

IAMCR 2011, Istanbul
'Cities, Creativity, Connectivity'

**Global Media Policy Working Group
Report of Activities**

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The Global Media Policy Working Group's (GMP WG) main aim is to provide a lively space for discussion of current and controversial trends in global media policy from the local to the global level, and to foster intellectual exchange that may help bridging between academic research and policy-oriented practices. In this light, on the occasion of the 2011 Istanbul IAMCR conference the GMP WG has directly organized and jointly sponsored a number of different events.

Global Media Policy WG activities

Differently from previous years, when the WG activities had mainly focused on the developments of the Mapping Global Media Policy project (www.globalmediapolicy.net), a call for paper was issued early in the year inviting contributions to address questions of connectivity across and beyond physical localities, specifically those which enhance the creative potential of global communications, with a focus on globalized networks and initiatives that support creative forms of political participation, as well as connectedness among individuals and communities.

The WG received 10 proposals and 6 were selected. The paper presentation panel - titled '*Glocal' Media Policy 3C: Creativity, Connectivity and Comparative approaches*' - took place on July 14 (11.00-12.30, room D100). Chaired by Claudia Padovani, the panel, in the end, featured four presentations by:

- Bilge Yesil - 'Turkey's Internet Regulatory Regime: Exploring the Tensions between Global Communications and State Control';
- Bonnie Peng - 'Media's Co-Regulation System in Taiwan';
- Daeho Kim - 'Consumer Electronics Firm's Role in the Global Digital TV Transition Policy';
- Seong Choul Hong - 'A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Predictor Variables for Media Content Regulations'.

The second panel (July 14, 14.30-16.00) was an *Interactive session on data collection, maps elaboration, scenarios of use and future developments* of the Mapping Global Media Policy project. For the first time the WG elaborated an ad hoc leaflet for this event, with the aim of giving better visibility to the

initiative, helping IAMCR members to recognize its visuals, logo and approach. The leaflet was widely circulated prior to the conference on the IAMCR announcement list. Some 20 people attended the panel. Marc Raboy, Arne Hintz, Claudia Padovani, Christian Potschka and Basyouni Hamada presented progress, challenges and potential of the Mapping project, as a resource for conducting research, as well as a platform to support teaching activities and policy-oriented interventions. Being an IAMCR initiative, the Mapping project is open for cooperation to all IAMCR members. Interesting comments and some expression of interest came from presenters in the previous section, particularly from South Korea, as well as from participants in the panel (UK, Australia, Finland).

The GMP WG business meeting was held on July 16 (14.30-16.00) and discussion focused on a number of aspects, including: positioning the WG in IAMCR activities concerned with media policy, particularly those of the Policy Task Force; appreciating opportunities to cooperate with other mapping initiatives as a way to enhance the relevance of the Mapping Project beyond IAMCR; objectives and draft work plan towards the next IAMCR conference, Durban 2012.

Global Media Policy WG further activities

The WG was also involved in organizing a special session on Wikileaks, in cooperation with the Journalism section and the Community Communication Section (Patrick McCurdy and Arne Hintz played a leading role in this). The Session – titled: *Lessons from/for WikiLeaks / Perspectives from Media and Communications* – and chaired by Patrick McCurdy (Journalism Section), took place on July 15, featuring a number of high-level speakers from both activism and academia, including from IAMCR sections (Bart Cammaerts, Hopeton S. Dunn, Lisa Lynch, Ibrahim Saleh) as well as remote participation and video messages by external experts (Gabiella Coleman, Assistant Professor, New York University, USA; Greg Mitchell, Journalist, The Nation). The aim was to contextualize the current situation of WikiLeaks and understand its implications across the broad themes of *politics & policy, activism and journalism*. An edited volume is being planned by Patrick McCurdy and Arne Hintz as an outcome of the event.

Finally the WG welcomed the invitation from the Executive Board to join forces in organizing a panel where the Mapping Digital Media initiative by the Open Society Media Programme (Open Society Foundations) was presented.

The GMP WG contributed by suggesting a structure and title for the panel – *IAMCR in dialogue with the Open Society Media Programme. MAPPING DIGITAL MEDIA?* - chairing the session and coordinating interventions, providing comments to the presentations by: Mark Thompson (introducing

the Mapping Digital Media project), Manuela Preoteasa (Romanian chapter in the MDM project, Bouziane Zaid (Moroccan chapter in the MDM project) and Damien Tambini (LSE, adviser to MDM project).

Some problems with the schedule did not favor broad participation in the sessions, nevertheless the discussion was lively and fruitful. In particular, the discussion, both in this section and in the WG panel on July 14, have fostered knowledge and better understanding of the mapping projects, their goals, approaches and methodologies. Opportunities have been identified for possible cooperation between the OSFs project and the Mapping Global Media Policy project, to be further explored in the coming months.