

NEWSLETTER

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IAMCR International Association for Media and Communication Research
AIECS Associacion Internacional des Estudios de Comunicacion Social
AIERI Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur L'Information et la Communication

The company of women!

This is the first newsletter after the election of a new president and a leaner, but not necessarily meaner, executive board of just five people. It was IAMCR's first postal vote by our global membership, a system felt to be fairer and more participatory that moved us away from the powerful role of the face-to-face but non-representative aggregation of members at any biennial conference and general assembly. A brief report by Janet Wasko on page 9 provides some analysis of this process and brief suggestions for improvement from the Election Committee.

Postal voting produced IAMCR's first woman president, Robin Mansell, as well as two women vice-presidents, Davina Frau-Meigs and myself. A male member, leaving the conference hall in Porto Alegre just after the results had been announced, was heard to gasp "three women"! But the concomitant of electing we three women is that the Executive Board is quite European (at least in current location) and we need to work not only to expand our membership among Southern academics and researchers but also to improve their involvement in the life of the organization.

One of the benefits of holding our conferences in different locations is the influx of new members from a region: it was good to have so many Latin American researchers in our midst once again and we also gained a new treasurer from Brazil, Cesar

Editor's column by Annabelle Sreberny

Bolano. This is important to remember in the face of comments by Sections Heads about members' cancellations because of travel costs; for those based in the region, it was a welcome conference on home ground. Ole Prehn continues as our Secretary-General, providing much-needed continuity and institutional memory within a vortex of change.

Robin Mansell's acceptance speech and Frank Morgan's farewell address are included here, published in the three languages of the association.

Change: a challenge and an opportunity

I'm sure that we would all like to thank Frank for moving us down the road to greater transparency and democratization. This was not an easy process for such a transnational organization. I have found it somewhat ironic that a president and executive board that focused so much on procedural reform (ie, the not-immediately-evident, slow process of internal change) were sometime accused of not 'doing enough'. In a world that sorely lacks statesmen and women, we as an association often manifest an interesting desire for leadership. Yet we are an organization

of volunteers, all of whom are busy juggling academic lives filled with teaching, research and administration. In a fundamental way, IAMCR 'r' us, and there are plenty of opportunities for members to become more involved, take responsibility, share ideas. For some such opportunities, see below and inside.

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IAMCR's first woman president!

**Professor Robin Mansell's
Address to the IAMCR General
Assembly, 30 July 2004, Porto
Alegre, Brazil**

I am very honoured to be the President of IAMCR. I thank you for demonstrating your confidence in me. I thank Professor Frank Morgan for his enormous generosity towards me, the care he is taking and will continue to take for a smooth handover, and the multiple good things he has completed and initiated during his tenure as President. He has done so with the help of the outgoing Executive Board and International Council whom I thank as well. I also want to thank the two past Presidents who are here – Professors Pares i Maicas and Cees Hamelink – for their good will towards me.

A few words on the conference in Porto Alegre, IAMCR and what we do. In his introduction to the conference theme on *Communication & Democracy* Frank Morgan stresses deliberation, equality and theory that is lived or practiced. In the opening plenary for the conference, Professor Mazula said that “death and life depend on talk” – and he referred to the work of Amartya Sen on equity and human rights. Professor Rouanet spoke in the same plenary about both the negative and positive roles of media and communications, and about his commitment to the view that a new world – a more equitable world – is indeed possible.

In the World Summit on the Information Society plenaries during the conference, we heard about the importance of working for inclusion and solidarity, and the need for more equitable partnerships, especially with the disparate representatives of civil society. But we know from the work of Yuezhi Zhao – and Peter Golding and Graham Murdock and many others – that changes in media and communications can bring privileges for the few, while making the lives of



the poor even worse. Clearly, this is just the opposite of what we seek or value.

... changes in media and communications can bring privileges for the few, while making the lives of the poor even worse. Clearly, this is just the opposite of what we seek or value.

Two brief reflections on these issues.

First, Pedrinho Guareschi argues that media and communication are important because, “communication constructs reality. A thing comes to be, sociologically speaking, when it is broadcast ... Those who withhold communication withhold, practically speaking, power ...” (2000, cited in Porto Simões and Córdova Wels 2004). Research on media power and issues of distributional equity must be fundamental to what we do in IAMCR.

Second, as Andrew Feenberg, a Canadian-based academic, writes ‘technology cannot be understood through its usefulness, but only

through our specifically technological engagements with the world’ (1999, cited in Rudiger 2004). Those engagements happen through communicative action and continuous dialogue and deliberation. We need to foster this through the research and activities of IAMCR.

I look forward to working with IAMCR members – those present and absent – to uphold these values, through our scholarly research and our representations of ourselves and our work throughout the world.

I will work on your behalf and with your help – and with the new Executive Board and International Council – to continue the building of our association and through that effort, to strengthening the positions of new scholars, women, and our contributions with those from economically disadvantaged countries and regions.

I make no long list of promises – that would be premature given the short hand-over period – but I do promise you that I will do my best to provide leadership and support.

Finally, I thank the local conference organising committee in Porto Alegre and wish everyone a safe journey home.

It is with very great honour that on behalf of our new Honorary President, Frank Morgan, and myself, I close this meeting of the IAMCR General Assembly.

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Porto Simões, R and Córdova Wels, AM (2004) ‘The Process of News within the Theory of Information: Possible Parallels between the Two Concepts’, in *Revista FAMECOS*, No. 24, p69, citing Guareschi, PA (2000) *Os construtores da informação*, Petrópolis: Vozes, p 28.

Rudiger, F. (2004) ‘The Mathematical and the Metaphysical Roots of Modern Technological Thought: Reading Heidegger’, in *Revista FAMECOS*, No. 24, p. 74, citing A. Feenberg (1999) *Questioning Technology*, New York: Routledge, p. 186.

VERSION FRANÇAISE

Communication du Professeur Robin Mansell à l'Assemblée Générale de l'AIERI, 30 juillet 2004, Porto Alegre, Brésil.

Je suis très honorée d'être présidente de l'AIERI et vous remercie de m'avoir témoigné votre confiance. Je remercie le Professeur Frank Morgan pour sa grande générosité à mon endroit, les efforts qu'il a mis, et continue de mettre, à assurer une passation des pouvoirs tout en douceur, et les nombreuses initiatives qu'il a menées à bien durant son mandat à la présidence. Je remercie également les membres du comité exécutif et du conseil international sortants, qui ont contribué à ces succès. Enfin, je souhaite remercier deux des anciens présidents de l'Association qui sont parmi nous – les professeurs Pares i Maicas et Cees Hamelink – pour leur bonne volonté à mon égard.

J'aimerais dire quelques mots sur la conférence de Porto Alegre, l'AIERI et nos activités. Dans son introduction au thème de conférence portant sur la Communication et la démocratie, Frank Morgan met l'accent sur la délibération, l'égalité et la théorie, soit-elle vécue ou pratiquée. Dans la séance plénière d'ouverture de cette conférence, le Professeur Mazula a dit que 'la mort et la vie dépendent de paroles' et il a fait référence aux travaux de Amartya Sen sur l'équité et les droits humains. Le Professeur Rouanet a quant à lui soulevé, au cours de la même séance plénière, tant les aspects négatifs que positifs des médias et de la communication et il exprimé sa croyance en la possibilité d'un monde nouveau et plus équitable.

Les séances plénières sur le Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information ont souligné l'importance d'œuvrer à l'inclusion et la solidarité, ainsi que le besoin d'établir des partenariats équitables, en particulier avec les représentants dispersés de la société civile. Pourtant, les travaux de Yuezhi Zhao – de même que ceux de

Peter Golding et Graham Murdock, et plusieurs autres – nous enseignent que le changement dans le domaine des médias et de la communication profite le plus souvent à une minorité déjà aisée, et rend la vie plus dure aux moins nantis. Bien entendu, cela est tout à l'opposé de ce que nous voulons et valorisons.

Permettez-moi deux brèves réflexions à ce sujet.

D'abord, Pedrinho Guareschi soutient que les médias et la communication sont importants en ce que 'la communication construit la réalité. Une chose en vient à exister, au sens sociologique, lorsqu'elle est diffusée... Ceux qui retiennent la communication retiennent, en pratique, le pouvoir... (2000, cité par Porto Simões et Córdova Wels 2004; traduction libre). La recherche sur le pouvoir des médias et les questions de distribution équitable doivent être au cœur des activités de l'AIERI.

Ensuite, comme l'écrit Andrew Feenberg de l'Université Simon Fraser au Canada, 'la technologie ne peut être comprise de par son utilité, mais plutôt de par nos engagements proprement technologiques avec le monde (1999, cité par Rudiger 2004; traduction libre). Ces engagements se produisent en vertu de l'agir communicationnel ainsi que le dialogue et la délibération soutenus – voilà ce que la recherche et les activités de l'AIERI doivent cultiver.

Je compte bien travailler avec les membres de l'AIERI – ceux ici présents de même que les absents – afin de défendre ces valeurs, aussi bien dans nos recherches que dans les représentations de l'association et la diffusion de nos travaux dans le monde entier.

Je travaillerai en votre nom et avec votre aide – en collaboration avec le nouveau comité exécutif et le conseil international – au développement de notre association. Cet effort permettra d'accroître le rôle des nouveaux chercheurs et des femmes, ainsi que la collaboration avec ceux et celles provenant de régions et de pays économiquement défavorisés.

Je ne ferai pas de longue liste de promesses; cela serait prématuré étant donné le peu de temps écoulé depuis la transition. Je promets toutefois que je ferai mon possible pour assurer le leadership et mon soutien à l'AIERI.

Enfin, je remercie le comité d'organisation local de la conférence de Porto Alegre et souhaite à toutes et à tous un bon retour à la maison.

C'est avec grand plaisir et honneur que je déclare, au nom du nouveau président d'honneur Frank Morgan et en mon nom propre, la clôture de l'Assemblée Générale de l'AIERI.

