

NEWSLETTER

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IAMCR International Association for Media and Communication Research
AIECS Asociación Internacional de Estudios en Comunicación Social
AIERI Association Internationale des Études et Recherches sur L'Information et la Communication

Change is slow but steady!

Changeovers take time. Our global extensivity doesn't make change easy, and even with electronic facilities, the sheer mechanics of handing over files and databases, establishing new bank accounts and setting up new procedures takes considerable time.

Inside the newsletter (pages 24-25) you will find the new details about joining IAMCR and about paying membership dues. There is a new on-line payment facility, supported by Paypal, that is secure and easy to use. However, for those still wary of Internet transactions, older methods of payment are still available. We encourage you to persuade new members, both individual and institutional, to join and to pass on the information and forms to colleagues.

Reports regarding our financial situation (page 12) and decisions taken at the general Assembly in Porto Allegre (pages 10-11) are also included. There is also a report about the new structure and remit of the Publishing Committee (page 11).

In November 2005, Tunis will see the 2nd World Summit on the Information Society, which will have to decide both on future of the Digital

Solidarity agenda, including its financing, and the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action, adopted by WSIS I in December 2003 in Geneva. Internet Governance will be another key issue. A large part of the front section of this newsletter is thus devoted to reports of these activities.

WGIG and a special plenary organized by Wolfgang Kleinwächter is devoted to this.

A key plenary in Taiwan focuses on discussions about "risk" after the December tsunami while the final plenary returns to this topic in a broader context.

See you in Taiwan!

Editor's column Annabelle Sreberny

The IAMCR Taskforce has been active in various ways in the prepcom process toward the final session of WSIS in Tunis in November, 2001. Davina Frau-Meigs and Marc Raboy's report on these activities by the IAMCR Taskforce and we publish the full text of the IAMCR Statement on Cultural Diversity (page 6).

The Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) which was established by Kofi Annan in November 2004, will deliver a report and make proposals for the future of governance mechanisms for the Internet; this should be presented to the public for discussion in mid-July. Hence, the IAMCR Taipei conference will be one of the first opportunities to have a critical evaluation of the findings of

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IAMCR has joined the International Federation of Communication Associations (IFCA), chaired by Klaus Krippendorff, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania. We join 17 other members: <http://www.acs.ualgary.ca/~ifcaweb/assoc.htm>



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Presidential Column: The Contributions of Media and Communications Researchers

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to all those affected by human and natural disasters and, in particular, by the tsunami in December 2004. Stimulated in part by this event, one of the panels at our conference in Taipei, 26-28 July 2005 will focus on 'Media and Communications in Risk Society', profiling the views of academics and journalists. The overall conference theme of 'Media Panics: Freedom, Control and Democracy in the Age of Globalisation', is attracting substantial interest. The conference will feature keynote presentations by Professor Douglas Kellner, Graduate School of Education, UCLA, and Diane Yun-Peng Ying, publisher and editor-in-chief, *Common Wealth Magazine Group* and Chair R.O.C.Taiwan National Committee, International Press Institute (IPI).

The conference will also feature a plenary session on issues around the World Summit on the Information Society. IAMCR section heads and working group chairs are reporting good volumes of abstract submissions. I very much hope that although we are limited in time, we will find a means to accommodate those selected to present papers. Special thanks to Professor Lucie Cheng, Local Programme Committee and Dean of College of Journalism and Communications, Shih-Hsin University and to her team for all they are doing to ensure that we have a very successful conference. Please visit the website (<http://iamcr2005.shu.edu.tw>).

In recent months, members of IAMCR have been busily contributing, sometimes in their individual capacity and sometimes on behalf of IAMCR, to various debates and discussions on themes arising during ongoing preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Divina Frau-Meigs has made contributions on issues concerning Education, Academia and Research. She also prepared a contribution on the preliminary draft of the Convention on the Protection of Cultural



Members of IAMCR have been busily contributing to various debates and discussions on themes arising during ongoing preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Contents and Artistic Expression during UNESCO's recent meeting on this issue. Marc Raboy prepared a text for an IAMCR submission to the WSIS 'Group of Friends of the Chair' document. In all these cases, various other members have provided very useful comments in the drafting stages, the Executive Board has been involved, and I have taken soundings from the International Council as well as circulated texts on the IAMCR listserv on several occasions. We do need to broaden and strengthen our links with a range of organisations and the WSIS Task Force is considering how this might be done.

By the time you see this newsletter I will have been President for nine months. It seems to me to be appro-

prate to thank all those who have commented on all kinds of issues ranging from how we do things, how we configure ourselves in the light of diverse scholarly interests, and what we should be highlighting as central research issues that engage a broad base of our membership. On the latter front suggestions include the initiation of discussion on ethical issues (already being addressed in part by the draft Researchers Charter which is being developed by WSIS Task Force), and research on global governance issues and on issues to do with critical assessments of the UN Millennium Goals. We also have been discussing how to recognise the 25th anniversary of the UNESCO MacBride Report, *Many Voices, One World*.

I would like to report that my performance has lived up to your high expectations! On the plus side you will shortly see the publication (under my responsibility but with input from many of you) of an *IAMCR Media and Communication Report 2005*. This is my attempt to put the scope and orientation of our research base on show for ourselves and others to see. We will also soon have a new IAMCR brochure and an updated description of ourselves at our website. We have a draft Membership Directory (at the website) and although it is imperfect, it does provide a foundation for us to establish connections with members and points to areas where we must press on with our Membership drive. Ole Prehn and Kirsten Bach have launched a redesigned website. It too enables new ways of establishing connections and in time I hope it will attract many of you. It inevitably is having some 'teething problems' but I think we should be grateful that we have come this far.

On the not so good side, you will have noticed that there had not until very recently been a general call for membership renewals for 2005. I am aware that some institutional members are unhappy because they had

become used to paying at a particular time and are now unable to do so because the window of opportunity for accessing financial resources has been missed. I am aware as well that some members have yet to pay because they wished to do so by credit card and it was not possible until very recently to organise this. I apologise for all the delays and ask for your indulgence. There are now *four* ways in which you can pay for your membership (see page 25 of this newsletter). If you have not received an email inviting you to pay your membership dues by the time you see this newsletter (if you have been in touch with me directly you need do nothing) please email César Bolaño, IAMCR Treasurer (bolanotreasurer@globo.com).

The Executive Board has decided to operate the membership renewal process largely as it has been organised in the past and, at the same time, to encourage people to use the new website system. This not so good news about delays is a reflection of the transition costs associated with changing banks, legal requirements, etc. that were unforeseen initially. I think I can say with some confidence that everything is now in place.

Throughout the transition to a new Treasurer's Office, Annie Mear has continued to provide her outstanding assistance. In fact she has kept working on our behalf until well into February of this year. Thank you Annie on behalf of us all.

Andrew Calabrese is transferring the management of the IAMCR listserv after many years of good work to Ole Prehn's office in Denmark. Many thanks to Andrew.

By the time many of us meet at the Taipei conference in July, my hope is that there will be no need to discuss organisational issues at this level of detail because these particular issues will be behind us. This will open the way for discussion of the things that make us all want to be a part of IAMCR – our enthusiasm for our field and the many contributions we can and do make.

Robin Mansell
IAMCR President

(apologies for absence of translation this time)

Report on the Preliminary Draft of the «Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions»

The Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on the Preliminary Draft of the «Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions», was convened by UNESCO, 31 January to 12 February 2005. IAMCR is an NGO with consultative status with UNESCO and we were invited to attend the meeting to help draft the “Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions” which was intended to be UNESCO's major contribution to the WSIS process and to be launched in Tunis in November 2005.

An earlier CRIS campaign statement was endorsed by IAMCR president, Robin Mansell, after consultation with the Executive Board and International Council (to be found at: <http://www.mediatrademonitor.org>).

ON PROCESS

The drafting committee made very slow progress and compelled the plenary to meet less often to give it more time. The president of the intergovernmental session also designated subcommittees to work on specific points and definitions. The drafting committees were closed to observers with only the delegates of the NGO-UNESCO liaison committee allowed to attend, little time was allowed for NGOs to speak and no extra texts were taken into account in the official process (NGOs were granted a table outside the main plenary room). There was definitely no recognition of multistakeholder partnership for the convention, as if the WSIS process did not exist; all discretion was left to the president of the Session, and it was unpredictable.

Among NGOs, very few were present whose missions

were specifically related to the issues dealt with in the Convention. As a result there was a split within civil society, between the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee related to UNESCO, which was supportive of cultural diversity but relatively soft on the core points of contention, and the NGOs that are part of the International Network for Cultural Diversity, with authors and creators (mostly in the music world). The statements by IFLA and CRIS and the text by IAMCR came out as the most balanced and comprehensive while addressing specific issues. These can be found, respectively at:

<http://www.ifla.org> and <http://www.mediatrademonitor.org>

ON CONTENT

From the nation-states perspective, several splits emerged, not always where expected.

Semantic discussion: protection, cultural industries

The definition of “protection” and the verb “protect” was called into question by the United States and allies, especially as there seemed to be discrepancies between the English and the French texts; it came under such scrutiny that it has been bracketed and footnoted throughout the document (more than 100 footnotes), which means it will have to be negotiated by the October session. The result has been a watering down of vocabulary, especially when it came to the cultural goods and policies of developing countries which are to be “encouraged” and “promoted”, but not “protected”. On the other hand, some provisions on national cultural policies have not yet been removed. The definition of “cultural industries” has also been called into question and though it has been separated from the notion of “intellectual property”, it has been weakened by the sus-

pension and probable removal of all the annexes, especially annex 1 which listed all the items that counted as cultural industries, including software and internet metadata.

