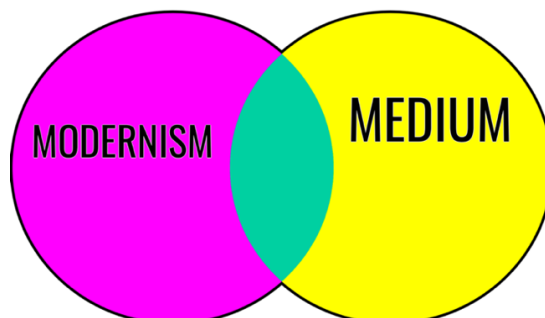


## MEDIUM MODERNISM: A ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITA' DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE DECEMBER 12, 2022, 11 AM- 5 PM



This symposium explores transdisciplinary intersections of two nearly ubiquitous concepts in new literary and cultural studies: modernism and medium. On the one hand, the modernism concept, with its Anglo-American genealogies and receipts and cosmopolitical ambitions, describes a reflex to modernity in literature, art, culture, and media. Modernity is not so much a packet of years as an epistemo-critical condition that, as Niklas Luhmann observes, "knows no positions from which society could be adequately described for others within society." In effect, modernity is a world in which everything is never the case, in which society "barely understands itself [. . .] so it marks its newness by relegating the old, thereby covering up its own embarrassment at not really knowing what is going on." This reorientation or resequencing of past-present-future is key. The past no longer appears as a guarantee of future results. The medium concept pulls modernism/modernity in several other directions: from the Greenbergian notion of modernist medium specificity and transparencies towards the opacities of a technical-medial *a priori*; from cybernetic environments towards mediation as interface effect with inhuman scalar possibilities. There is an acute sense that everything modern - every minute attempt to arrange our bodies and our lives - is about medium orientation. The medium concept is slippery, if nothing else, slippery not least because of its kind of constitutive invisibility. *What's water*, asks the fish, in David Foster Wallace's joke. The task of literary-media-cultural criticism - critically reflexive human intelligence - in modernity's second media mass-age, according to Vilém Flusser, is to uncover the apparatuses behind the apparatuses that program apparatuses. And, more than ever, to adapt Friedrich Kittler's media theoretic claim that our literary tools are working our thoughts: our media-machines are administering our modern unconsciousness.

11: Cristina Iuli UPO Intro and welcome address

11.15: Michael Miller Amsterdam U – presentation and discussion

12:15: Virginia Pignagnoli U Zaragoza – presentation and discussion

### 13:30-14:30 lunch break

14:30: Edward Comentale IU – presentation and discussion

15:30: Aaron Jaffe FSU – presentation and discussion

Discussion with: Cristina Iuli UPO – Stefano Morello UPO and CUNY – Carla Pomaré UPO –Marco Pustianaz UPO – Stefania Sini UPO – Miriam Ravetto UPO.

To all participants: please register by sending an email to [cristina.iuli@uniupo.it](mailto:cristina.iuli@uniupo.it) in order to receive the reading package in preparation for the seminar.