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Porto Simões, R and Córdova Wels, A M (2004) 'The Process of News within the Theory of Information: Possible Parallels between the Two Concepts', in *Revista FAMECOS*, No. 24, p69, citing Guareschi, PA (2000) *Os construtores da informação*, Petrópolis: Vozes, p. 28.

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VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

Palabras de la profesora Robin Mansell a la Asamblea General de la AIECS, 30 de Julio del 2004, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Me siento muy honrada de ser la presidenta de la AIECS y les agradezco por su demostración de confianza en mí. Le agradezco al profesor Frank Morgan por su enorme generosidad hacia mí, el cuidado que se ha tomado y seguirá tomando para hacer una fluida transición, y las múltiples buenas cosas que ha completado e iniciado durante su período como presidente. Esto lo ha hecho con la ayuda de la saliente Junta Directiva y el Consejo Internacional, a los que también les agradezco. También quiero agradecer a los anteriores presidentes que están aquí: profesores Pares i Maicas y Cees Hamelink por su buena disposición hacia mí.

Quero decir unas pocas palabras acerca de la conferencia en Porto Alegre, la AIECS y sobre lo que hacemos. En su introducción al tema de la conferencia 'comunicación y democracia', Frank Morgan ha resaltado la importancia de la deliberación, la igualdad, y la teoría en su relación con la práctica. En la plenaria de apertura el profesor Mazula dijo que 'la muerte y la vida dependen del diálogo' y se refirió al trabajo de Amartya Sen sobre equidad y derechos humanos. El profesor Rouanet habló en la misma plenaria sobre el rol tanto negativo como positivo de los medios y las comunicaciones, y acerca de su compromiso con la perspectiva de que un nuevo mundo –un mundo mas equitativo- es aun posible.

Hemos escuchado en las plenarios de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la sociedad de la información y en esta conferencia acerca de la importancia de trabajar para la inclusión y la solidaridad, y la necesidad de crear asociaciones mas equitativas, especialmente con los diversos representantes de la sociedad civil. Pero sabemos por el trabajo del profesor Yuezhi Zhao – y Peter Golding y Graham Murdock y tantos otros- que los cambios en los medios y las comunicaciones pueden brindar privilegios a unos pocos, y al mismo tiempo hacer la vida de los pobres aun peor. Claramente, esto es exactamente lo opuesto de lo que buscamos o valoramos.

Dos breves reflexiones sobre estas cuestiones:

Primero, Pedrinho Guareschi sostiene que los medios y las comunicaciones son importantes porque 'la comunicación construye la realidad. Algo comienza a ser, sociológicamente hablando, cuando se da a conocer ... Aquellos que retienen la comunicación retienen, en la práctica, el poder...' (2000, citado en Porto Simões y Córdoba Wels 2004). La investigación sobre el poder de los medios y sobre cuestiones de equidad en la distribución deben ser fundamentales en lo que nosotros hacemos en la AIECS.

Segundo, como Andrew Feenberg, un académico establecido en Canadá ha escrito: 'la tecnología no puede ser entendida por su utilidad, sino únicamente a través de nuestra interacciones específicamente tecnológicas con el mundo' (1999, citado en Rudgier 2004). Estas interacciones se producen a través de la acción comunicativa y continuo dialogo y deliberación. Debemos fomentar esto a través de la investigación y las actividades de la AIECS.

Estoy deseosa de trabajar con los miembros de la AIECS –los presentes y los ausentes- para defender estos valores a través de nuestra investigación, de nuestras representaciones y de nuestro trabajo alrededor del mundo.

Trabajaré para ustedes y con la ayuda de ustedes – y con la nueva Junta Ejecutiva y el Consejo Internacional-para continuar la construcción de nuestra Asociación y a través de ese esfuerzo fortalecer la posición de nuevos académicos, las mujeres y nuestra contribución con aquellos que pertenecen a países y regiones económicamente desventajadas.

No hago una larga lista de promesas – que serían prematuras dado el corto período desde la entrega del cargo- pero sí les prometo que daré lo mejor de mí para brindar liderazgo y apoyo.

Finalmente, agradezco al comité organizador local de la conferencia en Porto Alegre y les deseo a todos un buen viaje de vuelta a casa.

Con gran honor, en mi nombre y el de nuestro nuevo presidente honorario, Frank Morgan, cierro la asamblea general de la AIECS.

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Porto Simões, R y Córdoba Wels, A M (2004) 'The Process of News within the Theory of Information: Possible Parallels between the Two Concepts' en la *Revista FAMECOS*, no 24, p69 citando a Guareschi, P A (2000) *Os construtores da informação*, Petrópolis: Vozes, p28.

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Frank Morgan's outgoing speech

My final responsibility in this meeting is to hand over the leadership of the Association to the new President, Robin Mansell, the incoming Board and the new International Council – and to withdraw to my new position as Past President. I will have no vote but will remain available to do whatever is requested and required.

You will recall that I was elected under the old Statutes in Singapore in 2000 and that I took office in Barcelona two years ago. You will recall also that, when we adopted the new Statutes, I promised to stand aside early to synchronise the Presidency with the terms of the Board and Council.

I honoured my promise, you made your decision and all of us succeeded in making this a more democratic Association. A few old-timers want desperately to restore the ways of the past – to pull strings and play puppets behind the scenes – but, by and large, we have built a better and more transparent organization. We should be very proud of our achievement.

I personally have been fortunate beyond my wildest expectation and, for that, I thank you all. The outgoing Board and Council were gracious in the extreme. They made me their leader and rallied to the tasks that had to be done. All of us worked as volunteers without much institutional support. Indeed, as our friend Ole Prehn observed the other day, it is probably better that our institutions do not realize how they have helped us to serve the Association.

Divina Frau-Meigs has remarked on the 'chaotic internationalism' that marks this Association and makes it special. Yet, she has worked long and hard to develop our relationships with UNESCO, with the World Summit on Information Society and with ourselves. I am delighted that she and Annabelle Sreberny will be our new

Concluding remarks to the General Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil by Frank Morgan, Outgoing President

Vice Presidents. Both are bright and brilliant leaders of great vision and capacity. We are lucky to have them among us.

We must, however, ponder the loss of leaders like Eddie Kuo and Ruth Teer Tomaselli. Both played a major role in representing the Association in the developing world. Both brought great grace and courage and personal wisdom to their tasks. Both sadly were overcome by the challenges that face the world beyond Europe and North America.

... we have built a better and more transparent organization. We should be very proud of our achievement

Jan Servaes strove to develop our publication programme – meanwhile wrestling with a new job in Australia – and we thank him for that. Marjan de Bruin worked wonders with the Newsletter and raised the possibility that it might become a new format of journal for the Association. Fortunately, as we move into a future that will depend much more heavily on the leadership of the International Council, Marjan remains among us.

Katharine Sarikakis served for four years to recruit younger members and more women. She also suggested various new approaches to the mounting and management of future conferences. Annie Mears managed our finances through difficult times. As she retires, I thank her for her efforts and wish her well. I also agree with her that we should look for a

Budget Committee in the future. Last of all, let me thank my predecessor Manuel Pares i Maicas who was always generous and helpful and wise.

Finally, I thank the Section Heads and International Council members, especially the group of them who persuaded me to stand again for the Presidency. As we said to one another in Loughborough last year, we had not completed the reforms that we had begun. I was deeply moved by their faith and trust. I agreed to stand – but not to run or fight – and the measure of our success is in the strength of the Association. I trust that those of you who voted for me voted for our shared vision of the Association. I trust also that you will reaffirm your commitment to the Association and to its new leadership.

Occasionally, some of us complain that the Association does not sufficiently look after us or our individual interests. It is much more important that we ask what we can do for the Association, not what it can do for us. In the words of the Brazilian minister and musician Gilberto Gil, 'it is good to be alive'. It is good too to have a leadership group willing to work with us and on our behalf.

I am glad therefore to recommit myself to the Association and to Robin Mansell's leadership. I wish her well and invite her to assume the Presidency.

Thank you all.

VERSION FRANÇAISE

Remarques finales présentées à l'Assemblée Générale par Frank Morgan, Président, AIERI

Ma dernière responsabilité dans cette rencontre est de céder la direction de l'Association à la nouvelle présidente, Robin Mansell, au comité exécutif et au nouveau Conseil international, et d'assumer mon nouveau rôle d'ancien président. Je ne détiendrai pas le droit de vote mais je serai disponible lorsque l'on fera appel à mes services.

J'ai été élu dans le cadre des anciens statuts de l'Association à Singapour en 2000 et j'ai assumé mes fonctions il y a deux ans. L'on se souviendra qu'à l'adoption des nouveaux statuts, j'avais promis de me retirer promptement afin d'assurer que la Présidence soit harmonisée avec le Comité et le Conseil.

J'ai tenu cette promesse, vous avez fait votre choix et tous ensemble, nous avons réussi à bâtir une AIERI plus démocratique. Certes, quelques irréductibles de la vieille garde persistent à vouloir ramener les méthodes du passé – à tirer les ficelles depuis les coulisses. Mais de façon générale, nous avons bâti une organisation meilleure et plus transparente. Nous pouvons être fiers/fières de cette réalisation.

Personnellement, j'ai été comblé bien au-delà de mes attentes et je vous en suis reconnaissant. Le Comité et le Conseil sortants ont été d'une élégance exemplaire à mon endroit. Ils m'ont reconnu comme leader et ont mis l'épaulé à la roue. Toutes et tous, nous avons travaillé bénévolement, avec très peu de soutien institutionnel. En fait, comme le remarquait l'autre jour notre ami Ole Prehn, il est peut-être préférable que nos institutions ne sachent pas à quel point elles nous ont aidé à servir l'Association.

Divina Frau Meigs a souligné « l'internationalisme chaotique » qui caractérise cette Association et la rend si particulière. Elle a néanmoins travaillé très fort au développement de

nos relations avec l'UNESCO et le Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information. Je suis donc ravi qu'elle assume, tout comme Annabelle Sreberny, les fonctions de vice-Présidente. Voilà deux brillants leaders, d'une grande intelligence et d'une sagacité remarquable. Nous avons de la chance de les compter parmi nous.

