Project Updates

Budapest, HUNGARY: Central European University

The Center for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS) at the Central European University (CEU) is one of CGCS’s longstanding partners and an example of CGCS’s capacity building work. CMCS conducts research, organizes conferences, offers a “Media, Information and Telecommunications Policy stream” as part of its MA in Public Policy, and provides policy advice within Europe.
CMCS is part of a consortium that will conduct a major study on “Indicators for media pluralism in the Member States - towards a risk-based approach.” The goal of the study is to create an effective monitoring tool to help the European Commission, as well as national policy makers and other stakeholders, to assess media pluralism within the EU. This tool will signal when and where risks to media pluralism might occur. CMCS will be responsible for developing indicators related to the range of media available to citizens in different member states.

Other research efforts include ongoing involvement with the Cost A30 network “East of West: Setting a New Central Eastern European Media Research Agenda,” which is coordinated by CMCS and brings together more than 60 leading European researchers from more than 20 different countries. The EU-funded collaborative project “Civicweb” analyzes civic participation by young people through the Internet. CMCS is partnering with six other leading European universities on this project. CMCS has also renewed its commitment to provide expertise to the Hungarian National Communications Authority (NHH), and has a long-standing and successful partnership with the Hungarian Telecommunications Ltd (MATÁV).

Over Summer 2008, CMCS and CGCS will co-sponsor a summer institute on “Media, Democratization and Civil Society.” Confirmed speakers include Monroe Price, Miklos Sukosd and Dean Michael Delli Carpini as well as faculty from Poland, CEU, the Netherlands, and the Council of Europe.

CMCS collaborates with CEU’s Department of Public Policy in offering a “Media, Information and Telecommunications Policy stream” as part of the MA in Public Policy, and with the Department of Political Science in offering a certificate in “Political Communication” as part of the MA in Political Science. Take a tour of the newly redesigned website.

SUDAN: Researching attitudes to conflict and peace in Darfur: Survey being developed

Under the auspices of the London-based Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research, a CGCS partner, we have wrapped up the pilot phase of the Darfur public opinion project, which involved several oral histories and semi-structured interviews in the El Fasher region of Darfur. In the next phase, the project will undertake similar interviews in other parts of Darfur. Following the completion of the qualitative research, Stanhope Centre will administer a large-scale survey, the first of its kind, to assess and understand what Darfuris think about the roots of the conflict in Darfur, and solicit their opinion about possible solutions.

The survey work will be complemented by ongoing diaspora and content analysis research, and plans are under way to add a social network analysis component to the overall research design. This project, conducted in partnership with and made possible by Albany Associates, a UK consulting firm, reflects our growing interest in public opinion in conflict and post-conflict areas. The Sudan research team...
includes LSE doctoral student Iginio Gagliardone, who was a Visiting Scholar at CGCS in spring 2007, and has been instrumental in designing the research protocol for the project, joined by Anthony Foreman and Mohanad Hashim. They are assisted in their field work by a team of local researchers based in Darfur.

Find out more about our Sudan project. Questions related to the Darfur research project can be directed to Susan Abbott.

**JORDAN: Budapest Study Tour**

Since fall 2006, CGCS has partnered with IREX and the University of Tennessee on the USAID-funded Jordan Media Strengthening Program (JMSP).

As part of this effort, the Center is currently organizing a two-week study tour of Budapest, Hungary for six Jordanian media professionals, from April 1 – 14, 2008. The study tour, which is being developed in collaboration with Annenberg/CEU post-doc Kate Coyer will explore a wide variety of issues related to the liberalization of the media sector in Central and Eastern Europe through site visits, seminars, panels and informal discussion. These visits will be complemented by a cultural program that will include visits to the Opera and the Hungarian Art Museum.

Annenberg’s role in the three-year JMSP is to: 1) improve understanding of media policy issues among lawyers, judges, regulators, members of parliament and other government officials, 2) enhance the law drafting process, and 3) help invigorate civil society around these issues.

Find out more about the JMSP.

