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Linköping University

ESF Research Conferences

A Programme of the European Science Foundation

ESF-LiU Conference

Cities and Media • Cultural Perspectives on Urban Identities in a Mediatized World

Vadstena • Sweden • 25-29 October 2006

Chair: Johan Fornäs • Linköping University, SE

Co-Chair: Nick Couldry • London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Organising Committee: P. Aronsson — K. Becker — S. Beckman — E. Bjurström — T. Friberg • Linköping U., SE

Invited Speakers will include

I. Ang Western Sydney U., AU • **D. Biltreyst** Ghent U., BE • **A. Blum** York U., Toronto, CA

J. Eade Roehampton U., London, UK • **S. Graham** Durham U., UK • **U. Hannerz** Stockholm U., SE

M. Heller Eötvös Loránd U., Budapest, HU • **S. Lash** Goldsmiths College, London, UK

R. Lindner Humboldt U. Berlin, DE • **W.J. Mitchell** MIT Media Laboratory, Cambridge, US

R. Odin Sorbonne-Nouvelle III U., Paris, FR • **P. Petro** Wisconsin-Milwaukee U., US

S. Sassen Chicago U., US • **E. Shalev-Gerz** Paris, FR • **L. van Zoonen** Amsterdam U., NL

Scope

Cities and media have a long history in common. While new media restructure city life, complex cities nourish new media forms. Today's global megacities accumulate enormous media resources, in the form of mass media and interactive tools for communication. Built urban environments are imbued with mediated city images that attract visitors and transforms modern subjects into spectators of urban landscapes where public and private life mix. This conference joins themes from urban, media and cultural research to highlight the interplay of symbolic forms and mediated interaction with the development of urban environments, including questions of how cities as well as their inhabitants and visitors identify themselves and each other, in the context of the expanding transnational flows of people, money and media. The interfaces between physical cityscapes, intersectional identity formations and intermedial representations of "place identities" offer unique insights into current processes of cultural change. It will discuss how media make big cities attractors for secular pilgrims drawn to the centre of events, and how the meanings of cities are contested in confrontations between different social groups. Sessions will cover the following topics: Cities in an Era of Global Mediation • Cities, Communications and Publicness • Interaction, Representation and Citizenship • Urban Place Identities and City Images • Visual Memory and City Space. Time will be allotted for short talks selected from abstracts.

Deadline for Applications: 19 July 2006.

Application Form & Programme: available from www.esf.org/conferences/sc06217