sFAe
> "Highly recommended" by *Choice Review* - reviewed by Don Wilmeth

Edited Books

Natale, S., Foti, P. & Parry, R. (eds.) *Museums and Digital Histories: Curating Histories of Computing*. London: Routledge (under contract).

Natale, S. & Pasulka, D. (eds.) *Believing in Bits: Digital Media and the Supernatural*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

> Selected reviews:
> *Religious Studies Review* – by M.E. Maples, https://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.15331
> *Preternature* – by Philip L. Frana, https://doi.org/10.5325/preternature.10.2.0301
> *Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft* – by T. Symmes, https://doi.org/10.1353/mrw.2021.0026
> *Theological Librarianship* - by A. Parrish, https://doi.org/10.31046/tl.v13i2.1939
> *Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture* – by A. Derbas, https://doi.org/10.1163/21659214-bja10077

Leonardi, N. & Natale, S. (eds.) *Photography and Other Media in the Nineteenth Century*. University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 2018 (reprinted as paperback in 2019).

> Selected reviews:
> *The Times Literary Supplement* - by Sally Barnded, available at https://t.co/CR8royDJLg
> *History of Photography* - by Kathrin Yacavone, https://doi.org/10.1080/03087298.2019.1610247
> *Nineteenth Century Contexts* - by J. Green-Lewis, https://doi.org/10.1080/08905495.2019.1569810
> *Oxford Art Journal* - by Emily Doucet, https://doi.org/10.1093/oxartj/kcy030
> *The American Archivist* - by Clayton Lewis, https://doi.org/10.17723/0360-9081-82.1.210

Journal Special Issues

Keightley, E., Cheuk-Yin Li, E., Natale, S. & Punathambekar, S. (eds.) Encounters with Western Media Theory. "Crosscurrents" themed Section, *Media, Culture & Society* vol. 45 No. 2 (2023).

Natale, S. & Guzman, A. (eds.) Reclaiming the Human in Machine Cultures. Special issue, *Media, Culture & Society* vol. 44. No. 4 (2022).

Natale, S. & Treré, E. (eds.) The Limits and Boundaries of Digital Disconnection. Special "Crosscurrent" themed section, *Media, Culture & Society* vol. 42 no. 4 (2020).

Lesage, F. & Natale, S. (eds.) Rethinking the Distinctions between Old and New Media. Special issue, *Convergence* vol. 25 no. 4 (2019).

Sardá, T. & Natale, S., Sotirakopoulos, N. & Monaghan, M. (eds.) *Understanding Online Anonymity*. "Crosscurrent" themed section, *Media, Culture & Society* vol. 41 no. 4 (2019).

Beil, B. & Natale, S. (eds.), *New Media and the Imagination of the Future*. Special issue, *WI: Journal of Mobile Media* vol. 8 no. 2 (2014).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Depounti, I., Saukko, P. & Natale, S. Ideal Technologies, Ideal Women: AI and Gender Imaginaries in Redditors' Discussions on the Replika Bot Girlfriend. *Media, Culture & Society* 45.4 (2023): 720-36. doi: 10.1177/01634437221119021

Keightley, E., Li, E., Natale, S. & Punathambekar, A. Editorial: Encounters with Western Media Theory. *Media, Culture & Society* 45.2 (2023): 406-12. doi: 10.1177/01634437221149821

Natale, S. & Henrickson, L. The Lovelace Effect: Perceptions of Creativity in Machines. *New Media and Society*, published online before print 4 March 2022. doi: 10.1177/14614448221077278

Natale, S. & Guzman, A.L. Reclaiming the Human in Machine Cultures: Introduction. *Media, Culture & Society* 44.4 (2022): 627–37. doi: 10.1177/01634437221099614

Sardá, T., Natale, S. & Downey, J. Inventing the Dark Web: Criminalization of Privacy and the Apocalyptic Turn in the Imaginary of the Web. *First Monday* 27.11 (2022). doi: 10.5210/fm.v27i11.12691

Natale, S. E se l'inganno è banale? Per una nuova teoria dei media nell'epoca della disinformazione. *Studi Culturali* 18.3 (2021): 437-48. doi: 10.1405/102367

Natale, S. & Cooke, H. Browsing with Alexa: Interrogating the Impact of Voice Assistants as Web Interfaces. *Media, Culture & Society* 43.6 (2021): 1000-16. doi: 10.1177/0163443720983295

Natale, S. & Ballatore, A. Imagining the Thinking Machine: Technological Myths and the Rise of Artificial Intelligence. *Convergence* 26.1 (2020): 3-18. doi: 10.1177/1354856517715164

Natale, S. & Treré, E. Vinyl Won't Save Us: Reframing Disconnection as Engagement. *Media, Culture and Society* 42.4 (2020): 626-63. doi: 10.1177/0163443720914027

Treré, E., Natale, S., Keightley, E. & Punathambekar, A. The Limits and Boundaries of Digital Disconnection. *Media, Culture and Society* 42.4 (2020): 605-9. doi: 10.1177/0163443720922054

Natale, S. To Believe in Siri: A Critical Analysis of AI Voice Assistants. *Communicative Figurations Working Papers* 32 (2020): 1-17.

Natale, S. When Art History Meets Information Theory, or on Media Theory outside Media Theory. *MAST: The Journal of Media Art, Study and Theory* 1.1 (2020): 50-53. doi: 10.59547/26911566.1.1.11

Natale, S. If Software Is Narrative: Joseph Weizenbaum, Artificial Intelligence and the Biographies of ELIZA. *New Media and Society* 21.3 (2019): 712–728. doi: 10.1177/1461444818804980

Natale, S., Bory, P., & Balbi, G. The Rise of Corporational Determinism: Digital Media Corporations and Narratives of Media Change. *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 36.4 (2019): 323-38. doi: 10.1080/15295036.2019.1632469
    Reprinted as: Natale, S., Bory, P., & Balbi, G. The Rise of Corporational Determinism: Digital Media Corporations and Narratives of Media Change. In: *Critical Perspectives on New Media: Challenging the Neo-Liberal World Order*. Eds. Jin Cao & Vincent Mosco. China: Yiven, 2021, pp. 214-30.

Lesage, F., & Natale, S. Rethinking the Distinctions between Old and New Media: Introduction. *Convergence* 25.4 (2019): 575–589. doi: 10.1177/1354856519863364.

Sardá, T., Natale, S., Sotirakopoulos, N. & Monaghan, M. Understanding Online Anonymity. *Media, Culture & Society* 41.4 (2019): 557-564. doi: 10.1177/0163443719842074.

Natale, S. There Are No Old Media. *Journal of Communication* 66.4 (2016): 586-603. doi: 10.1111/jcom.12235.
    Chinese translation: 不存在"旧媒介" ■ [英]西蒙尼·纳塔莱/ 陈 阳 王英鸽 译, *Shanghai Journalism Review* 12 (2018): 58-65.

Natale, S. Unveiling the Biographies of Media: On the Role of Narratives, Anecdotes and Storytelling in the Construction of New Media's Histories. *Communication Theory* 26.4 (2016): 431–449. doi: 10.1111/comt.12099.

