Publishing Update: New article in IJOC; New Online Essay Project: NGOs as News Entities

Call for Papers: Media Transformation After the Fall of Communism

Events: UPenn: Network Neutrality in Europe and the US; International: East Africa Election Workshop

About CGCS

Publishing Updates

New Article in International Journal of Communication

Annenberg graduate student Kenneth N. Farrall published "Global Privacy in Flux: Illuminating privacy across cultures in China and the U.S," this fall in the International Journal of Communication. The paper emerged in part from a Spring 2008 CGCS workshop where scholars shared and got feedback on their China media and culture research.

The article addresses threats to privacy within the context of an increasingly risk-averse, surveillance-networked, global society. Scholars within the field of surveillance studies have suggested that too much of a focus on the elusive concept "privacy" may, in fact, severely handicap otherwise beneficial policy initiatives. David Lyon, for example, argues that privacy varies widely across time and individual cultures. By exploring the interrelationships between the English word "privacy," its standard Mandarin Chinese translation, "yinsi," and portions of their respective semantic fields, the paper demonstrates a potential role for privacy in discourses of resistance. Ironically, according to Privacy International's 2007 International Privacy Ranking, China now has better statutory legal protection for individual privacy than the United States.

Ken is currently finishing his dissertation, a comparative analysis of state dossier
systems (databases which aggregate information on individual citizens from a wide variety of sources) in the United States and China. Prior to his work at Annenberg and CGCS, Ken was an Internet publishing entrepreneur and consultant focused on Internet development in China. He has been interviewed on surveillance, law and technology issues by IEEE Spectrum, MIT's Technology Review, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

New Online Essay Project: NGOs as News Entities: Production, Gatekeeping, Diffusion

Susan Abbott and Monroe Price are currently in the process of inviting authors to contribute to a new online essay series, to be published on the CGCS website. This collection will examine the changes in the supply chain of news due to the rise of information communication technologies and the decline in foreign news coverage by traditional media outlets. We will discuss in particular how these changes present new opportunities for the production and distribution of news. In this new information environment, to what extent have NGOs – particularly those that operate in conflict zones and fragile states – become information intermediaries and media organizations in their own right?

Drawing on experience and insight from both academics and practitioners, the collection of short essays will map the ways in which NGOs are trying to adapt to the changing media and communications environment. It will also consider the challenges, opportunities and ethical dilemmas brought about by these changes from a pragmatic and theoretical perspective.

This project is based on workshops CGCS held in New York and London over the past year. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please contact Stanhope Centre associate Patrick McCurdy.

Call for Papers

"Beyond East and West: Two Decades of Media Transformation After the Fall of Communism"

Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: 15 November 2008.

Please submit to: beyondeastandwest@ceu.hu

The Conference will take place on June 27-29, 2009 in Budapest at Central European University (CEU).

Since 1989, a new media landscape has emerged in Central and Eastern Europe, with new ownership patterns, forms of media organization, journalistic practices, relationships between politics and the media, regulation processes and modalities of media use. A new system has been established, predominantly designed according to Western models and with heavy influence by Western players. Twenty years later, it is time to re-examine these changes.

To build research for communication in transition, conference participants will
explore the necessary building blocks for a research agenda. Core conference themes: Central Eastern European Media Systems 20 Years On; Media Policy and Democratic Legitimacy; New Media Developments; Popular Culture: Media Uses, Media Literacy, Socialism(s) and Nostalgia; Political Communication between Commercialization and Political Influence; Samizdat, Alternative and Community Media; Global Communications, Development and Transition; Reviewing International Media Assistance Programs.

Click here for more information on speakers, themes and program.

Events


American telecom analysts often look in admiration to the European market for broadband and the way it is regulated. In this talk, Annenberg visiting scholar Jasper Sluijs hopes to invoke a more critical discussion of European telecom law, specifically concerning the hot-button issue of network neutrality. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Tiffany Duong.

December 8, 2008, Keynote address for the Media Governance Conference in New Delhi

Monroe Price and Stefaan Verhulst (CGCS Sr. Research Fellow) will deliver the keynote address at the Media Governance Conference taking place in New Delhi, December 8-9, 2008. Their talk, “Strategic Communicators and Ideas of Media Governance,” explores how media governance, like all aspects of governance, is the result of deliberate choices. Most media governance arrangements are products of the specific goals of the major entities that have an interest in the outcome. The design of the governance entity, the ideology that is embedded in its mission and operation, and the assumptions that underpin governance actions, are strategic tools. Through strategic communication these entities develop a narrative that defines the agenda and decision making process of media governance. Testing this idea across a variety of media governance mechanisms, Price and Verhulst bring together the thinking regarding “media governance” and “strategic communication” to ask what implications their hypothesis has for the future of thinking about media governance.

The conference is organized by the Centre for Culture, Media & Governance at Jamia Millia Islamia and the Consortium of Education Communication in New Delhi.


Elections in East Africa are not only becoming more competitive and contested, they are also becoming more violent. Much policy and academic attention has been given
to the role of the media in the run-up to elections and throughout the voting period. The Conference on Media and Post-Election Violence in Eastern Africa seek to examine the *post*-election role of the media in preventing, resolving or exacerbating such conflicts. Eastern Africa is an important region for exploring these issues. Election results in several of these countries have in the past led to violence and repression and there are credible indications that worse situations could arise in the near future.

The workshop will develop a comparative framework for analyzing these elections and identify key issues that can form the basis of a diagnostic tool for 1) assessing risks and analyzing early warning signs and 2) developing strategies of response and conflict resolution.

If you would like to receive more information on this workshop, please contact Nicole Stremlau.

This workshop was organized by the Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research, the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy at the University of Oxford and the Centre for Global Communication Studies at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.

**About CGCS**

The director of CGCS is Professor Monroe E. Price, a leading authority on issues relating to media and civil society, media law and policy advocacy, and the intersection between communication, development, and globalization. The associate director of CGCS is Susan Abbott. Abbott works with Prof. Price on increasing international and comparative research and activities. She helps to identify and develop capacity with international partners such as CMCS in Budapest and manages international development projects. CGCS staff includes Sylvie Beauvais, Project Coordinator; Libby Morgan, Research and Editorial Coordinator; and Kate Cover, Annenberg-CEU Post-Doc. More information on CGCS Staff.

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Comments and suggestions for the newsletter may be forwarded to Sylvie Beauvais.