**London, UK: Stanhope Centre for Communications Research**

The Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research, launched in London in 2002, has served as a hub for researchers, activists, and policymakers, and has recently relocated to London's School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) to be based at Media@lse. Thanks in large part to the efforts of Nicole Stremlau, LSE PhD student and Annenberg Visiting Scholar in Spring 2007, the move to LSE presents an opportunity for CGCS and Annenberg to strengthen its base in London, especially on initiatives such as the Darfur public opinion project and efforts to assess and understand media development in East Africa, and its ability to serve in a consulting capacity to European and international media assistance efforts.

The Stanhope Centre works closely with CGCS, and offers opportunities to collaborate with academics in the London area as well as internship options for American and other non-British scholars.

Further information about the Stanhope Centre.
Scholar Spotlights

**Fei Jiang** is the only CGCS Visiting Scholar who will be here for the entire 2007-2008 academic year. Fei wears multiple hats: he is Deputy Secretary-General for the Communication Association of China, Deputy Dean for the Department of Communication, and Director of the Center for World Media Studies at the Institute of Journalism and Communication at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing. In October 2007, he was awarded the Wuyuzhang Scholarship (Journalism Section) from the Wuyuzhang Foundation in Renmin University, Beijing, China for his book: *Kua Wen Hua Chuan Bo de Hou Zhi Min Yu Jing* (literally: *The Post-colonial Context for Intercultural Communication Studies*). The volume was published by Renmin University Press in 2005. Dr. Jiang presented his paper on *Foreign Media in China* at the January 25 CGCS conference: *A Harmonious Information Society in China? Technology, Tensions and Observations*. He is pursuing his studies on intercultural communication during his time at Annenberg. Email him at fjmedia@yahoo.com.cn.

**Sudharma Yoonaidharma** will visit the Annenberg School in late February 2008. He is Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) in Thailand. We originally met Sudharma when he attended the 2007 Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute which triggered an interest in developing a Thai Center for Media Policy Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok with Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota Rananand. So far, he has consulted with past CGCS Visiting Scholar Noa Elefant and 2007 Visiting Penn Law Faculty Ellen Goodman, as well as Annenberg-Oxford faculty members Joan Barata Mir, Monica Arino, and Christian Sandvig. During his 2008 visit, CGCS staff and network members will be working with him on issues related to the regulation of community and public service broadcasting, NTC licensing, collaborating on the new Center for Media Policies, and developing co-curricular possibilities with Annenberg. Email him at ysudharm@yahoo.com.

Graduate Student Spotlight

**Tony Lambino** is a doctoral candidate at Penn's Annenberg School for Communication and consultant at the World Bank's Communication for Governance and Accountability Program (CommGAP). His research at both Annenberg and the World Bank centers on the communicative dimensions of governance reform, political participation, and citizen engagement from a comparative perspective. He also provides training and analytical support to CommGAP's operational portfolio in Asia and Africa. Tony's academic and professional trajectory was set in large part by research assistantships under Prof. Monroe Price and a CGCS-sponsored policy internship at the Stanhope Center in London, where he helped organize the 2005 Global Forum for Media Development in Amman, Jordan. He also served as assistant editor of the conference proceedings alongside CGCS's Susan Abbott. He received his Masters in Public Policy from Harvard, A.B. in Communication from
the Ateneo de Manila University, and was named one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines for 1999. He has worked for the Office of the President of the Philippines, ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs (Manila), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (Washington, D.C.). Email: aglambino@gmail.com

**Publishing**

Libby Morgan and Monroe Price have started commissioning short essays that discuss and examine successful, failed or in between efforts to link academic (and other) research to communications policy. The idea is to explore the edges of this question through informal, almost personal, critical responses. Rather than using conventional frames for discussing and questioning the relationship between research and policy, we would like to think through the complexities and idiosyncrasies of such efforts, to bring to the fore some of the discontinuities between the academic and policymaking communities. We are also interested in the differences between the academy on the one hand and consultant-supplied information on the other—if such a difference indeed exists. This current effort may yield either an occasional paper or may be the beginnings of a book.

