

Elections 2004

Elections for both the Executive Board and International Council will be 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.

These will be conducted by postal voting using an optional preferential voting system. (See page 7)

This system will allow more members to participate in the election of Council members, who were previously elected during conferences. It will also 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 will begin Feb. 1, 2004.

Candidates for the Executive Board must be nominated by at least five paid-up members of the IAMCR from at least two different countries. Candidates for the International Council may be nominated by one member or self-nominated. All candidates and nominators must have paid their dues for 2003.

Candidates can be nominated for one or more Executive Board positions and/or a seat on the International Council.

Nominations can be made via the IAMCR List or sent to the chair of the Election committee by any other means (jwasko@uoregon.edu). Updates of nominations will periodically be posted on the IAMCR List. Once nominations are closed, the full list of candidates will be posted on the IAMCR website.

Candidates must send an acceptance statement electronically or by post to the chair of the Elections Committee, to be received no later than May 1, 2004.

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www.aieri.net
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For all Governing bodies see inside back cover

IAMCR SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual membership: US\$80 Student: US\$40
Institutional membership: US\$400

(Low income countries)

Individual membership: US\$20 Student: US\$20
Institutional membership: US\$20

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Full page: US\$300; Half page: US\$200
Business Card format: US\$50



A YEAR OF “Alarums and Excursions”

by Frank Morgan, President

Alarms have prevented many excursions this year. Our meeting in Taipei, for which the local organisers had made such magnificent and thorough preparations, had to be cancelled because of the SARS epidemic and the alarm that swept the world in its wake. Instead of meeting physically, we have invited Sections to post on the IAMCR website the papers that would have been presented.

Taipei was going to be a landmark meeting for IAMCR. Early registrations were very promising and a substantial delegation was expected from mainland China. We now plan to meet in Taipei in 2005 with a new theme and new research to report. We have not yet decided a theme but it might be interesting to reflect on the phenomenon of ‘media panic’.

Meanwhile, the Executive Board and International Council met in November at Loughborough, UK during the Digital Dynamics conference organised jointly with our US colleagues in the ICA. Numbers were small in all three meetings but all were very productive.

Planning is well advanced for the 2004 biennial conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil where we will focus on “Communication and Democracy: challenges for the new world” – a most exciting opportunity to explore the various manifestations of both communication and democracy worldwide. Again, there is more detail in subsequent pages.

Looking further ahead, we are negotiating with several countries that might host the 2006 and 2008 conferences but would nevertheless welcome offers from anyone wishing to make them. We intend to work more closely – in joint venture partnerships – with local organisers in the future, to share both the burdens and the proceeds for the good of the Association.

Like many international associations, IAMCR responded to the recent war in Iraq. The International Council, in April, passed a resolution regretting the failure of the world community to find a peaceful settlement, and deploring the resort to military action by the US-led Coalition. In particular, the resolution objected to the threats that this action posed to media and communication practice and research, and to people’s fundamental human rights – not least those to free speech and free access to information. I sent a copy of our resolution to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Another has been posted on the website.

Both the war and the SARS outbreak have raised significant issues for media and communication practitioners and researchers. Each has tangled the skeins of fact and opinion. Each highlights the relationship between the media industries and their host societies and cultures. And each underscores Walter Lippmann’s observation, 80 years ago, that truth and freedom are threatened not so much by the state and the market but by “the very nature of news and news gathering, the psychology of the audience and the scale of modern life”.

These events also put globalisation into stark perspective. SARS poses much less risk to most of us than staphylococcal infections, influenza or driving a car. Globally, its impact is vastly smaller than that of malaria, AIDS or TB. In developed countries, more people die in hospital each year, from infected intravenous drips, than have died worldwide from SARS. Yet, we chose to respond as though SARS posed a universal and immediate threat of medieval plague proportions. We likewise choose to believe that all of us equally are at risk from terrorism. Whether or not these panics are “moral” might be arguable, but the rising levels of alarm in the world – and the part played in that by the media – are certainly grist for the mills of our research.

Since we met in Barcelona, I have represented IAMCR at three of the preparatory meetings for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva and addressed the international news agencies’ forum in Tehran, conducted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, in October 2002. In November 2002, I spoke at the University of Navarre’s conference on Communication and the Humanities in Pamplona. I delivered the 2003 Independent Newspapers Media Freedom Lecture at the South African Communication Association Conference in Durban in June this year and attended the UNESCO General Conference in Paris in October.

At WSIS, a number of members – including Cees Hamelink, Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Robin Mansell, Divina Frau Meigs, and Mark Raboy – have made significant contributions. Nevertheless, for all its innovative attempt to bring the private sector and civil society groups together with governments, to build a healthier, wealthier and more equitable world for all, the Summit has conspicuously neglected available, research-based information about the

... (cont’d on page 5)

Highlights from the IAMCR Executive Board and the International Council meetings in Loughborough, UK November 2003

by Ole Prehn, Secretary General

Due to the postponement of the IAMCR Taipei conference the Executive Board and the International Council had to organize a different place and time for their annual meetings. These meetings took place during the ICA/IAMCR conference on Digital Dynamics in Loughborough, Burleigh Hall, November 6-9 2003. The Executive Board met twice: November 7, 2003, 7 pm – 11 pm, and November 8, 9: 30 am – 5:30 pm. The International Council met on November 8, 2003, 7 pm – 10. Both meetings were influenced by the (apologized) absence of many members.

In its meeting the Executive Board approved the reports from the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary General, and Vice presidents Marjan de Bruin and Divina Frau Meigs. Among the issues discussed, arising from the minutes, was the challenge of keeping momentum in the Association

after the Tapei Conference, originally scheduled for July 2003 had had to be postponed due to the threat of SARS in Tapei. Committees, established in Barcelona as well as some members of the Executive Board, had not been as active as anticipated. The discussion focussed on the questions how to use cyberspace most efficiently, how to attract more members and how we to continuously work on a broader acceptance and outreach in relation to international organisations.

In relation to both UNESCO and WSIS a lot of work has been done, especially by the President, Frank Morgan and the Deputy Secretary, Divina Frau Meigs. UNESCO now considers IAMCR as a NGO of experts rather than solely beggars, and regarding the WSIS pre-conferences, IAMCR has been very active (see reports on pages 7, 15, 16 and 17). These facts notwithstanding, it was generally observed that such ongoing initiatives were not properly

communicated to the membership. The meeting recommended arranging a panel on this topic at the Porto Alegre conference.

The Secretary General reported that the coming conference in Brazil was well on the way, and that he was frequently in contact with the local organising committee. He will visit the conference site early January to complete the work. He also informed the EB and the IC about the development of the new IAMCR web-site. The decision was taken to keep the site it as a trial until the Porto Alegre conference. The new domain addresses should be implemented as soon as possible. I was further decided that the following countries should be investigated as hosts for coming conferences: Canada, South Africa, Russia, Sweden, Jamaica/Cuba, and Iran.

During the meeting of the

... (cont'd on page 7)

24TH IAMCR CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2004 conference will be held at the Pontificia Universidade Católica campus and will be officially opened on Sunday, July 25 at 8 pm with cocktails and

entertainment. Monday, July 26 through Wednesday, July 28 will start with panels in the morning and sections/working groups in the afternoon. Thursday will be reserved for sections/working groups only until 6 pm, when the closing ceremony will take place. On Friday, July 30 the General Assembly will start at 9 am until approx. 1:30 pm.

Meetings in the governing bodies will take place on Saturday, July 24 (meetings Executive Board and meeting Section Heads), Sunday, July 25 (International Council), and Friday, July 30 in the afternoon (Executive Board and International Council). There will be optional dinners at Monday and Tuesday night. Women's dinner will Wednesday evening.

The conference fees are at the moment estimated to be: IAMCR members US \$ 280 (registration before June 11); US\$ 305 (registration on and after June 12); and site regis-

Communication and democracy Challenges for a new world

Porto Alegre, Brazil • July 25-30, 2004

tration US\$ 320. For non-members the fee will be US\$ 320; US\$345; and US\$ 360. Reduced fees for members will be US\$ 200, US\$ 225, and US\$ 240, and for non-members \$240, US\$ 265,

and US\$ 280. The organizing committee might offer grants to attend the event. Submission of applications closes on April 22, and the result will be announced on May 7. The fee covers all conference services, but not meals. Lunches can be bought cheaply at the campus restaurant.

Accommodation: The conference hotel will be Porto Alegre Sheraton, but other options will be available – see the conference website.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 14, and acceptances/rejections will be announced on April 12 at the latest. Final papers are due on July 13.

For more information check the conference website at: www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr. You can also contact the chair of the organising committee, Jaques A. Wainberg (jacqalwa@pucrs.br) or the Secretary General, Ole Prehn at prehn@hum.auc.dk

Updating the web-site

All **News** in the IAMCR-database will now be searchable by date and section – allowing members to be updated quickly in their preferred sections. **Colleagues** will still only consist of members of IAMCR, who can add data, which can be searched by the general public. The service is now open to public. The Association has tried to make the navigation user friendly giving the user the best general view.

Best practices

The Section Review Committee, appointed by the International Council in Barcelona and composed of **Oscar Gandy, Tom Jacobson, Annamaria Jonsson, Kaarle Nordenstreng, Annabelle Sreberny** and **Slavko Splichal**, prepared (in consultation with the Council) a questionnaire on basic facts and positions regarding the current Sections and Working Groups.

The Committee understands its mandate

broadly whereby it not only intends to review the domains and performance of the IAMCR bodies but also explores other comparable organizations with a view to identifying “best practices” and alternative structures.

All Section and Working Group heads, including co-heads, have been asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding members and activities; and, to provide the committee with the section’s mission statement.

CD-ROM Barcelona 2002

The organisers of IAMCR 2002 Barcelona Conference distributed a CD-ROM structured into 4 sections: the Conference; Abstracts and papers; Multimedia and Images from the Conference.

The Conference. A summary of the Conference Final Report in three languages: English, Spanish and Catalan.

Abstracts and papers. This section contains the abstracts and papers in PDF format.

Multimedia. This section includes extracts from the opening session (video) and the speeches of Manuel Pares and Frank Morgan in the General Assembly (audio).

All papers received by the Technical Secretary are available at the Conference web site www.barcelona2002.org.

Pushing issues at WSIS

The IAMCR is playing an active role in the preparatory meetings (prep coms) of the WSIS (World Summit on Information Societies) which most recently took place in Geneva.

The Association has been the co-writer of the NGOs on-line report, which was very well received by civil society members. It was also the speaker for education and research in plenary sessions of nation-states (at prep com 2 and at the intersession). IAMCR’s representatives helped draft the content and themes document for prep com 2, which addressed point by point the official nation states document.

One of the goals IAMCR is trying to achieve is to push the issues of higher education, lifelong learning, and shared knowledge, public domain.

The Association is determined to have the word “research” incorporated in the official texts of civil society and the nation states (beyond the technical understanding of it as developing hardware technology). For a comprehensive report, see pages 6, 14, 15 and 16).

Discussion Conference Policy

EB and IC discussed, through Cyberspace, the proposed IAMCR’s Conference Policy Report put forward by the chair of this Committee Katharine Sarikakis. You will find both documents – the original and the subsequent recommendations – on pages 10 and 11.

The President, Frank Morgan, suggest that this summary be incorporated into the proposals to be put to the General Assembly in Porto Alegre.

...Frank Morgan (cont’d from page 3)

constitution and operation of information (or knowledge) societies. I have taken every available opportunity to remind the organisers of this gap and to assure them that we have the resources to help close it.

In Tehran, where the theme was Communication for Peace, I argued that the establishing and maintaining of communities was an essential aspect of communication. For the media, in times of conflict, this raised the ethical choice of taking sides and ‘barracking’ or seeking peacefully to conciliate by telling both sides of the story.

My address in Pamplona proceeded from the premise that communication actually defines humanity. Communication also increasingly pervades our daily lives. While the ‘humanities’ have variously been Greek and Latin, philosophy, literature, history and so on, I argued that studies of humanity could equally well spring from communication and its attendant technologies and social structures,

which I called ‘a new humanity’.

In Durban, I reflected on whether freedom is just a lack of constraint, or instead a permit to participate socially and culturally, and went on to observe that the price of freedom is not so much eternal vigilance as professional capability. This view has consequences for audiences and media producers alike. It also has implications for curriculum construction and course design, which I developed in another paper to the conference.

IAMCR’s relationship with UNESCO continues to improve and my address to its General Conference appears elsewhere in *The Newsletter*. Returning finally to where I began this report, I am reminded of Matthew Arnold’s exhortation 140 years ago, during another cold, dark time when the world was swept by “confused alarms of struggle and flight”:

... let us be true
To one another!
And to our common task.

IAMCR @ the World Summit for Information Societies (WSIS) – prep coms 1, 2, 3

by Divina Frau-Meigs, Deputy Secretary General

IAMCR's strategy as an NGO officially represented at UNESCO and at the UN at large via Congo (Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations), especially via ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations), has been to work officially on the part of civil society and in full partnership with other NGOs in the field. Other members of IAMCR have been active in other capacities and activities in alliances like CRIS, WSIS open initiative, women's caucus...

IAMCR has been the most active in representing the scholars, academia and education in general after NGOs, specifically representing Universities and higher education, proved unable to follow up on the process. We are the second "focal point" (major representative) for the education and research family in civil society, seconding Beatriz Busaniche (from Argentina). It means the Association has direct access to the elected body of the Bureau of Civil Society, which monitors all the procedural aspects of the WSIS for civil society. Beatriz Busaniche has been very active in the bureau and we have taken the "content and themes" task, which allows us to monitor the actual documents elaborated by civil society in response to the States' proposals. This has led us to contribute to the drafting of the final documents issued after each prepcom. We have also been active in monitoring what was going on in the media family — though due to the heavy presence of professional journalists little space is left for academics involved in information and communication research. We have kept the education and research family active via a website and a discussion list, Educal, established through the WSIS secretariat.

IAMCR's representatives have worked both in Paris, at UNESCO and in Geneva, at the UN to give some visibility to the Association. Thus we have been the co-writers of NGOs on-line report, very well received by civil society members. The Association has been the speaker for education and research in plenary sessions of nation-states (at prepcom 2 and the intersession); we have helped draft the content and themes document for prepcom 2, which addressed point by point the official nation-states document (quite a feat since it was done within a day of the states publication). This document has been included as an annex to the final official states document. IAMCR's representatives also helped draft

the short 4-page document issued for the intersession. (All these documents are available at the wsis.civilsociety.org site and other lists sites).

Our general position has been one of discreet but efficient scientific authority, in a series of meetings that have been characterized by flux, uncertainty, and necessary immediate reactions to states decisions. We have tried to participate in a spirit of co-operation by helping other communities to mobilize, by translating for civil society when official translators were missing (prepcom 2), by clarifying documents through careful analysis of their subtext and implicit content, by building synergy between groups (especially keeping open dialogue with CONGO, CRIS, Open initiative and other caucuses), and by reaching out to other regions of the world (especially Africa and Latin America).