Ballatore, A. & Natale, S. E-Readers and the Death of the Book: or, New Media and the Myth of the Disappearing Medium. *New Media & Society* 18.10 (2016): 2379-2394. doi: 10.1177/1461444815586984.

Balbi, G. & Natale, S. The Double Birth of Wireless: Italian Radio Amateurs and the Interpretative Flexibility of New Media. *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* 22.1 (2015): 26-41. doi: 10.1080/19376529.2015.1015860.

Natale, S. Spreading the Spirit Word: Print Media, Storytelling, and Popular Culture in Nineteenth-Century Spiritualism. *Communication+1* 4 (2015). Available at: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/cpo/vol4/iss1/12. doi: 10.7275/R5GF0RF9

Natale, S. & Ballatore, A. The Web Will Kill Them All: New Media, Digital Utopia, and Political Struggle in the Italian 5-Star Movement. *Media, Culture & Society* 36.1 (2014): 105-21. doi: 10.1177/0163443713511902.

Natale, S. & Balbi, G. Media and the Imaginary in History: The Role of the Fantastic in Different Stages of Media Change. *Media History* 20.2 (2014): 203-218. doi: 10.1080/13688804.2014.898904

Natale, S. Introduction: New Media and the Imagination of the Future. *Wi: Journal of Mobile Media* 8.2

(2014). Avalaible at: http://wi.mobilities.ca/introduction-new-media-and-the-imagination-of-the-future/

Natale, S. Spiritual Stars: Religion and Celebrity in the Career of Spiritualist Mediums. *Celebrity Studies* 4.1 (2013): 94-96. doi: 10.1080/19392397.2013.750128

Natale, S. Geisterglaube, Unterhaltung und Showgeschäft im 19. Jahrhundert. *Historische Anthropologie* 21.3 (2013): 324-42.
(Translation: *Beliefs in Spirits, Entertainment, and Show Business in the Nineteenth Century*)

Natale, S. A Short History of Superimposition: From Spirit Photography to Early Cinema. *Early Popular Visual Culture* 10.2 (2012): 125-45. doi: 10.1080/17460654.2012.664745

Natale, S. Photography and Communication Media in the Nineteenth Century. *History of Photography* 36.4 (2012): 451-56. doi: 10.1080/03087298.2012.680306

Natale, S. Un dispositivo fantasmatico: cinema e spiritismo. *Bianco e Nero: Rivista Quadrimestrale del Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia* 573 (2012): 82-91. doi: 10.7371/71477

Natale, S. Fantasie mediali: La storia dei media e la sfida dell'immaginario. *Studi Culturali* 9.2 (2012): 269-84. doi: 10.1405/38079

Natale, S. The Invisible Made Visible: X Rays as Attraction and Visual Medium at the End of the Nineteenth Century. *Media History* 17.4 (2011): 345-58. doi: 10.1080/13688804.2011.602856

Natale, S. The Cinema of Exposure: Spiritualist Exposés, Technology, and the Dispositif of Early Cinema. *Recherches sémiotiques/Semiotic Inquiry* 31:1 (2011): 101-117. Special issue edited by André Gaudreault and Martin Lefebvre.

Natale, S. The Medium on the Stage: Trance and Performance in Nineteenth-Century Spiritualism. *Early Popular Visual Culture* 9.3 (2011): 239-55. 10.1080/17460654.2011.601166

Natale, S. A Cosmology of Invisible Fluids: Wireless, X Rays and Psychical Research around 1900. *Canadian Journal of Communication* 36.2 (2011): 263-75. doi: 10.22230/cjc.2011v36n2a2368

Natale, S. Spiritualism Exposed: Scepticism, Credulity and Spectatorship in End-of-the-Century America. *European Journal of American Culture* 29.2 (2010): 131-44.

Book Chapters

Natale, S. "A Short History of Human-Automata Interaction." In: *Living Automata: Mechanism and Automatism in Victorian Culture*. Eds. Suzy Anger and Thomas Vranken. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming in 2023.

Natale, S. "AI, Human-Machine Communication and Deception." In: *The Sage Handbook of Human-Machine Communication*. Eds. Andrea Guzman, Rhonda McEwen and Steve Jones. London: Sage, 2023, pp. 401-08.

Sarrica, M., Natale, S. & Danese, E. "Representing Robots in Popular Culture: The Perspective of Media and Cultural Studies." In: *The DeGruyter Handbook of Robots in Society and Culture*. Eds. Autumn Edwards & Leopoldina Fortunati. Chum: DeGruyter, forthcoming in 2024.

Bory, P., Natale, S. & Trudel, D. "Artificial Intelligence: Reframing Thinking Machines within the History of Communication." In: *Digital Roots: Historicizing Media and Communication Concepts of the Digital Age*. Eds.

Gabriele Balbi, Nelson Costa Ribeiro, Valerie Schafer and Christian Schwarzenegger. Chum: De Gruyter, 2021, pp. 95-113.

Natale, S. & Ortoleva, P. "Allucinazione e media." In: *Media-storie: Lezioni indimenticate di Peppino Ortoleva*. Eds. Luca Barra & Giuliana G. Galvagno. Roma: Viella, 2020, pp. 73-77.

Natale, S. "Amazon Can Read Your Mind: A Media Archaeology of the Algorithmic Imaginary." In: *Believing in Bits: Digital Media and the Supernatural*. Eds. Simone Natale & Diana W. Pasulka. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019, pp. 19-36.

Natale, S. "A Mirror with Wings: Photography and the New Era of Communications." In: *Photography and Other Media in the Nineteenth Century*. Eds. Nicoletta Leonardi & Simone Natale. University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 2018, pp. 34-56.

Ballatore, A. & Natale, S. "Fallimenti, controversie e il mito tecnologico dell'Intelligenza Artificiale." In: *Fallimenti digitali: Un'archeologia dei «nuovi» media*. Eds. Gabriele Balbi & Paolo Magaudda. Roma: Unicopli, 2018, pp. 137-48.

Natale, S. & Bory, P. "Constructing the Biography of the Web: An Examination of the Narratives and Myths around the Web's History." In: *Web 25: Histories from the First 25 Years of the World Wide Web*. Ed. Niels Brügger. New York: Peter Lang, 2017, pp. 29-42.

Natale, S. "The Spectacular Supernatural and the Birth of the Modern Entertainment Industry." In: *Religion: Super Religion*. Ed. Jeffrey Kripal. Part of the *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Religion series*. Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan, 2017, pp. 249-262.

Natale, S. "Specters of the Mind: Ghosts, Illusion, and Exposure in Paul Leni's *The Cat and the Canary*." In: *Cinematic Ghosts: Haunting and Spectrality from Silent Cinema to the Digital Era.* Ed. Leeder, Murray. London: Bloomsbury, 2015, pp. 59-76.
Chapter republished in: *ReFocus: The Films of Paul Leni*. Eds. Erica Tortolani and Martin F. Norden. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021, pp. 158-71.

Natale, S. "Mediums and Stars: Mediumship, Show Business, and Celebrity in Nineteenth-Century Spiritualism." In: *The Spiritualist Movement: Speaking with the Dead in America and around the World*. Ed. Christopher Moreman. Santa Barbara, CA.: Praeger 2013, Vol. 3, pp.237-51.

