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A 100-word abstract

This chapter aims to present the current state of researches and future directions of the history and historiography of telecommunications, a quite neglected field in media history. After having defined the word “telecommunications”, the chapter starts out with an overview of disciplines and fields that have considered them historically. The second part reconstructs a social and cultural history of the most important telecoms, such as optical, electrical and wireless telegraphs, land and cell telephones, pantelegraphs and faxes, satellites. The author then proposes two different conclusions: one concerned with long standing characters in telecoms history, trying to identify breaks and continuities and to justify historical approach, and the other with a discussion on its future development.

50-75-word biography

Gabriele Balbi is Post Doc at the University of Lugano (Switzerland), currently visiting scholar at Columbia and Westminster University. He has mainly published on the history and historiography of telecommunications and in early history of mass media. He is the author of *Radio before Radio. Araldo Telefonico and the invention of Italian broadcasting* (2010) and *The origins of the Telephone in Italy. Politics, Economics, Technology and Society* (2011).