

Call for contributions for an issue of *Hermès, La Revue*

Dynamics of incommunications in Europe (provisional title)

Coordinated by Simona Modreanu and Gilles Rouet, supervised by Jean-Michel Besnier

This issue of *Hermès* is part of a reflection on the conditions, dysfunctions, and refusals of communication in contemporary Europe. The “East-West divide(s)” cannot be reduced to differences in interests or values (see previous issues of *Hermès*), but rather to a series of profound misunderstandings, symbolic asymmetries, and ruptures at the very level of meaning and its construction.

Europe, and not just the European Union, seems to be going through a critical period in which tensions between the West and the East, including parts of Central Europe and the Balkans, reveal not only political and cultural differences, but also a real crisis of communication.

What about communication, the relational and symbolic process that alone can connect Europeans in the co-construction of meaning, based on mutual recognition and listening? Structural blockages, persistent misunderstandings, and media distortions often make communication impossible, even when the intentions exist, thus leading to situations of miscommunication. Worse still, refusals to communicate, strategies of withdrawal or silence lead to situations of acommunication.

This issue of *Hermès* therefore proposes to examine current forms of relationship, mediation, and alteration of links, particularly symbolic ones, between the two parts of the continent, which raises questions about the construction and evolution of European identity or identities. Above all, it gives authors from Central and Eastern Europe the opportunity to develop their analysis of this theme.

Through the media, political discourse, historical narratives, and cultural practices, how are spaces of shared meaning constituted or disintegrated?

The fractures that are often observed cannot be reduced to cultural misunderstandings and produce (or are produced by) fundamentally different ways of producing, interpreting, and manipulating meaning. The profusion of geopolitical narratives, the war of images, the omnipresence of deep fakes, and divergences around religion or colonial or imperialist legacies must be put into perspective in order to understand communication imbalances.

Rather than asking whether stereotypes are making a comeback or evolving, this issue will examine the symbolic mechanisms through which the conditions for listening, recognizing others, and producing shared meaning are constructed (or fail to be constructed).

What does it mean to communicate today in a divided European space?

What are the effects of media, political, and technological mechanisms on the very possibility of communication?

Proposals for articles of no more than 15,000 characters (including spaces) should:

- Explicitly address the issue of communication, using the communication – incommunication – acommunication approach;
- Focus on contemporary subjects (media, political discourse, conflicts, cross-representations, symbolic mechanisms, etc.) related to relations within Europe.

Proposals should be sent simultaneously to Simona Modreanu (simona.modreanu@gmail.com) and Gilles Rouet (gilles.rouet@gmail.com) before July 30, 2025, in French or English.
