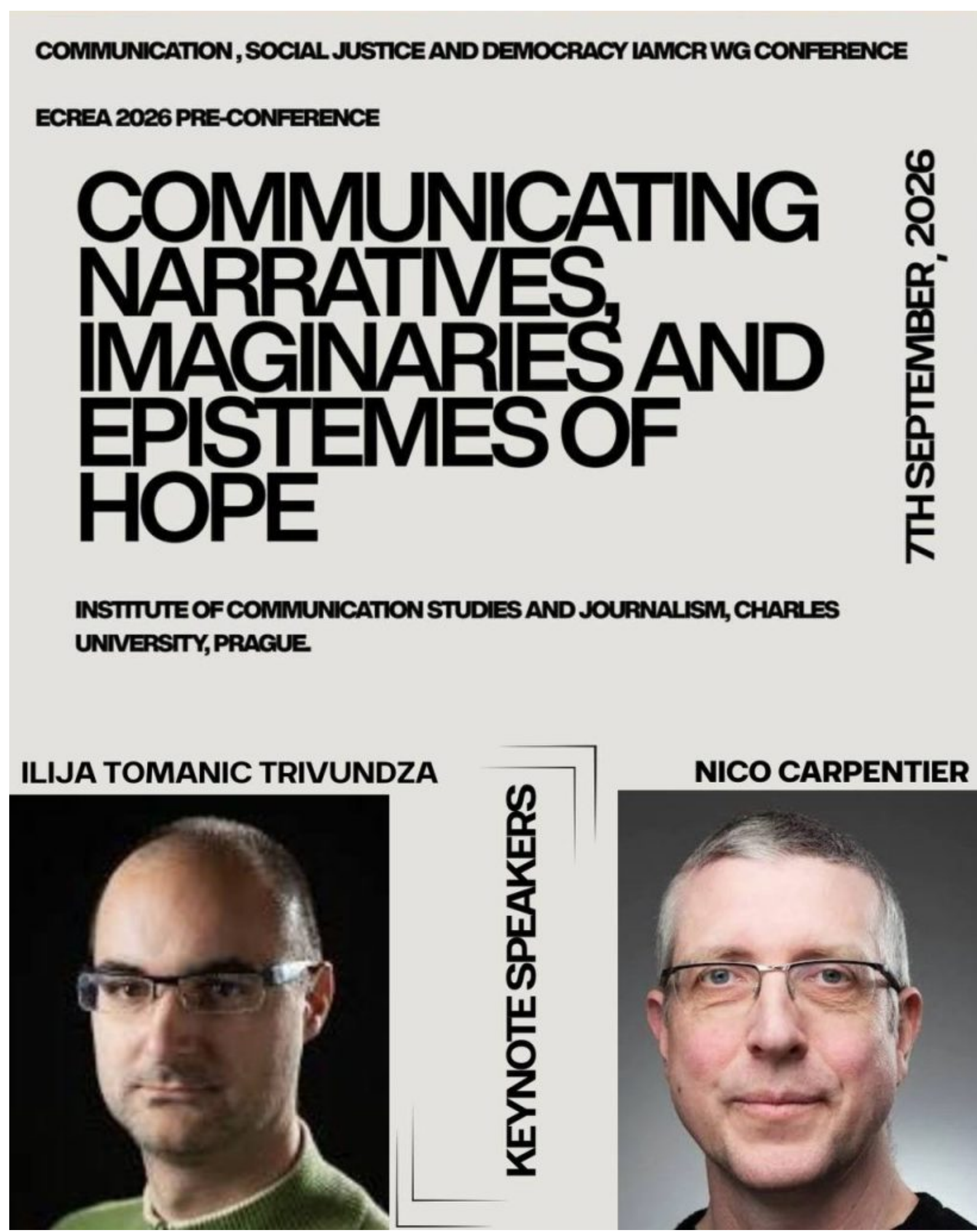


Joint Communication, Social Justice and Democracy Working Group Conference

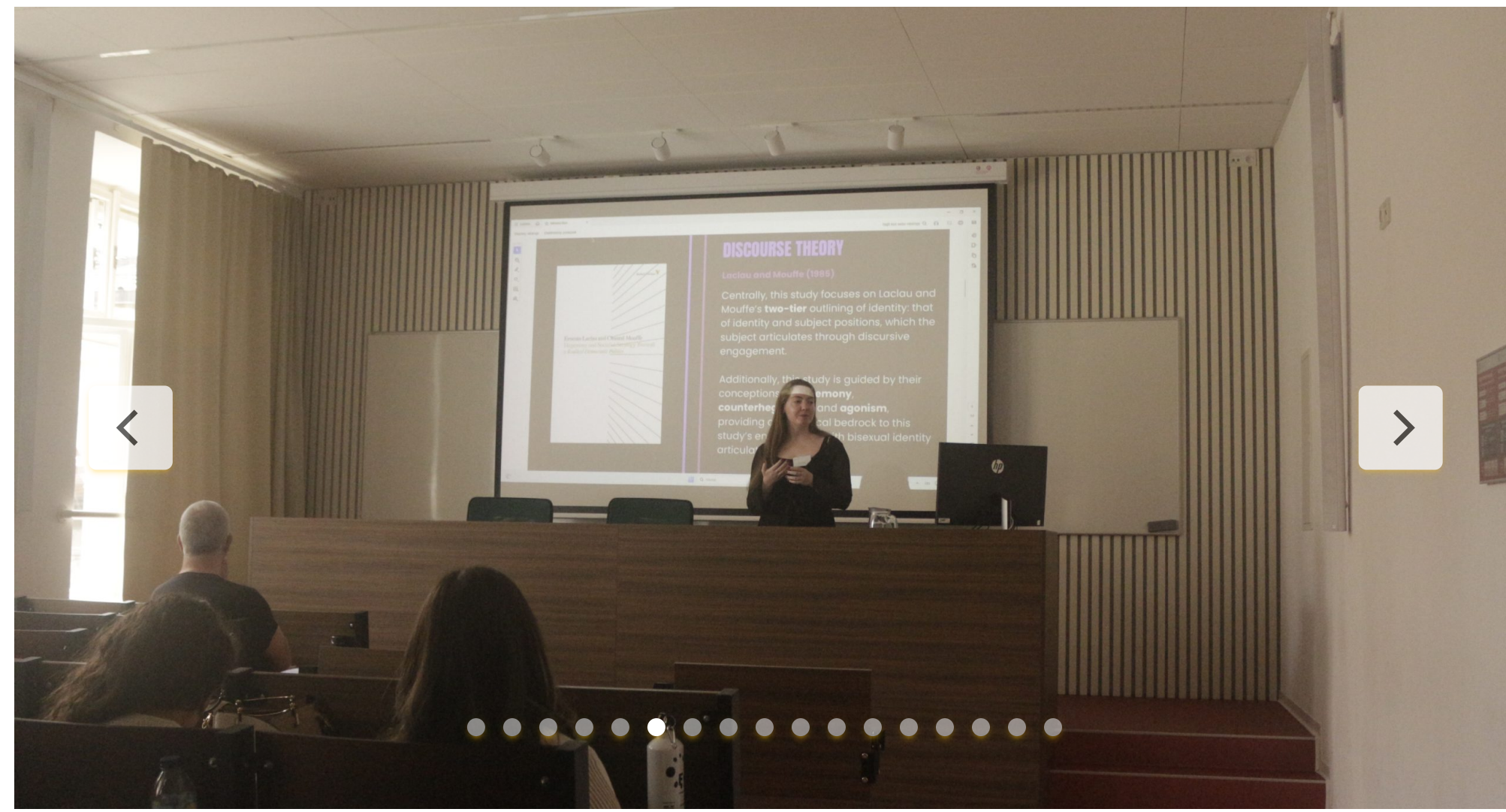
Communicating narratives, imaginaries and epistemes of hope

7 September 2026, Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic



[Conference Programme](#)

Conference Photos



Call for Contributions

Political ideology, religious faith, science and art are all informed by visions of hope, the promise or prospect of a good state of affairs in the future. While hope is shaped by ideas of the present (and the past), it is mainly forward-looking, articulating visions of possible futures.

Hope can be a powerful motivator for mobilisation and societal change. At the same time, aspirations for a better future may be instrumentalised or manipulated for political gain or financial profit. This conference focuses on the constructive force of hope, addressing visions, discourses, and practices of hope for democracy, peace and justice, as articulated in media representations and communicative practices.

By focusing on hope, the conference aimed to foster intellectual reflection and dialogue, through diverse approaches and methods, on how spaces, practices, cultures, and technologies of communication can give visibility to or help articulate claims and inform struggles for fairer societies, dignity, and freedom.

A wide range of settings, fields and practices served as objects or loci of study (e.g., journalism, political communication, campaigning, activism, popular culture, art, history, education, religion), exploring how hope is represented, negotiated, rearticulated and performed by actors and groups in the social realm.

Contributions addressing, but not limited to, the following thematic areas, were welcomed:

- how societal phenomena, challenges, and crises (e.g., climate change, migration, war and conflict, extremism) are mediated and reconfigured through narratives of hope at national and international levels;
- how different actors, social groups, and institutions (e.g., media, political parties, education, religion, art) negotiate their visions of hope in mediated environments;
- how visions of peace and justice are communicated in public discourse and through people's struggles;