Natale, S. "Spettacoli spettrali: Spiritismo, cinema e fantasmi." In: *Diversamente Vivi: Zombie, fantasmi, mummie, vampiri*. Eds. Ortoleva, Peppino and Giulia Carluccio. Milano: Il Castoro 2010, pp. 157-62.
*(*Translation: *Spectral Spectacles: Spiritualism, Cinema, and Ghosts)*

Research Reports

Natale, S. Parry, R. & Foti, P. (2022) Circuits of Practice Research Report: Narrating Histories of Computing and Digital Media in Museum Environments. Loughborough: Centre for Research in Communication and Culture, Loughborough University. Doi: 10.13140/RG.2.2.31910.40008

Peer-Reviewed Review Essays

Natale, S. Communicating through or Communicating with: Approaching Artificial Intelligence from a Communication and Media Studies Perspective. *Communication Theory* 31.4 (2021): 905–910. doi: 10.1093/ct/qtaa022

Natale, S. All That's Liquid. *New Formations* 91.1 (2017): 121-23.

Natale, S. The Historian and the Antiquarian: Erkki Huhtamo's Media Archaeology. *Cinémas* 25.2-3 (2015): 185-194.

Natale, S. Understanding Media Archaeology. *Canadian Journal of Communication* 37.3 (2012): 523-27.

Peer-Reviewed Articles in Conference Proceedings

Parry, R., Foti, P. and Natale, S. When Digital Becomes the Object: Developing Computing Histories in Museums. *MuseWeb 2021* (2021), available at https://mw21.museweb.net/paper/when-digital-becomes-the-object-how-do-museums-form-computer-history-narratives/

Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Natale, S. On Digital Mysticism, or the Secret of Bending Spoons. *In Media Res*, part of "New Age Media" special issue, 8 June 2020, available at http://mediacommons.org/imr/content/digital-mysticism-or-secret-bending-spoons-0

Natale, S. & Sal Paz, J. Tornare a essere il numero dieci: La crisi argentina, i media e la nuova identità del paese. *Link: Idee per la televisione* 4.12 (2012): 29-37.

Natale, S. Talking of Revolution, Again: Interview with Fred Turner. *Wi: Journal of Mobile Media* 6.3 (2012). Avalaible at: http://wi.mobilities.ca/talking-of-revolution-again-interview-with-fred-turner/
(Also published in Italian as: Natale, S. La rivoluzione di silicio: Intervista a Fred Turner. *Il Contesto* 10.15 (2012): 3-6.)

Natale, S. The Spectacular Supernatural: Spiritualism, Entertainment, and the Invention of Cinema. Ph.D. Thesis Abstract. *Cinema & Cie* 10.14-15 (2010): 175-77.

Natale, S. Quella sensibilità esagerata della lastra: Raggi X e revival del mesmerismo nella fotografia di fine Ottocento. *AFT – Rivista di Storia e Fotografia* 48 (2008): 53-61.

Natale, S. Le spettacolari origini di cinema e radiografia. *Mondo Niovo 18/24 ft/s* 2 (2006): 55-62.

Magazine articles, interviews and blog posts (selection)

Natale, S. & Henrickson, L. The Lovelace Effect – AI Generated Texts Should Lead us to Re-Value Creativity in Academic Writing. LSE Blog, 6 December 2022. Available at https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2022/12/06/the-lovelace-effect-ai-generated-texts-should-lead-us-to-re-value-creativity-in-academic-writing/

Henrickson, L. & Natale, S. Is AI-generated art really creative? It depends on the presentation. *The Conversation*, 9 May 2022. Available at https://theconversation.com/is-ai-generated-art-really-creative-it-depends-on-the-presentation-181663

Natale, S. Artificial Intelligence and gullible humans: The Turing Test and the real significance of AI. IAI News, Institute of Art and Ideas, issue no. 96, 10 May 2021. Available at: https://iai.tv/articles/ai-lies-and-deception-auid-1805

Natale, S. The Turing Test Is not about AI: It Is about our tendency to project humanity onto things. *Oxford University Press Blog*, 10 April 2021. Available at https://blog.oup.com/2021/04/the-turing-test-is-not-

about-ai-it-is-about-our-tendency-to-project-humanity-onto-things/

Dotto, S. and Natale, S. Digital's Doppelganger: The Myth of Analog Media. *USI News*, 6 December 2019. Available at https://www.usi.ch/en/feeds/11598

Natale, S., Balbi, G. and Bory, P. Why Google's Latest Launch Is more about the Brand than the Tech. *The Conversation*, 15 October 2019. Available at https://theconversation.com/why-googles-latest-launch-is-more-about-the-brand-than-the-tech-124142

Ballatore, A. and Natale, S. Trump trolls, Pirate Parties and the Italian Five Star Movement: The internet meets politics. *The Conversation*, 12 December 2016. Available at https://theconversation.com/trump-trolls-pirate-parties-and-the-italian-five-star-movement-the-internet-meets-politics-68954

Natale, S. and Ballatore, A. The myth of the disappearing book. *The Conversation*, 1 November 2016. Available at https://theconversation.com/the-myth-of-the-disappearing-book-66717

Natale, S. Ghostbusters and Why We Like to Laugh at Things That Go Bump in the Night. *The Conversation*, 7 July 2016. Available at https://theconversation.com/ghostbusters-and-why-we-like-to-laugh-at-things-that-go-bump-in-the-night-62026

Natale, S. The Medium Goes to America. *History Today* 66.6 (June 2016): 5-6.

Natale, S. The Science of the Supernatural. *History Today* 66.3 (March 2016): 71.

Natale, S. Robert Hare, the Spiritoscope, and Playfulness in Science. *Forbidden Histories*, 14 March 2016. Avalaible at http://forbiddenhistories.com/2016/03/14/guest-post-robert-hare-the-spiritoscope-and-playfulness-in-science-by-simone-natale/

Natale, S. A New Open-Access Requirement in the UK. *Infoclio.ch*, 25 March 2015. Avalaible at https://infoclio.ch/fr/node/137690

"Simone Natale: Media Technologies and the Imaginary." Video Interview for the What is Mobilities? (WIM) Project, Concordia University, Montreal. Published online in May 2013. Available at http://vimeo.com/65873524

Silcox, Ben. CUAG Gets Supernatural. *The Charlatan: Carleton University's Independent Weekly*, 12 February 2013. Available at http://charlatan.ca/2013/02/cuag-gets-supernatural/
(This article reports on my public lecture at Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa, Canada)

Grote, S. Spuk auf der Bühne: Ein Gespräch mit Simone Natale. *Kölner Universitätszeitung* (*Cologne University Gazette*) 42.2 (2012): 4.
(*Translation: *The Ghost on the Stage: An Interview with Simone Natale*)

Participations in podcasts

"Simone Natale or the Dangerous Spiritual Desire for AI," in podcast "Against Everyone With Conner Habib," 4 April 2023, https://open.spotify.com/episode/30yVWy2SxcRA3ysDhlJNR2?si=21e97fcacc8349a3

Fellowships, research funding, honours and awards

Main research grants awarded

MIUR, Italy
- Co-Investigator, PNRR Extended Partnership (Euro 1,228,000)   2022-2025
Title of Extended Partnership (Partneriato Esteso): "CHANGES: Cultura umanistica e patrimonio culturale come laboratori di innovazione e creatività," Spoke 2 "Creativity and Intangible Cultural Heritage."