Issue discussion: international consultation and relationship to other instruments

Issues of “international consultation and coordination”(art. 13) and “relationship to other instruments” (art. 19) were among the climactic moments of the convention. Some countries tried to undo the process by making cultural diversity subordinate to other international law instruments and bodies, mostly intellectual property law within the framework of WIPO; they also questioned the legitimacy of UNESCO as the body of reference for consultation and coordination. Other countries tried to salvage the spirit of the cultural diversity declaration of 2001, allowing sovereign states to defend their cultural policies in the face of the intruding trade laws of the WTO; they tended to support the idea that UNESCO was the appropriate forum, especially for follow-up mechanisms.

The positions of governments were discussed at length and a general consensus emerged that the convention’s relationship to other agreements be explained in order to strengthen it. So articles 13 and 19 were not deleted but the split between countries was not resolved. For 13, some countries (led by India) proposed the compromise solution of mentioning UNESCO, but not making it the forum of preference. For 19, some countries (US and Japan as leaders) supported the option of not affecting the rights and obligations of any other existing international instruments. Others countries (Brazil, Vietnam, France) supported the option of the cultural diversity exception, allowing other rights to exist except where they could seriously damage or threaten the diversity of cultural expressions. Another option seemed to be emerging (Venezuela, Benin, Peru), that of the equal footing of the cultural diversity rights with other existing rights, along the lines of the Convention on Biological Diversity. But no alternative wording was offered; the drafting group was left with no clear mandate and the plenary ended up bracketing all these terms. These two issues remain the crux of the problem and will be so in the years to come as, in all probability, they will not be solved by the current session.

Other bones of contention exist among the nation-states. There seems to be a split on ratification: countries that are part of federations, like the European Union, have trouble deciding at what level of governance ratification should take place. Reference was made to the tobacco clause of the World Health Organization but no precise language was offered. Other countries were more preoccupied by the number of states (30? 40?) needed for the convention to enter into application. Another unresolved issue has to do with evaluation indicators and the proposal of an observatory for cultural diversity, if not deleted, has not been allocated a budget other than the general budget of UNESCO’s division of Culture.

From a civil society/IAMCR perspective, yet other issues follow up and clarification, partly spelled out in the general statement of IAMCR which tried to reflect a balanced view of research in the history and sociology of communications:

(see text posted in French and English on IAMCR’s website: <http://www.vub.ac.be/SCOM/IAMCR/wsis-taskforce.html>):

- Due to the UN context, indigenous cultures, though mentioned by some states, were not the main focus of attention; protection of nation-state sovereignty was the prime focus, and more remains to be done on the recognition of regional and local diversity;
- There is a need for a convention that pushes for a real instrument for international cooperation to protect and promote cultural diversity; this instrument should be very distinct from the IP treaties already existing;
- Research is needed to assess the present IP regimes and establish if and how they favour the best interests of developed and developing countries, whether they have cultural industries or want to establish the capacity to create some;
- There is a need to call for a more balanced view of IP regimes that meet the needs of authors, the needs of access for users and the rights of other holders, like traditional communities’ ownership of their indigenous production;
- There is a need to push for a clarification of the difference between “goods and services” and “contents and expressions”. The latter tend to be placed under the heading of culture as if it was an abstraction devoid of material content, while conversely the former tend to be considered as commercial outlets, as if they could not have an impact on some dimensions of identity;
- There is a need to make the convention better reflect the spirit of UNESCO’s Declaration on Cultural Diversity, as there seems to be a real disconnect taking place between the spirit and the letter at this stage, as the debates shift from protecting cultural expression to promoting it under a stricter enforcement of IP laws;
- There is a need to place cultural diversity within the realm of the World Summit on Information Society, both to improve process (multi-stakeholder approach and civil society interests and actors) and content (issues of access to knowledge, public domain and global cultural goods and commons). The convention just gives them lip service.

ON RESULTS AND THE FUTURE

The final revised text was not produced by the end of the session. It was decided to submit a text by March 3rd, as required to meet the deadline for submissions of documents for consideration of the General Assembly that meets every year in October. Another intergovernmental session will take place in May, to finalize the document under discussion and prepare its ratification by the General Assembly, if possible. In all probability, UNESCO’s plan to present the convention as a contribution to WSIS is out of the question and there was no further mention of this option.

The Convention seems to have regressed on the Declaration in terms of protections, sanctions, and scope of cultural industries, goods and services, contents and expressions. The Convention has brought to the fore major issues that may help specify what cultural diversity is about. Is it about

(Continued on page 12)

“Convention on the Protection of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions”: IAMCR’s Contribution

IAMCR, which represents an umbrella federation of research associations in the whole world, specialized on issues of media, communication and information in developed and developing countries, welcomes the opportunity to express the point of view of researchers.

IAMCR appreciated the open process of exchanges during the plenary sessions in spite of strong divergences between some parties, and the possibility for NGOs to express their point of view. From our research perspective, we would like to contribute to the substance of the debate on two points: first, what research shows, second, what research recommends in terms of balance in diversity.

Research on media and ICT history, political economy and social practices shows:

- ☞ the market alone cannot generate culture;
- ☞ the market alone cannot protect the local expression of cultural identities;
- ☞ the international exchanges of cultural industries tend to create dominant positions that foster inequalities and the appearance of variety that passes itself off as diversity but is not in fact a warrant of plurality;
- ☞ strict state monopolies can contribute to local scarcity and cultural dearth which can be damaging to identity expression;
- ☞ strict state monopolies can stifle the expression of local and regional diversity within their own boundaries;
- ☞ historically, cultural industries have benefited from public funding for their development, in regulated environments, often required by the market itself.

IAMCR wishes to express some concern about the future of the Convention. We are concerned that the use of the term «Intellectual Property» subsumes different categories of rights and their constituencies: artists, creators, producers, users, citizens,... As it has evolved and is currently applied, Intellectual Property now only protects one category of rights holders, not all the multistakeholders. By not taking into account this evolution, and other evolutions in the consumer and citizen uses of media and ICTs, the convention runs the risk of being out of synch with the evolution of cultural diversity itself.

Research recommends a need for balance :

- ☞ balance between openness of the market and national cultural policies;
- ☞ balance between promotion of creativity and protection of patrimony;
- ☞ balance between what developed countries offer to the market and what developing countries may produce, given fair access to the same historical public funding

opportunities, mechanisms and processes as developed countries have benefited from in the past;

- ☞ balance in the vocabulary used in the official document between goods and services on the one hand, and, on the other hand, other non-proprietary and non-commercial forms of cultural exchange, like public domain, public services, creative commons, fair use, etc. Cultural diversity needs to be inclusive of a plurality of channels and genres, from media to ICTs to wider cultural practices, to allow spaces for freedom of expression and creativity.

IAMCR wishes to express some hope about the future of the Convention. We are hopeful that an open transparent process, that takes into account the contributions of all stakeholders will eventually lead to the drafting of a final document that will give full meaning to the notion of diversity, that goes together with tolerance, respect and pluralism, all for the benefit of cultures, worldwide

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VERSION FRANÇAISE

Contribution de l'AIERI au débat sur l'avant-projet de Convention sur la Protection de la diversité des contenus culturels et des expressions artistiques

L'AIERI, qui représente une fédération internationale d'associations de chercheurs, spécialisés dans les études et recherches sur les médias, la communication et l'information dans les pays développés et en développement, saisit l'occasion ici donnée d'exprimer le point de vue de la recherche.

L'AIERI a pu apprécier l'ouverture des débats pendant les sessions plénières, malgré de fortes divergences d'opinion entre certaines parties, et la possibilité pour les ONG d'apporter leur contribution. Du point de vue de la recherche, nous aimerions contribuer au contenu des débats sur deux points : d'abord l'apport de la recherche, ensuite les recommandations issues de la recherche pour créer l'équilibre dans la diversité.

La recherche sur l'histoire, l'économie politique et les usages sociaux des médias et nouvelles technologies montre que:

- ☞ le marché à lui seul ne peut générer de la culture;
- ☞ le marché à lui seul ne peut protéger l'expression locale des identités culturelles;
- ☞ les échanges internationaux des industries culturelles tendent à créer des positions dominantes qui produisent des inégalités et une apparence de variété qui ne saurait tenir lieu de diversité et de garantie de pluralité;
- ☞ des monopoles d'état restrictifs peuvent produire de la pénurie locale, ce qui peut nuire à l'expression de l'identité;
- ☞ des monopoles d'état restrictifs peuvent étouffer l'expression de la diversité locale ou régionale au sein de leurs propres frontières;
- ☞ historiquement, les industries culturelles ont bénéficié des fonds publics pour leur développement, dans des environnements régulés, souvent à la demande même des acteurs du marché.

L'AIERI souhaite exprimer une inquiétude concernant l'avenir de la Convention. Elle s'inquiète de ce que l'usage du terme «propriété intellectuelle» ne subsume des catégories différentes de droits et d'ayants-droit: artistes, créateurs, producteurs, usagers, citoyens,... Dans son application actuelle, la Propriété intellectuelle ne protège qu'une seule catégorie d'ayants-droit, au détriment d'autres partenaires. En ne prenant pas en compte cette évolution, et d'autres évolutions de la consommation et de l'usage citoyen des médias et des nouvelles technologies, la Convention court le risque de ne pas être synchronisée avec

l'évolution de la diversité culturelle elle-même.

La recherche recommande d'assurer l'équilibre dans la diversité :

- ☞ équilibre entre l'ouverture des marchés et les politiques culturelles nationales;
- ☞ équilibre entre la promotion de la créativité et la protection du patrimoine;
- ☞ équilibre entre ce que les pays développés offrent sur le marché et ce que les pays en développement peuvent produire, si on leur donne un accès équitable aux mêmes mécanismes et procédés de financement public dont ont bénéficié les pays développés dans le passé;
- ☞ équilibre dans le vocabulaire utilisé dans les documents officiels entre biens et services d'une part et d'autre part les formes non-propriétaires et non-commerciales des échanges culturels, comme le domaine public, les services publics, les *creative commons*, le droit de citation, etc.