Il nous faut cependant déplorer la perte de grands leaders tels que Eddie Kuo et Ruth Teer Tomaselli. Tous deux ont joué un rôle de premier plan en représentant l'Association dans les pays en développement. Ils ont accompli leur travail avec grâce, courage et sagesse mais malheureusement, ont succombé à l'ampleur des défis qui attendent le monde en dehors de l'Europe et de l'Amérique du Nord.

Nous remercions Jan Servaes, qui a oeuvré au développement de notre programme de publications tout en s'ajustant à un nouveau poste en Australie. Pour sa part, Marjan de Bruin a fait des merveilles avec notre Bulletin d'informations et elle a suggéré la possibilité d'en faire une revue de format novateur pour l'Association. Heureusement, alors qu'on se prépare à un avenir qui fera davantage appel au Conseil International, Marjan demeure avec nous.

Katharine Sarikakis a travaillé pendant quatre ans au recrutement de jeunes membres et de femmes. Elle a aussi proposé de nouvelles approches à l'organisation et la gestion de conférences. Annie Méar a géré les finances de l'Association durant une période difficile. Je la remercie de ses efforts et lui souhaite une belle retraite. Je partage son avis quant au besoin de former un comité budgétaire pour l'avenir. Permettez-moi aussi de remercier mon prédécesseur Manuel Pares i Maicas pour sa générosité, son aide et sa sagesse.

Enfin, je remercie les directeurs de Sections et les membres du Conseil International, et surtout ceux et celles parmi eux qui m'ont convaincu de présenter à nouveau ma candidature à

la Présidence. À Loughborough l'année dernière, nous nous sommes dit que nous n'avions pas encore mené à terme les réformes que nous avons entreprises. J'ai été profondément ému par leur confiance. J'ai accepté de me présenter à nouveau – mais pas de me défilier ou de me battre – et notre succès se mesure par la force de l'Association. Je suis certain que ceux et celles d'entre vous qui avez voté pour moi l'avez fait parce que vous partagiez ma vision de l'Association. Je suis certain également vous allez renouveler votre engagement envers l'Association et sa nouvelle direction.

Certains d'entre nous nous plaignons, à l'occasion, de ce que l'Association ne servent pas suffisamment nos intérêts individuels. Mais il est bien plus important de se demander ce que nous pouvons faire pour l'Association, que ce qu'elle peut faire pour nous. Comme le dit si bien le ministre et musicien brésilien Gilberto Gil, il fait bon vivre. Il est également bon d'avoir un groupe de directeurs déterminés à travailler avec nous et en notre nom.

Je suis donc heureux de réitérer mon engagement envers l'Association et le leadership de Robin Mansell. Je lui souhaite bonne chance et l'invite à présent à assumer la Présidence.

Merci à toutes et à tous.

VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

Observaciones finales presentadas a la Asamblea General Frank Morgan, Presidente, AIECS

Mi responsabilidad final en este encuentro es entregar el liderazgo de la Asociación a la nueva Presidenta, Robin Mansell, a la Junta entrante y al nuevo Consejo Internacional y retirarme a mi nueva posición como ex-presidente. No tendré voto, pero permaneceré disponible para responder a cualquier petición y necesidad.

Recordarán que fui elegido bajo los viejos estatutos en Singapur en el 2000 y que asumí el cargo en

(Continued from page 7)

Barcelona dos años atrás. Recordarán también que cuando adoptamos los nuevos estatutos, yo prometí retirarme anticipadamente para sincronizar la Presidencia con los mandatos de la Junta y el Consejo.

Yo honré mi promesa, ustedes tomaron su decisión y todos triunfamos en hacer una Asociación más democrática. Unos poco quieren desesperadamente restaurar el estilo del pasado –tomando decisiones entre unos pocos y en la oscuridad- pero, generalmente, hemos construido una organización mejor y más transparente. Debemos estar muy orgullosos de nuestro logro.

Yo, personalmente, he sido recompensado mas allá de mis más amplias expectativas y por eso les agradezco a todos ustedes. La Junta y el Consejo salientes fueron extremadamente generosos conmigo. Me hicieron su líder e hicieron gran esfuerzo para llevar a cabo las tareas que debían ser realizadas. Todos nosotros trabajamos como voluntarios sin mucho apoyo institucional. De hecho, como nuestro amigo Ole Prehn observo el otro día, probablemente sea mejor que las instituciones a las que pertenecemos no se den cuenta de cómo nos han ayudado a servir a la Asociación.

Divina Frau Meigs ha remarcado el ‘internacionalismo caótico’ que caracteriza a esta Asociación y que la hace especial. En ese contexto, ella ha trabajado mucho y duramente para desarrollar nuestro vínculo con la UNESCO, con la Cumbre Mundial sobre la sociedad de la información, y con nosotros mismos. Estoy encantado con el hecho de que ella y Annabelle Sreberny serán nuestras nuevas Vice-Presidentas. Ambas son líderes brillantes y de gran inteligencia, y tienen gran visión y capacidad. Somos afortunados de tenerlas entre nosotros.

Debemos, sin embargo, reflexionar sobre la pérdida de líderes como Eddie Kuo y Ruth Teer Tomaselli. Ambos jugaron un importantísimo rol representando a la Asociación en el mundo en desarrollo. Ambos brindaron enorme distinción, coraje y

sabiduría a su trabajo. Ambos, desafortunadamente, fueron vencidas por los retos que enfrenta el mundo más allá de Europa y Norteamérica.

Jan Servaes hizo gran esfuerzo para desarrollar nuestro programa de publicaciones –mientras luchaba con un nuevo trabajo en Australia- y le agradecemos por ello. Marjan deBruin hizo maravillas con el *newsletter* y creo la posibilidad de que éste se transforme en el nuevo formato para el *journal* de la Asociación. Afortunadamente, mientras avanzamos hacia un futuro que dependerá mucho más fundamentalmente del liderazgo del Consejo Internacional, Mrjan permanecerá entre nosotros.

Katharine Sarikakis trabajó cuatro años para reclutar miembros jóvenes y más mujeres. Ella ha sugerido también varias nuevas ideas para la organización de futuras conferencias. Annie Mears administró nuestras finanzas en medio de tiempos difíciles. Como se retira, quiero agradecerle por sus esfuerzos y desearle lo mejor. También estoy de acuerdo con ella en que deberíamos tratar de conformar un Comité de Presupuesto en el futuro. Finalmente, agradezco a mi predecesor Manuel Pares i Maicas quien siempre fue generoso, servicial y sabio.

Por ultimo, agradezco a los directores de las distintas Secciones y a los miembros del Consejo Internacional,

especialmente a aquellos que me persuadieron a presentarme nuevamente como candidato a la presidencia. Como nos dijimos unos a los otros en Loughborough el año pasado, aun no habíamos completado las reformas que habíamos iniciado. Me sentí profundamente conmovido por su fe y confianza en mi. Yo estuve de acuerdo en presentarme –pero no en hacer campaña ni pelear- y la medida de nuestro éxito es la fortaleza de la Asociación. Confío en que aquellos que me han votado, lo hicieron por la visión que compartimos de la Asociación. Confío también en que ustedes reafirmaran su compromiso con la Asociación y con su nuevo liderazgo.

Ocasionalmente, algunos de nosotros nos quejamos de que la Asociación no cuida la suficientemente bien de nosotros o de nuestros intereses individuales. Es mucho mas importante que nos preguntemos que podemos hacer nosotros por la Asociación, y no que puede hacer ella por nosotros. En la palabras del ministro y músico brasilero Gilberto Gil: es bueno estar vivo. Y también es bueno tener un grupo de liderazgo deseoso de trabajar con nosotros y en nombre de todos.

Por lo tanto, estoy contento de reafirmar mi compromiso con la Asociación y con el liderazgo de Robin Mansell. Le deseo a ella lo mejor y la invito a asumir la presidencia.

Gracias a todos.

Shaping Tomorrow's Media Systems

Edited by Elena Vartanova and Yassen N. Zassoursky

Published with the financial support of UNESCO

ISBN 5-7776-0059-X

Changes in media systems seem to be profound. Economic models, professional norms and ethical standards are put under pressures. The growth of new media becomes another outcome of current shifts, but not the only one.

Commercialization, fragmentation of audiences, decrease in socially oriented journalism are further consequences of evolving changes. These issues have been reflected in this volume from different angles – globalization and glocalization, public service and access to the media, technology as a force of change. Among the authors there are scholars from many countries – Russia, France, Germany, USA, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Canada.

TO ORDER:

The book can be obtained FREE from the Faculty of Journalism, Moscow State University. Individual orders must include the price of the book postage from Moscow. For more information contact Elena Vartanova (eva@journ.msu.ru) or Marianna Seferova (semaries@journ.msu.ru)

Election Report

The elections for the next Executive Board and International Council were conducted according to the voting system that was adopted by the General Assembly in Barcelona, 2002, and guidelines that were adopted by the International Council meeting in Loughborough on November 8, 2003. The Elections Committee included Cees Hamelink (Netherlands), Janet Wasko (USA), and Alina Bernstein (Israel).

Elections for both the Executive Board and International Council were conducted by postal voting using an optional preferential voting system. The postal election was intended to allow more members to participate in the election of Council members (who were previously elected during conferences). The system also was intended to allow members interested in serving the organization to be considered for more than one elected position.

Nominations for President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary-General, Treasurer and 15 International Council members were opened on February 1, 2004. Updates of nominations were posted periodically on the IAMCR listserv and on the website. Nominations closed on May 1, 2004.

Janet Wasko, IAMCR Election Committee

Candidates submitted short statements, which were included with voting material sent to members before May 31, 2004. The material included a guide for the procedures to be followed, and an explanation of the optional preferential voting system. Ballots were to be postmarked by July 10, 2004 (21 days before the General Assembly at the Porto Alegre conference).

