

Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Summer Term 2014

**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

Prof. Dr. Elena Esposito

Department of Communication and Economics
Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia



“The Reality of Ratings”

Thursday, July 3, 2014 | 6:00-8:00 pm | Room A, IAAK

Elena Esposito is an Associate Professor of Sociology of Communication at the Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia. Having studied Political Science and Philosophy (with Umberto Eco) at the Università di Bologna, she gained both her doctoral (with Niklas Luhmann) and post-doctoral degrees in Sociology from the University of Bielefeld. She is a 2014-15 Fellow at Columbia University's Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, where she will continue her research on digital techniques of remembering and forgetting. Among her latest book publications are *Ontologien der Moderne* (co-ed. with R. John and J. Rückert-John, 2013) and *The Future of Futures: The Time of Money in Financing and Society* (2009|2011).



In her talk in Bonn, Prof. Esposito will discuss the spread of ratings in different fields of society on the basis of the assumption that the same mechanisms whereby ratings are (rightly) criticized are those that lie behind their function and their growing effectiveness in our digitized and connected society. To understand ratings, she holds, we should abandon any idea of reality mirroring: The problem that ratings deal with is not a description of the world (for which they are inevitably flawed and inadequate) but rather the management of complexity.

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