This presence, though it has become physically spottier with prepcom 3 and its follow-up events in November due to university constraints and requirements, has been established at relatively low cost to the Association, due to the support of local institutions. In

all, we have spent more than four months of work in full consultation time and presence for IAMCR relations with WSIS over the last year and a half (not to mention on-line consultations worldwide).

Procedure and strategy

IAMCR has positioned itself strongly in favour of the largest possible involvement of civil society in WSIS process. It has asked to be present as observer not only at plenary sessions but also at drafting sessions and at sub-group meetings of the nation-states, around issues of procedure, accreditation and themes. We succeeded briefly in having the presence of an NGO delegate in the final drafting committee of the nation-states (at the end of prepcom 2) but this seems to have been questioned again by some states.

During the prepcoms and intersession, IAMCR has also used the strategy of lobbying governments for their support on key-issues that needed to be reinforced, that moved in and out of the nation-states official documents. African countries, Europe, Canada and Australia proved to be very sensitive to our themes and concerns. These nations have to be kept

... (cont'd on page 14)

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Preferential Voting

Preferential voting ensures that, in a field of more than two candidates, the winner has the strongest and most widespread support in the electorate. It also avoids the need for run-off elections to decide between the two candidates who appear, from the first round, to have the strongest support.

The system works by voters ranking the candidates on the ballot paper by preference: 1 = most preferable; 2 = second most preferable; 3 = third most preferable and so on.

If one candidate wins an absolute majority at the first round, s/he is elected immediately. If not, the least popular candidate is removed from the count and his/her votes are reallocated according to the listed second preference. And, if necessary, the process is repeated until one candidate emerges with an absolute majority.

For more details, check for instance:
www.chaineus.org;
www.australianpolitics.com
www.ctl.ua.edu.

Food for thought

Brain Bites: A Secretariat, A Team and A Journal

by Kaarle Nordenstreng

Now that members think about forthcoming elections, the veteran's department of my brain (with experience of IAMCR elections since 1966) suggests to make two strategic points:

- We depend crucially on voluntary work of the Executive Board members and their institutions. Thanks for them, but institutionally it is not healthy for a serious international organisation to operate with such a decentralised structure that we have had during the past ten years. We should do our utmost to create a permanent secretariat – either by raising the present level of income or by finding an institution to offer those services at the modest cost of our budget. The candidates for leading positions should offer solutions to this dilemma – if not directly pledging contributions of their

own institutions, then at least making credible and concrete proposals for doing it otherwise.

- Regardless of how much we depend on the voluntary work of the Executive Board, its members (under the new Statutes only five) need to constitute an efficient team. They should not just be great individuals but persons who can and will cooperate as a real Board. Ideally the voters should be offered alternative teams between which to choose.

In addition, a *ceterum censeo*: IAMCR needs a journal as membership benefit – not just a list of journals offered at reduced rate (as such fine). The journal as membership benefit could be a choice between two or more alternatives, but one journal without additional payment is a must for the membership fee in a serious international organization.

...Elections (cont'd from page 1)

The statement shall include the candidate's name, affiliation and postal and e-mail addresses; names, affiliations, and postal and e-mail addresses of nominators; and a CV and election statement not exceeding 100 words.

Nominations will close on May 1, 2004. Voting material will be sent to all members of the IAMCR no later than May 31, 2004. The material will include a guide for the procedures to be followed, including explanation of the optional preferential voting system adopted by the General Assembly in Barcelona, 2002. Ballots must be postmarked by July 10, 2004 (21 days before the General Assembly).

Ballots will be counted and the result announced by a Tellers Committee appointed by the Elections Committee on the first full day of the conference in Porto Alegre, July 25-30, 2004.

...Highlights (cont'd from page 4)

International Council, the issue of the upcoming elections took most of the time. As new by-laws on elections have not yet been approved, the council interpreted the situation as fluid and decided for a procedure expected to be approved ex-post by the General Assembly in July 2004 (see procedures on page 6).

The IC also discussed the Publications Committee's report, and, in line with the Executive Board's recommendation,

it was decided that reviewing book proposals should be subject to confidentiality. No names of authors who had submitted proposals which were not accepted or accepted under condition of alterations, should be made public. It was also observed that the members of the committee had not been contacted by the Chair; the meeting questioned whether the committee had to be as large as it currently is.

The Section Review Committee presented its report and informed the meeting that a questionnaire to section

heads would soon be sent out.

On the issue of the WSIS task force EB and IC approved to publish an extensive summary on IAMCR's involvement in the next Newsletter, and that other publication initiatives will be considered.

It was also decided to continue the collaboration with ICA on the conferences on digital issues. It was suggested that IAMCR would be responsible for the third conference, and that rates should be lower than at the conference in Loughborough.

IAMCR'S NEWSLETTER...

More than a medium for internal news sharing

by Marjan de Bruin, Vice president, Editor of IAMCR's Newsletter

As I wrote in the Editorial of Volume 13, # 2, our Newsletter "has become more than a medium for sharing the regular internal organisational items. It plays at least two other roles. It serves as a medium through which the IAMCR officers can account for their performance. ... The second role is to provide a forum for discussion on topics in formats which do not always fit the modes of traditional academic journals." Issue 13/2 contained at least two such initiatives: women and young scholars' participation in the Association; the political debates on the WSIS, in which our input could make a difference.

In the same editorial, I referred to our intentions, reflecting the wish of the membership "to make the IAMCR more transparent; to steer away, or to stay away, from what may have been in the past a first class, well-functioning old-boys network, but which cannot satisfy the needs for openness and inclusion.

Both roles, mentioned above, depend on work done by members: officers handing in progress reports assume work done by officers; intellectual discussions depend on members' commitments and initiatives.

We seem to fall down on both at the moment. If there is any activity, it certainly is not done in a sufficient transparent and communicable way. One of the practical problems contributing

to this insufficient communication with members is our new mode of deliberating. When communicating and deciding through cyberspace, new rules about how to conduct virtual meetings are needed. It only needs one EB member who does not answer when general questions are asked and the entire process runs the risk of getting stuck or of going in circles. It also requires a disciplined sharing of information on members' temporary absence through travel or personal reasons.

In general I think that we are not living up to our promises as much as we had hoped to. This worries me a little bit and I would love to discuss in the coming weeks and months how we could still make a much bigger difference than we have made so far.

Newsletter production: July 2002- August 2003

As far as the Newsletter is concerned, although the planning of activities in this period included the editing and production of two IAMCR Newsletters, only one was produced and distributed: Volume 13/2, November 2002. The production of Volume 14/1 2003 was delayed, initially because of the cancellation of the Tapei Conference. When, during the editing process of issue 14/1 over the Summer 2003 the content turned out to be too thin the EB decided to a further delay.

Newsletter Volume 13/2, 2002.

This issue (36 pages with one extra colour) was edited in Kingston, Jamaica, by me – Marjan de Bruin; the page make up was done in the UK by the regular lay out person (David Williams) who resided in England during 2002/2003; and the printing and distribution were done by the Shih Hsin University, through Professor Liangwen Kuo.

All institutional members received 4 copies; all associate members received 2 copies and all individual members received one copy. All Newsletters were sent by airmail on January 3, 2003.

Printing (1000 copies) and mailing (912 copies) were done by the Shih Hsin University. Total printing and mailing cost: US\$ 2,522.

New scholars' participation and women's visibility in the IAMCR

by Katharine Sarikakis, Vice president

Well into the third year of service, as a member of the Executive Board and with the particular portfolio of the improvement of new scholars' participation and women's visibility in the association, I would like to reflect upon the year's achievements. This year my work concentrated mostly on two areas: first the development of conference guidelines and second the development of a mentoring network.

As a chair of the conferences policy committee

(members: Arul Aram, Arnold de Beer, Miquel Moragas and Ole Prehn) I have my colleagues to thank for insightful comments and personal time dedicated to the task. The committee has reflected upon past experience and has considered the problems and strengths of IAMCR conferences. Two issues have been of central importance in our discussions and recommendations: quality and affordability. The suggested changes/amendments to our conference policy aim to respond flexibly to a changing world, where Higher Education

... (cont'd on page 9)

... Scholars (cont'd from page 8)

institutions face drastic cuts in their budgets, affecting the affordability of large, annual conferences for both organisers and members. Second, the pursuit of high quality conferences has been the most important intention of the work of the committee.

Here, I would like to briefly comment on the most controversial suggestions in the light of the virtual debate of the International Council following the Loughborough meeting. The suggestions never assumed a dilemma between quantitative and qualitative measurements (as the virtual debate among the IC members has tended to falsely indicate at times).

a) *'In order to maximize conference capacity only one paper may be presented by an author.'*

The suggestions of limited acceptance of papers by the same author is a purely logistic matter, but not restrictive. We should make any effort to not turn down papers due to space/time shortage. In this spirit, scholars whose paper has already been accepted elsewhere should be offered place on a second panel if there are spaces.

b) monitoring of the submission and acceptance data was another controversial issue. In its original document, the committee wrote:

Under 'Guidelines for Section and Working Group and Heads' para. 2: *'Collect and provide demographic information about the submission of abstracts and rates of acceptance/rejection. Demographic information should include country of origin/affiliation and gender.'*

This suggestion/guideline asks Section and Working Group heads to help with the monitoring of IAMCR's progress by keeping a record of the academic income and outcome of their sections. This data will be a useful tool for future policy making in IAMCR and could provide the information necessary for longitudinal study of the representation of gender and regions in the association, which in turn, may be important for the understanding of the intellectual heritage of IAMCR.

And:

B.6. *'Finally, we propose that the association proceeds into the organisation of major conferences only (biennial) but encourages and supports virtual/regional and other forms of off-year meetings.'*

This recommendation takes into account the increasing financial problems of universities around the world but also the need for active collaboration of IAMCR with regional and national communications associations.

MENTORING

The second task for the past year has been the establishment of the pilot stage of a mentoring programme. Throughout the year several rounds of consultation with new academics and the co-ordinating committee of the Junior Scholars Network have taken place. The establishment of a form of mentoring system that would facilitate and not prescribe or

impose mentoring relationships has proved to be a challenging task. The main reasons are to be found in the restrictions/lack of time necessary for founding meaningful mentoring relationships. Face-to-face communication appears to be a necessary condition as it is in conferences where scholars tend to establish/foster relationships.

As a consequence of this, the decision was made to start with a resource website for new academics. Here, links to useful articles and other written work will be made. An important part of the resources site will be the Frequently Asked Questions page where IAMCR senior scholars offer their opinion to the most popular questions, as they sent by the members of JSN. Furthermore, junior scholars might feel more confident to use the main IAMCR website to contact senior academics.

Currently, the JSN committee and I are considering to organise a special mentoring session at Porto Alegre to address some of the issues brought up through the consultation period.

IAMCR's Publications Committee

by Jan Servaes, Vice president

As of 1 October 2003, 56 academic journals are offered at a discount of between 20 and 50% of the regular subscription price. So far only a few IAMCR members have expressed an interest in subscribing to some of the journals included in this offer.

The IAMCR Book series (in co-operation with Hampton Press) saw two publications in 2003: *Global Trends in Media Education: Policies and Practices*, by Tony Lavender, Birgitte Tufte and Dafna Lemish (Eds.); and, *Spaces of Intercultural Communication: An Interdisciplinary introduction to communication, culture and globalizing/localizing identities*, by Rico Lie.

Three manuscripts are being reviewed; one manuscript has been rejected; one manuscript was reviewed and resubmission was recommended. Three contracts have been offered.

IAMCR received royalties from Hampton Press for books published in 1999, 2000 and 2001 for a total of US\$ 2,490.87.

Improving IAMCR Conferences and other activities

– suggestions, recommendations and proposals

by the Conference Policy Committee:

Arul Aram, Arnold de Beer, Miquel Moragas, Ole Prehn and Katharine Sarikakis (Chair)

The Conference Policy Committee of the International Council makes the following recommendations:

In order to promote and guarantee the international character of the IAMCR, its commitment to the freedom of speech and the right to communicate, its commitment to free scholarly activity and a fair and balanced representation of scholars, the following guidelines for IAMCR Conferences apply:

GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANISING BODY

The organisers of the conference and other activities taking place under the responsibility or co-operation of the IAMCR should take into consideration:

- the aims and mission statement of the IAMCR
- its scholarly, professional and international character
- the need to identify a local academic body to act as the local organiser
- all necessary measures to secure freedom of speech and a balanced representation of scholars.

The candidate organisation/institution is required to make a formal proposal, which will then be presented to the governing bodies and membership of the Association: the Executive Board, the International Council and the General Assembly.

This proposal should address the following issues:

Administration

1. Name and approval of the local organiser
2. A full draft programme between two and five days
3. Visa and other (vaccination etc) requirements including the intention that the local organiser will assist all potential participants to attend the conference
4. Capacity (rooms, offices etc.) of the conference site
5. Technical equipment of the site
6. Accommodation and sustenance: options and “insider tips” for health and safety
7. Availability and extent of simultaneous translation
8. Tentative timetable for the submission/acceptance of abstracts/papers

Budget

1. The basic participation fee should only include direct costs
2. All other costs, such as accommodation, meals, transport etc. are paid separately by the participants. A range of options will be presented by the local organiser
3. A special discount fee for the same services as the standard fee for postgraduate students/junior scholars (according to age and/or status) and participants from low-income countries.

4. The conference fee cannot exceed the maximum amount agreed by the IC (currently at US\$300 for 5 day venue)
5. A breakdown of expected private and public sponsors and their contribution
6. A full budget proposal including breakdown of costs, potential sponsorships, fees, and other expenses, studentships etc.

Academic content

1. The topic of the conference should be announced together with a rationale that justifies the choice and its attraction to an international audience
2. A list of potential keynote speakers paying particular attention to gender balance
3. Efforts to attract local and regional scholars and professionals
4. Efforts to provide the possibility for the production of collective academic work, e.g. proceedings.
5. Space/facilities allocated for the exhibition of academic activities of IAMCR members (such as book/information stands etc)
6. Flexibility to accommodate ad hoc academic, scholarly special events before, after or within the main venue.

The local organisers and members of the Executive Board will specify the mode of collaboration regarding the concrete planning, announcement etc. of the event, and the Executive Board will be regularly posted about the developments.

After the event, the local organisers are required to provide a complete financial and demographic report submitted to the Executive Board, International Council and the General Assembly. All information in its final form should be available to the members in the same year that the conference takes place and no later than two months after the event.

GUIDELINES FOR SECTION AND WORKING GROUP HEADS

Section Heads are the academic and administrative co-ordinators of most of the academic activity of the IAMCR. They undertake the responsibility to fulfil the following:

1. Provide a clear statement about the methods and criteria employed for the selection of abstracts/papers.
2. Collect and provide demographic information about the submission of abstracts and rates of acceptance/rejection. Demographic information should include country of origin/affiliation and gender.
3. Make every effort to promote underrepresented scholars and work within their respective sections/working group sessions.
4. Actively open up to and encourage ordinary (non-posi-

tion holders) members of IAMCR to act as session chairs. Encourage the participation of women and emerging scholars.