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK
- Principal Investigator (PI), AHRC Research Grant, Early Career Route (£ 201,158)   2020-2022
Project title: "Circuits of practice: Narrating modern computing in museum environments"
External partners: BT Group (UK), Science Museum (UK), Victoria & Albert Museum (UK), National Science and Media Museum (UK), Bletchley Park (UK), Centre for Computing History (UK), The National Museum of Computing (UK), Computer History Museum (USA), Leonardo da Vinci Museum of Science and Technology (Italy), MIRAIKAN (Japan)
Grant reference number: AH/T00276X/1

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK
- PI and First Supervisor, ESRC Midlands Graduate School DTP Studentship (£ 80,000)   2020-24
PhD Candidate: Eliana Depounti, project title: "Commercial AI chatbots and mental health self-care: An ethnography of contemporary AI companionship"
Grant reference number: 2413897

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK
- PI and First Supervisor, AHRC Grant for Collaborative Doctoral Studentships (£ 74,500)   2019-23
Project title: "Broadcasting before broadcasting: A comparative approach to the history of the Electrophone, 1894-1938"
External partners: BT Group, Science Museums and Archives Group, USI University of Lugano, Switzerland
Grant reference number: 2331308

University of Turin, Italy
Grant for Internationalization (32,000 Euro)   2023
Project title: "Human-Machine Communication Cultures: Artificial Intelligence, Media and Cultures in a Global Context"
External partners: Université Savoie Mont-Blanc, France; Northern Illinois University, US; Communication University of China, Beijing, China; University of Leicester, UK.

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland
- Ambizione Fellowship, USI Lugano (CHF 475,000)   2015-19
(Grant awarded but declined in order to take up a permanent position at Loughborough University)

Other research awards and fellowships

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany
- Humboldt Foundation Renewed Research Stay (Euro 9,500)   2022
Hosts: Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin and Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZEMKI) at the University of Bremen, Germany

Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZEMKI), Germany
- ZEMKI Visiting Research Fellowship, University of Bremen (Euro 4,500)   2019

Santander Bank
- Santander Mobility Award (£ 1,500)   2017

Loughborough University, UK

- CRCC event small award (£ 1,500)   2017-18
- Adventure Research Programme, Online Civic Culture Centre for Doctoral Training, co-I and member of supervision team (£ 300,000)   2018
- 3Cs challenge small grant awards (£ 500)   2016-17
- School of Social, Political and Geographical Sciences seedcorn grant (£ 1,000)   2015-16

German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Villa Vigoni Cooperation in the Field of Humanities and Social Sciences Award   2016
Full funding of an international conference co-organised with Sylvia Paletschek (University of Freiburg, Germany), Alessandra Violi (University of Bergamo, Italy) and Helmut Zahnder (University of Fribourg, Switzerland) (ca. 15,000 Euro)

Columbia University, New York, US
- Research Fellowship of the Italian Academy (27,500 $)   2013-2014

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany
- Humboldt Foundation Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers   2012-2013
(47,700 Euro + 9,000 Euro research allowance)
Host: University of Cologne, Germany

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)
- DAAD Research Fellowship, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany (2,400 Euro)   2013
- DAAD Postgraduate Research Grant, University of Cologne (4,500 Euro)   2005

University of Turin, Italy
- Graduate Fellowship, Ph.D. Program (42,000 Euro)   2010
- Mobility Fellowship at Concordia University, Montreal (6,000 Euro)   2010

National Museum of Cinema, Turin, Italy
- "Roberto Radicati" Research Fellowship (5,000 Euro)   2006

Baskerville Foundation, Bologna, Italy
- Mauro Wolf Award (mention), best graduate paper in Media Studies   2006

Unione Industriale (Industrial Union), Torino, Italy
- Optime Prize for outstanding graduates from the University of Torino   2004

Leadership roles

Deputee Programme Director   Since 2021
BA in Communication Studies (CdS in Scienze della Comunicazione)
University of Turin, Italy

Programme Director   2018-20
BSc Media and Communication & BSc Media, Culture & Society
Loughborough University, UK

Research Lead   Jan.-Oct. 2020
Media, Memory and History Research Theme
Centre for Research in Communication and Culture (CRCC)
Loughborough University, UK

Deputy Director of Marketing   2016-19
School of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, UK

Postdoctoral Supervision:
Dr Petrina Foti (Circuits of Practice project, funded by AHRC), Loughborough University

Line managing:
Dr Dario Lolli, University Teacher, Loughborough University   2020-21
Dr Vincent Gaine, University Teacher, Loughborough University   2019

Professional responsibilities and consultancies

Media, Culture and Society
Editor   Since 2023
Assistant Editor   2019-2022

Minneapolis Institute of Art, US   2019-20
Role: Scientific Advisor
Exhibition "Supernatural America: The Paranormal in American Art"
Funded through a $74,452 National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Awards. Project Director: Robert Cozzolino

European Union
Expert Evaluator:
- Cluster 2 of Horizon Europe, "DEMOCRACY-01-06: Media for democracy," total of 7 proposal evaluations, 3 as "rapporteur" (i.e. editor of final report)   2022
- Marie Curie Fellowships, 2016-17 and 2017-18, total of 34 proposal evaluations, 12 as "rapporteur" (i.e. editor of final report)   2016-18

Infoclio, Bern (Switzerland)   2011-2016
Consultant: edits the Italian version of infoclio.ch, the professional portal for the Digital Humanities created by the Swiss Historical Society (SSH) and of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (ASSH); creates original contents on digital humanities for Infoclio's website.

Previous memberships of editorial boards:
- Bianco e Nero: Rivista Quadrimestrale del Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, 2016-18
- Wi: Journal of Mobile Media, 2012-16

External reader (peer-review), selection:
- *Journal of Communication*
- *Communication Theory*
- *Media, Culture & Society*
- *New Media & Society*
- *Information, Communication and Society*
- *Communication Review*
- *Media History*
- *NECSUS: European Journal of Media Studies*

Member of Advisory boards:
- Ethics and Robotics book series, Trivent Publishing   Since 2022
- MAST: The Journal of Media Art Study and Theory   Since 2021

Doctoral supervision

Completed PhD supervisions

Dr Thais Sarda, PhD Loughborough University
Thesis title: "The dark side of the Internet: A study about representations of the Deep Web and Tor Network in the British press." Co-supervised with John Downey (Loughborough University)
Funding: School of Social Sciences, Loughborough University
Passed with minor corrections 23 April 2020, awarded 2020
Employment after completion: Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University, UK

Dr Suria Hani A. Rahman, PhD Loughborough University
Thesis title: "Screening Islam: The representation of religion and gender in different genres of Islamic films in Malaysia." Co-supervised with Paula Saukko (Loughborough University)
Passed with corrections 14 August 2018, awarded 2019
Employment after completion: Lecturer, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia

Ongoing PhD supervisions

Iliana Depounti
Loughborough University
Thesis title: "Commercial AI chatbots and mental health self-care: An ethnography of contemporary AI companionship." Co-supervised with John Downey and Paula Saukko (Loughborough University, UK)
Funding: ESRC
Started October 2020