At the conference, the ballots were counted by a Tellers Committee appointed by the Elections Committee. It included Jan Ekecrantz (Sweden), Eileen Meehan (USA), Edgard Reboucas (Brazil), Joseph Straubhaar (USA), and Robert White (Italy).

The results of the election were announced at the end of the opening plenary session and posted during the conference. Because there were no nominations for Treasurer during the postal election process, Cesar Bolano (Brazil) was elected Treasurer during the General Assembly. Since Bolano had been elected to the International

Council, the candidate with the next highest number of votes was subsequently elected to the Council. The election process was relatively smooth, although several suggestions were made by the Election Committee to improve the process. Two of these suggestions were presented as amendments to the process, and were proposed by the International Council and approved by the General Assembly. The two amendments involved earlier deadlines for all stages of the election process and uniform candidacy statements of no more than 200 words. The earlier deadlines should make it easier for all members' ballots to reach the election committee in good time, which is one of the biggest problems with the current postal voting process.

Other proposals from the committee included dropping preferential voting, announcing the election process (especially nominations) in the printed newsletter, and establishing clearer definitions of eligible members.

The results of the election are as listed under IAMCR Governing Bodies on Page 7. More information about the election, including voting data, can be requested from the Secretary-General.

IAMCR's Herbert Schiller Prize

A prize in memory of Herbert Schiller was established in 2000. The prize is awarded in recognition of Herbert's seminal contribution to founding and developing the Association's Political Economy Section. It honours someone who embodied the very best traditions of intellectual life, as a scholar, as an engaged critic and public orator, and above all, as an inspirational teacher. The prize is expressly designed to reward outstanding younger scholars whose work best reflects the critical, innovative and engaged spirit of Herbert Schiller's own contribution to communications scholarship. It is

therefore confined to those aged 35 or under at the final date for submissions. Papers may be offered to any IAMCR Section or Working Group. There will be a call for submissions for the 2006 IAMCR conference.

In the meantime, fundraising is the highest priority! This award can only be offered if IAMCR receives regular donations to the scholarship fund when members pay their membership fees or at any other time. IAMCR is seeking funds to support this prize. If you would like to contribute please contact Robin Mansell, IAMCR

President or tick the box on the membership renewal form.

IAMCR gives high priority to raising funds to encourage the best critical scholarship in our field. Members who wish to suggest **additional prizes** and/or fund them should make a brief case, suggest the proposed value of any award, and indicate sources of funds. Awards do not need to be of the same value and members should be creative in considering innovative ways of supporting IAMCR scholars. Send suggestions to Robin Mansell.

Busy time ahead for IAMCR Task Force on WSIS

Preparations are moving ahead for Phase II of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), scheduled to take place in Tunis in November 2005. Following two highly successful plenaries in Porto Alegre and several sessions where WSIS-related papers were presented, the General Assembly decided to continue the mandate of the IAMCR Task Force on WSIS (see box on this page) and the International Council named us as Task Force chairs.

Mandate and functioning of the Task Force

In keeping with the mandate voted by the General Assembly, the Task Force will focus on a clear number of tasks. There are clearly many possibilities for IAMCR involvement in WSIS but they all take time, energy and commitment. Furthermore, we do not have the luxury of being able to meet in person more than once a year. We have therefore suggested that the Task Force adopt a decentralized mode of functioning, with specific tasks delegated to those who are prepared to carry them out. Every member of the group should have at least one clear task.

Monitoring and information-sharing

One of the key basic functions of the Task Force will be to monitor the WSIS process and provide basic information to the IAMCR membership on an ongoing basis. This will be done by way of an occasional news digest as well as by creating a resource list of pertinent websites that members can access on their own, according to their degree of interest in WSIS. Meanwhile, all members should inform the Task Force – and the membership via the IAMCR listserv – directly of relevant information in each of the areas that they are following closely.

Representation

Two members of the Task Force (Divina and Wolfgang Kleinwächter) are members of the WSIS Civil

**Marc Raboy and
Divina Frau-Meigs,
Task Force co-chairs**

Society Bureau, representing respectively the research and education family and foundations and philanthropic entities. Although they are clearly not there to represent IAMCR as such, their presence can serve to inform us from the inside of ongoing issues, as well as inform the broader civil society community about IAMCR activities regarding WSIS. We have also nominated Wolfgang to be a civil society representative on the WSIS Working Group on Internet Governance which will report to the Tunis phase of the Summit. Any official representation of IAMCR (should IAMCR have an opportunity to intervene in the process in its own name) however will be made by our president, Robin Mansell (who is an ex-officio member of the Task Force).

Researchers' Charter

This initiative is well under way. Several members of the Task Force as well as other members of IAMCR at large have indicated interest in working on developing it further and finalizing the draft. The aim is to produce a final version of the Charter in time for its adoption by the International Council in Taipei and subsequently to publicize and circulate it as widely as possible within WSIS and elsewhere,

approaching like-minded partners and allies. The Charter could be launched in Tunis.

Conferences

Several suggestions have been made for sessions on WSIS in Taipei, and a plenary session organized jointly by the Law, Communication Technology Policy, and International Communication Sections has already been announced. One possibility is to have a one-day "pre-" or "post-conference" on WSIS in Taipei. Other possibilities that have been mentioned include a joint IAMCR-ICA event, participation in WSIS regional and/or thematic conferences, an event focussed on communication rights, or an event to be organized with the newly formed Tunisian Association of communication researchers. A sub-group of Task Force members is developing these possibilities further.

Alliances

There is a strong consensus that IAMCR should seek alliances at every possible level. These should be both 'top-down' (ie. within the UN system) and 'bottom-up' (joining with other NGOs and CSOs). In this process, we will be particularly focussing on the UN, UNESCO, and building grass-roots alliances.

Meanwhile, anyone wishing to get involved in the activities of the Task Force should simply contact either of the co-chairs. (see back page for email addresses)

IAMCR WSIS Task Force mandate as adopted by the General Assembly in Porto Alegre:

In view of the active involvement of the IAMCR in the ongoing WSIS process, the General Assembly resolves to retain a task force on the WSIS, with the membership to be decided by the International Council. In the spirit of critical independent scholarship, the Task Force is to have the following mandate:

- to contribute to the sharing of relevant information and documentation about the WSIS process with the broader academic community
- to facilitate the synthesizing of existing research on information society issues and feed this into the ongoing WSIS process
- to assist in the clarification of crucial concepts (such as information society, communication, knowledge society, etc.)
- to assist in the development of effective and relevant alliances
- to ensure effective representation of IAMCR in the WSIS process

OURMedia partners with IAMCR in Porto Alegre

For its fourth annual conference, OURMedia/NuestrosMedios (OM) joined IAMCR in Porto Alegre. Just before IAMCR began, OM held four days of field trips, panel discussions, workshops and a polymedia lab. Over 130 people from thirty countries attended, including a number of IAMCR members.

With a conference theme of “Building Communication Strategies,” OURMedia/NuestrosMedios added a new language to its title, “NossosMeios” to reflect our host country, and the contribution of the many Brazilians to the conference. The panel sessions were designed to be as participatory as possible, with presentations and workshops on strategies and practices to enhance communication rights, influence global media policy, and strengthen and enlarge the networks we have already created through OM and other progressive media groups.

This year, OM expanded its commitment to include media-making along with the academic research and policy discussions. We experimented with a polymedia lab, a room stocked with computers loaded with media-making software that was available to anyone who wanted to participate. Over thirty people brought digital cameras, audio recorders and other equipment to interface with the computers. They came to teach each other and learn new techniques in guerilla production. A number of participants traveled together by bus from Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Within a few hours, the lab was up and running, people were busy creating new web sites, loading audio and video files onto the web and sharing open-source software.

On the third day of the conference, people from the polymedia lab — along with others from the conference—visited the community of Restinga, just outside of Porto Alegre. OM brought equipment to the public market on Saturday afternoon, and

Janice K. Windborne
Southwest Missouri State
University

created a mini-radio station. Children from the neighborhood, along with a local samba band, came to be on the radio.

On the same day, we visited a community radio station a few blocks away. Imagine two busloads of people parading unannounced through your neighborhood! The radio host introduced a number of OM people on the air, and talked briefly about the challenges of running a community radio project. The challenge intensified. A few days later, police swooped in and closed down Radio Restinga creating an international outcry, but so far, no success in getting the place re-opened. See <http://www.ipsnews.net/interna.asp?dnews=24991> for more information.

From Canada to Argentina and many places in between came accounts of the determination of people to be heard and to tell their own stories in their own way, despite threats from government and other powerful groups.

We also visited two other community radio projects in other parts of town. Again, some of OM members found themselves—speaking Portuguese or not—on the low power air waves. In the discussions about the projects, we were also able to see some of the inevitable tensions between government officials and community activists around issues like funding, policy goals, trust and support.

The panel sessions began with a plenary roundtable on “Networking

Community and Citizen’s Media.” It was a good introduction to some of the work our member organizations are doing. From Canada to Argentina and many places in between came accounts of the determination of people to be heard and to tell their own stories in their own way, despite threats from government and other powerful groups. The process of media-making itself can also be empowering. We heard examples of how community media can strengthen existing movements and engender new ones.

Transnational advocacy for communication rights was discussed in several sessions. After the first World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), members of CRIS (Communication Rights in the Information Society <http://www.crisinfo.org>) shared some of their experiences and challenges in Geneva. At WSIS, some activists were allowed representation on the floor, while others were relegated to a location miles away. The divisive strategy had some advantages, like solidification and networking for both groups, but it also meant a lack of communication among groups that potentially had a lot in common. CRIS introduced its Global Governance Project, a proposed theoretical framework for global communication rights policy. Another member is also researching whether we are in the middle of a bona fide social movement. A lively, if too short, discussion led to some new ideas and new alliances.

Public policy and its implications at a more local level was also discussed. In Egypt, for example, the government uses the net to prosecute its critics, along with homosexuals and others whose lifestyles offend the status quo. In England, community media is used for teen peer counseling to foster healthy social and sexual behavior; in Brazil to encourage positive racial identity for oppressed ethnic groups.