The Conference Policy Committee also makes the following proposals:

1. Submission of FULL PAPERS for all sections/working groups and round table discussions for main conferences. This may have an impact on the conference preparation time (call for papers/ submission of papers etc). Combined with recommendation no 6, this should present no additional difficulties).
2. In order to maximize conference capacity only one paper may be presented by an author.
3. Extension of the definition of academic paper for IAMCR conferences to include other forms of presentation and content that reflect the rich heritage and encourage new forms of expression in the work of IAMCR: full research paper, review papers, work in progress, posters, documentaries etc. This might also mean that full conference papers should not exceed e.g.4000 words (shorter than journal articles but longer than abstracts).
4. EB, IC and section heads meetings not to take place at the same time with academic sessions.
5. Each major conference should offer the possibility for sessions that provide visibility to underrepresented themes and scholarship.
6. Finally, we propose that the association proceeds into the organisation of **major conferences only** (biennial) but encourages and supports virtual/regional and other forms of off-year meetings, through the use of technical support for example. This can be achieved through a more integrated and organic collaboration of IAMCR and regional organisation and affiliated members such as CARIMAC, ECCR, ICA etc. Should this become the decision of the Association, it cannot be materialised before 2005, due to our prior commitments to cancelled venues.

The IAMCR Herbert Schiller Prize – Invitation to submit

At its meeting at the Singapore Conference, the General Assembly of the Association voted to establish a prize in memory of the late Herbert Schiller, and to launch a scholarship fund to support it. Submissions are now invited for the second year of the prize on the occasion the IAMCR Conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil, From 25-30th July 2004.

The prize is 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 on any topic within the range of

... (cont'd on page 16)

Recommendations on IAMCR’s future Conference Policy

– to be discussed in Porto Alegre, July 2004.

The recommendations on IAMCR’s future Conference Policy (see page 10) were discussed through an Internet exchange among members of the Executive Board and the International Council. The following text summarizes the thrust of this discussion.

- 1 That we continue to meet annually with larger conferences in the even number years and smaller events in the odd years. Cost remains a crucial factor and we must look even more carefully at taking our meetings to the membership rather than requiring them always to come to us.
- 2 That we more actively (but flexibly) seek local and/or kindred partners for the hosting of our conferences.
- 3 That we be open to more thematically focussed conferences

on the odd years while maintaining a more comprehensive range of interests (still thematically linked) in our larger, even year conferences.

4 That quality is the over-riding factor on which to base the selection of papers NOT quantitative formulae

5 That Section Heads be encouraged but NOT required to set up small leadership/reference groups within the Sections to assist with paper selection.

6 That paper selection be based on extended abstracts NOT full papers but that full papers be required before presentation.

7 That the best papers (and for many of you that meant all those selected for presentation) be posted on either the IAMCR web-site or linked Section web-sites.

8 That the publication of a full-printed proceedings was not justified although the publication of a CD might be. The question of an IAMCR Yearbook thus arises again.

9 That conference budgets should identify meal costs so that members can decide to make alternative arrangements if they wish.

10 That sliding scales of registration fee for age and location be maintained. The question of actively soliciting support for disadvantaged members again arises.

IAMCR's future

Suggestions from the Development and Funding Committee

by Divina Frau-Meigs, Deputy Secretary General (for the Committee*)

As we all know, IAMCR faces difficult times financially. Resources are tight and competition among both NGOs and professional associations is intense. We also have the internal challenge of identifying a shared vision that will motivate our members.

In this report, we propose a number of actions including

- The publication of a year-book
- A new approach to conference funding
- Greater visibility in international forums
- Increased project activity

The publication of a yearbook

Some ingredients are present which are very positive, the web-site and the Newsletter (thanks to Ole Prehn and Marjan de Bruin). A yearbook could complement them aptly. It could be made accessible on line. It could be a thematic selection of papers coming out of our conferences. We have sometimes downplayed the leading themes but they are cues to the research activities we treat and we should use them better.

We should also take advantage of this issue to join the larger and larger network of on-line publishing, especially as it is getting organized in an interesting way. How to finance it?

If it is on-line, paper costs are cut, and we suggest we proceed in this direction, as more and more universities are connected, even in the developing countries; at a transitional stage, we could provide paper versions of articles on request from members, by simple photocopying (if the table of contents is published in the Newsletter, still on paper). IAMCR could also negotiate in its next arrangements with local organisers a clause that requires they return to the Association 8 to 10% of the profit, which could take care of on-line maintenance and photocopying charges.

A new approach to conference funding

Be more active

Be more active in the organization of our own conferences, both in content and in financial management. We should not outsource and if we do, we should still be the ones who collect the membership fees and deal with the bills.

This implies a different type of involvement of the International Council, especially as the number of Executive Board members will be reduced after the next elections. The section heads would keep the content

management but the other members at large could look after the organisational management, in cooperation with the Executive Board. This policy could be started as of 2006 for which we are actively seeking a candidate country and association for the congress.

Enlarge the number of institutions

Enlarge the number of institutions we approach for funding, beyond UNESCO.

- The European Commission offers several possibilities for funding:
- "Specific projects" (culture, media, youth, education, industry), which require a logistic organization and work with experienced consultant office and attention to deadlines;
- "ESA network" which requires a link with a legal personality like a Foundation. If we create a Foundation, we can ask to be considered as an institution and we can receive funds from the Commission and be a consultant for the commission in specific areas. The commission is changing policy: it is preparing big budgets on multi-annual basis (3-year financing). Our network of associations and our longevity can be a guarantee of continuity for the EU;
- "A30": special budget lines for priority projects of EU (which include other parts of the world);
- The World Bank and other international agencies in development (like IDRC for Canada, to whom we are connected thanks to Annie Méar) should also be approached. We have members working for them who could be valuable sources of information. Part of our problem is that we don't know the ropes, the necessary steps and the deadlines for application. Projects often need to be submitted two years in advance and they should fit with our conference agendas. We need a full time person, a vice-president maybe, designated to coordinate this information. It could be posted on the web-site.

Join a Foundation Project

To be able to work with ESA network of the European commission, and other agencies we should consider the creation of a foundation (to be located in Luxembourg, for instance), as a non-profit agency allowed to apply for EU funding. The foundation's raison d'être would be monitoring policies, promoting research and theoretical thinking, suggesting content development and production, in other words functioning as an observatory and as an NGO all at one. UNESCO is currently considering this option and could join the EU with some co-financing.

If accepted by the Board, we could integrate IAMCR in current talks about this Foundation. Its main theme as it is being considered currently would be around "youth and media".

The benefits would mostly go to our members who share their time and their expertise; they could be asked to represent IAMCR in this work, besides representing their research labs or university departments. A small percentage of their earnings (5% maybe) could be reverted to IAMCR, which should be included in their contracts (so that they don't pay taxes on it).

Greater visibility in international fora and in other agencies

Extend our lobbying

We need people to do the footwork at UNESCO and in other international institutions. We need to locate colleagues that will be willing to attend boring sessions in which real decisions are made in the last half-hour of the final day of debates. We need colleagues who will accept to make reports to us and to make reports for that international institution in our name. We have to locate somebody in Geneva, in Brussels, in New York, in Washington, in Canberra, Toronto, Brazil, Singapore, etc.

We could call it our "network of correspondents"; they wouldn't need to be elected (their location is elective in a way!) but they could have a special status like "IAMCR permanent delegate". They would answer directly to the Board, especially the President and/or the Secretary-General. They would have the additional value of alerting us to events in preparation and they could call on the President to actually participate in final decisions at General Assemblies, as the elected representative of IAMCR.

Use upcoming events, create partnerships

The organization of our conferences is a heavy task and it takes up the energy of a lot of people on the board. So we should make ourselves visible in events that others are organizing and in which they need, for their own legitimacy, the presence of an NGO of researchers. We should advertise on our web-site events we hear about in our own circles and somebody on the board should make sure we have a named representative there, who can speak for us, give leaflets about our organization, etc. We need some leaflet describing us and our publications to take to the different places we go.

The web-site could provide the list of upcoming events where we know our presence is welcome, like the Foro de las Culturas in Barcelona 2004.

Use research facilities

Use research facilities to which we have access for our young researchers. Funding can be symbolic, in the sense that it may not involve cash but real services that we provide for our members, that will make want to join and stay. L'Observatoire Europeen de l'Audiovisuel has approached us, with the idea of taking IAMCR interns. There are other organizations of this kind in the world that

we should approach and whose research needs and offers should be advertised via our young scholars network.

Increased project activity through the development of a common vision

Elaborate an International Researchers' Charter

We should consider ourselves as a minority of researchers, whose identity has to be better recognized! In a Charter, we could express how we see research in the information society: access to archives, easy exchange of scholars and of information transfer, public domain, research ethics, etc.

A first draft could be discussed in Brazil. It could be launched either in Porto Alegre (2004) or in Tunis (2005). The Charter could create more unity among our members, give us more visibility (even within UNESCO and other institution). It would give scholars in developing countries a tool for discussion and reference when negotiating with some of their governments.

Use the WSIS Summit

Attending the Summit is not enough. Besides the gains of the Summit per se are going to be very minimal, especially for NGOs (see pages 2, 14 and 15 in this Newsletter). So we have to use the Summit as a means of brainstorming for new ideas for IAMCR, and work them into our Association's vision. We should focus on Tunis (2005) and be ready to be involved in the Plans of Action as a research arm of the WSIS. It requires lobbying at different levels (Geneva, New York, Brussels, Beijing, and Paris) but it might be worth it in terms of research benefits for our members.

The report on Media Development that IAMCR is preparing for UNESCO could also be a means of expressing our views and of discussing our visions of the information society and the role of traditional media in it.

We should prepare a publication (or several) on our understanding of the whole WSIS process. Aim it at a public of decision-makers, outside our community of research. Wolfgang Kleinwachter is looking into it.

Draft agenda for coming months

- Statement of principles and draft for Foundation ;
- Joining (or not) ASCUS -Scientific statement to be prepared to show prior work, to be used maybe in preparation for the charter but also to approach funding institutions;
- Draft of International Researchers' charter;
- Connections to be considered for a "network of correspondents";
- Draft of post summit publication to be discussed (with W. Kleinwachter)
- Contacts with existing funding sources to be updated;
- Search for other contributors and agencies in view of international cooperation, developing content and content production.

* *Members: Divina Frau-Meigs, Annie Méar, Frank Morgan*

...IAMCR at WSIS (cont'd from page 6)

mobilized, especially as the states are now moving to the production of a much shorter statement of principles: themes and key-words that are close to civil society have to be maintained in the official documents. It is to be noted that an unexpected amount of issues taken up by civil society has been adopted in very similar language in the official documents, in the longer version. Even though this remains at the level of principles and plans of action, it is still a proof of the lobbying and challenging influence of the civil society groups and their capacity to produce convincing documents. The same challenge remains for the final version, and it is clear that a final document emanating from civil society has to be proposed, to make sure civil society values and perspectives remain in circulation, beyond the Summit.

For the future procedures, IAMCR is positioning itself strongly in favour of a careful monitoring and follow up of the WSIS declaration of principles and plan of action. It is asking for a platform with multiple actors to be established, including NGOs and civil society at large. This idea has gained some momentum among nation states and still needs to be pushed after prepcom 3.

Pushing neglected issues

The points we have pressed and supported in writing final drafts and by lobbying nation states follow a variety of logics:

-our professional logic: we have pushed the issues of higher education, lifelong learning, shared knowledge, public domain. It has been one of our main endeavours to have the word "research" incorporated in the official texts of civil society and the nation states (beyond the technical understanding of it as developing hardware technology).

We have emphasized issues of social uses of technology and media, of societal, political and cultural developments of ICTs for civil society at large. We have promoted ideas such as access to archives, exchange of scholars and of information transfer, public domain, research ethics, etc. We have denounced the poor use of the already existing body of research done on the WSIS topics by our scholars worldwide. We have emphasized the risk of the humanities losing out

to the engineering clout as damageable in the long run for the information society. We have worked closely with the youth caucus and the trade unions family, on their request, to associate education and research to labor and working conditions.

-our media logic: we have pushed issues of traditional media

in relation to ICTs and asked for overall media education and training; we have supported the journalist community in their claims for freedom of the press. We have also introduced repeatedly the need to foster community media especially in developing countries and in spite of commercial media's opposition.

-our logic on related issues defended by other caucuses and entities: our main strategy has been to allow debate on controversial issues rather than stifle it.

- on the right to communicate, a very controversial issue among nation states, NGOs and even within IAMCR, our position has been to advocate an open dialogue on the issue, with all positions being allowed to be aired and discussed in public. We encouraged the human rights committee to draft a revised, shorter version of the right to communicate, at the Paris intersession;
- on intellectual property, our position has been aligned to civil society's feeling that the industry should not be the only one to decide and that it should be an item in the states agenda at large, to be discussed with the end users as well;
- on indigenous languages and cultural diversity, our position has been consensual with civil society's feeling that they are not a technical obstacle to commerce (as stated by the private sector) and that the states have a right to defend indigenous languages for the sake of cultural diversity worldwide;
- on free software and open source access, our position has been to support those within civil society defending a diversity of software approaches, including free software and open source, as they seem crucial to innovation and to research possibilities, especially in developing countries;
- on human rights, our position has been consensual with civil society's feeling that they had to be supported fully, which also meant supporting rights for women and disabled people.

Evaluation of the Summit process so far

If there can be a feeling of satisfaction with the documents circulated until the Intersession, the tone has soured with Prepcom3 as difficult issues have been confronted and as the final document is being drastically shortened. Since the July intersession, more than two thirds of the recommendations by civil society have been discarded, according to some colleagues in Geneva. Nonetheless the Civil society bureau was able to negotiate 20 speakers at the plenary, who addressed more than 80 recommendations point by point. Civil society has also been able to address the governmental working sub-groups created to debate wording of thorny issues.

The risk remains what was feared from the beginning of the process: that the final Declaration be mostly a technocratic document, dealing with infrastructure, technology and private sector priorities rather than with civil society needs and expectations. Some key-words promoted by civil society have disappeared from the present draft: public service and community media for instance; the reference to "free software" flicks back and forth on the document, as a number of countries and corporations exert pressure on the drafters.

**IAMCR is positioning
itself strongly in favour
of a careful monitoring
and follow up of the WSIS
declaration of principles
and plan of action.**

The action plan remains confused and is difficult to distinguish from the principles, except for the recurring promotion of opening of markets, transparency and non-discrimination, which seem to indicate that the private sector is expected to carry out the action plan. It seems obvious that these decisions echo other decisions taken in other international bodies, in spite of the troubles of the World Trade Organisation during the current Doha Cycle. The objectives remain ambitious and seem to be in favor of research and development, with the proposal to connect all universities by 2005 and to reduce the digital divide by encouraging governments to create sites within the next two years, in time for assessment in Tunis.

Sensitive points remain. For content: human rights and freedom of expression, internet governance, free software, community media; cultural diversity; cyber security, gender; for structure: framing, lines of action, financing; for organization: the choice of Tunisia, for host country for the second phase of the Summit, because of this country's severe repression of journalists and internet users. The nomination of the very controversial figure of general Habib Ammar to lead the preparatory process remains a difficult issue. The recurrent and steady opposition of China, Iran and Egypt to the presence of civil society also remains of major concern. The nomination of the main speakers for civil society at the Summit itself is currently generating a lot of debate but should be solved satisfactorily before D-day.