La diversité culturelle se doit d'inclure une pluralité de supports et de genres, médias et nouvelles technologies certes, mais aussi tout l'éventail des pratiques culturelles, pour créer des espaces de liberté d'expression et de création.

L'AIERI souhaite exprimer son espoir concernant l'avenir de la Convention. Elle espère qu'un processus ouvert et transparent, prenant en compte les contributions de tous les partenaires, conduira à l'élaboration d'un document final qui donnera à la notion de diversité toute son ampleur, dans un esprit de tolérance, de respect et de pluralisme, pour le plus grand bénéfice de toutes les

IAMCR Task Force to the World Summit on Information Society Activities report from Prepcom 2, February 2005

1. General comments and assessment

Prepcom 2 was very chaotic, as more splinter groups and caucuses were created within civil society, a worrying trend that may be caused by external pressures as well as inner tensions. The Tunisian civil society group carried its inner strife to the Human Rights caucus and is putting in jeopardy both human rights and civil society. The civil society bureau still has no charter and no clear mandate, neither has the civil society plenary gotten beyond being an information body. The content and theme group has not been as active as in the past and there are some indications that it might be given more strength by being better structured, with a bureau of its own. Prepcom 3, to be held in Geneva in September, will finalize all these process issues.

However civil society's entities are now well recognized by the nation-states and have been invited to a number of meetings, most notably a bureau-to-bureau meeting where the civil society bureau was asked to contribute to the organization of the Tunis main events. This meeting has led to a document ("civil society contributions to preparation towards the summit and beyond") voted by the civil society plenary, and currently being examined by the na-

tion-states. Building on the experience of WSIS Phase 1 and Hammamet, the document lays the stress mostly on security issues, the possibility to bring foreign documents on the premises (crucial to the Human Rights caucus), and the need for written explanation for reasons why NGOs are not accredited in time. This document was also carried to the meeting with the European Union and civil society, where issues of human rights were also discussed along side issues of security and active participation and representation of civil society.

The end of the Prepcom was spoiled by the diverging forces among NGOs, with some trying to recover control, like APC, and some trying to save the process, like CONGO which issued a statement in the name of all civil society that was received as abusively consensual and soft. Compared to Phase 1, and in spite of many contributions sent in advance by NGOs and other caucuses as well as the possibility to use fully our speaking slots during the two weeks, very little content proposed by civil society has filtered into the official documents being elaborated, and then mostly into the "political chapeau and operational plan" elaborated by the friends of the president, about principles

and plan of action. So much is unresolved on the side of Civil society. Thus, Prepcom 3 will be decisive, as the last negotiating possibility before the final summit of WSIS in Tunis in November.

Reassuringly, a similar situation seems to be occurring among the nation states, as all the parts of the “friends of the president” document have been left open and inconclusive, with many semantic debates on wording and few proposals for action. Switzerland offered a last minute compromise text whose status is still unclear. The main points of discussion were the empty sections of the “political chapeau”, in chapter 2 (Financing mechanisms) and chapter 4 (Internet governance). The report on financing mechanisms was heavily contested by civil society and countries of the South (Latin America, Africa mostly). Besides process questions (the report was elaborated in a non-transparent, non-inclusive way), it was mostly criticized for the role given to private investment and liberal markets. The Digital Solidarity Fund is mentioned in the final version, but without real commitment from the member states.

The report on Internet governance was discussed briefly, as it is to be the focus of Prepcom 3. Civil society is invited to make further contributions for the upcoming open meetings to be held in April and May. This is the only section where a real multi-stakeholder mechanism seems to be in progress and where civil society input seems to be taken into account. It may be partly because the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) doesn't make claims to be a force for negotiations but a force for propositions, and partly because the nation-states haven't yet come to terms with it. The rifts among them were visible however at Prepcom 2, with the USA pushing for I-CANN, the South led by Brazil denouncing the strength of private sector in the present governance situation, China preaching for national sovereignty and favoring the ITU. Only Norway put forward a proposal to turn the Internet into a global public good, a position very close to civil society views. The WGIG final report is due in mid-July. Here again Prepcom 3 will be decisive.

II. An evaluation of the situation for IAMCR

Since phase 1, IAMCR has two of its members in the bureau of civil society (which makes it the most represented NGO!). Divina Frau-Meigs represents the education, academia and research Taskforce and Wolfgang Kleinwächter represents the foundations and philanthropic entities family. Other members-at-large of the Taskforce have been active in the process, especially Cees Hamelink, Marc Raboy and Claudia Padovani. Mark and Claudia were able to attend part of Prepcom 2, as well as two new members, Arne Hintz and Lucas Walsh.

For phase 2, IAMCR has adopted a two-pronged strategy. The first is to act on our own for our own visibility. The second is to help create coalitions. We have identified two issues relevant to our missions, one related to media and the other related to education and research.

As a result, IAMCR has contributed two documents to Prepcom 2, as input to the “political chapeau and opera-

tional parts”. The IAMCR Taskforce for WSIS contributed a text on its own, insisting on media and communication, multi-stake holder collaboration and education and research, announcing the “International Researchers’ Charter for Knowledge Societies” that we are elaborating. A second text was produced with IAMCR and ECCR contributions, in collaboration with other members of the education, academia and research Taskforce. It emphasizes basic training of teachers, media and ICT education, cultural diversity, independence of researchers, support for open access and open cognition paradigms, free software and the need for special Intellectual Property rights exemptions for education and research. It also announces the “International Researchers’ Charter for Knowledge Societies” that we are elaborating. Both documents are available at: http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/listing-all.asp?lang=en&c_event=pc2|2&c_type=all

Media

The situation of the media caucus has not changed since phase 1. This caucus is extremely splintered, due to its composition. It is probably the caucus most invested by lobbies close to the private sector, with representatives of world press associations and journalists’ trade unions in open opposition to representatives of community media and communications rights supporters. The search for consensus among this caucus is therefore difficult. Its members all seem to agree on Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but they don't seem to be able to come to terms with communications rights and community media. IAMCR has not been able to have any direct impact on this caucus, which is why some of the core issues of IAMCR have been placed into the education family, in phase 2.

Education

The education family has become the education, academia and research Taskforce, to convey the idea of synergy and to make sure the word “research” penetrates more clearly into the process. It is now clearly well organized, with an agenda, a strategy and a communication tool via a website created by our Australian IAMCR members, Brian Shoemsmith and Lucas Walsh, and a list monitored by Yann Forget, from Wikipedia. To join the list, please contact Divina Frau-Meigs at: Meigs@wanadoo.fr
To find the website go to: <http://www.wsis-edu.org>

In a nutshell, the IAMCR Taskforce rationale is “education for shared knowledge societies, via open access and cognition paradigms” and the plan of action is “time for scaling up”, to convey the idea that a lot of know-how is already out there and that maximizing it and transferring it are of the essence. The strategy is to push issues that are essential to civil society via education which is a more consensual topic, whereas some of the other issues (IPR, free software, open access) are less consensual among the nation-states.

This strategy has paid off during Prepcom 2, as the input to the “political chapeau” has been well received by the other civil society caucuses and by the official delegations to whom it was submitted. The Africans, and more specifically the Tunisians, are officially supporting free software

(they have designated a free software secretariat) and the Europeans and France are expressing strong interest in the open access recommendations. As a result of our lobbying, Unesco is organizing an extra thematic debate on the issue of “the formation to information” on April 5th, in Paris (details at http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=17637&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) and the IAMCR Taskforce has been invited to give a keynote speech on issues of teacher training in media and digital literacy. It will be an opportunity to push for education on rights and responsibilities of media institutions and of citizens, for cultural diversity and for the exemption on IPR for education.

The IAMCR Taskforce has also created synergies with other like-minded caucuses, in a spirit of mutual collaboration and distributed intelligence. We called on the Telecenters caucus which is pushing for community media and a common statement was read in plenary (it is posted on the education taskforce website (<http://www.wsis-edu.org>)). We also work hand in hand with the Science caucus and the Scientific Publications working group that promotes Open Access. We are currently preparing with them a recommendation for a global consortium on Open Courseware that will be discussed in Japan, on 16-17 May 2005, during the WSIS Thematic Meeting on «the Ubiquitous Network Society», in collaboration with ITU and the Government of Japan (details at <http://www.wsis-japan.jp>).

Other events:

- European conference on Media Literacy, organized by Tapio Varis, a member of the Taskforce, on May 26-27 in Tampere with the Hypermedia Lab (details at <http://ecml.pc.unicatt.it/english/events/events.htm>).
- The Fourth thematic event of Unesco, on “long distance education and capacity-building”, organized with the Club of Rome, in Paris, on 11-13 May. Bernard Loing and Raoul Weiler, both members of the Taskforce, are heavily involved in elaborating the program (details at <http://esc.clubofrome.org>).
- The UN ICT Taskforce meeting in Dublin, 13-15 April, on “harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for education (details at <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/>).

Internet governance

The IAMCR strategy for the two specific issues (governance and finance) under debate during phase 2 has been to participate where we have expertise. The IAMCR Taskforce efforts focused on Internet governance are mainly being pushed in the Education Taskforce. For governance, the Taskforce has officially nominated Wolfgang Kleinwächter who has been successfully involved in the WGIG and provides regular feedback to the civil society plenary members, via the plenary e-mail list, while pushing issues of interest to civil society within the process. In terms of the debate re financing mechanisms, Robin Mansell is a member of the steering committee of ITeM (Istituto del Tercer Mundo) which has overseen preparation of ITeM commissioned reports on financing mecha-

nisms that critique the approach of the main report submitted to Precom 2.