Maps of the OM network showed the

(OURMedia continued from page 11)

patterns of e-mail communication among members. The maps showed that OM tends to be a hub, a central information locale through which many people and groups communicate. The maps also showed a separation between the academics and the polymedia lab participants, a point that was made later in the conference evaluation session. Most people agreed this separation is the opposite of what we all want from the conference and the network, and the discussion continues over how media making can go on simultaneously with theoretical discussions, with both kinds of sessions available to everyone. This is one of the challenges for our next conference.

Media Sana performed a lively, multimedia critique of commercial television over lunch one day. Dozens of films were introduced from around the world, but there wasn't time to fully discuss them. This is another challenge for the next conference.

Besides the immediate concerns of the conference, OM members discussed the possibility of housing OM temporarily at Southern Illinois University in the US. John Downing, a founding member of OM, is the new director of the Global Media Research Center at SIU. He offered institutional support over a two-year period and we have voted to go ahead with that plan. The location of future conferences is in discussion. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, click onto the OURMedia/ NuestrosMedios web site (www.OURMedia.org) for a list of basic criteria.

(Editor's column continued from page 1)

I also take this opportunity on behalf of everyone to thank Marjan de Bruin for developing the newsletter into a much more substantial publication that not only carries organizational information and details about future conferences but also information about members' work, IAMCR linkages with external activities like the WSIS process, think pieces, etc. I now carry the overall responsibility for all publications, from book series to journals to the newsletter and the website. We intend to investigate the possibilities of publishing in other languages and of providing journals as part of membership subscription; and we commit to using the website more interactively. If there is anyone interested and able to take on the role of newsletter editor, with a chance to show off your design skills as well as a platform from which to speak to the membership, please let me know.

This newsletter sports a design that we have used as a logo for IAMCR. Kirsten Bach of Aarhus University describes it as three interlocking elements that represent the three languages of the association, shaped like question marks to reflect the spirit of research and critical debate.

The membership of all Standing Committees is not yet set, although the person responsible has been designated. Here, as in other areas of activity of the organization, members are welcome to put their names forward to the Chair concerned.

On-going Activities

The Sections, the heart of IAMCR life, are busy planning for the Taiwan conference in July 2005. Details of the conference programme as of October 2004, deadlines for paper and panel submissions, and registration and hotel costs can be found in the centre pages. This is followed by the reports of Sections on activities in Porto Alegre and their calls for papers for Taiwan.

Many members have been involved in WSIS-related activities. Mark Raboy and Davina Frau-Meigs report on the WSIS Taskforce, the development of a Researcher's Charter and plans for Tunis, and also invite further participation.

The alternative media network, OURMedia, organised its meeting just before our Porto Alegre conference, and Janice Windbourne provides a report of that meeting. It is an example of where some interests of IAMCR members overlap with another organization. There is considerable scope for developing collegial and collaborative relations with other organizations, and the Executive Board would be pleased to receive and consider suggestions.

As we go to press, it seems likely that both Cairo and St. Louis will be contenders for the 2006 conference. Further details of this will be posted on the IAMCR listserv so make sure to join that now (instructions on inside cover).

I am pleased to be part of the new company of women, and look forward to an active and creative period ahead for IAMCR.

Media Panics: Freedom, Control and Democracy in the Age of Globalization IAMCR Conference 26 - 28 July 2005, Taipei, Taiwan

Certain events, from time to time, shock the world, sometimes into action, sometimes into paralysis. Often, it seems, it is because of the way they are featured in the media. Generally, they are 'bad news' such as disasters and conflict. Recall the Chicken Flu scare in Asia, the SARS epidemic, various terrorist atrocities, the 9/11 attacks in the USA; even Janet Jackson's exposure of herself!

Twenty five years after observers of the 'active audience' challenged effects theory, the media and their messages seem to reassert their power. And some governments seek to strengthen their controls, whatever the cost to democracy.

Media panics have themselves become the focus of media attention, as well as of scholarly interest. The 2005 IAMCR conference will thus focus on "Media Panics: Freedom, Control and Democracy in the Age of Globalization."

At least two theoretical perspectives apply. One is that exaggerated media reports of disasters and violence are either things to be corrected and controlled or are reflective of the culture of our time. Any attempt to curb them is an infringement on our freedom. The other involves the age-old debates that pit social and psychological effects of media against their mass market orientations. How and why have media panics come to be the major concerns of our societies? How do people in different worlds and circumstances respond to this communication phenomenon?

The use of new technology in communication, the process of news production, the content of media coverage from opposing perspectives, and the influence of these events on different audiences and nations are examples of possible debates. Furthermore, regulation/deregulation of the global media, empowerment of audience in the development of media literacy, as well as meanings of the global and local interactions in this "panic" context are all critical issues to be examined.

Key Submission Dates

Deadline for Abstracts:	February 1, 2005
Submission Results Announced:	April 1, 2005
Early Registration Deadline:	May 1, 2005
Deadline for Hotel and Tour Bookings:	June 1, 2005
Full Paper Due Date:	June 1, 2005

Process for submission of papers

Papers: Applicants should submit a **500 word abstract** that describes the topic of their research and its significance, the theoretical framework and methods used. A submission in the author's native language must also include an **English translation**. Abstracts must include the title of the paper, followed by the title, name, institutional address and email of the author(s). No biographical notes or references are required.

Panels: Proposals for panels should include a well-defined statement of purpose, a complete list of panel participants, and full abstracts for each presentation.

Abstracts are to be emailed to the Section Head(s) unless a different process is indicated below. Section Heads welcome enquiries regarding possible themes and also appreciate indications of intent to submit proposals.

IAMCR conference policy states that a paper can be presented in one Section only. All Sections will reject any papers submitted to more than one Section.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Pre-Conference Meetings

Sunday, July 24

0900-1700
IAMCR Executive Board Meeting

Afternoon
IAMCR Section Heads' Meeting

Evening
Board Member Dinner

Monday, July 25

0900-1700
IAMCR International Council Meeting

Afternoon
Registration Begins

Conference Sessions

Tuesday, July 26 (Day 1)

Morning
Opening Ceremony &
Keynote Speeches: Douglas Kellner
and Yun-peng Ying
Plenary Session (to be organized)

Noon - Lunch

Afternoon - Sections

Evening
Reception Dinner

Wednesday, July 27 (Day 2)

Morning - Sections

Noon - Lunch

Afternoon - Sections

Evening
Tour A: Taiwan Movie Night



Registration Fees (\$USD)

RATE BASIS	EARLY	LATE
	(before May 1)	(after May 1)
IAMCR members	\$210	\$275
Non-members	\$275	\$325
Reduced Non-members.	\$170	\$210
Reduced members.	\$105	\$150

The beneficiaries of the reduced registration fee are students, members from low-income countries as identified by the World Bank, and other qualified participants.

Visa requirements

EXEMPT VISA: The following nationals currently need no visas for stays of up to 14 days: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Singapore, Sweden, U.K., U.S.A. and Switzerland.

VISITOR VISA: For other citizens, a visitor visa for up to 60 days can be issued to tourists and/or conference participants at the nearest R.O.C. embassies or Taipei Representative Offices. A single entry visa costs US\$36. Applicants need to provide passport (valid for at least six months), application form, one photo, an incoming and outgoing airline ticket, as well as documents verifying the purpose of visit.

TAIPEI JULY 2005

Post-Conference Tours (Subject to change)

Thursday, July 28 (Day 3)

Morning - Sections

Noon - Lunch

Afternoon
Plenary Session (to be organized)

Concluding Session
(chaired by Frank Morgan)

Evening Tour B:
Local Folk Dance/Music Activities

Friday, July 29

Tour C: Taipei City & Vicinity
1 Full Day
(National Palace Museum, Yang Ming
Shan National Park, and Chu-Ming
Open Art Museum)

Saturday, July 30

Tour D: Pottery and Silicon Valley
1 Full Day
(Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, Yinko
Pottery Museum, and Hsinchu High-
tech Industrial Park)

Saturday/Sunday, July 30~31

Tour E: South-East Taiwan Coast and
Taroko National Park by Tourist
Train and Airplane
2 Days/1 night



Accommodation (\$USD) (subject to negotiation)

Conference Room Rates (including taxes and service charges)*

Hotels	Code	Room Type/Class	Single	Double
Chien-Tan Youth Hostel (or similar)	A	Standard Twin/Double	\$35	\$35
Conference Hotel (Howard International House)	B	Standard Single	\$50	
Le Petit Sherwood Hotel	C	Semi-Suite	\$85	\$95
	D	Standard Single	\$110	
	E	Luxury	\$130	\$150

*Conference Hotel and Le Petit Sherwood Hotel rates include breakfast.

Taiwan Local Organizing Committee (Registration etc):

Lucie Cheng (Committee Chair), Professor & Dean, College of Journalism and Communications, Shih Hsin University
lcheng@cc.shu.edu.tw; FAX: +886 2 2236 7150

Tao-ming Chuang (Executive Director), Associate Professor, Department of Information and Communications, Shih Hsin University
tmchuang@cc.shu.edu.tw; FAX: +886 2 22361722

For further details about the conference and how to register, see the Conference website at <http://iamcr2005.shu.edu.tw>

Section Reports:

From Porto Alegre to Taipei

Audience and Reception Studies

The Audience and Reception Studies Section is pleased to announce that at the 2004 Porto Alegre conference, 30 papers (including five in Spanish) were presented in six sessions over three full days. Papers as diverse as audiences themselves shed a global light on a wide array of issues: from assessing the construct of audience; questioning and inventing methods; to consumption, reception and identity.

We are delighted to continue to co-chair this section for the 2005 Taipei conference where we look forward to another interesting analysis of audience responses and methods. We welcome abstracts from a spectrum of audience and reception studies, including those related to the conference theme.