The issue of financing remains the most troublesome, beyond the Summit perspective, because it may cause the whole process, inadequate as it maybe, to fail completely. The African countries, very active from the start, at Bamako, have been vying for a mechanism that would allow the creation of a Global Digital Solidarity Fund, to bridge the gap of the digital divide. It could involve a tax for the sale of computers, and would aim at enhancing connectivity among countries. They have the support of the South (mostly Brazil and India) but are not supported by the European

community or the United States, who fear chilling effects on commerce and on private enterprise. These countries prefer to advocate different kinds of partnerships, including private-public solutions... Civil society seems to mobilize itself around the solidarity fund proposal, to maintain open alternatives to exclusively commercial venues, and to encourage decentralized cooperation and community ventures.

The future

We have to keep mobilized to make sure that the still unclear status of the annexes of civil society to the official document be clarified and the ideas expressed in it be legitimated (though some of them have already been incorporated by the nation states);

We have to maintain pressure on the controversial issues and keywords so that they are not eliminated from the final declaration;

We have to maintain our presence at the Summit itself, though the current state of the documents (the «non-paper» issued by Samassekou) is not satisfactory; this presence can imply to criticize some of the shortcomings of the process and to formulate possible solutions and alternatives;

We have to maintain pressure for the creation of a multi-actor platform (including civil society) for monitoring WSIS further developments;

We have to create our own events and make sure that their outcomes be fed into the WSIS process. It means the production of a book analyzing the process and final documents produced in December 2003 (IAMCR member Wolfgang Kleinwachter is seeing to that). It also means using our next international conferences to create consensus among ourselves and devise strategies for the future; it means using fully the opportunity of the two-barreled summit and gearing up for Tunis, 2005.

WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY

WSIS – Will it still have a future?

by Frank Morgan

Phase I of the World Summit on Information Society took place in Geneva, 10-13 December. It will therefore, for better or for worse, be a thing of the past by the time you read this report.

WSIS is one of the outcomes of the UN's Millennium Declaration. The lead agency is the International Telecommunications Union, supported by other UN agencies

including UNESCO. ITU is expected to work even more closely with UNESCO in the run-up to Phase II of the Summit in Tunis in 2005.

The UN recognizes that one of the keys to making the world a healthier, happier and more prosperous place for all its people is the application of new information and communication technologies (ICTs) which have, so far, been monopolized by the developed nations of the West (or North). It also

recognizes that its goals can only be achieved by collaboration between governments, the private sector and civil society (including NGOs such as IAMCR). Making twin goals of the end and the means has, however, added to the enormity of the organisers' task. What set out to be a search for an oasis of goodwill, understanding and effective co-operation in the stony wilderness of the world has appeared, at times, to run into enormous and arid sand dunes.

Beginning early in 2002, the WSIS secretariat established a preparatory committee, drawn from all three participating sectors. The Prepcom met in Geneva four times (with other meetings on Themes and Content,

... (cont'd on page 16)

...Future (cont'd from page 15)

and an intersessional meeting in Paris in July 2003 seeking to advance the agenda) to develop a draft declaration of principles and an operable plan of action, for endorsement by the 200 member governments involved.

A number of IAMCR members have made conspicuous and valuable contributions to the WSIS preparatory process. Past President Cees Hamelink has worked as a consultant to the organisers and made keynote presentations on the issues at stake. Robin Mansell and Marc Raboy have also presented keynote addresses. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, like Pradip Thomas, has worked tirelessly in the Civil Society caucuses. Wolfgang and Cees, and Marc Raboy and I, have worked in the Media caucus – arguing that there can be no ‘information society’ without the existing media industries. And Divina Frau Meigs and I have worked in the Education and Research caucus arguing for ICTs in education rather than just training in ICTs.

WSIS has not been smooth sailing.

We have certainly had a very hard task getting anyone to listen to the proposition that information society policy should be informed by disciplined research. There are no guarantees but, if we are not in it, we cannot possibly win it.

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has long been seen as a guarantee of free expression and free access to information. During WSIS negotiations, it has been challenged by those who wish to subject it to national laws. A number of governments, keen to assert their right to govern, have sought to sideline the private and other non-government sectors. The private sector, aware of its power in the market places of the world, has resisted governmental and social intervention in “its domain”. Some sections of the civil society movement have appeared to adopt the attitude that government is inherently evil and that governments should therefore retire and, to paraphrase the words of the poet, “leave the world to darkness and to (us)”. Following a disastrous civil society media conference to decry

the shortcomings of the Prepcom, Wolfgang Kleinwächter observed that ‘civil society needed first to learn civility’.

So, by the end of September, after millions of dollars, thousands of hours and an inestimable amount of paper and good will expended on it, the preparatory process had still not produced an agreed draft declaration of principles or a plan of action to implement them. By contrast, in two very full days of roundtable consultation during its General Conference in Paris in October, UNESCO had 190 governments sign off on an agreed communiqué.

Whether WSIS can recognise its own plurality – that it is still all about information societies rather than the information society; whether it is really about knowledge and inspiration rather than mere information; whether it is about information for all or hardware for all; and whether the world’s imperious ‘powers’ can come to terms with cultural diversity, all remain to be seen.

The big question is whether WSIS will still have a future.

...Schiller (cont'd from page 11)

interests addressed by the Association.

The prize recipient will be determined by open competition on the basis of a paper submitted to the Scholarship Panel which currently comprises, Graham Murdock (Chair), John Downing, Divina Frau-Meigs, and Katherine Sarikakis.

Papers must be based on work that has not been published or firmly committed elsewhere at the time of submission and are limited to a maximum of 7,000 words (20 pages). Wherever possible they should be submitted in electronic form. The final deadline for submissions of completed papers is Friday March 26 2004.

The winner will receive \$1,000 (US) as a contribution towards their participation in the Porta Alegre Conference together with a suitable memorial recording the award.

In recognition of Herbert’s seminal contribution to founding and developing the Association’s Political Economy Section, prize winners will be guaranteed time to present their paper in that Section if they so wish. A session will be set aside for this purpose at which invited scholars will respond to the prize winning paper and open up debate around the themes and issues it raises.

Prize winners however, are free to offer their paper to any other Section or working group if they so wish.

The prize is offered every two years, in connection with the Association’s major biennial conferences. However, its future viability is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions. The Award Panel therefore urges all Members who are able, to make a regular donation to the scholarship fund at the same time as they pay their membership fees.

This is the first such initiative the Association. 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 Award Panel looks forward to submissions that carry this inspiration forward.

Further inquiries and final paper submissions should be directed in the first instance to the Panel Chair, Graham Murdock by e-mail at G.Murdock@lboro.ac.uk, by Fax, at +44 (0) 1509 223844, or by mail at Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, UK.

Graham Murdock (Chair)
on behalf of the Award Panel.

Junior Scholars Network (JSN)

Asking your support

Several IAMCR members have expressed an interest in providing some mentoring to the members of the Junior Scholars Network (JSN). The Junior Scholars Network, however, encountered difficulties in attracting senior colleagues' active interest in a more complex and interactive mentoring system. The coordinator of phase 1 in setting up this mentoring system says, this is "quite sad but nevertheless understandable, given the increased pressures in the academe. However, we will go ahead with slow and modest steps in establishing at least a forum where new academics can find a reference and a starting point to the most frequent and important of their questions."

The JSN is asking senior colleagues in the IAMCR to give a little of their precious time to answer one, two or all of the questions below. The collection of the answers will be posted on the JSN website. Your response can be also treated in confidentiality if you prefer, so that your name will not appear on the website or anywhere else. If you have no such expectations/needs, please state your name, position and affiliation at the end of your response.

Return your answer(s) to k.sarikakis@coventry.ac.uk with the word ATHENA in the subject line. Do send me your response by March 31, 2004 the latest.

Please answer one, two or all of the questions below:

SUPERVISION

How much importance has the subject and supervisor of my PhD. to get ahead in academia?

How can I find a supervisor who will promote me?

How can I get ahead 'despite' a non-supportive PhD. supervisor?

CAREER AND TENURE

How do I know if a place I am applying is a good place to be?

How can I approach an international academic career (or: an academic career outside the state I have been trained)?

What kinds of scholarship make the strongest case for tenure review?

How do scholars from outside the USA gain

employment with US institutions?

How do scholars from the USA gain employment with institutions outside of the USA?

Is it better to go straight on to the job market or is it better to do a post-doc where I can strengthen my CV with more publications and teaching experience?

Is it better to have more publications in less respected journals or a couple of articles in the top tier journals when I am applying for jobs?

NETWORKS

How can I establish networks and what should I expect from them?

How can I find and contact other researchers around the world who work on my specialized topic?

What is a good way of networking at conferences to make them more useful?

How do I get to know of researchers in related areas taken place (or taking place) elsewhere?

How could I get updates on conferences, workshops, publications and the like related to my research area?

PUBLISHING

How can I find calls for papers or chapters, which are relevant to me?

How do I determine the best journal to send an article to?

Should I publish my work outside of the country where I am based?

Is it better to have more publications in less respected journals or a couple of articles in the top tier journals when you're applying for jobs?

A paper of mine was accepted for publication. What should I do about copyright?

TEACHING

What is a reasonable amount of teaching (versus research time), and how does this vary from country to country?

Katharine Sarikakis
 Communication Media and Culture
 Coventry School of Art and Design
 Coventry University
 Priory Street
 Coventry CV1 5FB, UK
 Tel: +44.24.76887474
 Fax: +44.24.76887440
 (k.sarikakis@coventry.ac.uk)

MEMBERS' NEW WORK

Globalization: Theory and Practice, by *Eleonore Kofman* and *Gillian Youngs* (Eds) is a fully updated second edition and brings together a multi-disciplinary group of international scholars to interrogate globalization in theory and practice. Aiming at researchers of globalization and students at all levels, the collection covers issues related to the state, and economic and technological change, gender, identity, citizenship, and migration. Several of the authors have revised their chapters from the earlier edition in 1996 and others have provided completely new contributions in key areas such as the internet, social movements, environmental security and world cities. Two new introductory chapters written by the editors outline the theory and practice of international relations and political geography at the dawn of the twenty-first century. Several further chapters highlight different aspects of inequality which have become central to the globalization debate.

Continuum;
0-8264-5473-9;
313 pages £19.99
More information: Gillian Youngs
(gy4@le.ac.uk)

Communicating in the Information Society, by *Bruce Girard* and *Seán Ó Siochrú* (Eds.), was launched in December 2003 at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in Geneva. The two editors presented the book, along with Michael Powell, who is in charge of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development's (UNRISD) project on development and information and communication technologies.

This 235-page edited volume brings together various perspectives on the information society. It questions *which* information society we are building, and who will benefit most from it. The contributions range from practical, down-to-earth advice

on concrete implementation of an information society, through strategies to enrich the potential of WSIS, to philosophical insights into the central concepts. They all support the idea that the process of *communicating* must be at the centre of such a society.

For more information, please contact Nicolas Bovay, Information Officer at the c (UNRISD) (bovay@unrisd.org). For review copies, please email: Sylvie Brenninkmeijer-Liu (liu@unrisd.org)

Price: USD 30.00
223 pages, ISBN: 92-9085-045-0

Broadcasting & Convergence: New Articulations of the the Public Service Remit, by *Gregory Ferrell Lowe* and *Taisto Hujanen* (Eds.) deals with questions such as: Will – and should – broadcasting survive convergence? If yes, why and in what form? These questions were fundamental to the RIPE@2002 conference in Finland and lay the groundwork for this book. The essential idea behind the RIPE initiative is a recognition that conceptual justification for public service broadcasting no longer resonates. The authors in this volume explore various dimensions about what is different to any compelling degree about the public service approach that convincingly justifies its remit today, and about what contemporary ingredients could fruitfully reframe its conceptual and operational designs. This book is relevant to discourse and policy about a quality of public life interdependent with social processes that continue to respect and also defend values that nourish media pluralism, cultural diversity, political democracy and social tolerance. The authors also represent the Trans-Atlantic nature of the RIPE initiative.

Nordicom, Göteborg University;
June 2003; Price: US\$ 34
ISBN 91-89471-18-0; 328 pages

Nordicom;
Göteborg University, Box 713
SE 405 30 Göteborg

Spaces of Intercultural Communication; An Interdisciplinary Introduction to Communication, Culture and Globalizing/Localizing Identities, by *Rico Lie* explores spaces where cultures meet and mix in entangled flows and levels of globality and locality. It makes a contribution to our understanding of the complex processes of communications across and beyond borders. It provides an introduction to intercultural/international communication and changing identities. Through its interdisciplinary approach it integrates theories from communication studies, cultural studies, media studies and social anthropology.

The book consists of three major parts and eight chapters. The first part specifically addresses the concepts of communication and culture. The second addresses globalizing/localizing identities. Chapters in the third part theorize the spaces in which these processes take place and use the socio-cultural phenomenon of television as an example to focus on the interdisciplinary potential of television studies.

Hampton Press;
ISBN 1-57273-498-1 (cloth); ISBN 1-57273-499-X (paper)
Price: cloth US \$49.50; paper US \$23.95

From Angels to Aliens: Teenagers, the Media, and the Supernatural, by *Lynn Schofield Clark*, focuses on teen fascination with the supernatural realm and is interested in challenging an assumption that seems to underlie much of the research and popular writing on media that comes from outside of media studies. From the evangelical outcry over Harry Potter's supposed endorsement of witchcraft to the concern that

MEMBERS' NEW WORK

criminal teens take their cues from violent video games, the common assumption seems to be that the media are replacing traditional religion as a source of authority, meaning, and values for young people. Based on ethnographic interview research with teens and their parents and on the social theories of Anthony Giddens, Pierre Bourdieu, and others, the book argues that rather than replacing religion with media, teens now see "themselves" as the ultimate authorities over how they will "choose" to be religious or spiritual (choices that, as demonstrated through case studies, are largely constrained by parents, peers, and the hegemonic framing of religion that is present in the mainstream media and throughout the wider culture).

Oxford University Press;
ISBN 0-19-515609-9; 304 pages
\$29.95 cloth (22 images)

Tell Me Lies, Propaganda & Media Distortion in the Attack on Iraq, by *David Miller* (Ed.) reveals the systematic propaganda used by both the US and UK governments to convince us of the "threat" from Iraq. It shows how we were deliberately misled into a war that has resulted in a humanitarian disaster in Iraq and threatens to create further instability and resentment of the US and UK throughout the Middle East.

Written by some of the world's leading journalists and commentators, *Tell Me Lies* is a scathing indictment of the role of the mainstream media in legitimising government actions and undermining dissent. Critics, activists and journalists from both sides of the Atlantic explore alternatives such as the internet and al-Jazeera and provide analysis and guidance on resisting the media war.

