# Foreword

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This issue of *Studies in Communication Sciences*, which I am honoured to present, is particularly relevant in the life of the Faculty of Communication Science at Università della Svizzera italiana. It is a tool for insight and observation, an instrument of scientific investigation, with contributions from colleagues who are most involved in teaching and research within the Faculty. Through its production we have materialized a long-time wish to compare more systematically the different points of views and research methodologies each one of us applies to the field of communication, as well as the perspective of research within our own subject matter.

Of course we have had plenty of opportunities of comparison and discussion within the Faculty. We exchange our views daily by collaborating in teaching and research, by taking part to workshops and study groups or in the co-ordination of management activities, and above all by participating to the Faculty Board meetings.

These activities we share have greatly improved a sense of belonging to the Faculty among people who come from different countries or universities, bringing to life a Faculty project which all of us can identify with.

Our challenge is to go beyond the Communication Studies Faculty model that was prevailing in Europe when we started ten years ago and still is. In our view, its main limit is to look at communication studies through a federation of independent and overlapping disciplines, where anthropologists, economists, jurists, linguists, political experts, psychologists, sociologists, technologists etc. tend to sharpen their own points of view and research tools by testing their work mostly against that of their scientific community of origin.

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On the contrary we see communication in our approach as a distinctive but multidimensional field and want to deal with it by establishing bridges, gangways, interactions linking the different points of views and methods, as well as by developing at the same time original tools which are deemed appropriate for each area.

To pursue our goal, we have gathered here a mix of articles, where each and one of us "*hangs his underwear under the sun*" so to speak, i.e. talks to researchers belonging to others subject areas about his working methods in the field of communication, about its problems and its most important aims, about which kind of help he hopes to get from other research areas. Our intention in fact is that of casting a challenge inside and outside our Faculty, to *innovate* the present debate on Communication Sciences and re-address it towards new goals.