Joint Heads:

Umi Khattab (umi@unimelb.edu.au)
Tony Wilson (iamcr2004@yahoo.co.uk)

Communication Policy and Technology

The main focus of the CP&T Section (previously CTP) was the IAMCR Porto Alegre Conference, where the Section had three sessions in which 10 papers were presented. Close to 80 abstracts had been initially submitted, from which some 18 were selected. Presenters for just over 44% of the selected papers cancelled, mostly for reasons of travel and related expenses to Porto Alegre. The quality of the papers presented was, however, very high and the sessions were critical, interactive and engaging. Each had attendance of about 25 participants.

The Business Meeting, held on July 29, welcomed a number of new scholars and other first time participants, alongside long-standing members. The meeting discussed a range of strategies to recruit more new members and to expand the work and activities of the Section. The leadership was mandated to engage actively in the IAMCR and global dialogue on e-inclusion and the WSIS as key, long standing interest areas of the Section. There will also be more activities and communication with members between conferences.

The business meeting agreed with the CP&T policy of keeping the standards of papers high, and also agreed on a number of positive measures to encourage and promote conference papers. These include possibilities for revisions and second reviews of promising, but not fully qualifying, abstracts, increased clarity of criteria for selection of abstracts, increased visibility of section and communication

with members, and closer cooperation with other Sections.

After considerable discussion about its name, the Section has agreed that Communication Policy and Technology (CP&T) best reflects the Section's prime focus on policy, with a strong interest in technology. Consequently, this name will be adopted for future usage.

The meeting also decided that the Section's mission statement should be changed. The revised mission statement reads:

"The CP&T Section's focus is on communication policy, with a keen interest in socio-economic aspects of technological change. The Section welcomes research that bridges between theory and practice, theoretical and empirical studies, by offering scientific reflection as well as guidelines for political action. The CP&T Section does not adhere to any single philosophical or theoretical school but encourages research that is critical and counter-intuitive."

The term of office of the leadership of CP&T was extended to 2008 in order to comply with the new legislative arrangements of the IAMCR. The CP&T leadership team consists of Section Heads Hopeton S. Dunn and Pascal Verhoest, and Deputies Jo Pierson and Tanja Storsul.

Call for submissions

The TCP Section's focus is on communication policy, with a keen interest in socio-economic aspects of technological change. The Section welcomes research that bridges between theory and practice, theoretical and empirical studies, by offering scientific reflection as well as guidelines for political action. The TCP Section does not adhere to any single philosophical or theoretical school but encourages research that is critical and counter-intuitive. For the Taiwan conference, we plan to hold sessions on:

Emerging ICTs and user empowerment

Peer-to-peer exchange, blogging, wiki, smart mobs, social software, location-based services, are emerging ICT applications that seem to allow the user to adopt an active role in 'configuring' and 'domesticating' technology. However, all technological change is embedded in, and constrained by the social context of everyday life and work. The question therefore remains to what extent these new application really enable users to participate in political, economic and cultural life?

Internet governance: who rules?

The question of Internet governance is high up on many agendas. Governments are discussing how to deal with

unwanted contents on the web, whereas market players are becoming increasingly creative in competing for the control of the Internet. The Section welcomes contributions that address the question who controls the Internet, why and with what effects?

The digital media in Asia: the 'geo'-factor

Papers for this session are to be situated in Asia and have either a regional, national or local focus. They highlight geo-political, geo-economical or geo-cultural factors as possible explanations for the evolution of digital information and communication systems. Papers that discuss Asian information and communication systems in relation with other continents are also welcomed.

Digital Divide

Digital divide being an indication of unequal access and use of ICT is provoked by factors of economic, socio-political, educational, gender, and cultural nature. In different national contexts digital divide results in inequality, media illiteracy and decreased communication competence. Papers for the joint session of the TCP and Working Group on Digital Divide, convened by Elena Vartanova, are invited to discuss new models of national and global communication policy to overcome the digital divide with a special focus on the role of various social agents such as states, NGOs, content and access providers and users.

Criteria for selection of abstracts

The CP&T welcomes abstracts from the global research community. Younger researchers from all regions are especially encouraged to submit abstracts for evaluation. The CP&T has a tradition for keeping high academic standards. In evaluating abstracts, we look at criteria such as:

1. The scientific or policy relevance of the research problem
2. The formulation of the research question
3. The clarity of the objective of the paper
4. The consistency of the proposed argument
5. The theories and/or methodologies used
6. The nature of the empirical evidence presented.

Abstracts may be rejected on the basis that they do not meet these criteria or that the information provided is of insufficient quality. Abstracts should be submitted to Tanja Storsul (tanja.storsul@media.uio.no).

Joint Heads:

Hopeton S. Dunn (hdunn@cwjamaica.com)
Pascal Verhoest (p.verhoest@stb.tno.nl)

Deputy Heads:

Jo Pierson (jo.pierson@vub.ac.be)
Tanja Storsul (tanja.storsul@media.uio.no)

Community Communication

The Community Communication Section focuses on media that originates, circulates and resonates from the sphere of civil society. Broadly defined, this is the field of communication that exists outside of the state and the market (often non-government and non-profit), yet which may interact with both. We seek to advance research on the objectives, practices and dynamics of community-based media, including issues of localism, politics, socio-economics, language, ethnicity, gender, or other interests and intersections. We welcome both theoretical and applied research, as well as research conducted at both micro and macro levels of analysis. Our concerns include issues of media access, participation and reception; media projects undertaken by marginalized and underrepresented groups; development and support of community-based media institutions and infrastructures; production and distribution of community, alternative and activist media; and theoretical contributions to the research, evaluation and practice of community communication.

We encourage members to make suggestions on panels and sessions for the Taipei conference. We would like to have at least one session that focuses on a recent major work in our area and that offers select panelists an opportunity to respond to this work. We would also like to reach out to area scholars in East Asia to present research in our field. Please send any relevant names or contact information to facilitate outreach. In addition to research papers, the Section welcomes the submission of panel proposals on current issues and problems in the field.

Head:

Laura Stein (Lstein@mail.utexas.edu)

Deputy Heads:

Per Jauert (jauert@imv.au.dk)
Ellie Rennie (rennie@pop.qut.edu.au)

Gender and Communication

The Gender Section completed a very successful four days of presentations in Porto Alegre. Altogether 9 panels were organized, with 33 papers accepted for presentation from 14 countries, representing Asia, North and South America, Europe, the Caribbean and the Middle East. Like many other Sections at Porto Alegre, a number of late cancellations reduced the total presentations to 19, with a balance between established researchers and postgraduate students. A full listing of session titles, paper titles and contributors can be found on the Section's website at http://www.intcul.tohoku.ac.jp/%7Eholden/iamcr/Gender_index.html

The papers ran the gamut of methodologies – from quantitative surveys to observation of media users to interviews to content analyses of media products. The media assessed included film, advertising, TV broadcasting,

fiction, fashion magazines, newspapers and the Internet. Substantive themes touched upon constructions of femininity and masculinity, discrimination, globalization, homosexuality, racism, sexism, sexuality, sexual harassment, the social construction of beauty, and violence. Contexts studied included Australia, Brazil, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, the Middle East, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Spain, Taiwan, and the United States. Sessions were well attended, with an average audience size of 20. In terms of gender balance, audiences remained heavily female and only three presenters were male – imbalances that the Section is actively committed to redressing. Perhaps reflective of this aim, Todd Holden was elected Co-chair of the Section. He replaces Karen Ross who served with vision and verve for the past four years. We wish to take this time to thank Karen for the dedication that she has brought to the Section, enriching and improving it these past few years.

As for Karen, she wishes to express the following sentiments to IAMCR, in general, and the Gender Section, in particular:

“As I step down from co-chairing the Gender and Communication Section and leave it in the capable hands of Todd Holden and Gita Bamezai, I think about how issues of gender and media have finally entered the mainstream as a result of many of our efforts over the decades to insist that gender really does matter. I am pleased that, as gender studies has further widened its scope to embrace sexuality and masculinity, that these paradigm shifts have been reflected in the changing nature of the Section’s conference programme over the past few years, and in the election of our first male co-chair at Porto Alegre. I wish Todd and Gita well in the exciting times they have ahead.”

-- Karen Ross, outgoing Co-Chair

Call for Papers

For Taipei, any proposal addressing the relationship between gender and media or communication will be considered – without regard to empirical, theoretical, or disciplinary approach. Contributions which seek to address the conference theme are especially welcome. Complete panels proposals are encouraged, although individual papers will also be considered.

In keeping with our philosophy of recognizing the multiple points of intersection between gender, communication and other areas of substantive interest to IAMCR’s many publics, we are actively committed to convening joint sessions with other Sections. Thus, as in Barcelona (2002), we plan to construct and jointly sponsor panels with the Media and Sport Section. To this end, abstracts addressing issues related to gender, media and sport will receive a particularly warm reception. Abstracts for this joint session should be emailed to Todd Holden (holden@intcul.tohoku.ac.jp or t_sensei@hotmail.com).

Joint Heads:

Gita Bamezai (gitabamezai@excite.com)
Todd Holden (holden@intcul.tohoku.ac.jp)

History

Twenty papers were presented in the History Section at the Porto Alegre conference. There was a welcome emphasis on Latin American media history, particularly on historical relations between the media and politics. There were also several papers which presented a variety of perspectives on the globalisation of communication since the 19th century. Topics included the history of transatlantic communication between Germany and the United States, the experience of international news in colonial Australia, international news agencies in South America, and the growth of ‘media empires’ in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Other topics dealt with more specific historical periods and contexts including the Hebrew press in Europe in the late 19th century and Swedish press reporting of the Moscow show trials of the 1930s.

At the business meeting there was considerable discussion of the History Section’s mission. It was felt that the History Section had an important contribution to make to all IAMCR research areas since it was by comparison with the past that we can best understand the present. Communication and media systems are historically shaped phenomena. Understanding historical development can also help us visualise future scenarios. To take an obvious example, research on contemporary communication networks and their technologies benefits greatly by being informed by the history of telegraphic networks as they developed in the 19th century.

At the business meeting we also discussed themes for the 2005 conference in Taiwan. As well as there being an open Section, the three themes will be Communication and media history in Asia, Media panics: Historical perspectives and case studies, and The history of communication and media globalisation. Carlos Barrera of the University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain was elected Vice-Chair of the section.