Pluto Press;
ISBN: 0 7453 2201 8
208 pages Price: £12.99

Pluto Press
345 Archway Road,
London N6 5AA
Tel: 020 8348 2724
Fax: 020 8348 9133
(pluto@plutobooks.com)
Web Site: www.plutobooks.com
Independent Progressive
Publishing

Findings from the 2002 national survey of 1,149 U.S. journalists, by *David Weaver, Randal Beam, Bonnie Brownlee, Paul Voakes* and *G. Cleveland Wilhoit* of Indiana University's School of Journalism are available at: <www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=28235>

This is the fourth large national telephone survey of U.S. journalists since Johnstone, Slawski and Bowman's 1971 study, and many of the findings are compared across all four studies. The 2002 study was funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Media and Audiences: New Perspectives by *Karen Ross* with *Virginia Nightingale* (2003), ranges across a wide literature, taking both a chronological as well as thematic approach, in order to explore the ways in which the audience, as an analytical concept has changed, as well as examining the relationships which audiences have with texts and the ways in which they exert their power as consumers. The authors also look at the political economy of audiences and the ways in which they are 'delivered' to advertisers as well as attending to the ratings war being waged by broadcasters and the development of narrow-casting and niche audiences. Finally, the book looks ahead to the future of audience research, suggesting that new genres such as 'reality TV' and new ICTs such as the internet, are already revolutionising the way in which research with audiences is taking place in the 21st century, not least

because of the level of interactivity enabled by new media.
Open University Press;
ISBN: 0335206913
Price: £15.99

Critical Readings: Media and Audiences, edited by *Karen Ross* and *Virginia Nightingale* (2003) brings together some of the important developments in the history of audience and media studies and the significant research trajectories which have shaped the field. It is sometimes difficult to locate specific examples of audience research or discussions of research practice, as opposed to description, conjecture or critical reflection about audiences, which are in abundant supply. Thus the Reader enables students and lecturers to source original research commentaries and better understand the rationale, findings and forms of analysis undertaken at different points in the field's research-based career.

Open University Press;
ISBN 0335211666
£18.99

Mapping the Margins: Identity Politics and the Media, edited by *Karen Ross* and *Deniz Derman* (2003). The contributions to this volume offer a series of engagements with both the workings of particular media and the new inflections of politicized identities - ethnicity, gender, nationality, and disability - in which media are irrevocably implicated. The chapters provide new insights into "old" issues of identity and image, both by their choice of subject focus and by their tools and methods of exploration and analysis. All the contributors break new ground in their particular domains by their emphasis on aspects of media and identity that have not been fully explored elsewhere.

Hampton Press;
ISBN 1-57273-421-3
£17.99

Saturday 07/24
(at official hotel)

9 am IAMCR Board Meeting (full day, lunch at the official hotel)

Sunday 07/25
(at official hotel)

9 am IAMCR Board Meeting (full day, lunch at the official hotel, Sheraton)

9 am Pre-conference sponsored by Intercom – the Brazilian Society for Communication Research – Trends in Brazilian Communication Science. Others will be announced.

8 pm Official Opening Ceremony (Usina do Gasômetro), cocktail and folk show

Monday 07/26
(PUC, building 40)

9 am Panel – Communication and Democracy: challenges for a new world
With

- Brazão Mazula (Mozambique)
- Rossana Reguillo (Mexico)
- Josuhua Meyrowitz (USA)

12 am lunch at PUC, Panorama Restaurant

1:30 pm sections sessions

3:30 pm break

4 pm return to sections sessions

7 pm return to hotels

8 pm optional dinner, the gaúcho traditional barbecue (at CTG 35)

Tuesday 07/27
(PUC, building 40)

9 am Panel – Media Power: from totalitarianism to democratization
With

- Alberto Dines (Brazil)
- Henrique Bustarret (Brazil)
- Olgária Mattos (Brazil)

12 am lunch at PUC, Panorama Restaurant

1:30 pm sections sessions

3:30 pm break

4 pm return to sections sessions

7 pm return to hotels

8 pm optional dinner, the gaúcho traditional barbecue (OSPAs, at OSPAs' Table)

iamcr
conference

Porto Alegre July 25 - 30
Brazil 2004

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Wednesday 07/28
(PUC, building 40)

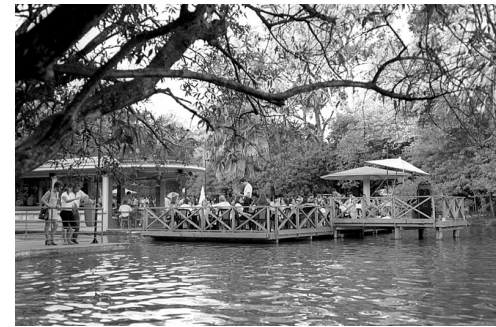
9 am Panel - Participative Communication – possibility or illusion?
• Antonio Hohlfeldt (Brazil)
• Jesús Galindo (Mexico)
• Renato Janine Ribeiro (Brazil)
12 am lunch at PUC, Panorama Restaurant
1:30 pm sections sessions
3:30 pm break
4 pm return to sections sessions
7 pm return to hotels
8 pm optional dinner, Ladies Dinner

Thursday 07/29
(PUC, building 40)

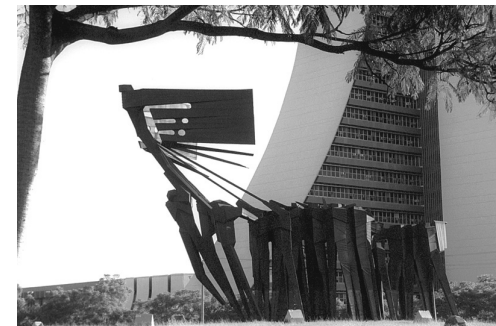
9 am sections sessions
12 am lunch at PUC, Panorama Restaurant
1:30 pm sections sessions
3:30 pm break
4 pm return to sections sessions
7 pm closing ceremony (PUC, building 40 auditorium)

Friday 07/30
(PUC, building 40)

8:30 am IAMCR General Assembly
1 pm lunch
2 pm joint IAMCR Board and 25th Conference Meeting Organizing Committee



	REGISTRATION FEES (US\$)		
	early period	late period	Porto Alegre
IAMCR members	\$ 280	\$ 305	\$ 320
non-members	\$ 320	\$ 345	\$ 360
reduced non-members	\$ 240	\$ 265	\$ 280
reduced members	\$ 200	\$ 225	\$ 240



The beneficiaries of the reduced registration fee are: students, authors from low-income countries as identified by the World Bank.

Refund of registration fees
from 08/03 to 09/04 - 90%
from 10/04 to 11/06 - 80%
from 12/06 to 16/07 - 50%
after 16/07 - no refund

<http://www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr/>

* This schedule may be changed.
This is not the final program.

*The deadline for submission of abstracts is **February 14**, and acceptances/rejections will be announced on **April 12** at the latest. Final papers are due on **July 13**. For more information check the conference website at: www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr. You can also contact the chair of the organising committee, Jaques A. Wainberg at jacqalwa@pucrs.br or the Secretary General, Ole Prehn at prehn@hum.auc.dk*

AUDIENCE AND RECEPTION STUDIES

Joint Section Heads: Tony Wilson and Umi Khattab

The Audience and Reception Studies section looks forward to its Porto Alegre programme extending further the pluralism of presenter topics scheduled for the postponed Taiwan conference. Abstracts for proposed papers and panels addressing the section's interests in comparative (i) reception studies methodology (ii) new and traditional media response studies and (iii) the East-West dialectic of audience research will be particularly welcome.

- i) reception studies methodology – epistemological assumptions and use of qualitative and quantitative method in audience studies (e.g., as one Taiwanese abstract asked, “what constitutes a context and which context counts in audience reception?”)
- ii) new and traditional media response studies – convergence/ divergence in conceptualising

and investigating “viewers” and “users” (abstracts for Taipei ranged from responses to tabloid Japanese news to profiles of Internet advertising readers)

- iii) the East-West dialectic of audience research – Asian and Western communication theory and practice of investigating audience response (e.g., two panels were proposed on Korean cultural studies in 2003, with one evocatively entitled ‘Speak Memory’).

Porto Alegre Abstracts should be submitted by e-mail following IAMCR procedures to BOTH (Joint) Section Heads before February 14th:

Tony Wilson
Graduate Communications and Media Studies Program
Monash University Melbourne Australia
tonyjwilson@yahoo.com

and

Umi Khattab
Media and Communications Program
Melbourne University Australia
umi@unimelb.edu.au

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Joint Section Heads: Hopeton Dunn and Pascal Verhoerst

Deputy Section Heads: Jo Pierson and Tanja Storsul

The Communication Technology Policy Section (CTP) focuses on the design, policy, market and usage aspects of technologically mediated communication and networks, paying attention to both theory and practice. The work of the section in 2003 has mainly focussed on planning the Taipei conference, which had to be cancelled. Thirty-one (31) abstracts were submitted, and 19

of these accepted for presentation in the 4 planned CTP sessions. We want to thank all colleagues who wanted to contribute to the section's Taipei programme and encourage these to submit abstracts for the 2004 Porto Alegre conference.

Besides this, the CTP has been focusing on updating our list of CTP researchers. We invite all who want to receive direct information about the CTP sessions, and are not already registered, to communicate your names, institutions, postal and e-mail addresses as well as key words about your research interests to jo.pierson@vub.ac.be. Please also inform young scholars about the CTP section or refer these to tanja.storsul@media.uio.no.

Call for Papers

The section invites submission of abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the 2004

IAMCR Conference to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 25-30. July 2004. The Conference will be held under the theme: Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World.

Digital technology opens up new possibilities for democratization. Through ICTs citizens may get better access to information and find new means to participate in democratic debate and decision-making. Yet, there are a number of political and social challenges to enable these potentials to be fully realized on local, national and global levels. These challenges include questions of culture, capabilities, access and social inclusion, of the openness of the networks and of the possibilities for citizens to use ICTs effectively for participatory purposes.

How does policy address these issues – and how does this interact with new market developments? How do user aspects enable or constrain possibilities of digital participation? What new dimensions of research can contribute to a better understanding of the relationships between policy, information and communication technology and democracy?

Papers and posters to be presented in the CTP Section should relate to the overall theme of the conference and contributions on the following sub-themes are especially invited:

- Digital Divide vs Democratic Inclusion – political, social and cultural challenges on local and global levels.
- Structures and governance of the liberalized ICT industries.

- Strategies and policies regarding gate keepers in converging markets.
- Global Technologies and Local Power Relations – policies, adaptation and use at community level.

The CTP section encourages papers that address these themes from the perspective of the production and/or consumption of technologies. Although the sub-themes above are of particular interest, the section welcomes submissions on closely related issues and will give consideration to such abstracts. The section encourages papers offering theoretically informed and empirically grounded contributions.

Abstracts of about 500 words should be sent by February 14 2003 to iamcr-ctp@encip.org. In addition you should also put the four e-mail addresses of the joint section heads and deputies in CC

hdunn@cwjamaica.com
Verhoest2@stb.tno.nl
jo.pierson@vub.ac.be
tanja.storsul@media.uio.no

Please indicate whether the abstract is intended for the paper or poster sessions. All prospective presenters will be advised by April 12 2004 of the outcome of their applications. The full text of accepted papers would be due for submission no later than 13. July 2004

For updates and further information about the section, please visit eCTP – the section's website: <http://www.komdat.sbg.ac.at/ectp>

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

Section Head: Laura Stein;
Joint Vice Section Heads: Per Jauert and Ellie Rennie

Call for Papers

The Community Communication section focuses on communication that originates, circulates and resonates with communities, broadly defined. We seek to advance research on the objectives, practices and dynamics of community communication expressed across all types of media and symbol

systems and formed around locality, 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 public and 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.

In addition to research papers, the section welcomes the submission of panel proposals

on current issues and problems in the field. We would particularly like to invite papers and panel proposals having to do with case studies of successful citizens media and community communication issues related to the World Summit on the Information Society. Applicants may submit short or extended abstracts of no more than 1,200 words or completed papers. Panel proposals should include a well-defined statement of purpose, a complete list of panel participants, and full abstracts for each presentation. All submissions should include authors' names, affiliations and contact information. Submissions should be sent to Laura Stein.

OURMedia Preconference

The division is also looking forward to collaborating once again with the OURMedia group who will be holding a pre-conference at Porto Alegre. OURMedia is a group of practitioners and

academics concerned with citizens' and participatory media. The pre-conference will be held from July 22-25. OURMedia has tentatively scheduled field trips for July 22 and 25 and sessions for July 23 and 24. The pre-conference will include workshops and interactive sessions, as well as traditional research paper presentations. Both the Community Communication division and OURMedia want to encourage their members to participate in each other's sessions and field trips.

Look for more details on the pre-conference on IAMCR's web page in the coming months. For more information on OURMedia, see the website at <http://www.ourmedianet.org>. In addition, you can join the OURMedia listserv by emailing Clemencia Rodriguez at clemencia@ou.edu.

www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr/textos/etema.html

GENDER AND COMMUNICATION

Joint Section Heads: Karen Ross and Gita Bamezai

Like the rest of the Sections, the cancellation of the Taipei conference this year was as disappointing for us as it obviously was for the conference organisers and everyone who had submitted papers and/or were otherwise involved with the conference. However, life moves on and several paper-givers to the Section's programme submitted their abstracts for consideration at the joint ICA/IAMCR Digital Divide conference in November at Loughborough and were subsequently accepted. The cancellation of this year's conference also meant no business meeting for the Section and, as Karen Ross will be standing down in 2004 when her term of office finishes, Gita Bamezai will remain as co-chair. We are therefore seeking a second person to share the chairing responsibilities with Gita for the period 2004-2006 and welcome self-nominations for the role of co-chair of the Section. If you are interested

in putting yourself forward, please send Karen and Gita a brief (150-word) biography which, in the event of more than one person being nominated, we will circulate via the womennet listserv and ask colleagues to vote for their preferred candidate. The outcome will be known by the time of the Porto Alegre conference in July 2004.

The Gender and Communication Section's CFP for the 2004 conference is now open and, as always, we welcome abstracts of papers or panel proposals which focus on the conference theme – please see the new IAMCR website for details – as well as papers on other topics related to gender and communication. For 2004 and subsequent conferences, we would like to receive extended abstracts (minimum 500 words and maximum 750 words) and these need to be with both us by Saturday 14 February. If you would like to share preliminary thoughts on a paper or a panel, please contact either Gita or Karen. We look forward to seeing you in Porto Alegre in July 2004 for what promises to be an excellent conference. Happy 2004.

Karen Ross – k.ross@Coventry.ac.uk
Gita Bamezai – gita_bamezai@excite.com

HISTORY

Section Head: Terhi Rantanen

It was unfortunate that the conference in Taiwan had to be cancelled. As a result, it seems like a long time since the members of the history section

have been together. However, many of us have either been in contact with each other by e-mail or seen each other at other conferences or even here in London.

The break has not meant that members have been dormant. On the contrary, many section members have been actively publishing. And, above all, there

is even a recent collective publication. The history of newsrooms section, organized by Juergen Wilke, produced a special issue of *Journalism* (Routledge, Vol 4, No 4, November 2003) <http://taylorandfrancis.metapress.com/app/home/issue.asp?wasp=7ped06p2qj2xumd0up67&referrer=parent&backto=journal,1,16;linkingpublicationresults,id:104721,1> on the history of newsroom cultures. I warmly recommend reading this issue.

