

Short CV

Professor Paddy Scannell

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Main academic interests

- Broadcasting history and historiography
- Broadcast talk
- Media events, liveness and narrative
- Theories of communication and media
- Communication and culture in Southern Africa
- Phenomenology

I worked for many years at what is now the University of Westminster but was called The Polytechnic when I began working there in 1967. I was a member of the team that planned and began teaching, in 1975 the first and, for a decade, the only undergraduate honours degree course in Media Studies in Britain. In 1979 I and a group of colleagues founded the journal *Media, Culture & Society*. It is now one of the leading international journals in the field and is published six times a year. I continue to be a member of its editorial board.

I have written extensively, in the last thirty years, on many aspects of radio and television broadcasting and has been an invited or keynote speaker on his areas of interest in many parts of the world. I am best known as a historian of broadcasting, and for pioneering the study of talk as the everyday communicative medium of radio and television. In recent years I have developed a phenomenological approach to the study of the media.

I am currently working on a trilogy that examines the role of the media in theory and practice. The first volume, *Communication and Media* is a history of the formation of academic fields that engaged with the study of the media in the last century. It focuses on two key moments: the sociology of mass communication at Columbia from the 30s to the 50s, and the development of cultural studies in Britain from the 50s to the 80s. Its companion volume, *Television and the Meaning of 'Live'* is a study of the invisible production practices of live radio and television and an exploration of the world-historical role of the media as disclosed in media events. The third volume, *Love and Communication*, examines in more detail that underlying assumptions of the first two books and makes explicit the thinking that underpins them.

I am currently working with Elihu Katz on the impact of television in the 20th century.

I have just joined the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan. I couldn't be more pleased to be in the same department as Susan Douglas, whose historical work on radio and television and popular culture more generally I admire enormously.

I've written the following books:

- *Radio, Television and Modern Life*. Oxford: Blackwell (1996): 196 pages.
- *Broadcast Talk*. London: Sage (1991): 222 pages (edited, with introduction and contributing chapter)
- *A Social History of British Broadcasting. 'Serving the Nation, 1923-1939'* (with David Cardiff). Oxford: Blackwell (1991): 441 pages.