Head:

Peter Putnis (Peter.Putnis@canberra.edu.au)

Deputy Head:

Carlos Barrera (cbarrera@unav.es)

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International Communication

There was a full program of presentations and panels in the International Communications Division (ICD) at Porto Alegre. Efforts were made to ensure high quality presentations by all participants, and to expand our offerings with two panels on special topics by colleagues from France and Italy. We are still concerned about late cancellations by conference participants, but will continue to follow up with efforts to ensure all papers accepted for the division are presented as scheduled.

A special word of thanks must be given to the division assistants Tanya Cantrell of the University of Texas-USA and Elena Sosnovskaia of Kazan State Technological University-Russia. Their good-faith efforts to manage the ICD presentations at Porto Alegre were greatly appreciated.

Suggestions for streamlining and efficiencies for the ICD program in Taipei 2005 are welcome and encouraged! We apologize for any communication difficulties because the new division head was trying to manage division business while on leave in Namibia.

The International Communication Division invites submissions, both theoretical and empirical, papers for its program in Taipei. Special proposals for panels on the conference theme are encouraged and discussions have already been held among several possible participants to explore international implications of "media panics".

Head:

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Junior Scholars Network

The Junior Scholars Network (JSN) invites participation in the Taipei conference. We call for papers examining implications and issues surrounding this year's theme, as well as on other topics. We invite the submission of abstracts on a wide range of topics, especially from scholars building experience in the field of communication. Papers in past years have addressed a range of topics including new technology and its access, global media perspectives, political economy, journalism, and many more.

JSN is a Section dedicated to the work and careers of emerging scholars. We especially look for works in progress from graduate students and new university instructors/professors who are interested in substantial feedback and comments intended to advance their projects.

We are also creating a mentorship program for emerging scholars who would benefit from linkages with senior scholars. This program will address publication techniques, teaching opportunities, professional involvement, and other issues. If you are interested in connecting with a mentor, please contact the Section chair, Rosa Leslie Mikeal.

NOTE: *Abstracts should NOT be attachments to the message, but instead included as text in the body of the e-mail. We have been receiving many viruses these days, and can not open attachments easily.*

If you are submitting a work in progress, we welcome your submission. Please STATE that it is a work in progress.

Please take a look at our website for examples of papers presented at past conferences:
http://www.tu-dresden.de/gsn_iamcr/

Head:

Rosa Leslie Mikeal (RmikealM@asc.upenn.edu)

Media Law

Legal aspects of the development and the use of the Internet are becoming more and more central and controversial in the discussion on the global information society. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS I), which took place in Geneva, December 2003, has asked UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to establish a special "Working Group on Internet Governance" (WGIG), which will present a report with recommendations for the further regulation of the Internet to the second phase of the summit, scheduled for November 2005 in Tunis. According to the planning of WGIG, the draft report will be available for discussion already in early July 2005.

In Taiwan, the Law Section, in cooperation with the Communication Technology and Policy Section and the International Communication Section, will organize one plenary session where the WGIG Report will be discussed by invited speakers.

Additionally the Law Section will organize one or two sessions dealing with special aspects of Internet regulation, in particular spam, content and internationalized domain names (iDNs) and the role of international organisations like ICANN, ITU and others.

We call for papers that analyze these and other legal issues related to the development and the use of the Internet.

Heads:

Wolfgang Kleinwächter (wolfgang@imv.au.dk)
Andrei Richter (richter@medialaw.ru)

Media and Sport

Like many Sections at the Porto Alegre conference, the Media and Sport Section had to contend with numerous late cancellations, leading to a reshuffling of its panel line-up. From an original slate of five panels, only three were convened. Despite this, the papers presented were of high quality and touched upon a number of common themes, including globalisation, cultural memory, technological change, commercialisation, and gender. Nations receiving focused attention in these papers and subsequent discussion included Argentina, Brazil, the former East Germany, England, Japan, Norway, South Korea, and the United States. Sports receiving analytic scrutiny included The Olympics, soccer's World Cup, and team sports such as baseball and American football. New avenues for collective Section activity were identified, including a tentative plan to convene a Media, Sport and Society meeting in Germany, to coincide with the 2006 FIFA (football) World Cup.

The Media and Sport Working Group invites submissions for its program for the IAMCR conference in Taipei. All papers, from the full range of perspectives on the study of Media and Sport, will be considered. Particularly welcome are contributions which bridge between the study of mediated sport and the conference's theme.

As we are hoping to include a joint session with the Gender Section, following the successes of a similar session at the Barcelona conference, abstracts addressing issues related to gender, media and sport are very welcome. Abstracts for the joint session should also be emailed to Todd Holden: holden@intcul.tohoku.ac.jp or t_sensei@hotmail.com

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Participatory Communication Research

The Participatory Research Section had seven panels in Porto Alegre with 12 sessions, including two Spanish and Portuguese. Altogether 24 papers were presented, and three additional ones were sent to the Section, although the authors could not come. Three papers were presented in Spanish and three in Portuguese. Four more papers – two presented, two sent in – dealt with Spanish and Portuguese issues, but the papers were in English. Thus around 35 percent of the papers focussed on Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries, mainly Latin America.

The proportion of non-shows was quite high, because as many as 42 abstracts were accepted but 27 papers

completed. The fact that so many presenters could not come made the reorganisation of the sessions somewhat chaotic in the beginning, but gradually a new programme was developed.

The attendance varied between 17 and 36 persons, most of the time with a basic group of 15-20 persons following through all sessions. Tom Jacobson (USA), Rico Lie (the Netherlands), Thomas Tufte (Denmark), Robert White (Italy), and Ullamaija Kivikuru (Finland) functioned as chairpersons and commentators.

The quality of the papers varied, but was on average high. The scope of topics was large, ranging from case studies to theoretical considerations of communicative action and Foucault's perception of power. The majority were empirically oriented, based on a theoretical framework. Reflections on the conference theme (democracy) were common. Aspects of development communication and social change were present in many papers, but not as strongly as in previous conferences. A few papers had cultural studies as a point of departure and community media and the new forms of alternative media such as weblogs and co-links received attention.

Interesting debates emerged around participation and/with/in/versus new technology. Several papers suggested that new technology offers new forms of participation and joint knowledge production. Some authors suggested that the net as a medium or public place is more open than conventional media, but there were "old guarders" who considered that true participation can be achieved only through face-to-face communication.

The Business meeting was attended by 16 participants. The meeting reconfirmed the election of Ullamaija Kivikuru as the PCR Section head and Rico Lie as the vice head for the next 2 years. The new postal ballot procedure will be applied to the elections of 2006 for the election of the new vice head. The present Section head will send a call for statements, and the individuals interested in Section leadership should express their interest in a short statement before the 2005 conference in Taipei. Candidates need not be present in Taipei. At the beginning of 2006, voting will be arranged.

The PCR Section decided to establish its own simple website, and Rico Lie accepted responsibility for establishing and updating the website.

A new journal (*Communicating for Social Change*, Hampton Press) will be published in 2006, as the journal of the PCR Section. Members are encouraged to contribute to the journal, and the first deadline for articles is December 2004.

Two books have been published based on papers presented at previous IAMCR Conferences and a third book is in the planning stage.

Cooperation

The Community Media Section has approached the PCR Section, asking for joint sessions and perhaps at a later stage merging of the two Sections. Further, both the HIV/AIDS and Digital Divide working groups have sought for cooperation in the form of joint sessions. These initiatives will be pursued in ways that do not reduce the time for PCR Section papers.

Language problems

At the Business Meeting the need to provide complete papers at the conference was discussed. It was emphasised that papers are still the basis for academic debate and publishing. Authors who have yet to provide papers are encouraged to send them to Ullamaija Kivikuru.

In the Spanish/Portuguese sessions, the issue of language came up as Spanish/Portuguese presenters felt isolated because they were placed in separate sessions which most English-speakers did not attend. Realistically, a compromise for the time being is the only solution: volunteers for simultaneous interpretation are welcome, and so are short English summaries for papers presented in Spanish or French. Languages are important, they reflect cultures which differ and this difference should be appreciated. But a language is also a means of communication. The aim at internationalism and understanding is based on tolerance and compromise. Accordingly, the main issue is that people understand each other in international conferences. To reach at least this level, some hybrid modes of language practice should be accepted.

The Section invites submissions for its sessions at the in Taipei. Papers from a wide range of perspectives on communication, participation and change will be considered.

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Wageningen University
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Political Communication Research

The Political Communication Research Section was strongly represented in the Porto Alegre program. 81 papers were accepted for 13 panels and 2 poster sessions. Even if many cancellations happened, mostly due to lack of funding, this gave way to around 50 actual presentations. Attendance was also strong, with 25 to 50 participants in the room.

Philippe J. Maarek was elected Section Head of the Political Communication Research Section for the next 4 years, according to the new statutes.

The Section also sponsored a workshop on 'Internationalisation of Political Marketing: Americanisation or plain globalisation?' in July 1-2, 2004 in Paris, organised by Philippe J. Maarek and Bruce I. Newman, Editor and founder of the *Journal of Political Marketing*, and Professor at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, USA. The workshop was also supported by RC 22, the Political Communication Research Committee of IPSA, chaired by Barbara Pfetsch (University of Hohenheim), and hosted by CECCOPOP, Center for Comparative Studies on Political and Public Communication of University Paris 12.

Call for papers

For Taipei, the Political Communication Research Section is interested in papers bearing on the political communication of media panics. But we also seek papers on any of the whole range of political communication research; the media and political socialization, political campaigning, public opinion and political participation, interactions between the media and intermediary organizations such as interest groups and political parties, as well as the involvement and uses of the medias in campaigns, election; and also the media and marketing processes in government, from policy making to day to day politics at the local level, including Town Halls and other Local Government Institutions communication, from their day to day governance to the answers given to problematic neighbourhoods.