The WGIG is supposed to provide a definition of internet governance and a list of themes that will require governance mechanisms. In its preliminary report, the WGIG has offered a broad definition of governance, beyond technical infrastructure, which in itself is a success for civil society positions. Among the list of themes, some are the ones expected on the nation-states side, like leadership role of private sector, spam or security but others reflect some of the preoccupations of civil society, on culture, education and social dimensions. The IAMCR Taskforce should think of providing input on these themes before the end of the consultation.

III. For the future

- The IAMCR Taskforce needs to circulate the input text to the “political chapeau” among IAMCR members, so that they can appropriate it and circulate it at their national or regional levels;
- The IAMCR Taskforce needs to send input for WGIG, especially on the themes that relate to IAMCR missions. The general deadline is not yet clear but end of April should be our own prescribed limit. The suggestions can be sent to the taskforce co-chairs, Divina Frau-Meigs (divina.frau-meigs@univ-paris3.fr) and Mark Raboy (raboym@COM.UMontreal.CA) for specific input on education, please contact Divina Frau-Meigs;
- The IAMCR Taskforce needs to plan for Tunis, November 2005 and consider the possibility of creating an IAMCR event or side-event. This can be done either alone or in conjunction with other like-minded entities, that need to be determined, neither strategy being mutually exclusive. The most obvious event is the already planned launch of the Researchers’ Charter, but this could be framed in a larger context...

The deadline for requesting space for a side-event in Tunis is April 30th. The space for side-events is within the “UN realm” of the Summit and should therefore be requested at the WSIS secretariat. There is also a side-event caucus (although only advisory), created by the Tunisians, whose status is uncertain. With Task Force encouragement, Hopeton Dunn is taking the initiative to organise a panel during the side-event ‘World Forum on Information Society’ in Tunis organised by an organisation called IRFD (International Research Foundation for Development).

There is also the *ICT4all* option, which is outside UN jurisdiction, though IAMCR has to evaluate if it can staff a stall for an entire week, with costs of space still uncertain.

Many options are open. All your suggestions are welcome and will be taken into careful consideration.

**Divina Frau-Meigs
& Marc Raboy
for the IAMCR Taskforce on WSIS**

DRAFT MINUTES, IAMCR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PORTO ALEGRE, JULY 30 2004

The president opened the General Assembly at 9:15am and noted that the assembly was not quoral. The agenda was approved.

1. Minutes of the General Assembly, Barcelona, July 26, 2003

The minutes were approved.

2. Business arising from the minutes

The General Assembly approved the decision by the International Council to use postal voting for the seats in the International Council this time but also approved the proposal from Maarek that the postal voting system should be reconsidered for future elections.

3. Reports

The reports from the president, the secretary general, the deputy secretary general and the vice presidents were all taken as read and conferred to the Executive Board and the International Council for considerations.

The treasurer, in her report, presented the unaudited interim financial statements as at May 31, 2004 showing an excess of expenditures (US\$ 47,883) over revenues on US\$ 4,318 leaving an accumulated surplus on US\$ 90,309.

The treasurer, underlining that this was her last report before leaving office, suggested that IAMCR should develop a 10 year planning to becoming a sustainable multicultural organisation, and that a budget committee should be implemented amongst others to look into investing the surplus in the most profitable and secure way.

The report was approved, which was also her proposal that the coming budget should be solely one line describing an expected income on US\$ 47,000 annually for the Executive Board to break down.

Finally the treasurer conveyed her gratitude to UNESCO for supporting the Porto Alegre conference with US\$ 10,000 and for the extraordinary contribution to the Schiller's Fund from University of Texas at Austin.

After that, the tellers committees reported the election results and the General Assembly endorsed César Bolano as treasurer. [The names and e-mail addresses of the Executive Board can be found at the back of this newsletter.]

The Election Committee (Janet Wasko, Cees Hamelink, and Alina Bernstein) recommended that:

1. There shall be no preferential voting in the future;
2. election procedures shall be printed and circulated in the newsletter, and
3. there shall be clear guidelines on membership eligibility.

Maarek moved that the General Assembly mandates the International Council to review the election procedures and submit a report before the next election takes place. This was approved.

4. Approval of election of Section Heads

The elections were approved.

5. Approval of new sections

The proposal of the Junior Scholars Network becoming a section was withdrawn and the previous arrangement making the network function as a quasi section was prolonged for the next two years.

6. Proposed amendments to the statutes

Cees Hamelink and Kaarle Nordenstreng proposed that the statutes were amended in the following way:

- Article 1 (s1.1.) should be changed from "seeks to improve" into: "shall promote throughout the world media and communication research."
- Article 2 should be changed in order: 2.1.1. to be present 2.1.4; 2.1.4. to be present 2.1.5; 2.1.5 to be present 2.1.1. and combining (a) and (b).

The proposal was approved.

7. Proposed amendments to By-Laws /Standing Orders

The proposals forwarded by Philippe J. Maarek on behalf of the Legal Committee and proposals from the International Council's meeting on July 25 were all approved.

8. Approval of new members

The new members (including 21 applications submitted during the present conference) were approved.

9. Report of the Porto Alegre conference

Jacques Wainberg briefly presented the report mentioning that 531 from 40 countries had participated, which was absolutely satisfying. Generally the conference had run smoothly although a few technical and administrative problems had emerged but had all been solved.

John Downing emphasised that it had been an embarrassing experience to observe that even section chairs had left sessions when not conducted in English. It was agreed to underline the fact that IAMCR has three equally official languages, which should be taken into account when approving papers and planning the sessions.

10. Confirmation of forthcoming conferences

It was (formally) approved to have the 2005 conference in Taipei - originally scheduled for 2003 but postponed due to the SARS epidemic.

As there were two preliminary bids for the 2006 conference (St. Louis, USA and Cairo, Egypt), it was agreed that the two potential hosts should submit an elaborate proposal for the Executive Board to assess, whereafter a proposal should be sent to the International Council before the end of January.

The 2007 conference should, due to the 50th anniversary of the IAMCR, be considered held in France, preferably in Paris.

11. Motions from the floor

The following motion from Cees Hamelink and Marc Raboy was approved:

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

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

- To assist in the development of effective and relevant alliances, and
- To ensure effective representation of IAMCR in the WSIS process.

12. Presentation of the Schiller Award

The award will not be offered in 2005. Annie Méar moved that the General Assembly thanked University of Texas for its donation to the fund. The motion was approved.

13. Recognition of honorary members and past president

Past presidents Manuel Parés I Maicas and Frank Morgan were appointed honorary members of the IAMCR.

14. Before closing the General Assembly, Frank Morgan handed over the presidency to Robin Mansell.

The assembly closed at 12 am.

Ole Prehn
Secretary General, IAMCR



The new IAMCR Publications Committee



With the shrinking of the size of the Executive Board, as one of the two vice-presidents the responsibility for our publishing activities has fallen to me. I have been in contact with the old committee and have also invited new people to join.

I would like to thank all those serving members who have decided not to continue, including Jan Servaes, Brenda Dervin, Oscar Gandy, Manjunath Pendakur and Georgette Wang. Jan not only maintained but cultivated the book series with Hampton Press. Additionally, he developed an excellent service to members in the form of a wide range of journal discounts for IAMCR members. We are deeply grateful for his work. Brenda was instrumental in establishing the book series, and her involvement and experience kept institutional memory alive. All will be missed.

The new committee, made up of old-timers and newcomers, reflects our geographic and linguistic reach and a wide range of involvements in book and journal publishing and on-line activities. It is important that we are as transparent as possible about external involvements and conflicts of interest, and negotiate these as best we can. All are eager and energetic to expand our publishing activities and to try to provide a choice of journals as part of the service to members.

Thomas Tufte of the Royal University of Copenhagen, Denmark, will take over responsibility for the Hampton Book series. Any ideas for new manuscripts can be explored with him. Andrew Calabrese will oversee journal activities while Rosa Mikeal Martey will pay special attention to elaborating our on-line publishing, along with

Kirsten Bach who has already made such an important contribution to the organization with the development of the website.

The IAMCR Publications Committee:

Annabelle Sreberny, Coordinator
(a.sreberny@soas.ac.uk)

Valério Cruz Brittos (val.bri@terra.com.br)

Arnold S de Beer (asdebeer@sun.ac.za)

Andrew Calabrese (andrew.calabrese@colorado.edu)

Joseph Man Chan (b072779@mailserv.cuhk.edu.hk)

John Downing (jdowning@siu.edu)

Cees Hamelink (hamelink@antenna.nl)

Todd Holden (holden@intcul.tohoku.ac.jp)

Shelton Guneratne (gunarat@mnstate.edu)

Rosa Mikeal Martey (rmikealm@asc.upenn.edu)

Davina Frau Miegs (meigs@wanadoo.fr)

Virginia Nightingale (v.nightingale@uws.edu.au)

Francisco Sierra (fsierra@us.es)

Ruth Teer-Tomaselli (teertoma@ukzn.ac.za)

Thomas Tufte (ttufte@ruc.dk)

Janet Wasko (jwasko@uoregon.edu)

Bob White (White@unigre.it)

If any other IAMCR members would like to become involved, feel free to put yourself forward. Equally, if you have ideas, suggestions and useful contacts, please let us know.

Annabelle Sreberny

Treasurer's Report 2004

Over the past few years, IAMCR's annual financial statements covered the period August 1st to July 31st. This year, in order to allow for a smooth transition of the Treasurer's office from the Université de Montréal to the Universidade Federal de Sergipe in Brazil, under the responsibility of César Bolaño, I agreed to oversee IAMCR's financial operations until the end of December 2004. At that time, all financial operations were officially transferred to the new Treasurer, César Bolaño.

In the following paragraphs, I will specify the main changes that occurred in the financial operations of IAMCR, since the May publication of the interim financial statements, audited by the chartered accountant firm Horwath Appel (member of Horwath International). The interim financial statements were presented at the General Assembly in Porto Alegre in July 2004. All financial statements are expressed in American dollars.