Tasha Kitcher
Loughborough University
Thesis title: "Media convergence before convergence: A comparative approach to the history of the electrophone, 1894-1938." Co-supervised with Gabriele Balbi (USI, Switzerland), James Elder (BT Archives, UK), Sabina Mihelj, Peter Yeandle (Loughborough University, UK)
Funding: AHRC
Started October 2019

Mona Khan
Loughborough University
Thesis title: "Digital Dastans: Remembering partition online." Co-supervised with Emily Keightley (Loughborough University, UK) and Aswin Punathambekar (University of Virginia, US)
Funding: Leverhulme Foundation
Started January 2018

Examination and review of PhD dissertations

External examiner:
- Ola Siebert, Université du Quebec à Montreal, Canada, member of jury committee, PhD viva expected for Spring 2024.
- Lorena MacMillan, "Reaching the Dead: Interpretive Spiritualist Communities, 1855-1914," Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK, PhD viva 14 March 2023.
- John Andrew McIntyre, "Authorship and AI: Infinite Production, Automated Communication, and the Illusion of a Post-human Culture," University of Glasgow, Scotland, PhD viva 28 February 2023.
- Domenico Napolitano, "La voce artificiale: Un'indagine media-archeologica e socio-culturale sul computer parlante, dalla sintesi vocale al voice cloning," Università degli Studi Suor Orsola

Benincasa, Napoli, Italy, PhD viva 30 June 2021.
- Roberta Presta, "Human Factors Integration: Methodological Perspectives and Case Studies," Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa, Napoli, Italy, PhD viva 30 June 2021.
- Fabio Iapaolo, "De-Individuation of the Modern Subject in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: The Case of Self-Driving Cars and Algorithms for Decision Making," Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino, Italy, PhD viva 16 March 2021.
- Peter Unwin, "The Book and its Discontents: Truth, Information, and the Deathing of the Book," York University, Toronto, Canada, PhD viva 30 November 2020.

Internal examiner:
- Ruggero Galtarossa, "Being-Interactive: For Genealogical Destruction of a Doubt About The 'Interactional' Present," Institute for Media and Creative Industries, Loughborough University in London, PhD viva 23 September 2020.
- Yingzi Wang, "Chinese television between propaganda and entertainment: Socialist traditions, marketisation and popular TV dramas, 1992-2017," School of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, PhD viva 7 June 2019.
- Amie Weedon, "The temporalities of tracking sitting time: An exploration of the influence of rhythms and biographies on behaviour change in chronically ill adults and office workers," School of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, PhD viva 7 December 2018.

Reviewer of progression reports:
- Rafaela Orphanides, School of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, Reviewer of 42 month Review Report (2019).
- Leah Henrickson, School of the Arts, English and Drama, Loughborough University, Reviewer of 1st year (2017) and 2nd year (2018) reports.

Teaching experience

Courses taught

STU0304 Storia e teoria dei media (Media History and Theory) (100%)   Since 2020
BA in Scienze della Comunicazione / Communication Studies, University of Turin (Italy)
Frontal lectures, 72 hours
Target: undergraduate students (around 400)

LET0858 Storia dei media (Media History) (100%)   Since 2020
MA in Comunicazione e Culture dei Media / Communication and Media Cultures, University of Turin (Italy)
Frontal lectures, 36 hours
Target: Postgraduate students (around 150)

S2411 Digital disconnection Seminar (80%)   Since 2020
BA in Scienze della Comunicazione / Communication Studies, University of Turin (Italy)
Frontal lectures, seminar discussions and workshop activities, 18 hours
Target: undergraduate students (20)

SSA302 Introduction to Communication and Media Studies (50%)   2016 to 2020
BSc in Communication and Media Studies, Loughborough University (UK)
2 hours of frontal lectures, 12 weeks
Target: undergraduate students (around 100)

18SSP319 Digital Cultures (33%)   2018 to 2020
Frontal lectures and seminars – New Media

MA in Media and Cultural Industries, Loughborough University (UK)
2 hours of frontal lectures, 12 weeks
Target: postgraduate students (around 50)

SSB303 Media and Social Change (50%)   2015 to 2020
Frontal lectures – Media Theory
BSc in Communication and Media Studies, Loughborough University (UK)
2 hours of frontal lectures + 1 hour seminar each week, 12 weeks
Target: undergraduate students (around 40)

SSC318 Critical Viewings: Documentaries (50%)
Frontal lectures and tutorials – Film and television   2015 to 2020
BSc in Communication and Media Studies, Loughborough University (UK)
3 hours of frontal lectures + screenings, 12 weeks
Target: undergraduate students (around 40)

SSC318 Critical Viewings: Film (50%)   2016 to 2020
Frontal lectures and tutorials – Film and television
BSc in Communication and Media Studies, Loughborough University (UK)
3 hours of frontal lectures + screenings, 12 weeks
Target: undergraduate students (around 40)

SSP301 Media and Modernity (50%)   2017-18
Frontal lectures – Media history
MA in Media and Cultural Industries, Loughborough University (UK)
2 hours of frontal lectures, 12 weeks
Target: postgraduate students (around 30)

SSP303 Politics of Representation (50%)   2015-16
Frontal lectures – Cultural Studies
MA in Media and Cultural Industries, Loughborough University (UK)
2 hours of frontal lectures, 12 weeks
Target: postgraduate students (around 20)

84007 Digital Media and the Future (100%)
Seminars – New Media   2013-14
"Diversity of Knowledge" Interdisciplinary Program, Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)
The course addresses the impact of the digital revolution, questioning different scenarios of evolution in the media field. As final assignment, students are required to create a project for a science-fiction TV series.
2 weekly hours, 17 weeks
Target: postgraduate students (around 30)
Language of instruction: German

84001 Ghosts in Film and Popular Culture (100%)
Frontal lectures - Film and Television Studies   2013-14
"Diversity of Knowledge" Interdisciplinary Program, Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)
2 weekly hours, 17 weeks
Target: undergraduate students (around 60)
Language of instruction: German

84019 Workshop "Create a Concept for a Science Fiction TV Series" (100%)
Teaching area: Film and Television   2013-14

This workshop guides students in a group project aiming at the preparation of a concept for a science fiction TV series. The final projects are presented and discussed by the students in class.
Language of instruction: English
2 three-hour sessions
Target: Undergraduate students (12 participants)

43516a Technological Fantasies: Media and the Imaginary (100%)   2011-12
Seminar – Media History
Institute for Media Culture and Theater, University of Cologne (Germany)
2 weekly hours, 16 weeks
Target: undergraduate students (around 40)
Language of instruction: English

43557 Workshop "How to Publish in International Peer-Reviewed Journals"   2012
Organized by the Medien-Netzwerk, Center for Media Studies, in collaboration with the Professional Center of the University of Cologne
3 hours, one session
Target: PhD students (11 participants)
Language of instruction: English

43538a Canonical Theories in Media Studies (25%)   2011-12
Seminar – Media Theory
Organized and co-taught collaboratively by faculties at the Institute
Institute for Media Culture and Theater, University of Cologne (Germany)
2 weekly hours, 16 sessions
Target: postgraduate students (around 30)
Language of instruction: German

Qualifications

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK   Since 2018

Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice   2015-18
Centre for Academic Practice, Loughborough University, UK

Guest Lectures

University of Bergamo, Italy, 2023; Politecnico di Milano, Italy, 2021 and 2022; Cardiff University, UK, 2017, 2018 and 2020; Accademia di Brera, Milan, Italy, 2020; University of Udine, Italy, 2019; University of North Carolina, Wilmington (North Carolina), USA, 2017; Université de Paris Créteil, France, 2017; St. Lawrence University, Canton (New York), USA, 2015; University of Lugano, Switzerland, 2014; Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, 2014; Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, 2013; University of Cologne, Germany, 2013; Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, 2013; Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, 2012.