But now it is time to start writing your abstracts for the next conference. We have very interesting new topics that were decided in the last conference and these provide for potentially wide participation. The topics are listed below in our call for papers. Please send your abstracts to Peter Putnis by February 14.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you in Porto Alegre. As a proud member of a new department of media and communications at LSE, I face a situation that is all too familiar to most of our members: the department does not have enough money for conference participation. In this situation, I have asked our vice-chair Peter Putnis to take over already as the new chair in Porto Alegre. He will also organize by e-mail the elections for the new vice-chair. The members of our section will hear from Peter soon. You are also encouraged to visit our website <http://ahc.uma.es/iamcr/aims.htm> for further information.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of our section for their active participation. After eight years (almost) as a vice-chair and chair I now feel nostalgic about the times we spent together. I will miss you all and hopefully see you all somewhere.

Call for Papers

The History Section invites submissions for its programme for the 2004 International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil in July 25 - 30, 2004.

Abstracts should be around 400 words, and should outline the proposed topic and give a clear indication of the general perspective and orientation of the paper. Please include your name and title as you would like it to appear on the programme, department, university, and full contact details including your e-mail address.

The topics for the History Section sessions in Porto Alegre are:

- (1) Empires and communications;
- (2) The role of individuals in media histories;
- (3) Comparative media histories;
- (4) The history of media and communications in Latin America.

The History Section accepts papers in Spanish and in French, but we ask you also to

- (1) submit an English version of the abstract of your proposed paper;
- (2) and in the case your paper is chosen for the programme, to include main points of your presentation in English, either on overhead slides, on a Powerpoint presentation, or on a handout (30 copies please).

Please send your abstracts by January 18th, 2004 as Word Attachment Section to Section vice head Peter Putnis peter.putnis@canberra.edu.au and a copy to section head Terhi Rantanen t.rantanen@lse.ac.uk We will let you know whether your proposed paper can be included in the programme by February 14th 2004.

The full programme, including running order, will be made public by April 30th 2004. Please send your full paper to the Porto Alegre Organising Committee by July 15th and a copy to Peter Putnis. Unless full papers are registered in Porto Alegre on July 15 at the latest, the authors will not be featured in the programme.

You are only allowed to send one paper for review and only in one section/working group.

Questions specifically about the History Section should be sent to Peter Putnis. For general information about the conference, please visit the IAMCR website <http://www.iamcr.net/> or <http://www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr/indexe.htm>

Terhi Rantanen
Media@LSE
London School of Economics and Political Science
Houghton Street, London
WC2A 2AE, UK
t.rantanen@lse.ac.uk

JUNIOR SCHOLARS NETWORK

Head: Rosa Leslie Mikeal

Bringing together a Global Membership

The Junior Scholars Network (JSN) of the IAMCR has been busy this summer. Our e-mail listserv has been active with member discussions, announcements for journals, projects, and job

postings, and allowed us to organise some exciting projects for the fall and for next year's conference.

Our website now includes abstracts and links to full papers presented by JSN members in past conferences; brief, searchable descriptions of members, and contact information.

In spite of the unfortunate cancellation of the 2003 Taipei Conference, JSN has found a way to provide this year's selected panelists to circulate their work and receive feedback. In order to bring together the 2003 panelists from countries including China, India, Singapore, North America, the Philippines, and Europe, we plan to coordinate an on-line virtual conference.

JSN panelists will post their papers on-line and receive comments and suggestions from a selection of reviewers. Then, panelists and other members will have an opportunity to respond to papers and comments in this public forum. We hope that this format will help panelists to continue their good work on the projects they submitted for the conference.

The fourteen papers we received from panelists cover a range of topics, from digital access, markets and structures, to exploring global and local identities with new technologies; and from global perspectives on mass media to analyses of worldwide popular culture. We are in the process of assembling reviewers - any interested in participating in this virtual conference can contact JSN Chair Rosa Leslie Mikeal at rgross@asc.upenn.edu or go to our website, www.tu-dresden.de/gsn_iamcr for the links.

JSN has also been working hard on our mentorship program, and generated some solid interest. We hope that this program will provide JSN members the opportunity to link up with senior scholars to share ideas, get feedback on projects and papers, and receive guidance on academic goals and

approaches.

Interested IAMCR members should please contact Katherine Sarikakis at k.sarikakis@coventry.ac.uk, who is heading up this project with JSN.

For next year's Porto Allegro conference, JSN has been organizing a symposium on global media policy as the next installment of our on-going Ramona R. Rush Roundtable (RRR Roundtable). The symposium, tentatively titled "Citizen Representation in Global Media Policy", aims to share positive experience/practices of citizen's intervention to unaccountable regulatory systems, theorise and seek to loosely co-ordinate future actions. We have been discussing collaboration with other IAMCR divisions and several relevant NGOs to co-organize and participate.

This global media symposium will be scheduled to take place over a full day before the conference and include both brief presentations and ample time for discussion and brainstorming. We hope that the symposium will act not only as a "network of networks", but will also provide the opportunity for rich cross-fertilization and exploration in activism, scholarship, and practice of the process and impact of global media policy.

Please contact JSN Chair Rosa Leslie Mikeal or Katherine Sarikakis if you are interested in participating, and watch for announcements of this exciting project!

Meanwhile, JSN continues plans for the 2004 conference, including a special JSN outing, member networking efforts, and recruitment of new scholars for participation in IAMCR.

For more information on how to become a member of the Junior Scholars Network, please contact Chair Rosa Leslie Mikeal via email at rgross@asc.upenn.edu. Or, visit the official JSN website at http://www.tu-dresden.de/gsn_iamcr.

LAW

Section Head: Andrei Richter

Call for papers for the Law section sessions of the Porto Alegre IAMCR conference takes into account the general theme is Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World. The following topics are proposed:

1. Freedom of the Press and the War on Terrorism: Legal Controversies. Papers will focus on the restrictions on free speech introduced in a Number of countries after 9/11 and how it relates to constitutional rights of free press and free speech.
2. Media Interventions in Conflict Societies. Iraq could be compared to other such situations which have been discussed already, e.g. East Timor; Afghanistan, Bosnia or Kosovo. Are models imposed upon the countries by

international community and/or occupying forces useful/effective?

3. Access to Information Laws, as an adjunct/separate issue from freedom of expression. In the last couple of years a number of states in Asia, Africa, Latin America as well as in Europe (Scotland, Estonia, Lithuania) have adopted their FOI statutes. Critical review of the concept of FOI and/or some comparative analysis of if/why FOI laws are only tokens/symbols that really produce very little for the requesters and do not really turn the society with such a law into a vibrant democracy. Is it time for a rethink on FOI and what, if anything, can be done to either strengthen such laws or do something more radical? BTW, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, as with his OAS counterpart, seem to be increasingly keen of the issue.
4. Redefining media law through the Internet as our traditional topic.

Please note the following important dates:
February 14: Deadline for submission of abstracts.
July 15: Full papers are due.

Authors are responsible for sending the full paper

directly to Porto Alegre with a copy to me as Section Head. If full papers are registered in Pto. Alegre on July 15 at the latest, the authors will not be featured in the programme. Also, everyone is allowed to send only ONE paper for review and only in one section/working group.

Addresses: All direct contact to Pto. Alegre and full papers must be Sent to: Jacques Alkalai Wainberg jacqalwa@puhrs.br

The French contingent is, as in Barcelona, planning a coordinated effort to attract French language papers to be presented in the various sessions – that is: not in special sessions – so kindly consider such papers as well as Spanish language papers, as both languages are officially recognised by IAMCR.

It is my pleasure also to inform the section members of my election as a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (www.icj.org), dedicated to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights.

Andrei Richter,
(richter@medialaw.ru, arichter@online.ru)
<http://www.medialaw.ru/iamcr/>

MEDIA AND SPORT

Section Head: Alina Bernstein

We were, naturally, disappointed that the Taipei conference has been canceled (and thanks again to the organizing committee for their hard work). Luckily, and thanks to Michael Real's efforts, some section members had a chance to meet at the ICA conference in San Diego in May 2003 and are currently working on the publication of some of the papers presented there.

Moreover, thanks to our colleagues in Germany, Wolfgang Kleinwaechter and Hans Joerg Stiehler, we have an extraordinary chance to meet before the Porto Alegre conference – as a compensation of sorts for the cancelled meeting in Taipei. This meeting will take place in Leipzig on Saturday, January 17, 2004 and will be part of a larger international symposium titled "Olympic Cities and the Media" (January, 15 – 17, 2004). This symposium is part of an international project our section has become involved in. This comparative study looks at how the global media image of (summer)

Olympic Cities has changed before and after the Games, how the local information economy became part of a sustainable development of the city's economy, how the Olympic Games promoted the development of innovative communication projects and the introduction of new information technologies and more. The January symposium will be the "Kick-Off" meeting of this project, which is meant to be completed by the 2005 IAMCR conference – with the launching of the book this project will produce – (most probably) in Taipei.

You can find our call for papers below but it already seems obvious that many scholars find the prospect of going to Brazil very attractive! A further incentive, specific to our section, to travel to Brazil is the "media and sport" seminar organized by the "Centre for Olympic Studies and Sport Sciences" in San Luis, Argentina just prior to the conference. Importantly, following the success of our joint session with the Gender Section at the Barcelona conference we are also looking into the possibility of having further joint sessions in Brazil.

Other than that we try to stay in touch professionally (and there are projects from time to time that stem from the contacts we have within our section), and

as friends. And so we are already looking forward to the chance to meet again in Porto Alegre.

Call for Papers

The Media and Sport Section invites submissions for its programme for the IAMCR conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil (25-30 July, 2004). 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: 'Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World'.

Abstracts of a maximum of 400 words – including the authors name and address – should reach the Section Head, by e-mail, at the address below no later than February 14th, 2004. As we are looking

forward to receiving many abstracts an indication of intention of submission is absolutely vital (the sooner the better). Approved papers will be announced by 12th April, 2004.

Please share this information with scholars who might be interested in joining us and have not done so in the past!

Further details will also be posted on our WebPages at: <http://www.play-the-game.org/partners/>

Alina Bernstein
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Israel
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(alinaber@netvision.net.il)

PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

Joint Section Heads: Ullamaija Kivikuru and Rico Lie

The Participatory Communication Research Section (PCR) invites submissions for its sessions at the bi-annual international conference of the IAMCR in Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 25 - 30, 2004.

The theme of the conference is Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World. Underneath this umbrella, papers from a wide range of perspectives on communication, participation and change will be considered.

The work that is presented in the Participatory Communication Research Section is not based on any specific definition of participation. Rather, participation is a term used to refer to a number of social and planning processes occurring in many different places and in many different contexts. The section addresses issues related to communication between community members and other stakeholders that are engaged in processes of social change. The sessions are meant to work toward theoretical and methodological clarification. Therefore, both papers and statements discussing theoretical or methodological perspectives and/or documenting specific case studies are welcomed.

Topics cover a wide variety of issues that relate to research in relation to processes of communication

that incorporate participation in an intrinsic way. This includes subjects and processes of democratisation, communication and information rights, ICTs for sustainable development, health communication, environmental communication, agricultural extension services, folk media and social movements, communication planning activities and interventions, national and cultural identities, community studies and the relationship between participation, empowerment and gender, community radio and participatory video production, non-formal participatory forms of education, participatory rapid appraisals, participatory action research, and so on.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts (300-350 words) is February 14, 2004. You will be informed whether or not your abstract is accepted by April 8, 2004. The deadline of full papers is July 13, 2004.

Please send your abstract to:

Ullamaija Kivikuru,
University of Helsinki
SSKH/Swedish School of Social Science
P.O.Box 16, 00014 Helsinki, Finland
(Ullamaija.Kivikuru@helsinki.fi)

and

Rico Lie,
Wageningen University
Department of Communication and Innovation
Studies
Hollandseweg 1, 6706 KN Wageningen,
The Netherlands
(Rico.Lie@wur.nl)

POLITICAL COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

Section Head: Philippe J. Maarek

The Political Communication Research Section will be organizing panels at the IAMCR conference to be held in Porto Alegre in 2004, July 25th to 30th. The theme of the Conference is 'Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World'. So the section is interested in papers bearing on the political communication dimensions of the subject, i.e. the change in political communication processes induced by new media and their influence on the international, national and local level. 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 neighborhoods.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper should contact the section head, Professor Philippe J. Maarek, by February 14th 2004. Paper proposals should be one page, and should list the author's name, address, affiliations, telephone, fax, and e-mail, followed by the paper's title and an abstract of 500 words/1550 signs. The abstract should specify the subject, questions asked, methodology and findings. E-mail should be privileged in communicating with the head of section.

In order to improve the on-site discussions, all panels in Porto Alegre will have a discussant. Colleagues willing to act as discussants may apply as far as they have already taken part to at least two previous meetings of the section and/or are well-known searchers in the field. Paper givers in Porto Alegre may also volunteer to be discussants in other panels than theirs. Would-be discussants should specify in which field of political communication they are rather willing to work and also send in the same personal data required from paper givers.

The paper givers or discussant volunteers should apply at the following address:

Philippe J. Maarek
maarek@univ-paris12.fr
(preferably)

or

Philippe J. Maarek
Professeur a l'Universite de Paris 12
41 rue du Colisee
75008 Paris
France

Fax 331-43.59.57.03

Tel 331-42.25.85.82

AFTER THE TAIPEI CONFERENCE CANCELLATION

At the Taipei conference which had to be cancelled, the Political Communication Research Section has scheduled 30 papers in 6 panels plus 2 papers for the poster session. Colleagues who had a paper accepted in Taipei will of course get priority if they are interested to come to the Porto Alegre Congress. They may either present the paper which was accepted for Taipei, updated when necessary, or give another paper related to the section field.

CALL FOR PAPER FOR IAMCR WORKSHOP ON "INTERNATIONALIZATION OF POLITICAL MARKETING: AMERICANIZATION OR PLAIN GLOBALIZATION?"

"The Political Communication Research Section will also organize a workshop in Paris during three days, June 30th, July 1st and 2nd, 2004. It will bring together leading scholars in political marketing from around the globe who are actively engaged in carrying out research in the field. The theme of the workshop will center on the influence of American political marketing practices around the globe, and will directly address the relative impact that these practices have had on the international community.

The workshop is organized by Philippe J. Maarek, President of the present Political Communication Research Section of IAMCR, France, and by Bruce I. Newman, Editor and founder of the Journal of Political Marketing, Professor at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, USA. It is supported by the Political Communication Research Section of IAMCR and the Political Communication Research Committee of IPSA, and hosted by CECCOPOP, the Center for Comparative Studies on Political and Public Communication of University Paris 12.

