SSRC Grant Award for Thailand Partner

Over the last year, CGCS has been working with the Department of Journalism and Information at Chulalongkorn University and the Thai telecom and broadcasting regulatory agency. This summer, CGCS assisted Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota, of the Thai Media Policy Center (Thai-MPC) at Chulalongkorn, prepare a successful application to the Social Science Research Council for her research proposal, “Building a regulatory framework for Community Radios in Thailand.” Annenberg has hosted a workshop for Dr. Ramasoota and others from Thailand, and there has been a strong relationship between the Thai group and the Annenberg Oxford summer institute.

Thailand has one of the most active community broadcasting sectors in the world and it presents profound and interesting regulatory issues. Dr. Ramasoota’s research project will seek participation from community radio practitioners and other stakeholders to develop collaboratively a regulatory model and code of practices that will help strengthen the sector in Thailand. CGCS Director Monroe E. Price and staffers Kate Coyer, Ph.D. and Libby Morgan assisted with the preliminary proposal and facilitated the grant submission to the SSRC.

Huffington Post Blogger: Chris Finlay
It’s not every day that something you write generates a response from a Hollywood icon, but that’s what happened to Annenberg Ph.D. candidate Christopher Finlay when he blogged about the Beijing Olympics for the Huffington Post this summer.

Drawing on research that he is conducting for his dissertation on the London 2012 Games and public diplomacy, Chris’s Huffington Post blogs explored Beijing 2008 from a political communication perspective. His first post, “Bush’s Olympic Doctrine,” was featured by Huffington Post editors on the site’s front page. His second post, “Farrow’s Darfur Olympics and Our Olympic Shame,” actually drew an angry response from Ms. Farrow in her own blog.

“What was interesting is that debate, in the form of the comments each blog generated, were in contrast to the subject of the blog,” Chris said. “Mia’s supporters criticized what I wrote in comments below my blog, and people who sided with my opinion wrote comments on Mia Farrow’s blog. It was pretty interesting, considering the short lifespan these have.”

Chris was emblematic of Huffington Post bloggers who contributed to the Annenberg volume, *Owning the Olympics: Narratives of the New China*, including Prof. Price and Penn Law Prof. Jacques de Lisle.

**New Video on Oxford Summer Institute**

A new video tells the story of the Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute, which took place this year from June 30 to July 12. [Click here](#) to watch.

**CGCS Network Career Updates**

**Ibrahim Al-Marashi and Magdalena Wojcieszak to start teaching at IE Madrid**

*Ibrahim Al-Marashi*, joint Middle East Center/CGCS visiting scholar in 2008, will join the IE School of Communication at IE University in Madrid as an Assistant Professor of Communication History and Policy this October. Ibrahim attributes finding the position in Madrid to the CGCS network and the Center’s relationship with the school in Spain. He hopes that the University’s picturesque setting—the school is located in a renovated monastery—will be conducive to concentrating on completing his book on Iraq's media. At Annenberg, Ibrahim taught a course on Middle East media. He continues to stay involved with CGCS and is organizing a January 2009 conference on media in Iran. Through CGCS he participates in a scholarly hub that brings together multiple international communication networks.

In January 2009, Annenberg Ph.D. candidate *Magdalena Wojcieszak* will start as a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the same IE department. This position is a continuation of Magdalena’s international academic trajectory, following studies in Poland, Italy and the U.S. It also offers an opportunity to continue her research on
polarization and ways to promote understanding within international sociopolitical contexts. Her duties will include developing projects for the Communication Department and IE University. Magdalena also plans to spend two months each year at international institutions to engage in cross-cultural research, and will continue her engagement with CGCS projects.

Graduate Student Summer Projects Update

Stanhope Center Summer Intern: Lauren Kogen

ASC Graduate Student Lauren Kogen spent August 2008 at the Stanhope Center in London, working on the Stanhope/CGCS project "Researching attitudes toward peace and conflict in Darfur." She worked with members of the project team to analyze data from the semi-structured interviews of Darfuri IDPs, develop the survey that will be implemented in Darfur, research the methodology and uses of public opinion research in conflict zones, and further develop the content analysis portion of the project.

Mara Cecilia Ostfeld’s Cuba Study

With guidance and support from CGCS, Mara Cecilia Ostfeld, political science doctoral student at Penn, embarked on a research trip to Cuba this summer to study changes in media structures and emerging speech-related trends there. Over the course of the past six months, Cubans have been permitted to purchase personal computers, state-run papers have published the first stories critical of government policies in nearly fifty years, and Revolico - the Cuban version of Craigs List - has expanded exponentially. Whether these are isolated occurrences or indicative of emerging trends remains to be seen. Mara spent the summer studying these issues as well as broader changes in the relationship between media systems and the Cuban state. Her research looks at the evolution of formal policies that regulate print, broadcast, radio, creative, and internet communications and how they have contributed to and/or reflected shifts in Cuban political philosophies. Her research places particular emphasis on incongruities in how the state regulates creative media compared to formal news media, and the potential implications of this growing distinction. CGCS hopes that Mara’s research will serve as a foundation for future projects in Cuba.

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 Coyer, 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.