Conferences and lectures

Keynote speaker

Natale S. "Projecting life onto machines." Keynote lecture at the 25th ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction, conference theme: "Science of Multimodal Interactions." Sorbonne University, Paris, France, 9-13 October 2023.

Natale, S. "Projecting life onto machines." International Conference "Intelligent Personal Assistants in Private Homes: Conflicting Dimensions of Observation in Interaction," organized by the Collaborative Research Centre "Media of Cooperation" at the University of Siegen. Siegen, Germany, 8-9 May 2023.

Natale, S. "The computer metaphor: Narratives, Artificial Intelligence and the case of ELIZA." Keynote lecture at the International Conference "Everyday Algorithms," jointly organised by the University of Milan, the Politecnico di Milano and the Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci. Milan, Italy, 7 July 2022.

Natale, S. "Projecting life onto machines." Keynote lecture at the International Conference "Artificial Intelligence and the Human: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Science and Fiction, jointly organised by the the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), Berlin, Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB) and Waseda University, Tokyo. Berlin, Germany, 12 May 2022.

Natale, S. "The internet is baroque: On media theories outside media theory." Keynote lecture at "Penser les médias : terrains, sources et approches" Doctoral Conference. University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 8 June 2021.

Natale, S. "What is life to digital objects?" Keynote lecture at WARCNET: Web ARChive Studies Network Meeting, Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH). University of Luxembourg, 4-6 November 2020. Video available online at https://youtu.be/j79ATX-nWhg

Natale, S. "A Media Archaeology of Alexa." Keynote lecture at TECHNÉS doctoral colloquium. Université de Montréal, Canada, 26-27 September 2019.

Organiser

ICA 2023 Pre-Conference "Media and Communication Studies in a Global Context: A Critical History" (co-organised with Aswin Punathambekar, University of Pennsylvania, USA; Usha Raman, University of Hyderabad, India; Emily Keightley, Loughborough University, UK; Clovis Bergere, Northwestern University-Qatar; Marwan Kraidy, Northwestern University-Qatar) Toronto, Canada, 25 May 2023.

Symposium "Computer Legacies: Narrating Histories of Digital Media in Museums." Funded by AHRC as part of the Circuits of Practice project. Online event, 27 January 2022.

International Conference "Rethinking Digital Myths: Mediation, Narratives and Mythopoiesis in the Digital Age" (co-organised with Gabriele Balbi, Paolo Bory, Luca Barra, Simone Dotto and Giuliana Galvagno), USI University of Lugano, Switzerland, 30-31 January 2020.

Symposium "Constructing Narratives about the History of Computing and Digital Media in Museum Environments," Loughborough University, UK, 18 June 2018. Funded by the Centre for Research in Communication and Culture (CRCC) and the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) at Loughborough University.

Symposium "Mind Reading as Cultural Practice" (co-organised with Christian Kassung and Laurens Schlicht), Humboldt University Berlin, 22-23 March 2018. Funded by the DFG (German Scientific Society).

Symposium "Online Anonymity: Right or Threat" (co-organised with Thais Sarda, Nikos Sotirakopoulos, Mark Monaghan), Loughborough University, UK, 8 February 2017. Funded by the CRCC at Loughborough University.

International Conference "Esoteric Interferences" (co-organised with Sylvia Paletschek, Alessandra Violi,

Helmut Zander), Villa Vigoni, Italy, 28 November-1st December 2016. Funded by the DFG (German Scientific Society).

Invited talks

Natale, S. Projecting Life onto Machines. Lecture presented at:
- Institute for Global Communications and Integrated Media Talk Series, School of Journalism, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 22 May 2023.
- USI University of Lugano, Switzerland, 16 May 2023.
- "Simulating the Unseen in the History of Art, Science and the Occult" Conference, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, 11-13 May 2023.
- Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sulla Comunicazione (CIRCe), University of Turin, 13 Apr. 2023.
- IMKW Research Talk, University of Augsburg, Germany, 1 December 2022.
- An-Icon ERC Annual Seminar 2022, University of Milan, Italy, 4 May 2022.

Natale, S. Understanding Deception in the Age of Disinformation and AI. Lecture presented at:
- Zemki Research Seminars, University of Bremen, Germany, 23 November 2022.
- Fall 2022 Colloquium, Department of Communication, Northern Illinois University, United States, 11 November 2022.

Natale, S. L'era della socialità artificiale. Convegno "Una politica per l'Intelligenza Artificiale," organized by META – Social Sciences and Humanities for Science and Technology, Politecnico di Milano, 27 October 2022.

Natale, S. To Believe in Siri. Science and Technology Studies Lecture Series, Faculty of Information Technology and Communication Sciences, Tampere University, Finland, 7 October 2022.

Natale, S. Deceitful Media: Artificial Intelligence and Social Life after the Turing Test. Lecture presented at:
- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence on the Regulation of Robotics and AI, EURA seminar series, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy, 27 April 2022.
- Digital Aesthetics Research Center, Aarhus University, Denmark, 5 April 2022.
- JOMEC Research Seminars, Cardiff University, UK, 24 November 2021.
- "The Second Civilizations Forum: A Posthuman Age?" International symposium, Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2 May 2021.
- Posthumanities Hub Seminar on "AI and the Posthumanities," Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden, 22 April 2021.
- Nexa Center for Internet & Society, Politecnico di Torino, Italy, 10 March 2021. Video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgJ_Eb7HLQY
- Oxford Internet Institute / The Oxford Digital Ethnography Group Seminar Series, 22 February 2021.
- Brera Academy of Arts, Milan, Italy, 3 June 2020. Video available at https://bit.ly/3eqvMEh
- Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico, Trento, Italy, 17 April 2020. Video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIn0qy78KTM
- Machine Agencies seminar series, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, 2 April 2020.
- Zemki Research Seminar, University of Bremen, Germany, 23 October 2019.
- Cardiff School of Journalism, "Media and Culture" research seminar series, Cardiff, UK, 28 November 2018.

Natale, S. Raccontare la storia del digitale nei musei: l'esperienza del progetto "Circuits of Practice". Research workshop "La mobilità digitale del patrimonio museale: riflessioni e buone pratiche per traiettorie efficaci," Museum of Geography, University of Padova, Italy, 23 March 2022.

Natale, S. I medium come celebrità: biografie e autobiografie. "Spiritual Biographies" research seminars series, University of Turin, 19 May 2021.

Natale, S. AI Imaginaries. "Histories of AI: Imaginaries and Materialities" Conference, hosted by DigiLabour Research Lab, Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos, Brazil and the University of Cambridge, 19 April 2021. Video available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsGgQKiFD7U

Natale, S. To Believe in Siri: A Critical Analysis of AI Voice Assistants. Loughborough University Communication and Media & Social and Policy Studies series, Loughborough, UK, 27 May 2020.