My remarks cover: 1) the changes in IAMCR's financial position between June 1st and the end of the IAMCR's financial year on July 31st 2004; and 2) the changes in IAMCR's financial position between August 1st and December 21st 2004.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

ASSETS

As of May 31st 2004, IAMCR had cash assets of US\$ 120,312, as reflected in the audited interim financial statements. As of July 31st 2004, IAMCR had cash assets of US\$ 104,572. The difference is due to outstanding accounts that totalled US\$ 30,003, most of which were paid in July 2004. At the end of July, IAMCR still owed US\$ 6,675 in expenses, mostly due to the postal costs for the election as well as the production and mailing of the Newsletter.

As of December 21st 2004, IAMCR had cash assets of US\$ 90,107, a decrease of US\$ 14,465 when compared to the July cash position. The decrease is due mainly to two factors: 1) the fact that there were hardly any revenue from membership renewals during that period; and 2) operational expenses incurred in order to facilitate the transition between treasurers. This situation is reflected in the revenue and expense statements as specified in the following paragraphs.

REVENUES

As of May 31st 2004, IAMCR had revenues totalling US\$ 43,565. As of July 31st 2004, IAMCR had revenues totalling US\$ 48,005. The increase is due mainly to membership renewal fees, but also includes a contribution from the University of Texas towards the Schiller Scholarship Fund. Between August 1st and December 31st 2004, IAMCR had revenues of US\$ 922 in membership renewal fees.

EXPENDITURES

As of May 31st 2004, IAMCR had operating expenses totalling 47 883 \$. As of July 31st 2004, IAMCR operating

expenses totalled c43,574. The difference reflects the fact that out of the US\$ 12,000 which had been accrued for the administrative expenses of the Office of the President, in the May Interim Financial Statements, only US\$ 6,097 had been claimed at the end of the financial year, July 31st. 2004.

Between August 1st and December 21st 2004, IAMCR had operating expenses of US\$ 9,875. Most of those expenses covered salaries and professional fees required for database and financial operations, including the transfer from the University of Montreal in Canada to the Universidade Federal de Sergipe in Brazil and the London School of Economics in London, England.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to invite those of you who may have questions concerning the financial statements to address them to me. I would also like to thank my two assistants, Rita Mastro Monaco, as accounting officer and Tricia Bell, as database manager. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all the members with whom I had the opportunity to work on various projects during my tenure as Treasurer of IAMCR.

Annie Méar, Département de communication
Université de Montréal
Montreal, 2005-02-24

(Continued from page 5)

patrimony or contemporaneity? Identity protection or identity formation? Heritage transmission or creativity? Sustainable development or cultural imperialism? Different interpretations exist among the nation-states themselves, which allows nations opposed to it to drive wedges and delay debates. There seems to be a definite split between those countries (in Africa and Latin America) who see cultural diversity mainly as an identity question and those (Europe, Asia) who see it as an industry question with employment implications. Yet others (United States, Japan) would rather not address the issue at all, leaving it to the market to solve the identity and industry questions. The fight around these positions will be long and difficult.

IAMCR's text was not read (for lack of time) but distributed to nation-states; it was sent to the WSIS plenary list and an extended report was made to the moribund caucus on cultural diversity. The caucus took due note of these remarks and as a result has started work again on these issues. It made a statement in the nation-states plenary of WSIS. For those interested, please contact Alain Ambrosi at <http://www.globalcn.org> or join the culture mailing list at: culture@wsis-cs.org. For detailed minutes on these sessions, look at Sasha Costanza-Chock's reports in full text at: <http://www.mediatrademonitor.org/node/view/178>.

Divina Frau-Meigs
Vice-president, IAMCR

IAMCR CONFERENCE

Media Panics: Freedom, Control and Democracy in the Age of Globalization

26-28 July 2005, Taipei, Taiwan

Certain events, from time to time, shock the world: sometimes into action; sometimes into paralysis. Often, it seems, it is because of the way they are featured in the media. Generally, they are 'bad news' - disaster and conflict. Recall the Chicken Flu scare in Asia, the SARS epidemic, various terrorist atrocities, the 911 attacks in the USA, even Janet Jackson's exposure of herself.

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

Media panics have themselves become the focus of media attention, as well as of scholarly interest. At least two theoretical perspectives apply. One is that exaggerated media reports of disasters and violence are either things to

be corrected and controlled or as reflective of the culture of our time. Any attempt to curb them is an infringement on our freedom.

The other involves the age-old debates that pit social and psychological effects of media against their mass market orientations. How and why have media panics come to be the major concerns of our societies? How do people in different worlds and circumstances respond to this communication phenomenon?

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

Key Submission Dates

Deadline for Abstracts:	February 1, 2005
Submission Results Announced:	April 1, 2005
Early Registration Deadline:	May 1, 2005
Deadline for Hotel and Tour Bookings:	June 1, 2005
Full Paper Due Date:	June 1, 2005
Late Registration Deadline:	July 4, 2005

REGISTRATION FEES (\$USD)

RATE BASIS	EARLY (before May 1)	LATE (May 1-July 4th)
IAMCR members	\$210	\$275
IAMCR members (reduced)	\$105	\$150
Non-members	\$275	\$325
Reduced Non-members.	\$170	\$210

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

Registration fee includes conference materials, attendance at conference sessions, coffee breaks and reception dinner

Registration runs January 1, 2005 - 4 July, 2005. On-site registration in Taipei will be charged \$40 additional on top of late registration fee.

Cancellations must be made in writing. Charge is 10% before April 30; 20% before June 15; 50% up to July 4th, and no refund after July 4th.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Pre-Conference Meetings

Sunday, July 24

0900-1700: IAMCR Executive Board Meeting

Afternoon: IAMCR Section Heads Meeting

Evening: Board Members Dinner

Monday, July 25

0900-1700: IAMCR International Council Meeting

Afternoon: Registration Begins

Evening : Wanhua Tour
(Lungshan Temple /
Hwahsi Tourist night market)



Shih Hsin University

Conference Sessions

Tuesday, July 26 (Day 1)

Morning:

Opening Plenary Session

Organizer: Professor *Lucie Cheng*

Welcoming Remarks:

President *Paul T. Mu*, Shih Hsin University

President *Robin Mansell*, IAMCR

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. *Douglas Kellner*, *George Kneller* Professor of Educational Philosophy, UCLA, USA.

Ms. *Diane Y. P. Ying*, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, Commonwealth Magazine Group, Taiwan.

Second Plenary Session:

Media and Communications in Risk Society,

Chair: Professor *Robin Mansell*,

London School of Economics.

Panelists:

“Other's suffering and reporter's suffering--
Taiwan TV disaster news and the vulnerability
of journalists”

Ms. *Eve Chiu*, Deputy chief editor of Media Watch
and Chief Executive of The Foundation for
Excellent Journalism Award, Taipei

“Ethics of reporting and media”

Professor *Manuel Pares I Maicas*,
Autonomous University of Barcelona

“Politics of Disaster Communication”

Professor *Rohan Samarajiva*, LIRNE.net

“Journalist reporting in Sri Lanka”

Asantha Sirimanne, Sri Lanka Business Online

Noon: Lunch

Afternoon: Sections

Evening: Reception Dinner

Taiwan Local Organizing Committee (Registration etc):

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

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

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

TAIPEI JULY 2005

Wednesday, July 27 (Day 2)

Morning: Sections

Noon: Lunch

Afternoon: Sections

Evening: Wanhua Tour
(Lungshan Temple /
Hwahsi Tourist night market)

Thursday, July 28 (Day 3)

Morning : Sections

Noon: Lunch

Afternoon :

Third Plenary Session :
World Summit on the Information Society
(WSIS)

Chair: Wolfgang Kleinwächter

Closing Plenary Session:

An opportunity to gather and report the conclusions from the different Sections and reflect on how this year's theme of 'media panics' had arisen out of the postponement in 2003 of this very meeting of IAMCR in Taipei due to the SARS crisis.

Chair: Frank Morgan,
Past President



Lungshan Temple, Taipei.

Picture taken January 2003 by Allen Timothy Chang (from wikipedia)

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

EXEMPT VISA: The following nationals currently need no visas for stays of up to 14 days: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A. Citizens of these nations can extend their stay to 30 days with on-site visa applications.

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

SCHOLARS FROM MAINLAND CHINA: Please consult Taiwan's organizing committee as early as possible for assistance. Shih-Hsin University will issue official invitation letters and provide a scheme of customized services to assist scholars from China and elsewhere.

For more information about visa applications, check the website of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

<http://www.boca.gov.tw/english/index.htm>

ACCOMMODATION

Please send your request directly to the hotel or residence (contact addresses listed below).
Hotel reservation forms can also be obtained from the conference website (<http://iamcr2005.shu.edu.tw>).

RATES AND CATEGORIES OF HOTELS

Hotels/ Residence	Time & Distance to Conference Site	Room Types	Maximum Occupants	Conference Rates, per room/night*	Booking deadline
Residence Hall, Shih Hsin University	30 minutes by public transport (6.5 km)	Bunk room, shared facilities	1-4	NT\$ 800	July,11, 2005
Conference Hotel (Howard International House)	1~2 minutes by walking (20 meters)	Standard (single bed)	1	NT\$ 1,700	May, 31, 2005
		Semi-Suite	1	NT\$ 3,000	May, 31, 2005
		Standard Queen	2	NT\$ 3,300	May, 31, 2005
les suites taipei (in Taipei's business center)	10~12 minutes by taxi (3 km)	Superior Queen	1	NT\$ 4,290	July,11, 2005
		Deluxe Twin	1-2	NT\$ 4,650	July,11, 2005
		Deluxe Single	2	NT\$ 5,005	July,11, 2005
Le Petit Sherwood (European Style Rooms)	8~10 minutes by taxi (2.5 km)	Executive Twin	1	NT\$ 4,300	June, 30, 2005
		Single	2	NT\$ 4,600	June, 30, 2005
Leader Hotel Taipei	5 minutes by taxi	Double	1	NT\$ 2,800	July,11, 2005
			2	NT\$ 3,100	July,11, 2005

* All room rates include tax and service charge. The Conference Hotel, les suites Taipei, and Le Petit Sherwood provide buffet breakfasts.