In order to improve the conference discussions, all panels will have a discussant. Colleagues may apply to be discussants if they have already taken part to at least two previous meetings of the Section and/or are well-known researchers in the field. Paper givers may also volunteer to be discussants in other panels than their own. Would-be discussants should specify in which field of political communication they are willing to work and also send in the same personal data required from paper givers.

Head:

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41 rue du Colisee,
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Political Economy

During the Porto Alegre conference, the Section activities included 13 panels with 40 papers. There was also a special evening celebrating political economy with the Unión Latina de Economía Política de la Información, la Comunicación y la Cultura or Latin Union of Political Economy of the Information, Communication and Culture (ULEPICC). At the Section's business meeting, the members expressed their thanks to outgoing Vice Chair, Graham Murdock (UK), and welcomed Helena Sousa (Portugal) as the Vice Chair for the next two years.

The Political Economy Section invites paper submissions for the Taipei conference on the conference theme or on topics relating to new developments in the study of the political economy of media and communication. For more information about the Section, see the website at: www.jcomm.uregon.edu/~IAMCR-PolEcon, or contact the Section Head.

Head:

Janet Wasko,
University of Oregon,
Eugene, Oregon, USA 97403.
Jwasko@uoregon.edu

Deputy Head:

Helena Sousa (helena@ics.uminho.pt)

Professional Education

At the Porto Alegre conference the three advertised sessions were held. Though there were cancellations, this did not interrupt proceedings unduly as more time could be given to those papers which were presented in person. Also, all but one of the full papers were submitted, and thus available to the participants. The papers, which were of high standard, discussed professional education in the direct sense, such as mid-career training and professional education in Oman, as well as looking at the Internet as a resource and at computer ethics. Some emphasis was given to the wider question of media and democracy in the Arab world, and how media professionalism can contribute in this changing world.

The business meeting was mostly devoted to a discussion of the Section's mission, a discussion which also is to be continued among members of the Section by email. At the meeting it was emphasized that the Section should first and foremost embrace its core business of professional education. This encompasses aspects of teaching, professionalism, journalistic ethics and the changes imposed on professional education through changes in technology. However, it was recognized that professional education does not exist in a vacuum and its success can best be measured in professional practice. Studies of journalistic work, of professional education seen in the light

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of professional practice, journalistic autonomy, and newsroom and work place studies are also seen as essential parts of the Section's research.

The Professional Education Section invites submissions for its program for Taipei. We invite in particular those scholars to submit who were going to present at the 2003 conference, unfortunately cancelled due to SARS.

All papers, from the full range of perspectives on the study of Professional Education, will be considered. However, particularly welcome are those papers which take up the conference theme. In the Professional Education Section this could mean addressing questions of professionalism in a controlled media environment – be due to the war on terror or state intervention. It could also mean highlighting the importance of professional education in the attempt to underpin media freedom. As the Media Production Analysis working group, like all working groups, does not have sessions of their own in the off-year conference, the Professional Education Section also welcomes papers dealing with questions of media production analysis – whether they relate to on-line, broadcast or print.

Head:

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Psychology and Public Opinion

The Psychology and Public Opinion Section plans three types of sessions at the Taiwan Conference in July 2005.

First, we plan thematically open sessions devoted to papers which refer to the broad research area of the Section and which are occupied with the central conference theme

Second, we propose sessions concerned with the relationship between media consumption and media literacies, the public sphere and public opinion. The idea behind this is that public sphere is the concept to describe the core of democratic participation and the process by which the people come to a common will. Public opinion is different as it is a methodologically given concept to find out how opinions and attitudes are distributed in the population. Media Consumption is an important base from which not only to have an opinion but also to participate in the public sphere. Finally, media literacies are important pre-conditions to be able to use media in a successful and intended way. Under contemporary conditions, the relation between these four concepts and conditions of democracy are changing – by changing media, by changing conditions

for politics, by globalization, by the growing influence of the economy and so on. We hope for theoretical, conceptual and empirical proposals.

Third, the Section calls for papers based on empirical research on the interrelations between types of families and the changing media of today, and consequences for the ways in which children and young people grow up in the resulting media environment. The main point here is that the media environment of people is changing rapidly and fundamentally with the emergence of the digital media and the changing “old” media through digitalization, commercialization and so on. Thus, it is necessary to re-analyze the ways in which families with access to multi-channel and new media technologies integrate the media within the functioning of the family system as a social institution, under which conditions this takes place and what it means for children and young people's development.

Joint Heads:

Friedrich Krotz (friedrich.krotz@uni-erfurt.de)
Hillel Nossek (hnossek@colman.ac.il)

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Member's New Work

Entertaining the Citizen: When Politics and Popular Culture Converge, by Liesbet van Zoonen (2004)

Can politics be combined with entertainment? Can political involvement and participation be fun? Politics and popular culture are converging all the time, whether it's in Arnold Schwarzenegger's election as governor of California or in political television dramas and movies like *The West Wing* and *Dave*. This book encourages readers to think about how links between entertainment and politics have the potential to rejuvenate citizenship, endorse civic values, and sustain civic commitment. Instead of discarding the popular as irrelevant or dangerous to the democratic process, Liesbet van Zoonen shows us the possibilities for increasing political knowledge and participation through the arenas of politics and popular music, political "soaps," political television dramas, and politicians as celebrities. A first-rate starting point for debate, *Entertaining the Citizen* will stimulate and entertain students and general readers alike.

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc.
ISBN: 0-7425-2907-X £53/£20.95
www.rowmanlittlefield.com

Gender and Newsroom Cultures: Identities at Work, edited by Marjan de Bruin and Karen Ross (2004)

This book offers a series of engagements with the shifting dialectics of gender and newsroom culture, bringing a feminist analysis to the contours of those strange and often strained relations. Importantly, for a text which aims to bring coherence and insight to a still relatively under-researched topic, the contributors draw inspiration for their work from an impressively diverse range of geographies, approaches and contexts, from gender stereotyping in Spanish newsrooms, to self-perception of women journalists in India; from women's activism in Es-

tonia to knowledge hierarchies in the USA and hostile media cultures in Africa.

Together, the 14 essays contained in these pages provide a timely intervention in the debates around gender and journalism, extending the traditional Anglo-centred analysis to produce a genuinely East-West, North-South set of analyses on this important subject.

Hampton Press
ISBN 1 57273 397 7. £20.50
www.eurospan.co.uk

European Culture and the Media, edited by Ib Bondebjerg and Peter Golding (2004)

We are witnessing a dynamic reshaping of the European 'mediascape'. This has been underway for more than a decade since the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, the growing impact of globalisation, and the birth of new technologies and new media, or the convergence between old and new media. A new and more intense 'mediatisation' of society and everyday life is emerging.

This is happening alongside the rapid reconstruction of the cultural and economic landscape of Europe itself. In this transformation the communicative and ideological dimensions, the digitalisation of technology, and changes in culture - 'the imaginary', the discursive universe of politics and communication, are all crucial areas for research.

The cultural industries, (film, television, books, magazines, entertainment and music), but also the world of news, actuality, 'infotainment' and the internet, are key areas for the study of what we may begin to understand as a changing European culture in all its complexity and with all its differences and conflicts. The media and the cultural industries are among the fastest growing sectors in the global economy.

This book presents new research and thinking, with a particular focus on and in depth analysis of a number of cases and dimensions in European media culture and its broader social, political and economic context. It is the first in the Changing Media-Changing Europe Series of books, produced from the work of the European Science Foundation Programme of that name. The Series editors, and co-editors of this volume, are the co-chairs of the Programme.

Intellect Books
ISBN 1-84150-110-7, £29.95/\$59.95, Hardback, 288pp
ISBN 1-84150-111-5, £14.95/\$29.95, Paperback, 288pp

Business as Usual: Continuity and Change in Central and Eastern European Media, edited by D.L. Paletz and Karol Jakubowicz (2003)

An introduction (David Paletz) and an overview of social and media change in the region (Karol Jakubowicz) are followed by country studies:

Belarus (Oleg Manaev); Bulgaria (Lilia Raycheva and Todor Petev); Croatia (Zrinjka Perusko Culek); Estonia (Epp Lauk, Halliki Harro); Hungary (Mihaly Galik); Poland (Karol Jakubowicz); Romania (Peter Gross); Slovakia (Andrej Skolkay); Ukraine (Andrei G. Richter); Yugoslavia (Mirosljub Radojkovic)

Each study describes and evaluates the changes and development of their media system in terms of its placement on the subordination-autonomy and dominance-pluralism continua and in the context of a general appraisal of political evolution. The final section deals with tolerance (Jeffrey Mondak) and feminism (Anna Reading) - also in relation to transformation in the region.

Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.
ISBN 1572732652 Hardcover \$95.00
ISBN 1572732660, Paperback \$36.50

Development and Communication in Africa

edited by Charles Okigbo and Festus Eribo, 2004

Although Africa is the world's poorest continent, it is a major emerging market and partner in the global village of the new millennium. This book presents a wide array of perspectives on the problems and prospects of developing Africa. Leading scholars in African studies and international communication analyze the sociopolitical and cultural experiences in various communities, focusing on key questions: What is development? What are the main issues surrounding development in Africa? And how can communication be used to address the persistent problems of underdevelopment? The book

has 18 chapters. It is useful to scholars in communication, sociology, political science, and development economics.

Rowman and Littlefield
ISBN 0-7425-2745-X
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Strategies for Inclusion and Gender in the Information Society: Private & Voluntary Sector Initiatives

edited by Carol MacKeogh & Paschal Preston (2004)

This book addresses the role of private and voluntary sector 'inclusion' initiatives related to women in the production and use of

digital technologies and new media. The book is based on research conducted by the multi-country SIGIS project ('Strategies for Inclusion and Gender in the European Information Society'). Linking research centres in 6 EU member states and conducted between 2001-2004, this is one of the largest ever studies focused on gender and technology issues.

This book provides a wealth of empirical studies examining gender aspects of in/ex-clusion processes and other features of the changing role of women in the production and consumption/use of digital technologies and new media in Europe.

Trondheim, Norway: NTNU Press
ISSN : 0802-3581

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