Natale, S. A Media Archaeology of Alexa. University of Udine, Italy, 25 November 2019.

Natale, S. Of Things and Thoughts: Imagining New Media through Artefacts and Discourse. University of Bonn, Germany, invited contribution at the "(Re-)Imagining New Media in Art & Popular Culture at the End of the 20th Century" symposium, 11 October 2019.

Natale, S. Amazon Can Read Your Mind: A Media Archaeology into the Imaginary of Digital Media. Institut national d'histoire de l'art (INHA), Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, "Médias imaginaires" seminar series, Paris, France, 19 October 2018.

Natale, S. Photography and Media History. University of Turin, "Intorno ai media" seminar series, Turin, Italy, 13 September 2018.

Natale, S. Deceitful Mediums and Deceitful Media. University of Glasgow, Scotland, invited contribution at the "The Occult and Popular Social Movements" workshop, Glasgow, UK, 29 June 2018. Lecture available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOJws8Gv5-E&

Natale, S. There Are No Old Media: Rethinking Technological Change in Public Debates from Amazon to the BBC. Lecture presented at:
- University of Westminster, CAMRI Seminar Series, London, UK, 8 December 2016
- University of Sunderland, Centre for Research in Media and Cultural Studies, Sunderland, UK, 10 October 2016

Natale, S. The Spectacular Supernatural: Spiritualism and the Birth of the Media Entertainment Industry. Lecture presented at:
- University of Udine, Italy, 26 November 2019.
- University of North Carolina, Department of Philosophy and Religion. Wilmington, USA, 6 September 2017
- Loughborough University, CRCC Seminar Series. Loughborough, UK, 19 October 2016
- Columbia University, sponsored by the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, and by the Department of Religion. New York, US, 13 November 2013
- Carleton University Art Gallery, sponsored by the School for Studies in Art and Culture, the Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture, and the Carleton University Art Gallery. Ottawa, Canada, 20 February 2013

Natale, S. Photography and Media Imaginaries in Nineteenth-Century United States. invited contribution at "Frazzled and Dazzled: Symposium of the research project 'Scrambled Messages: the Telegraphic Imaginary, 1858-1900'." King's College and the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, 29 April 2016.

Natale, S. The Historian and the Antiquarian: On Four Tenets of Media Archaeology (plenary session). XIV MAGIS – Gorizia International Film Studies Spring School. Gorizia, Italy, 9-15 March 2016.

Natale, S. Broadcasting the Spirit Word: Mediums, Public Performances, and Print Media in Nineteenth-Century Spiritualism. Invited contribution at the International Conference "The Genesis and Performativity

of Mediation." Blois, France, 28-29 November 2015.

Natale, S. New Media, Digital Utopia, and Political Struggle in the Italian 5-Star Movement. Lecture presented at:
- Polytechnic of Turin, Monthly Lecture Series of the NEXA Center for Internet and Society, Turin, Italy, 9 April 2014.
- Loughborough University, Communication, Culture and History Seminar Series. Loughborugh, UK, 30 September 2015

Natale, S. Spiritualism, Ghosts, and Entertainment Media. Humboldt University Berlin, invited contribution at the International Conference "Looking Through the Occult: Instrumentation, Esotericism, and Epistemology in the 19th Century," sponsored by the German Research Foundation. November 2013.

Natale, S. Photography and Other Media in the Nineteenth Century. Villa Vigoni Talks in the Humanities and Social Sciences: "Labelling Photography. New Models of Mediatic Historiography." Sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Villa Vigoni, Loveno di Menaggio, Italy, October 2013.

Natale, S. Media e immaginario: Il caso dell'intelligenza artificiale. Seminari "Intorno ai media": Media e immaginario (Media and the Imaginary: The Case of Artificial Intelligence. "Around Media" Seminars Series: Media & the Imaginary). Mario Gromo Library, National Museum of Cinema, Italy, December 2011.

Natale, S., The Media Fantasy Database Project. Mobilities Research Network: Project Development Sessions. Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, November 2011.

Natale, S. Esposizioni multiple: sovrimpressione e fantasmi dalla fotografia spiritica al cinema (Multiple Exposures: Superimposition and Ghosts from Spirit Photography to Film). Brigate Irma Vep Lectures. University of Torino, Italy, November 2010.

Natale, S. Film e fantasmi: note su spiritismo e cinema (Film and Ghosts: Notes on Spiritualism and Cinema). Presentation of the Exhibition "Diversamente Vivi: Zombie, fantasmi, mummie, vampire." National Museum of Cinema, Torino, Italy, October 2010.

Natale, S. Spirit Photography. Faith and Fidelity: Discussion Forum. Concordia University, Montreal, November 2009.

Natale, S. Media, tecnologia, magia. Seminari "Intorno ai media": Media e immaginario (Media, Technology, and Magic. "Around Media" Seminars Series: Media & Magic). University of Torino, January 2009.

Roundtables

Roudtable: Which future for the history of the digital? Other participants: Simona Casonato (Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci, Milan), Silvio Henin (Coordinator of AICA's History of Informatics group). Politecnico di Milano, Italy, 9 October 2020.

Moderator, BBC Research and Development round table discussion: "Talking with Machines." Participants: Henry Cooke and Mike Armstrong, BBC. Symposium "The Mediated Text." Loughborough University in London, 5 April 2019.

Slow Data: A roundtable discussing more sustainable ways of dealing with the speed imperative in our data saturated societies. Other participants: Alejandro Barranquero (Carlos III University, Spain), Lina Dencik (Cardiff University, UK). ECREA International Symposium "Digital Democracy: Critical Perspectives in the Age of Big Data." Södertörn University, Stockholm, 10-11 November 2017.

Chair & Convenor

Convenor (with Silvio Alovisio), "Cinescopie. Cinema e nuove tecnologie della visione: alle origini di un rapporto," Biennale Tecnologia. Turin, Italy, 12 November 2022.

Chair (with Sabina Mihelj), Panel: "Media History Goes Transnational," ECREA 2022 Conference. Aarhus, Denkmark, 19-22 October 2022.

Chair (with Andrea Guzman), "Roundtable: Reclaiming the Human in Machine Cultures," Association of Interner Researchers (AoIR) 2020 Conference. Dublin (held online), 27-31 October 2020.

Chair, "Panel 4: Infrastructures," International Conference "Computer Networks Histories: Local, National and Transnational Perspectives." Lugano, Switzerland, 14-15 December 2017.

Chair and moderator, Keynote address by Erkki Huhtamo (University of California, Los Angeles), "The Tasks of Media Archaeology." XIV MAGIS – Gorizia International Film Studies Spring School. Gorizia, Italy, 9-15 March 2016.

Chair (with Linda McCarthy), "Belief Communities in Contemporary Media and Popular Culture" panel. MeCCSA 2016 Annual Conference. Canterbury, UK, 6-8 January 2016

Moderator, "Corporealities" Panel. Differential Mobilities: Movement and Mediation in Networked Societies. 4th Annual Conference of the Pan-American Mobilities Network. Concordia University, Montreal, 8-11 May 2013

Chair (with Murray Leeder), "Popular Representations of Ghosts" (two panels, eight papers). Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference 2013. Chicago, USA, 6-10 March 2013

Convenor (with Gabriele Balbi), "Nothing New in the New: History and the Emergence of New Media" (three panels, ten speakers). Track n. 8, 4th National Conference of the Italian Society of Science and Technology Studies (STS Italia). Rovigo, Italy, 21-23 June 2012.

