



Call for Abstracts (Issue 1/26)

Deadline: June 1st, 2025

Fandom | Cultures | Research is the first international journal based in Germany for scholarship in the fields of Fan, Audience, Media, and Cultural (Data) Studies. With the multiplicity of accepted formats – ranging from full papers to reviews, conference reports, and data papers – the journal fosters academic discussion across these disciplines, especially regarding methodological questions: Each issue will consist of double-blind peer-reviewed full papers, alongside an editorially reviewed section that may contain data papers (data sets and complementary text), book reviews, conference reports, and interviews. Other creative format suggestions are also welcome. Furthermore, we invite themed guest sections for every issue.

Cultural interaction and participation in their myriad forms – from critical and affirmative audience responses to civic engagement and consumer activism – have become highly mediated phenomena taking place in both analogue and digital spheres. Accordingly, doing research in the fields of Participation and Fan Studies requires a sensibility for media-specific contexts and a diverse set of methodological tools adapted to them. It also benefits a lot from interdisciplinary cooperation and discourse. The journal aims to foster synergies between all disciplines interested in fan phenomena, e.g., Media and Communication Studies, Sociology, and Digital Humanities among others, and invites contributions focusing on a wide range of fan cultural and civic practices, mainstream as well as niche identities and media. Digital platforms and infrastructures as frameworks for a diverse range of cultural practices and as a home to many fan, brand, and other communities are of particular interest to the journal.

Fandom | Cultures | Research is an openly accessible, bilingual online journal (English/German), published via the open access repository [media/rep/](#) aiming to establish an innovative platform to further develop the understanding of situated cultural practice and ultimately, to negotiate the methodological foundations of their investigation.

We welcome a variety of topics and critical approaches including but not limited to the following:

Peer-reviewed full papers and themed sections:

- Fandom and cultural participation in an era of platformization
- (Fan) Community responses to the crises of our times: climate change, pandemic aftermath, war
- New and old questions of power, exploitation, and dependency in (fan)cultural spheres
- Modes and formats of ‘following’
- Celebrity culture(s) online
- Networked political activism

- Cultural participation and cultural industries
- Forms and expressions of (online) fan creativity

Editorially reviewed section:

- Methodological and ethical reflections: ‘best practices’ and ‘lessons learned’
- Data papers: data sets explained in context
- Conference reports
- Book reviews
- Interviews

Fandom | Cultures | Research aims to contribute to the establishment of data publications in media and cultural studies and to recognize them as valuable contributions to the research discourse. We explicitly invite data sets (Excel sheets, bibliographies, interviews, codebooks, etc.) with complementary texts (max. 5,000 words) detailing their origin, potential use, and relevant contexts. They will be published in a curated data papers section of the journal.

Note by the editors: In the spirit of dismantling institutional hierarchies, we want to encourage early career researchers – who often have unique access to online niches and communities and thus produce highly relevant work – to publish their findings with us (even if it is only in the form of a shorter paper, review, or a data set). Please note that we also provide the opportunity to publish papers in English *or* in German to make the publishing process easier for you.

Editors: Vera Cuntz-Leng (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Anne Deckbar (Universität Siegen), Sophie G. Einwächter (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Anne Ganzert (Universität Konstanz), Nina Heise (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt), Philipp Dominik Keidl (Utrecht University), Vanessa Ossa (Technische Hochschule Köln)

in cooperation with Elsa-Margareta Venzmer (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg), and the Fan and Participation Studies workgroup of the German Society for Media Studies (GfM)

Language: Bilingual, English/German

Publishing mode and quality management: Peer-reviewed section for articles; editorially reviewed section for method lab and data papers as well as conference reports and reviews. Biannual publication, OA via media/rep/: <https://journals.uni-marburg.de/fcr/index>.

Please send your proposals (working title, abstract of max. 300 words excl. references, short biography) to fcr-journal@uni-marburg.de by **June 1st, 2025**.

In case the proposal is accepted, the full paper will be due on January 1st, 2026.
Papers must be submitted via our OJS platform: <https://journals.uni-marburg.de/fcr/user/register>

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