** Prices are based on NT dollars. The US prices are estimates only, calculated based on the exchange rate at 1:32, and are subject to currency fluctuations at the time of payment.

E-MAIL AND FAX ADDRESSES

Residence Hall, Shih Hsin University
registration@iamcr2005.shu.edu.tw
 Fax: 886-2-22367150; Phone: 886-2-22361659

Howard International House
rv-ih@howard-hotels.com.tw
 Fax: 886-2-8369-1177;
 Phone: 886-2-8369-1155 ext.2107

les suites taipei
rsvn.da@suitetpe.com
 Fax: 886-2-8773-3788; Phone: 886-2-8773-3799

Le Petit Sherwood
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 Fax: 886-2-2754-3399; Phone: 886-2-2754-1166

Leader Hotel Taipei
ntu@leaderhotel.com
 Fax: 886-2-8369-2859; Phone: 886-2-8369-2858



Conference venue: Howard International House

Dallas Smythe Memorial Endowment Fund and Dallas Smythe Archive at Simon Fraser University

Professor Manjunath Pendakur, Dean of College of Mass Communication & Media Arts at the University of Southern Illinois, has been selected to deliver a Dallas Smythe Memorial Lecture at the School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, Canada, on March 10, 2005. This public lecture series, which will welcome Professor Pendakur as its 10th lecturer, is supported by the Dallas Smythe Memorial Endowment Fund at Simon Fraser University, and has presented internationally renowned specialists in the field of political economy of communication and communication policy. Professor Pendakur's lecturer will focus on the political economic and cultural dimensions of the Indian Film Industry.

The Dallas Smythe Memorial Endowment Fund was established in 1992 in memory of Professor Dallas Smythe, a founder of the field of political economy of communication and a leading scholar and influence in national and international communication policy. Trained as an economist, Smythe's long professional career included appointments at the Department of Labor and the Federal Communication Commission in the United States, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Regina. He was Professor of Communication at Simon Fraser University from 1976 till his death in 1992.

The Dallas Smythe Memorial Endowment Fund was established "to further the understanding of communication studies." Operated by the School of Communication, it is composed of funds raised privately and matched by the province of British Columbia, Canada. The Fund's Terms of Reference allow a portion of the annual income to be used to support lectures and symposia, research and scholarships. Since 1993, the Fund has supported lectures and graduate student symposia held at Simon Fraser University to stimulate thought in the Smytheian tradition around timely political, economic, and cultural themes. Past lecturers have included Thomas Guback, R. J. Robinson, Robin Mansell, Dan Schiller, Vincent Mosco, Dan Schiller, Eileen Meehan, Sut Jhally, Karim Karim, and Rohan Samarajiva. Lecture topics have ranged from Dallas Smythe's contributions to communication scholarship and policy to the political economy of innovation for "knowledge society," the Internet and the new media economy, to feminist approaches to political economic analysis, and the relevance of Smythe's work in the post 9/11 world.

The Smythe Fund Advisory Group, composed of leading international scholars in the field of political economy of communication, faculty and graduate student representatives from the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University, provides advice on the management of the Fund and the selection of the Smythe lecturers. Dr. Yuezhi Zhao, a Canada Research Chair in Political Economy of Global Communication and currently the coordinator of the Smythe Lecture series, said that the Smythe Fund has made an important pedagogical contribution to the development

of critical communication scholarship at Simon Fraser University. As part of the new initiatives aiming at reinvigorating the critical political economy tradition in communication studies at Simon Fraser University, Dr. Zhao aims to hold an annual graduate student symposium in conjunction with the annual Smythe Lecture at Simon Fraser University.

In addition to the Dallas Smythe Memorial Endowment Fund, Simon Fraser University Archives holds the Dallas Smythe Papers. Sixty boxes of papers are catalogued, ready for scholars to use. Subjects include personal correspondence, Dallas Smythe's work at the US Department of Labor and US Federal Communication Commission, project papers (for example, Unesco), and other relevant topics. A synopsis of the Smythe Papers is available by searching the online database of the Simon Fraser University Library Archives under the British Columbia Archival Union List (BCAUL) (<http://www.sfu.ca/archives/F-16/F-16.html>).

Contributions to the Fund can be made by cheque (in any currency) payable to "Simon Fraser University" and clearly marked "in memory of Dallas Smythe." Receipts and tax-exemption certificates will be issued. Send contributions to Administrative Assistant, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., V5A 1S6, Canada.

Dr. Yuezhi Zhao, Simon Fraser University Canada,
email: yzhao@sfu.ca

Cairo in 2006!

There were two very strong and interesting bids to host the 2006 IAMCR conference. One, organised by a team headed by John Downing, proposed that IAMCR visit the US for the first time and hold a conference in St. Louis. The second, headed by the American University in Cairo, suggested that IAMCR come to Egypt and the Middle East. The choice was put to the vote of the Executive Board and the International Council. The result was that 17 voted for Cairo, 7 for St. Louis, and 11 abstained.

The Executive Board once again thanks both Cairo and St. Louis for very well planned proposals and congratulates Cairo with the result - and the hard work ahead.

The 2007 conference will be held in Paris/France to coincide with IAMCR's 50th anniversary. We invite bids to host the 2008 conference, and details about this process can be obtained from Ole Prehn (prehn@hum.aau.dk).

Conferences & Calls for Papers

First European Communication Conference
KIT, Amsterdam, The Netherlands,
November 24 - 26, 2005

This conference is convened by the Department of Communication Sciences at the University of Amsterdam, the European Communication Association (ECA), and the European Consortium for Communication Research (ECCR), together with "Gazette".

The general theme is "Fifty Years of Communication Research in Europe: Past and Future". With this conference, communication researchers everywhere in Europe celebrate the establishment of many university departments of our discipline half a century ago, as well as the 50th anniversary of leading journals of our field, such as *Gazette* and *Publizistik*. For the first time, both European associations of communication and media studies, ECCR and ECA, jointly invite scholars to convene and present their research to an international audience.

Topics of interest include the following:

1. 50 years of communication studies

- Historical development of communication research as a discipline in Europe;
- Does European communication research exist at all?
- European communication research in an international context;
- The forgotten questions in communication research;
- Expectations and prospects for the next 50 years of European Communication research.

2. State-of-the-art research and theory building

- Assessments of the theories and methods developed in the field during the past half century as well as analytical work on lessons learned;
- Critical summaries of research findings in the various (sub)fields of European communication research;
- Comparative intra-European communication research;
- Innovative methodologies, pedagogies and theories;
- State-of-the-art research findings;
- Future studies in communication: issues and methods.

Young scholars, in particular, are encouraged to propose papers with reflections on the future. The top young scholar paper on the future of European Communication Research will be awarded the "Gazette price for academic excellence".

Abstracts for papers, sessions, round tables and posters (not more than 800 words) should be sent by May 1st.

For further information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.ecc2005.nl>

**or contact: Johannes von Engelhardt,
Department of Communication Science,
University of Amsterdam, Kloveniersburgwal 48,
NL-1012 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
e-mail: info@ecc2005.nl**

China
14th AMIC Annual Conference
**Media and Society in Asia:
Transformations
and Transitions**
July 18 - 21, 2005, Beijing,
People's Republic of China

In partnership with :
Communication University of China (Beijing, China)

Contact Persons:

Dr. Hu Zhengrong
Director, The National Centre for Radio and TV Studies
Dean, Dean's Office
Communication University of China
Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100024
Tel/Fax: 86-10-65779128
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Email: sandhya@amic.org.sg

URL: <http://www.amic.org.sg>

Call for Papers Come to Granada this Summer!

The 14th Annual World Business Congress of the International Management Development Association (IMDA) will be held in Granada, Spain, from July 10-14, 2005, and is organized and hosted jointly by IMDA and the Euro-Arab Management School in Granada.

Scholarly papers, panel/special session proposals, and case study exercises for presentation and publication in the refereed Congress proceedings are invited. Those on the theme of "Global Business: The Challenges and Responsibilities in a World of Shifting Alliances" are most desirable,

although all aspects of global business are of interest. Theoretical, conceptual, and empirical papers, using qualitative and quantitative methodologies, are solicited.

Manuscripts submitted must be complete papers, ready for blind review, to be included in the Congress proceedings. A work-in-progress may be reviewed and considered for presentation, even though not published in the Congress proceedings. In addition to scholarship, the Congress is designed to offer an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world and exchange information and ideas on a variety of global business development topics.

Submission Deadline: May 2, 2005

For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.imda.cc> or contact:

Richard Alan Nelson, Professor of Mass Communication and Public Affairs

Manship School of Mass Communication

Mail: 211 Journalism Building, Fieldhouse Drive

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7202 USA

Phone: 225-578-6686 Fax: 225-578-2125

Email: Rnelson@LSU.edu

ASC Sixteenth Annual Conference

Call For Papers

“Competing in the Global Marketplace:
Innovation, Technology and Culture”

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2005 Washington D.C., USA

The American Society for Competitiveness (ASC) is a national association of academics, business executives, and policy makers who share a commitment to improving competitiveness. The Society also publishes four journals.

