



International Journal of Communication

Call for Papers ***Special Section on Net Neutrality***

The Work of Internet Freedoms: Network Neutrality
and the Labors of Policy Advocacy in the U.S.

Special Section Editors

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Deadline for submissions: August 31, 2015

When the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted in February 2015 to reclassify broadband under Title II of the Telecommunications Act, and thus to secure Network Neutrality and the principle of nondiscrimination at its center, it delivered an important victory to the millions of people who had insisted that strong Network Neutrality protections were crucial for an open, democratic Internet. This victory owed in part to the tremendous outpouring of public support for Network Neutrality, which itself owed to the ongoing labors of community organizers, issue campaigners, funders, scholar activists, public interest lawyers and many others to make visible how issues of media policy fundamentally affect issues of social justice and political change.

For this special section of the *International Journal of Communication*, we seek articles that foreground the *multiple* labors involved in achieving policy victories like the Network Neutrality Order. In this section, we aim to make visible the often *invisible* work required to effect lawmaking, judicial rulings, and regulations in the public interest.

We specifically wish to publish historically and theoretically informed articles that are attentive to examples of multiple forms of advocacy work that include but are not limited to the following: strategic research, community organizing and mobilizing, popular education, issue campaigns, donor advising and support, lobbying, legal interventions, regulatory filings, and public education campaigns. Also of interest are historically and theoretically-informed papers on the political economy of policy advocacy, especially those attentive to the multiple forms of capital (financial, informational, reputational, cultural) required for advocacy work. Of particular interest is research that documents the multiple challenges involved in advocacy work on the Network Neutrality issue. In addition, we seek analyses of the materials and artifacts used in organizing, mobilizing, and lobbying for Network Neutrality, including studies of the rhetorical appeals and visual culture deployed by advocates.

We additionally seek theoretically informed analyses of how news sources—especially non-corporate, civil society outlets—reported on and framed the Network Neutrality issue, as a strategic feature of advocacy work.

Finally, we seek ideas for book reviews relevant to the topic of the special section (maximum 1,500 words including references; guidelines available).

Note: For this special section, we will *not* be seeking legal interpretations and policy analyses of the Network Neutrality debate itself; sufficient work already exists in this area in media and communication studies journals as well as law journals. Nor are we seeking normative papers advancing solutions to achieve Network Neutrality. Instead, our focus is on scholarship that foregrounds the varieties of work required to intervene *on behalf of* the public interest.

If interested, please submit full articles by **August 31, 2015**. Articles should be no more than 8,000 words (all-inclusive) and should follow the APA-6th Edition style guide. Articles should be submitted to <http://ijoc.org> and specify “Net Neutrality Special Section” in your entry. For author guidelines, see <http://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>.

Please direct any questions about topics, formats, article length and expected submission standards to the special section editors Becky Lentz (becky.lentz@mcgill.ca) or Allison Perlman (aperlman@uci.edu). Be sure to specify “Net Neutrality Special Section” in your email subject line.