Calling itself “the European culture channel,” ARTE was launched in 1991 with a French-German intergovernmental mandate to produce television and other media intended, according to its charter, “to encourage the coming together of European peoples.”

Professor Damien Stankiewicz worked at ARTE where he conducted ethnography alongside media professionals and staff whose job it was to produce trans-border “European” television and web media. Stankiewicz is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Temple University in Philadelphia. His book, Europe Un-Imagined: Nation and Culture at a French-German Television Channel (UToronto Press, 2017), examines how staff at ARTE—a self-consciously transnational television channel headquartered in Strasbourg on the French-German border—go about crafting media intended to promulgate a trans-border and pan-European culture.

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