**Workshops: Updates and Upcoming**

Thursday, January 31, 2008, “**NGOs as Gatekeepers**” workshop, Open Society Institute, 410 W 58th Street, 4th floor conference room, New York City, noon to 2p.m (to be confirmed).

This will be an informal working group session that gathers a small group of advocates, thinkers, and practitioners together to discuss the role that NGOs have in the news-making and information sharing process. As recent events in Burma, Sudan, and other hotspots around the world nicely illustrate, the way people impart and receive news has greatly changed over the last few years. The role of new technologies, coupled with the role of international, regional and local NGOs, has created an interesting dynamic in terms of what kind of information we receive and how we stay informed. RSVP to Astrid Larson.

Thursday, February 7, 2008, Tal Zarsky on **Law & Online Social Networks: Mapping the Challenges and Promises of User-Generated Information Flows**, Annenberg School, Room 300, 1pm - 2pm

The Internet facilitates the creation and support of social networks of various strengths. Online social networks allow for an effective and efficient distribution of data and content. Furthermore, they promote the creation of content, both simple and complex. In this talk, Dr. Zarsky will address several legal and policy challenges arising in this context. Dr. Zarsky teaches at Haifa University in Israel.
RSVP by January 31 to reserve a seat.

Saturday and Sunday, February 23-24, 2008, "The 1st Annual Necessary Knowledge Workshop on Collaborative Research," hosted by the Social Science Research Council, CIMA: Center for International Media Action, Annenberg School for Communication (East) and the Media Mobilizing Project.

This workshop is designed as a gathering of academics, public-interest advocates and community organizers working to shape the future of media and communications through collaborative, strategic research. The purpose of the workshop is to build knowledge and strategies for successful collaborative research to improve media and communications policies, practices and institutions. Participants will discuss, among other things, the effective dissemination of research results; how to impact national policy debates; how to develop partnerships, alliances and community participation; and how to evaluate and reinvent community media.

2008 Summer Institutes

Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute on Global Media Policy

From June 30 to July 11, 2008, CGCS will hold its fourth annual Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute on “Global Media Policy: Technology and New Themes in Media Regulation.” This two-week program traditionally brings together diverse participants from academia, civil society, regulatory agencies, and law. Students from around the world are exposed to critical and emerging trends in communications policy research and policy making from a comparative and global perspective. The Institute is run seminar style, exposing participants to the regulatory policies of the U.S., UK and other European media systems, and to a wide range of perspectives on regional media policy issues in China, the Middle East, South Asia, and other locales. The regulatory challenges intrinsic to technologies such as the Internet, satellites, and mobile phones are also covered. Applications for the 2008 program will be accepted on a rolling basis starting Feb. 11, 2008, and must be received by March 14, 2008. Past speakers have included: a Dean of an Oxford College, the BBC Comptroller, staff from the British Council and Ofcom, Hungarian and Thai regulators, a journalist from Somaliland, as well as academics from Spain, Russia, Turkey, and China.

CEU Budapest Summer Institute on Media, Democratization, and Civil Society

The course will provide an overview of theories of transition and democratization, civil society and social movements, and media policy and reform. It will focus on the Central/Eastern European region, but will also be relevant to other contexts. Site visits will include the Samizdat collection of the Open Society Archives, the South
East European Network for Professionalization of Media, Hungarian Public Service Television, and a local community radio station. We're sure this program will bring a whole new set of engaged alumni into the fold. CGCS is helping to co-sponsor this course.

**About CGCS**

The director of CGCS is Professor [Monroe E. Price](mailto:monroe.price@upenn.edu), 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 senior research coordinator of CGCS is [Susan Abbott](mailto:susan.abbott@upenn.edu). 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](mailto:sylvie.beauvais@upenn.edu), Project Coordinator; [Libby Morgan](mailto:libby.morgan@upenn.edu), Research and Editorial Coordinator; and [Kate Coye](mailto:kate.coye@upenn.edu), Annenberg-CEU Post-Doc. More information on [CGCS Staff](mailto:cgcs@upenn.edu).

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