Suggested Themes:

Global Competition:

- The Dynamics of Firms and States
- Corporate Alliances, Mergers and Acquisitions

Corporate Responsibility and Global Compact:

- Protection of International Human Rights
- Role of Non-Government Organizations

Public Affairs & Corporate Communications:

- Corporate Communications in Global Business
- Competitiveness and Public Image

Privatization and Market Change:

- Privatization in Global Markets
- Regulation, Deregulation, and Re-regulation
- Privacy and Confidentiality in Today's Knowledge Based Society

Competing in Dynamic Global Industries:

- Telecommunications and Multimedia
- E-Commerce & Supply Chain Management

The deadline for the receipt of submitted papers and abstracts is **June 6, 2005**. To facilitate the blind peer review process, the first page should include: Title of paper, authors' name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and phone and fax number(s). The second page should repeat the paper

title but should contain no information that would identify author or institution. Publication style guidelines of the American Psychological Association must be used.

Please mail or e-mail four copies of the paper, abstract or symposium proposal to:

Prashanth Nagendra Bharadwaj,

Academic Program Chair

American Society for Competitiveness

PO Box 1658, Indiana, PA 15705

E-mail: pnb@iup.edu

ICT and Sustainable Development –

Strategies and Research Trends,

Guangzhou, China,

December 12 –14, 2005

The GCRA Conference on "Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Sustainable Development - Strategies and Research Trends", will be held at South China Normal University in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, from December 12-14, 2005.

Guest keynote speakers will include Professor Hamid Mowlana (American University, USA), Professor Gee-Gee Robinson (McGill Univ., Canada), Professor Fayçal Najab and Professor Michael Palmer (Sorbonne, France).

The conference website is at:

<http://gcra.uaeu.ac.ae/Conferences.htm>

General inquiries may be addressed to Dr Guo Qin at

qin.guo@scmp.mq.edu.au

Communication for Development and Social Change

Call for Journal Articles

Communication for Development and Social Change is now seeking articles for the early issues of the journal. Submissions will be refereed anonymously by at least two referees.

Articles should be between 5000-8000 words. Reviews should be between 800-1200 words. Manuscripts must include an abstract of 100-150 words on a separate sheet and may be submitted by regular mail (typed in double-spacing) or by email (in MS Word or rtf.format). Authors will be asked to provide a diskette or CD-Rom of the final version.

The journal uses the Harvard system of referencing with author's name and date in the text and a full reference in alphabetical order at the end of the article.

Submit articles for the journal to:

Jan Servaes, School of Journalism and Communication

University of Queensland

St. Lucia, Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia

Fax: +61-7-3365 1377

e-mail: j.servaes@uq.edu.au

Member's New Work

Virtual Nation: The Internet in Australia

Edited by Gerard Goggin (2004)

Gerard Goggin's edited collection is a comprehensive treatment of this technology's antipodean development. Contributors cover topics spanning history, use, culture, policy, and future. The book offers fresh perspectives on international debates on the Internet, as well as showing why detailed national and regional studies are important.'

University of New South Wales Press, Sydney, 2004

ISBN 0868405035, AU\$49.95.

<http://www.unswpress.com.au/>

Global Electioneering: Campaign Consulting, Communications, and Corporate Financing by Gerald Sussman (2005)

Global Electioneering explores American-style political consulting and its spread to countries throughout the world, emphasizing the roles of communication, technology, and finance. Gerald Sussman challenges the conventional belief that American electoral influence abroad is due largely to the professionalization of politics and asserts that it is instead affected by corporate economics, industry, the interests of the state, and the organizational and instrumental power of new communication technologies.

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc., 2005, 280pp.

ISBN 0-7425-2692-5, Paper, US\$27.95

ISBN 0-7425-2691-7, Cloth, US\$79.00

<http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com>

Communication and Conflict: Studies in International Relations

(Foreword by Johan Galtung), by Jörg Becker (2005)

This book is a collection of Professor Becker's most important 21 essays

since the late 1970s. All the essays collected in this book refer exclusively to the field of international politics, and specifically to cultural, media and technology policy. Becker deliberately takes a very broad approach to these topics. The range extends from a discussion of racism in European books for children and young people, to a study of the publishing community in developing countries, and goes so far as the role of the mass media in war and peace. The essays address also subjects such as the influence of multinational paper and cellulose manufacturers on paper pricing in the developing countries, unequal access to databases and the Internet, or even a discussion of the media development in East Europe post-1989 or the role of international law in inter-national media policy. All the essays highlight the tension innate in all forms of media policy, namely that between culture and economics. Fortunately, the author elects not to resolve this tension, preferring to acknowledge it as a dialectical process.

Concept Publishing House, New Delhi. ISBN 81-8069-172-1, Hardcover Rs 750.

publishing@conceptpub.com

New Frontiers in International Communication Theory

Edited by Mehdi Semati, (2004)

New Frontiers in International Communication Theory offers a wide-ranging assessment of the present state of the field of international communication and charts new directions for theory and research. It brings together renowned and emerging scholars who challenge the field to move beyond the limits of existing formulations, approaches, and trajectories, providing an alternative and a supplement to traditional approaches in analysis and study. In rethinking the central problematics of the field, exploring established and new tools and models of inquiry, and articulating new research agendas, this interdisciplinary collection anticipates the fu-

ture of international communication studies.

Contributors include: Amin Alhassan, Heidi Marie Brush, François Debrix, John D. H. Downing, John Nguyet Erni, Michael Robert Evans, Marouf Hasian, Jr., Clifford A. Jones, Marwan M. Kraidy, John Nerone, Rick Rockwell, S. Sayyid, Mehdi Semati, Sujatha Sosale, and McKenzie Wark.

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc., 2004, 320pp.

ISBN 0-7425-3019-1, Paper, US\$32.95

ISBN 0-7425-3018-3, Cloth, US\$79.00

<http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com>

Femme Fatalities. Representations of Strong Women in the Media

Edited by Anne Gjelsvik & Rikke Schubart (2004)

This anthology brings together twelve essays on the representation of strong women in film, television and computer games. During the nineties strong women moved to the fore in media fictions. In cinema, television series and computer games we find heroines in leading roles that used to be occupied by men. They kick ass, fight vampires and become elite soldiers in Hollywood movies. However, this success of women raises complex questions related to gender and genre, identity and identification, pleasure and violence. Do these heroines appeal to women at all? If so, what pleasures do they offer? Are they consumerist products in a patriarchal culture? Are they action heroines submitting to the traditional aesthetics of the pin-up and the narrative subplots of rape, prostitution and domestication through romance? Or is it possible to kidnap a male fantasy and turn it into a feminist icon for a new postfeminist generation? The articles in this anthology find new meanings arising out of the gaps between consumer culture and gender politics, between silicone breasts and subversive audience reactions.

Nordicom, Göteborg University, 2004, 233 pp.

ISBN 91-89471-25-3, €25; US \$ 25.

Cultural Politics and the Mass Media: Alaska Native Voices

by Patrick Daley and Beverly James (2004)

This book thoroughly documents the ways in which indigenous peoples have used community and mass media for purposes of political self-determination and cultural vitalization. In a series of case studies, the book elegantly reveals how newspapers, radio stations, and television programs became strategic sites of Natives resistance to the economic and cultural agendas of non-Native settlers.

Through these empirically-grounded studies, Daley and James demonstrate that freedom for indigenous peoples is not only premised on control over their political economy, but also on their capacity to tell their own stories. In so doing, the authors develop a powerful, historically grounded argument for understanding cultural persistence as a valuable and vital form of self-determination.

University of Illinois Press, 2004.
A volume in the series *The History of Communication*, Cloth, 240 pages.
ISBN 0-252-02938-0, US\$ 35.00
<http://www.press.uillinois.edu>

Communication for Rural Innovation. Rethinking Agricultural Extension,

by C. Leeuwis with contributions from Anne van den Ban (2004).

This new edition of a very well received book, asks us to take a fresh look at agricultural extension and re-think our ideas about its role and meaning in the face of new challenges posed to the sector. It is proposed that rural innovation depends on new forms of coordinated action within a network of interdependent stakeholders with diverging problem perceptions and conflicting interests. Communication professionals can play useful roles in overcoming obstacles to collective change by facilitating interactive and cross-disciplinary design trajectories, and by linking these to more conventional intervention approaches.

Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, 2004.
ISBN: 0-632-05249-X, £24.99
<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com>

Yearbook 2004: Young People, Soap Operas and Reality TV

Edited by Cecilia von Feilitzen (2005).

Children all over the world listen to and watch adult programming from an early age, albeit a more genuine interest in adult entertainment appears first around the age of eight. This exposure, combined with the transformation of the traditional soap opera into the extreme soaps and reality TV of today, has whipped up storms of controversy and aroused serious concern among adults.

The Clearinghouse frequently fields questions like: What do children and young people learn from these series, the values and actions of which may run totally counter to those supposed to be taught by family and school? Is it not too early for children to gain such a direct, yet false, insight into adult life? And, are young people's conceptions of the human body and appearances, not to mention their own self-images and behaviour, influenced by the 'ideals' of these series?

These and other questions are addressed in the articles.

The International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media, Nordicom, Göteborg University 2005, 255pp.
ISBN 91-89471-28-8, €25; US\$ 25

Playing with Fire. How Do Computer Games Influence the Player?

Simon Egenfeldt-Nielsen & Jonas Heide Smith (2004).

In the debate on children, youth and computer games, the question of whether computer games are harmful is often posed. The answers provided are many and varying, making it easy to interpret the research results as contradictory. Questions concerning the harmfulness of computer games often seek simple "yes" or "no" answers, while the research reveals a more complicated picture. Different investigations also have their starting

point in different perspectives and questions, which may explain the confusion.

With an aim to clarify and bring some order to the area, the Danish Media Council for Children and Young People has conducted an investigation that provides some insight into children's and young people's use of computer games. The investigation is based, among other things, on a picture of the scientific status of computer games and harmfulness as well as on an overview of the considerations other countries have made concerning regulation in the area.