It will center on each of the fields related to political marketing, notably :

- Political communication practices and

regulations;

- Analysis of voter behaviour
- Research and polling
- Political management and strategy
- Ethics, campaign finances and democracy
- Political consulting
- Party transformations and politics
- New media and Internet influence

Colleagues wishing to take part to the workshop should contact both organizers, sending them a participation proposal and a precise abstract of 500 words/1550 signs. The abstract should specify the subject, questions asked, methodology and findings in a comparative perspective linked to the workshop topic. Colleagues not previously known by both organizers should join a CV. Proposals will be subject to peer review.

Answers to the present call for participation should arrive before January 31st, 2004, by Email to: maarek@univ-paris12.fr and bnewman@depaul.edu

WEBSITE FOR THE POLITICAL COMMUNICATION RESEARCH SECTION SOON TO OPEN

At the recent June Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Philippe Maarek and Barbara Pfetsch, the new Chair of the Political Communication Research Committee of IPSA, have decided to open a common website. Please send your email address to Philippe Maarek at maarek@univ-paris12.fr if you want to be informed of the address when it comes on line.

POLITICAL ECONOMY

Section Head: Janet Wasko

The section will be organizing panels and poster sessions for the Porto Alegre conference around two general themes: "Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World" and "New Developments in Political Economy." Contributions may be on any topic within these two general areas, but papers on the following issues will be particularly welcome: recent trends on marketisation; the political economy of the public sphere; the regulation of corporate activity; promotional cultures; the political economy of global citizenship; and the political economy of alternative and oppositional media, new media and democracy.

The section also welcomes the submission of proposals that were accepted for the Taiwan conference, and will attempt to include them in our program in Porto Alegre.

Abstracts due: February 14
Send abstracts to: jwasko@uoregon.edu
Acceptance of papers announced - by April 12
Final papers due: July 13

Other plans for the conference include a social gathering with the Latin American political economy group, Unión Latina de Economía Política de la Información, la Comunicación y la Cultura (ULEP-ICC) and a business meeting of the section.

For those interested in the section, see the website at: <http://jcomm.uoregon.edu/~IAMCR-PolEcon>

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Section Head: Beate Josephi

The theme of the conference is *Comunicação e Democracia: Perspectivas para um novo Mundo / Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World* and further details can be obtained from the website <http://www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr/>. The Professional Education Section invites submissions for its programme. All papers from a full range of perspectives of Professional Education will be considered. Especially welcome are

contributions which connect Professional Education with the conference theme of Communication and Democracy. These could be aspects of ethics enshrining freedom of expression, they could be on forms of reporting which provide accurate and balanced information, or on journalists working in conditions still somewhat removed from the ideals of communication and democracy.

Abstracts between 250 to 500 words – including the author's name and address – should be sent to me by email at the address below no later than 14 February 2004. The abstracts then will be refereed by members of the Professional Education section's steering committee and approved papers will be announced on 12 April, 2004.

Please share this information with scholars who might be interested in joining us and have not yet done so. Have a happy festive season and best wishes for a peaceful and rewarding new year.

Dr. Beate Josephi
IAMCR Professional Education Section

School of Communications and Multimedia
Edith Cowan University
Mount Lawley,
Western Australia 6050
Tel. 61-8-9370 6691
Fax 61-8-9370 6668
Email: b.josephi@ecu.edu.au

PSYCHOLOGY AND PUBLIC OPINION

Section Head: Friedrich Krotz

Call for papers

The Psychology and Public Opinion Section plans three types of sessions at the Porto-Allegre-Conference of IAMCR in July 2004. The following text describes them shortly:

- First, there is planned a series of thematically open sessions devoted to papers which refer in general to the research area of the section, "psychology and public opinion", and which are occupied with the central conference theme "Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World". Here, a lot of topics will have a place, and we hope to get a variety of interesting papers.
- Second, the section will organize some sessions about "Erving Goffman and the Media". Erving Goffmann today is seen as one of the modern classics of Sociology and Interaction theory. He created a microsociological view on interaction and communication, which is far from "transport of information". Instead, an understanding of interaction as a process, the definition of the situation, constructed by all participants as a frame for communication, the balance of identity between the own idea and the view from outside and topics like this have been his central concern. Goffmans perspective on interaction and communication was fruitful, not only for interpersonal, but also for media related communication. E.g. Joshual Meyrowitz referred to him to understand "situation" as an information system and to show empirically, how situations are changing if media become part of it. Other researchers referred to the frame concept to analyze the developing forms of communication in the so-called Cyberspace. Again others used his methodological example and his microsociological ideas to describe the changing character of

public places by media. Others used Goffmans ideas to discuss advertisement, the changing stereotypes of gender roles, the role of institutions for communicative behaviour and so on. But Goffmans work contains much more what could be of interest for communication research. His methods are not finally understood, his interaction theory is only in part adapted to describe media communication and a lot of further questions are open. Because of this, the Section plans some sessions to discuss his work in relation to media communication and thus calls for papers on this topic.

- Third, the Section intends to make a session about the effect of public opinion polls in political issues on public opinion and on governments policy by the publication of results in the media: Recent examples show that asking specific questions, offering only specific possible answers and presenting the results in the media may be an instrument to influence government policy and public opinion. The Section expect research papers on that.

Answers to this call should consist in an English abstract of one page about the planned presentation, the title of the presentation, name, address and details of affiliation of the sender. Deadline will be the 14th of February, 2004.

Proposals will be reviewed by the two heads of section and by further specialists, named by the heads. All authors get an answer not later than at 30th of April, 2004.

If a proposal is accepted, the author must send a full paper before July, 15th. Second, she or he must register her- or himself for participation in the Congress. This is possible at www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr.

All abstracts (and later all full papers) should be sent by e-mail to the local organizers of the conference, jacqalwa@pucrs.br and in addition to the Section heads friedrich.krotz@uni-erfurt.de and hnossek@colman.ac.il

Media Production Analysis

Convenors: Chris Paterson and Knut Helland

The Working Group for Media Production Analysis invites papers for the 2004 conference in Porto Alegre. The group, active since 1999, last convened in two well-attended sessions in Barcelona in 2002. This Working Group provides a venue for researchers of media production in different genres and across different media.

Papers should present original and recent analyses of the media production process, or should examine methodological issues in production research (issues of media education, content, or economics are generally not in our purview). It is an explicit aim to include and encourage studies of media convergence: the 'new media'. These media and the production processes related to them represent an explicit challenge for the field of production studies.

Other challenges emerge from new types of media economy, forces of convergence and globalization, decreasing publicly funded media, and conglomerate economics. Any analysis of these and related phenomena at the site of media production are welcome. On a related note, co-organizer Chris Paterson is assembling an anthology of research examining new media production settings from an ethnographic perspective. The work of several previous Working Group participants will be featured, and Paterson welcomes inquiries from other prospective chapter authors. Abstracts for prospective Working Group papers should be submitted to Paterson and Helland electronically by 15 February, 2004.

Contact: Chris Paterson
(paterson@usfca.edu) or Knut Helland
(knut.helland@media.uib.no).

Health, Technologies and Communication

Convenor: Milton Campos

Communication technologies are pervasive: we have witnessed in the last decades the advance of computers and networks in practically all human activities. The sector of health is not an exception, but the integration of digital technologies has been particularly complex in this field. First of all, the health sector plunged in a deep crisis all over the world and in most countries the system is simply bankrupt.

Secondly, a paradox faces the health sector: medical advances are often related to the development of expensive sophisticated digital equipment and of various types of software for administrative and medical purposes. Third, and most importantly, the medical culture faces the challenge of integrating computer technologies into its practices. However, there is much resistance and for a reason: health institutions have their own cultures, forms of organization, and structures of care that sometimes do not adapt to standardized systems. All these problems point to the emergence of a new field of research: health, technologies and communication.

This working group has as an objective to gather together researchers interested in exploring different levels of communication practices as related to the use of networked and computer technologies in the health sector as a means to contribute to the amelioration of health services.

In addition, it sees such a working group as an opportunity for researchers from different countries and health contexts to exchange ideas and, eventually, to develop joint projects and to establish research partnerships.

(Milton.Campos@umontreal.ca)

Islam, Communication and Democracy, A Global Perspective

Convenor: Mohammad A. Siddiqi

Proposals are invited as soon as possible with title of paper, author (s) name, affiliation/institution, e-mail, phone and fax numbers.

Abstract should be sent in no more than 300-500 words in Microsoft Word file (preferably .rtf or .doc file) latest by February 15th 2004.

Approved papers will be announced by April 12th, 2004.

The full paper must be sent to the conference organizing committee and a copy to me latest by July 15th.

For general information about IAMCR and the conference, please visit the following websites:

www.iamcr.net

www.pucrs.br/famecos/iamcr

Some suggested topics:

Islam and democratic communication

The universal principles of communication in Islam and those in the West; A comparative analysis

News and news coverage: An Islamic perspective

Islam, communication and sustainable development.

Challenges to communication professionals in secular capitalist democracies. Islam, communication and the empowerment of women.

The coverage of American War against Iraq: An Islamic perspective

Islam, communication and Muslim countries: Policies, prospects, issues, visions and challenges (Muslim country case studies may also be considered)

Islam, communication and spread of terrorism.

Muslim and Islamic images: A global

comparative analysis.

Note: Islam and Media Working Group had successful sessions at IAMCR conferences in Glasgow, Scotland (1998), Singapore (2000), and Barcelona, Spain (2002). The goal of this working group is to contribute to the development of research and evaluation in the media and communication related fields from an Islamic point of view (the Tawhidic perspective).

Dr. Mohammad A. Siddiqi
Islam and Media Working Group
m-siddiqi@wiu.edu

Popular Culture

Convenor: Garry Whannel

The Popular Culture Working Group invites submissions for its programme for the 2004 International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil in July 25 - 30, 2004.

Papers from a range of perspectives on popular culture topics will be considered. Abstracts should be around 400 words, and should outline the proposed topic and give a clear indication of the general perspective and theoretical orientation of the paper. Please include your name and title (as you would like it to appear on the programme), job title, department, university, and full contact details. Email will be the normal form of communication with you.

Note: The Popular Culture Working Group will consider papers in Spanish and in French, provided that:

1. You submit an English version of the abstract of your proposed paper.
2. If your paper is chosen for the programme, you should include main points of your presentation, in English, either on overhead slides, on a PowerPoint presentation, or on a handout (30 copies please).

Abstracts must be received by me by January 18th, 2004. Email as Word attachment or RTF attachment to <gwhannel@britishlibrary.net>. I will inform you as to whether your proposed paper can be included in the programme by February 14th 2004. Please note that for the IAMCR Conference in Barcelona in 2002, the Popular Culture Working Group received over 50 proposals, and only had time in the programme for 10. Many good proposals could not be included because of lack of time.

The full programme, including running order, will be determined by April 30th 2004. Full papers MUST be sent to the Porto Alegre Organising Committee by July 15th. Authors are responsible for sending the full paper directly to Porto Alegre with a copy to Garry Whannel. Unless full papers are registered in Porto Alegre on July 15 at the latest, the authors will NOT be featured in the programme. All direct contact to Porto Alegre must be sent to: Jacques Alkalai Wainberg at jacqalwa@puhrs.br

The IAMCR has announced that you are only allowed to send ONE paper for review and only in one section/working group.

Questions specifically about the Popular Culture Working Group should come to me at gwhannel@britishlibrary.net. For general information about the conference, please do NOT contact me. Instead try the IAMCR website <www.humfak.auc.dk/iamcr/>, and if this does not provide the answer, then contact the Porto Alegre organising committee. NOTE that I have no responsibility for conference registration fees and cannot comment on your eligibility for reduced rates.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to be involved in the Popular Culture Working Group, even if you do not intend to submit a proposed paper for Porto Alegre. I will then keep

you informed of future plans. Email to Garry Whannel at gwhannel@britishlibrary.net and please include your name and contact details.

Professor Garry Whannel
Director, Centre for International Media Analysis
Department of Media Arts
University of Luton, UK

Media, Religion and Communication

(a.k.a. Grupo de trabalho Mídia, religião e cultura) *Comunicação e Democracia: Perspectivas para um novo Mundo*

Convenor: Johannes Ehrat

"Religion, Power Relations, and the Media" could specify the Conference theme to our field of interest. Not only is it a very wide area, but there is undoubtedly a context of actuality, which solicits scholarly interest. Many and different religious groups are either motor or victim (or both) of renegotiations of power relations in many societies, use the media to their ideological advantage, or have to undergo harassment, or even defy public opinion in the vest of 'fundamentalists' or terrorists.

This working group invites proposals for papers dealing with the complexities of religious agencies in the magnet field of media and power; it has many thinkable, interesting constellations, and there are a number of different scientific approaches to this interrelation, theoretical, semiotic, empirical (or a combination).

All approaches are welcome for proposed papers, provided they offer good quality and interesting, novel perspectives in their respective methodological nature.

Over and above scholarly concerns in the context of the Conference theme, this working group continues to be interested in quality papers treating media in central religious communication

processes, from community building to proclamation, art to expression of faith, apologetic and propagandistic media usage and reception.

For further details and suggestion of topics please consult www.unigre.it/iamcr/

Send your 500 word abstract by 14. February 2004 to ehrat@unigre.it and an identical copy to iamcr-ctp@encip.org. Presenters will be advised by 12 April 2004 of the acceptance of their paper proposals. The full text of accepted papers must be submitted no later than 13 July 2004.

HIV/AIDS and Communication

Convenors: Marjan de Bruin and Thomas Tufte

In Barcelona 2002, the discussants of the RoundTable on HIV/AIDS and Communication met with other IAMCR members involved and interested in the topic and decided it was needed and timely to keep HIV/AIDS and Communication on IAMCR's (research) agenda. Each of the participants expressed a commitment to work on a new IAMCR project on HIV/AIDS and Communication for at least the next two to three years. Present were: Ullamaija Kivikuru, Tamara Trowsell, Sammy Ole Oinyiaku, Gita Bamezai, Tom Jacobson, Ruth Tomaselli, Martine Bouman, Thomas Tufte, Marjan de Bruin. We decided to form a working group, by which we hopefully would be able to create avenues for pulling together existing research efforts and producing new research where we would identify gaps.

In order to identify gaps one of the first priorities must be to create an overview of existing and completed work in this area. Some of these literature overviews exist but they are incomplete.

There is a need to see what exists, worldwide and across agencies; to analyse the data, including studies that will be published shortly and to identify the gaps. This will allow us to draw up an IAMCR research agenda. We are aware of the fact that this is a huge task. Various NGOs and such world-wide organisations as WHO and UNICEF send out their reports and books each week, but nothing compiled on a larger scale. There exist some limited annotated bibliographies. Of course the most important part is to see where the real needs are, and once identified and worked on, to make sure that our findings will be distributed to potential users.

This IAMCR working group would work towards research completion, publishing and distribution of findings.

The IAMCR will in all of this offer the institutional bedding. The yearly informal meetings and bi-annual official meetings will give us the deadline pressure we need. The working group is exploring funding possibilities to include participants from a variety of countries, especially the ones hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

For the immediate future we will concentrate on: getting this group off the ground, identifying the gaps, compare with what we are able to design and get started.

This is a call for papers on any subject connected to HIV/AIDS and Communication. Deadline for submission of Abstracts: February 30.