Papers at International Refereed Conferences

Natale, S. What is being automated, anyway? Interrogating artificial sociality through the history of communications. ECREA 2022 Conference, Aarhus, Denmark, 19-22 October 2022.

Natale, S. Banal Deception: Theorizing the Relationship between Deception and Media in the Age of Fake News and Disinformation. 72nd Annual ICA Conference, Paris, France, 26-30 May 2022.

Bory, P., Balbi, G. & Natale, S. From Big Events to Silence: The Shift in the Discursive Construction of Communication Infrastructures. 72nd Annual ICA Conference, 26-30 May 2022, Paris, France.

Natale, S., Bory, P. & Trudel, D. Artificial Intelligence: Historicizing Media and Communication Concepts of the Digital Age. Tensions of Europe Digital Workshop Festival, 28 June-2 July 2021.

Parry, R., Natale, S. & Foti, P. When Digital Becomes the Object: Developing Computing Histories in Museums. *MuseWeb (Museums and the Web) Conference*, Washington DC (US), held online, 30 April 2021.

Natale, S. If software is narrative: Joseph Weizenbaum, artificial intelligence and the biographies of ELIZA. *IAMCR (International Association for Media and Communication Research)*, Madrid, 7-11 July 2019.

Bory, P., Natale, S. & Balbi, G. Corporational Determinism: How Digital Media Companies Shape Narratives of Media Change. *The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) Conference*, Lugano, Switzerland, 31 October-4 November 2018.

Natale, S. Machines of Deception: Joseph Weizenbaum, Artificial Intelligence and the Eliza Effect. *The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) Conference*, Lugano, Switzerland, 31 October-4 November 2018.

Natale, S. Mind Reading Computers: A Media Archaeology of the Algorithmic Imaginary. *'Digital Magic' International Conference*. ENS Louis-Lumière, Paris, France, 13-14 November 2017.

Natale, S. Unveiling the Biographies of Media: The Case of the Turing Test. *Excavating Media: Devices, Processes, Apparatuses. An Interdisciplinary Conference*. University of Cambridge, UK, 30 June-1 July 2017.

Natale, S. There Are No Old Media. ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference. Prague, Czech Republic, 9-12 November 2016.

Bory, P. & Natale, S. The Epic Life of the Web: An Examination of the Mythical Narratives on the History of the World Wide Web and Its Inventor. *The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) Conference*. Prague, Czech Republic, 9-12 November 2016.

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Natale, S. The End of Book: Apocalyptic Fantasies and the Eschatology of New Media. *SPA Biennial 2013 (section of the American Anthropological Association)*. San Diego, USA, April 2013.

Natale, S. The Spectacular Supernatural: Spiritualism and the Rise of Modern Show Business. *Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Annual Conference 2013*. Chicago, USA, March 2013.

Natale, S. Die Zukunft der Medien, die Medien der Zukunft: Historische Betrachtung der fiktionalen Spekulationen über zukünftige Medien und Technologien (The Future of Media, The Media of Future: Historical Perspective on Fictional Speculations Regarding Future Media and Technologies). *Annual Conference of the GfM* (Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft - German Society for Media Studies). Frankfurt am Main, Germany, October 2012.

Natale, S. The Spectacular Supernatural: Spiritualism and the Rise of Modern Show Business. *Exploring the Extraordinary IV*. York, UK, September 2012.
(This paper was also presented at the Humboldt Network Meeting. Aachen, Germany, April 2012)

Natale, S. Old Media, New Media, and the Media of Tomorrow: The Role of Popular Predictions in the History of Media. *4th National Conference of the Italian Society of Science and Technology Studies (STS Italia)*. Rovigo, Italy, June 2012.

Natale, S., Balbi, G. Doing by Imagining: Imagination and Construction of the Media in History. *Perception/Reception: 4th Media History Conference*. Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK, July 2012.

Natale, S. The Technologization of Magic: Film Theory, Deception, and the Psychology of Illusion. *Arthemis/Grafics/Permanent Seminar on the History of Film Theory Conference: The Impact of Technological Innovations on the Theory and Historiography of Cinema*. Montreal, Canada, November 2011.

Natale, S. Media Fantasy: Placing Imagination in Media History. *Canadian Association of Cultural Studies Biannual Conference*. Montreal, Canada, November 2011.

Natale, S. Action at a Distance: Wireless, X-Rays and Occultism around 1900. *Canadian Communication Association 2010 Annual Conference* (Media History Symposium). Montreal, Canada, June 2010.

Natale, S. Spiritualism Exposed: Skepticism and the Supernatural in Nineteenth-Century America. *Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference* (American Culture Panel). Alburqueque, USA, February 2010.

Natale, S. Comunicazione senza fili e telepatia nell'immaginario magico e occultista (Wireless Communication and Telepathy in the Magic and Occultist Imaginary). *The Marconi Galaxy: Technology, Cultural Models, Myth-Making: International Conference*. Bologna, Italy, April 2009.

External participation in funded projects and research networks

Les Arts Trompeurs : Machines Magie Médias   2015-18
(Deceptive Arts: Machines, Magic, Media)
Funded by the Laboratory of Excellence in Arts and Human Mediations, http://www.labex-arts-h2h.fr
Role: Co-Chair (with Antonio Somaini, Mireille Berton, Stéphane Tralongo) of Axe 1: Le moment magique des médias : archéologie des medias

Gesellschaftliche Innovation durch 'nichthegemoniale' Wissensproduktion. 'Okkulte' Phänomene zwischen Mediengeschichte, Kulturtransfer und Wissenschaft, 1770 bis 1970   2012-18
(Social Innovation through 'Non-hegemonic' Knowledge Production: 'Occult' Phenomena between Media History, Cultural Transfer, and Science, 1770 to 1970)
Funded by the German Scientific Community (DFG)
Role: Research Associate, Humboldt University Berlin Research Group (P.I.: Prof. C. Kassung)

ALICE-RAP   2011
("Addiction and Lifestyles In Contemporary Europe - Reframing Addictions Project")
Funded by the European Commission
Role: Collaborator of Research Associate Prof. P. Ortoleva, University of Torino Research Group

Mobile Media Gallery   2009-10
A project of Mobile Media Lab, Concordia University, Montreal (P.I.: Prof. Kim Sawchuk)
Sponsored by an FQRSC Equipe grant ("Art et nouveaux médias: vers une redéfinition hybride du lieu"), an FQRSC Établissement de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs-créateurs grant ("Radio activités : une généalogie du Theremin, les ondes Martenot et l'orgue Hammond") and The Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University.

Role: Research Collaborator

The Marconi Galaxy: Culture, Technology and Myth-Making   2009
Funded by the SSHRC International Opportunities Fund (Canada), and the Istituto di Studi Avanzati (Italy).
Role: Research Collaborator

Memberships and affiliations

Higher Education Academy, UK	Fellow
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English (fluent)
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