Nordicom's International Clearinghouse for Children, Youth and Media considered the report to be of interest to a wider audience and sought collaboration with the Danish Media Council for Children and Young People concerning publishing of the report. The authors, Simon Egenfeldt-Nielsen and Jonas Heide Smith, have done some revising and updating of the report, which is now available in English.

Nordicom, Göteborg University, 2004, 39 p.
ISBN 91-89471-27-X, €10; US\$ 10
<http://www.nordicom.gu.se>

Conversation and Cognition

Edited by H.te Molder. & J. Potter (2005).

Written by some of the leading figures in the fields of conversation analysis, discursive psychology and ethnomethodology, this book looks at the challenging implications of new discourse-based approaches to the topic of cognition. Up to now, cognition has primarily been studied in experimental settings.

This volume shows how cognition can be reworked using analyses of engaging examples of real life interaction such as conversations between friends, relationship counselling sessions, and legal hearings. It includes an extended introduction that overviews the history and context of cognitive research and its basic assumptions to provide a frame for understanding the specific examples discussed, as well as surveying cutting

edge debates about discourse and cognition. This comprehensive and accessible book opens up important new ways of understanding the relation between language and cognition.

Illustrated throughout with engaging examples of real life interaction eg. relationship counselling talk, Oliver North's testimony.

Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2005.
ISBN-10: 0521793696
ISBN-13: 9780521793698, £19.99

Health Education and Health Promotion, by Maria A. Koelen & Anne W. van den Ban (2004)

Avoiding illness and promoting health has been a major concern of individuals and societies over centuries, and still is today. Achieving or improving health requires a range of actions by different agencies from social, political, economic, biomedical, behavioural, educational, environmental, and technical arenas. An in-

creasing number of professionals, and not only health professionals, will have to play an important role in this field over the years to come.

This book provides a basic understanding of health concepts and health-related research and action programmes

Wageningen Academic Publishers, , 2004, 288pp.
ISBN 9076998442, €45.

News of the Other. Tracing Identity in Scandinavian Constructions of the Eastern Baltic Sea Region
Edited by Kristina Riegert (2004).

The studies in this volume demonstrate a startling continuity in the depiction of our eastern Baltic neighbors as fundamentally different from us, as "backward" or as harbingers of potential threats. The authors demonstrate that journalism is still closely tied to national perspectives of the world, which in turn is related to a broader Western discourse about the Other.

Some authors locate identity through journalism's ritualistic dimensions – providing a sense of safety and security as well as warnings of risk and threats – whereas others find it in taken-for-granted strategies of Othering. This is not the whole story, however, for the authors demonstrate that globalization is changing the national context on which journalism is based, thus local news of the Baltic Sea region differs significantly from national news, and EU journalism blurs the boundaries between the national "we" and its Others.

This volume describes, analyzes and compares the manner in which identity is constructed in Swedish, Danish, Finnish and German news about events, people and issues in the eastern Baltic Sea Region at the beginning and the end of the 20th century.

Nordicom, 2004, 232 p.
ISBN 91-89471-26-1, €25; US\$ 25

New Journals

International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics

<http://ics.leeds.ac.uk/mcp>

The International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics (MCP) is committed to analyzing the politics of communications and cultural processes. It addresses cultural politics in their local, international and global dimensions, recognizing equally the importance of issues defined by their specific cultural geography and those which run across cultures and nations.

MCP promotes critical, in-depth, engaged research on the intersections of sociology, politics, cultural studies and media studies. MCP aims to keep academic analysis in dialogue with the practical world of communications, culture and politics.

Editorial board

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The first issue includes articles by:

- yasmin jiwani on war talk
- vincent mosco on ground zero
- martyn lee on the death of radical thought
- kwela hermanns on ipr and traditional knowledge
- lena jayyusi on power and performativity
- mike cormack on gaelic language and the media
- eileen r meehan on transindustrialism and synergy
- chinyere stella okunna on invisible women

MCP welcomes full-length research articles of up to eight thousand words and occasional short commentaries.

Submission of papers to: mcp@leeds.ac.uk

New Open Access journal: Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture

<http://www.wmin.ac.uk/mad/page-880>

The Communications and Media Research Institute at the University of Westminster is proud to announce publication of a new Open Access journal, *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture*.

The first issue, on 'Media and Migration', as well as information about the journal, its editorial policies, and how to submit articles is available now and can be viewed at the above URL.

Future issues of the journal will include 'The Internet and Alternative Political Practices', 'Media and Celebrity' and 'Media in China'. In addition to its themes, the journal welcomes articles on any topic in media, communication and culture.

Global Media and Communication

Sage Publications is launching this new journal as a key forum for articulating critical debates and developments in the continuously changing global media and communications environment in April 2005.

For more information and to get the first volume as free electronic subscription, visit the Sage website at:

<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/resources/globalmedia.htm>

Journal discounts for paid-up IAMCR members

The following academic journals are offering a substantial discount on their regular subscription rate to individual IAMCR members:

ARTS AND HUMANITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION: £26 (regularly £35)

ASIAN JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION: \$20 (£28)

BRITISH JOURNALISM REVIEW: £26 (£35)

COMMUNICATION BOOKNOTES QUARTERLY (25% discount in 2005) See www.erlbaum.com/j-communication.htm

COMMUNICATION LAW AND POLICY (20% discount in 2004, 25% in 2005)

COMMUNICATION RESEARCH TRENDS: \$35 (\$45)

CRITICAL ARTS: A JOURNAL FOR SOUTH-NORTH CULTURAL STUDIES: \$50 (4 issues at \$50 instead of \$90)

DISCOURSE PROCESSES (25% discount in 2005)

DISCOURSE & SOCIETY: £32 (£41)

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ETHNICITIES: £35 (£47)

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF AMERICAN CULTURE: £20 (£30)

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EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CULTURAL STUDIES: £29 (£39)

FEMINIST THEORY: £26 (£35)

GAZETTE: £36 (£48)

HEALTH COMMUNICATION (25% discount in 2005)

HOWARD JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATIONS: \$30 (\$51)

INDIAN JOURNAL COMMUNICATOR: \$20 (\$30)

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CULTURAL STUDIES: £29 (£39)

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE ARTS AND DIGITAL MEDIA: £20 (£30)

JMM - THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON MEDIA MANAGEMENT: \$43 (\$64) See www.mediajournal.org

JOURNAL OF CONSUMER CULTURE: £27 (£36)

COMMUNICATION OF CONSUMER PSYCHOLOGY (25% discount in 2005)

JOURNAL OF FAMILY COMMUNICATION (25% discount in 2005)

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See www.intellectbooks.com/journals/index.htm

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION QUARTERLY (25% discount in 2005)

THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: \$59 (\$82)

THEORY, CULTURE & SOCIETY: £36 (£49)

THE RADIO JOURNAL: £20 (£30)

TRENDS IN COMMUNICATION (25% discount in 2005)

VISUAL COMMUNICATION: £26 (£35)

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News from Members

Winter School on Communication Support for Sustainable Development

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is the apex body of Research and Education in Agriculture in India. Since 1967, ICAR has been sponsoring Summer School/Winter Schools (21 or 30 days duration) in different disciplines of Agriculture and allied sciences. The main objectives of these in-service training courses are to acquaint the trainees with the latest technological advances in special subject areas, impart newer skills, proficiency in selected new methodologies so that competence of faculty and scientists are improved. The purpose of organizing Summer School/Winter School are to bring about the qualitative improvements and to update the teachers, researchers and extension specialists in the latest knowledge and techniques in the field of their specialization, to provide necessary orientation to contemporary problems, to provide a common forum for co-professionals to interact and exchange experiences and also to maintain a feedback to make research and education more relevant.

A very successful Winter School on Communication Support for Sustainable Development was held in October 2004, sponsored by ICAR, with Prof. Dipak De as Course Director and Dr. Basavaprabhu Jirli as Coordinator. Participants suggested that the most interesting topics were Environmental Pollution, IT enabled services, Screen printing, Radio Script Writing and Communication. This Winter School provided an excellent opportunity for participants to bring about qualitative improvement and update their knowledge and techniques in the field of communication and sustainable development and to enjoy the opportunity of demonstrating leadership qualities by chairing and reporting on sessions.

Dipak De
Professor and Course Director

Marwan M. Kraidy, American University, has been awarded a residential fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, from September 2005 to May 2006, where he will be completing his book *Screens of Contention: Arab Television and the Challenges of Modernity*.

Winner in National R&D field, Taiwan

Hamilton Cheng has won a National R&D Award for Collaboration between Academy and Industry in Taiwan. He is the first ever winner from the humanities and social sciences since this award was inaugurated in 1996, and was recognized by a Triple Selective Committee consisting of delegates from university, industry and government

The Taiwanese Ministry of Education calls doctoral students nationwide to submit any proof of reward, royalty, or patent contributed to industry through their research for the annual competition. Cheng, a Ph.D. in Communications, using strategy and policy adoption on digital broadcasting service, showed how to coordinate the research findings of Journalism Department, National Chengchi University with the programme of Taiwan Public Television Service (PTS). As a result, their collaboration helped PTS to receive a National Five-Year Grant of \$36,000,000 to develop Taiwan's digital television service from 2003 to 2007. Cheng's application was appreciated for this.

On December 30, 2004, Dr. Cheng and Professor Fang Chien-san, his Thesis Advisor, each received a medal and a cash prize of CAD \$4,000 for their accomplishment. It assisted Taiwan broadcasting industry to realize the enlarged vision of digital video broadcasting (terrestrial, DVB-T) in general and public service broadcasting in particular.

Hamilton Cheng graduated from School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, Canada, and is a supporter to Friends of Canadian Broadcasting and World Radio & Television Council in Montreal, and an active member of Public Broadcasters International.

Hamilton Chung-ming Cheng
*Member of Communication Policy
& Technology Section, JSN/IAMCR*

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