- how history is mobilised in communicative practices and public debates in articulations of better presents and futures;
- how space, time and technology inform narratives and imaginaries of hope;
- how imaginaries of hope are constructed in contexts of persistent curtailment of freedoms and rights, and increasing authoritarianism;
- how viable democratic presents and futures are imagined, under dire conditions of ongoing conflict, violence, or war;
- how struggles against injustice, oppression and authoritarianism inform, and are informed by, cultures and epistemes of hope.

Conference programme

Keynotes: The conference features keynote speeches by Ilija Tomanic Trivundza and Nico Carpentier.

Conference sessions: The conference was structured into eight sessions on different topics relating to hope. For detailed information see the full [Conference Programme](#).

This conference was held in **person only**.

Date and location

Date: 7 September 2026

Location: Hollar Building, Charles University (Smetanovo nábř. 995, 110 00 Staré Město, Prague, Czech Republic)

The conference was scheduled for the day before the ECREA 2026 main conference begins. Brno, the host city of this year's ECREA conference, is approximately a 2.5-3 hour train ride from Prague, with very frequent connections.

Conference organisers

This was a joint [Communication, Social Justice and Democracy IAMCR](#) working group conference & [ECREA 2026](#) pre-conference.

The conference was endorsed by the [International and Intercultural Communication ECREA section](#), and was hosted by the [Culture and Communication Research Centre \(CULCORG\)](#) @ the [Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism \(ICSJ\)](#) (Charles University)

Contact: Vaia Doudaki, vaia.doudaki@fsv.cuni.cz

Non-presenting participants registered their attendance by contacting Maedbh Pierce, maedbh.pierce@fsv.cuni.cz.

Scientific Committee

- Vaia Doudaki (Charles University, Czech Republic)
- Nico Carpentier (Charles University, Czech Republic)
- Ilija Tomanic Trivundza (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- Andrea Medrado (University of Exeter, UK)
- Fernando Oliveira Paulino (University of Brasilia, Brazil)
- Tania Cantrell Rosas-Moreno (Loyola University Maryland, United States)