Marjan de Bruin,
CARIMAC, University of the West Indies,
Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica.
Fax: 876-9771597
(marjan.debruin@uwimona.edu.jm)

And

Thomas Tufte
(T.Tufte@pubhealth.ku.dk)

Broadcasting Performance in Europe: In Search of New Approaches to Public Broadcasting Accountability

Organised in co-operation with the European Consortium For Communications Research (ECCR)

Convenors: Jo Bardoel and Jan van Cuilenburg,

After the rapid rise of commercial broadcasters over the last two decades, by now most European countries have a pretty stable 'dual broadcasting system' in which strong commercial and public broadcasters co-exist more or less peacefully. But the battle between the two goes on, not only for the attention of viewers and listeners but more and more also for support in the political arena. At the European Union level, private operators call for an equal level playing field, and complain about infringements of the EC Treaty (unfair competition between public and private broadcasters) as a result of extensive funding for public broadcasters by European nation-states. Also on a national level, commercial broadcasters complain about unfair trade and competition by public broadcasters when entering new services such as theme channels and Internet activities.

In reaction to this increasing pressure on European and national levels, public broadcasters in Europe – and, in fact public broadcasters around the world that have to cope with the same competitive challenge – increasingly emphasize their 'distinctiveness' vis-à-vis commercial broadcasters by redefining their mission, operationalizing their goals in terms of performance indicators and by developing new accountability mechanisms. Charters between politics and broadcasters, new programme and

audience reach quota, public hearings, and audits are just some examples of this new approach. On the one hand this new policy seems a good way to legitimize public broadcasting in the new context and it forces public broadcasters to make their mission more concrete and committal. On the other hand it might introduce new bureaucratization and control and, as a result, more political dependency.

In this working session we would like to make an inventory of new performance practices and accountability mechanisms for public broadcasters in different countries, inside and outside Europe: how do they work, and what can be learned from them?

Abstracts shall be submitted both to the Porto Alegre Conference Organisers and to the Convenors before February 14th, 2004. Approval of abstracts will be announced to respective authors by April 12th, 2004, at the latest thus enabling people to participate at the conference at the early bird registration fee. Papers should be submitted to Porto Alegre July 13th, 2004.

If you are interested to present a paper please send a message immediately to Jo Bardoel (j.l.h.bardoel@uva.nl) mentioning your name(s), name of institution and the title of your abstract/paper, so that we know what to expect. The ECCR explicitly encourages young scholars to participate in this international academic forum.

The Convenors will inform you about the exact time slot for your presentation, the equipment available later on.

Abstracts should contain: title of paper; name(s) of author(s) including name of institution, postal address, telephone, fax and e-mail addresses; the abstract text (not exceeding 1 500 characters) Abstracts and/or papers can be submitted to

Jo Bardoel,
The Amsterdam School of
Communications Research,
Kloveniersburgwal 48, 1012 Cx
Amsterdam, The Netherlands,
+31 (20) 525 3917 or 3680
Fax +31 (20) 525 3681 E-mail:
j.l.h.bardoel@uva.nl

Environmental Issues, Science and Risk Communication

Convenor: Anders Hansen

The Environmental Issues, Science and Risk Communication Working Group invites proposals for papers to be presented at the 2004 IAMCR Conference in Porto Alegre.

Papers from the full range of environment-science-risk communication topics and perspectives will be considered, and those relating to or touching on the conference theme of 'Communication and Democracy: Perspectives for a New World' will be particularly welcome. Key themes for the Porto Alegre sessions of the Working Group will include studies of: media roles in global environmental controversy; science journalism; news and the social construction of risk; environmental pressure groups and new media; intercultural dimensions of environmental/science communication; environment, nature and identity in advertising; and media and public/political understanding of science.

Deadline for abstracts :14th February 2004. You will be informed whether your submission has been accepted by 12th April 2004. Please email your abstract of no more than 400 words to:

Anders Hansen (ash@leicester.ac.uk)
Centre for Mass Communication Research,
University of Leicester, University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

IAMCR BOOK SERIES

Call for book proposals and manuscripts

The Book Publications Committee

Who? All IAMCR members in good standing are welcome to submit a proposal or manuscript. However, priority will be given to young scholars and scholars who have not yet been widely published in the English language.

What? Submissions on all subjects and perspectives covered by and discussed within the IAMCR are welcome. Book proposals may be endorsed by sections or working groups if they arise directly out of the sections' ongoing work.

How? A proposal should be between 2,500 - 3,000 (max) words or 10 pages in length. The following has to be provided:

- Name and address (regular and email) of the corresponding author or editor.
- What is the research topic or focus?
- What is the rationale for this proposal?
- What research methods or perspectives will be presented or discussed?
- Particular issues/themes to be discussed.
- Time-frame for the completion of the manuscript.
- Tentative table of contents (including the full list of authors in case of an edited volume).
- Short bibliography.
- Why is the proposal submitted to the IAMCR Book Series?

A manuscript should be between 200 and 300 pages in length. The information requested for proposals has to be included in the accompanying letter.

To Whom? Book proposals and manuscripts can be sent by regular mail or e-mail to the Coordinator of the IAMCR Book Publications Committee:

Professor Jan Servaes
C/o School of Journalism and
Communication
University of Queensland
St. Lucia, Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia
Tel: +61 7 3365 6115 or 3088
Fax: +61 7 3365 1377
(j.servaes@uq.edu.au)

An Age of Information: New Anxieties: New Opportunities

Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th of June 2004
Research and Practice in Communication Ethics

The conference will be held at the University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN6 7TS, United Kingdom on 14th and 15th June 2004.

Theme

At a time when there is so much information and so many are involved in the information-communication process, there appears to be an unprecedented need for an ethics of communication practice and an agreed integrity of information. What would such an ethical practice look like? Who would create and maintain it? How may the academy contribute? These are some of the questions we seek to address in this conference on research and practice.

The conference organising committee are calling for papers – including case studies, literature reviews, ethnographic studies and thought pieces - from interested academics and professional communicators. We aim to examine an ethics of multiple information environments, and begin a move toward creating a community of practice round the conference theme.

A number of sub-themes are suggested, including the implications of information overload; political miscommunication and ethics of the public realm; uses of email (as recently highlighted in the Hutton inquiry); implications of the web for establishing closer contact with journalism sources and readers (OR: media sources and consumers): the impact of the rise of bloggers and alternative news sites on media standards; the epistemological effects of cyberspace; pedagogic techniques in ethics and communication teaching; issues of stakeholderism and dialogue: whistle blowing as a sign of individual (mis) alignment with organisation culture and the ethics of auditing culture and measuring behaviour.

Contributions Presentations should be limited to 15 minutes. A special issue of *Ethical Space: the international journal of communication ethics* will be published on this theme, and presenters will be invited to submit formal written versions of their papers, of up to 3000 words, for inclusion in the journal.

Deadline for conference contributions is February 30th 2004 set out in acceptable academic formats in MSWord.

Attendance fee

An attendance fee of £200 includes overnight accommodation for one night and a gala conference dinner.

For FURTHER information please contact Rebecca Inkley, Co-ordinator for the Institute of Communication Ethics by email rinkley@lincoln.ac.uk or tel +44(0)1522 886387, fax +44(0)1522 886021

see: International Communication Association
see: <http://icahdq.org/index.html>

IAMCR workshop on “Internationalization of political marketing: Americanization or plain globalization?”

The Political Communication Research Section will also organize a workshop in Paris during three days, June 30th, July 1st and 2nd, 2004. It will bring together leading scholars in political marketing from around the globe who are actively engaged in carrying out research in the field. The theme of the workshop will center on the influence of American political marketing practices around the globe, and will directly address the relative impact that these practices have had on the international community.

The workshop is organized by Philippe J. Maarek, President of the present Political Communication Research Section of IAMCR, France, and by Bruce I. Newman, Editor and founder of the *Journal of Political Marketing*, Professor at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, USA. It is supported by the Political Communication Research Section of IAMCR and the Political Communication Research Committee of IPSA, and hosted by CECCOPOP, the Center for Comparative Studies on Political and Public Communication of University Paris 12.

It will center on each of the fields related to political marketing, notably:

- Political communication practices and regulations;
- Analysis of voter behaviour
- Research and polling
- Political management and strategy
- Ethics, campaign finances and democracy
- Political consulting
- Party transformations and politics
- New media and Internet influence

Colleagues wishing to take part to the workshop should contact both organizers, sending them a participation proposal and a precise abstract of 500 words/1550 signs. The abstract should specify the subject, questions asked, methodology and findings in a comparative perspective linked to the workshop topic. Colleagues not previously known by both organizers should join a CV. Proposals will be subject to peer review. Answers to the present call for participation should arrive before January 31st, 2004, by E-mail to maarek@univ-paris12.fr and bnewman@depaul.edu

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

BEYOND THE WSIS: Towards a sustainable agenda for the future Information Society

A call for book chapters
ECCR-book, edited by Jan Servaes & Nico Carpentier

Rationale:

The stakes are high at the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The “peoples of the world”

declare in the Draft Declaration of Principles (14 November 2003) that their “common desire and commitment (is) to build a people-centred, inclusive and development oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations [and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights].”

The book aim to analyse and evaluate these ambitions, but at the same time we want to develop a number of recommendations for consideration to policy makers and researchers. Here the points of attention are the need to increase the social dimension of ICT policies, to develop new forms of awareness raising activities, to support to

cross country research and to re-formulate the economic drivers of the digital growth.

Book chapters can be submitted to:
Nico Carpentier, Catholic University of Brussels (KUB)
Email: Nico.Carpentier@kubrusssel.ac.be

Jan Servaes, President, ECCR
(European Consortium for Communications Research)
Email: Jan.Servaes@eccr.info

Deadline for submission of book chapters: May 1, 2004.
For more information, please visit the website of ECCR at <http://www.eccr.info>
or contact Rico Lie at <Rico.Lie@wur.nl>

Web: <http://homepages.vub.ac.be/~ncarpent/>

A new initiative: The Center for International Media Action (CIMA)

The mass media and the Internet are becoming ever more central to our political and social lives, and the stakes are rising. Policy and technology decisions underway right now will determine media’s evolution for generations. Meanwhile, social-justice values, civil rights efforts and dissenting voices are being blocked by concentrated and homogenous media. Journalism itself is endangered by commercial and political pressures – locally, nationally and globally.

An emerging force of media advocates and public concern could help advance media policies, practices and systems that reflect the needs and interests of citizens and communities. But despite a recent resurgence in media activism around these issues, the collective impact of that work is far less than the sum of the parts. Too often, advocates, academics, community groups and (inter) national campaigns aren’t aware of – or able to build upon – each other’s strengths and research. CIMA was founded to help bridge those information and communication gaps.

The Solution

The Center for International Media Action (CIMA), a new not-for-profit organization, has been created to provide strategic services and tools to strengthen cooperation among media advocacy, education and reform groups. We will develop and disseminate publications, curricula, workshops and online information-sharing tools to help groups to:

- Identify allies and collaborate effectively
- Translate key issues for broader audiences
- Share “best practices”
- Document media advocacy campaigns, projects, strategies and meetings

CIMA seeks to help diversify the participants in media policy debates prioritize local initiatives and promote points of engagement for media advocacy. Initial program work includes:

The Media and Communications Policy Clearinghouse (MCPC): Interactive online tools to track centralize and cross-reference news, proposals, research, campaign

strategies and events in media policy from a public-interest perspective – developed with participation from stakeholder groups.

Organizing FCC and WSIS campaigns: Workshops, presentations and materials about the upcoming UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and current regulatory debates taking place at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and in Congress, focused on translating issues for a wider audience and highlighting possibilities for action. CIMA recently produced: “The Reporters’ Guide To Media Ownership Rules And The FCC.”

OURMedia/NUESTROS Medios

a global network of activists, academics, and practitioners working toward stronger alternative, community and citizens’ media.
<www.ourmedianet.org>

una red global de activistas y académicos apoyando los medios alternativos, ciudadanos y comunitarios
<www.nuestrosmedios.org>

Contact: Clemencia Rodriguez, University of Oklahoma
(clemencia@ou.edu)

CIMA: The Center for International Media Action, Inc.
Catherine Borgman-Arboleda: 646-249-3027,
(catherine@mediaactioncenter.org)
Aliza Dichter: 518-755-1888,
(liza@mediaactioncenter.org)

April 15 - 18, 2004

A EURICOM Colloquium on Communication and Culture; Censorship and Democracy.

Venue: Piran, Slovenia. Organizers: the European Institute for Communication and Culture. More information: Hanno Hardt (hanno.hardt@uni-lj.si) and Slavko Splichal (slavko.splichal@uni-lj.si)

April 22 - 25, 2004

The Axis of Empire: An International Conference of the Union for Democratic Communications, hosted by the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts.

Venue: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. 62901.

Inquiries can be made to Jyotsna Kapur at jkapur@siu.edu, 618.453-1470, fax: 618.453-2264

June 14 - 15, 2004

An Age of Information: New Anxieties: New Opportunities Research and Practice in Communication Ethics.

Venue: University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN6 7TS, United Kingdom.

For further information please contact Rebecca Inkleby, Coordinator for the Institute of Communication Ethics (rinkley@lincoln.ac.uk) or tel +44(0)1522 886387, fax +44(0)1522 886021

June 30 - July 2, 2004

Workshop by the IAMCR's Political Communication Research Section on "Internationalization of political marketing: Americanization or plain Globalization"?

Venue: Paris, France

July 6 - 9, 2004

The fourth international Conference on diversity in organisations, communities and nations.

Venue: University of California, Los Angeles, USA

<http://www.Diversity-Conference.com>

July 8 - 10, 2004

Feminism Contesting Globalisation, organised by the Women's Studies Association (UK and Ireland) – 17th Annual Conference. Hosted by the Women's Education, Research, and Resource Centre (WERRC).

Venue: University College Dublin.

Updating the website services

By now the design has finally come together and the services mentioned in the previous Newsletter are developing nicely.

The three services mentioned were News¹, Colleagues² and Papers³.

All News in the IAMCR-database will now be searchable by date and section in order to make it easy for members to be updated quickly in their preferred sections.

Colleagues has not changed all that much. It will continue to be only members of IAMCR, who can add data which can be searched by the general public. Here we have

mostly worked on making the interface and navigation for input and update facilities user friendly for the members. Of course we have also paid special attention to the search and presentation interface regarding member information.

Papers have remained almost the same except it is now open to the public. We have concentrated on making the navigation user friendly, giving the user the best general view.

Two new ideas have surfaced while working with this project:

Electronic membership enrollment to the IAMCR. This feature will naturally

influence the administration quite a lot and security issues have been a key factor.

Speakers Corner. In order to facilitate the communication among the members of IAMCR, we have considered an open space for discussion, one for each section and open to all members cross sectionally.

We now face evaluation of all these services in Barcelona and subsequent programming.

¹ News: a service for the members of IAMCR to announce professional and scientific news.

² Colleagues: a service to search for new scientific colleagues of research, inside or crossing professional and geographical boundaries.

³ Papers: a service for the members of IAMCR to search for and download the complete text of IAMCR Conference papers from IAMCR Conferences.

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