News from the Center for Global Communication Studies

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**Project Updates**

**Academic Year 08-09: Focus on China**

CGCS is planning for the 2009 Penn in Beijing program with the assistance of Annenberg Gerbner Post-Doctoral Fellow Hongmei Li. She is also integral to our planning for the 7th Annual Chinese Internet Research Conference, which will take place at the Annenberg School in May 2009.

These projects are also being facilitated by our Visiting Scholars from China, two Tsinghua graduate students and one Renmin professor. We plan to initiate a China working group during their visit, from which we hope to develop new research, publishing, and conference plans. More information on our visiting scholars can be found [here](#).

The CGCS Visiting Scholars from China are:

Lifeng Deng is currently a Ph.D. student at the School of Journalism and Communication, [Tsinghua University](#), Beijing, China. While at Annenberg, he will be engaged in his dissertation research on how corporations influence journalism.

Liu Hailong, Ph.D, is a lecturer at the School of Journalism and Communication of the [Renmin University of China](#) in Beijing. As a visiting scholar, his research will
focus on a comparison between the ideas of propaganda in China and the United States.

Zhao Fei is a doctoral candidate at the School of Journalism and Communication of Tsinghua University in Beijing. While at Annenberg, she plans to research communication strategies and their effects on cancer prevention and treatment.

**Spring 2008: Focus on India**

CGCS has been developing its India agenda this academic year. Notably, we will be co-sponsoring an International Communication Association preconference on “India and Communication Studies,” on May 19-20, 2009, with the Center for Culture, Media & Governance at Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi. The pre-conference was spurred by several important milestones: the increasing interest in India in graduate programs in media studies and communication and culture studies; the extraordinary importance of India in the global production of culture, communication technology and the processes of globalization; and the increased importance of media research about India among scholars in the ICA. [Read more and find the Call for Papers.](#)

The preconference will be the capstone for a semester where we look forward to collaborating with Radhika Parameswaran, Associate Professor at Indiana University’s School of Journalism. She will be at Annenberg as a Visiting Scholar in the Scholars Program in Culture and Communication. In addition, this spring, CGCS may host Sujatha Sosale, Associate Professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa, as a Visiting Scholar.

We hope the presence of these two scholars will open up new opportunities for collaboration and the formulation of research projects.

**Publishing Update**

**New Article in International Journal of Communication (IOJC)**

Former CGCS Visiting Scholars Iginio Gagliardone and Nicole Stremlau’s latest article, “Public Opinion Research in a Conflict Zone: Grassroots Diplomacy in Darfur,” was just published in the online journal IOJC. The paper emerged out of research they began while visiting Annenberg in 2007, and is based on an ongoing project in Darfur, Sudan. By exploring a set of methods used to capture attitudes and opinions in a conflict environment, the paper hopes to encourage the development of a grass roots diplomacy as a way to include a wider variety of voices in the negotiation process and in the building of a consensual idea of a post-conflict society.

The paper introduces two separate streams of research: one involving on-the-ground interviews, where interviewees frame key issues using their own language and worldviews, and the other focused on the formation of opinions from a distance, a
mechanism that has proved useful particularly when the security situation or other obstacles prevent researchers from being in the field. The result is the production of rich narratives about the actors involved in or affected by the conflict, their interests and the paths they value as the most effective to overcome the crisis and move towards reconciliation.

Read more about CGCS’s research in Sudan.

Iginio Gagliardone is a doctoral student at the London School of Economics. His research investigates the selective adoption of new technologies in authoritarian regimes. In particular, he is exploring how ICTs have been reshaped to serve as tools for nation-building.

Nicole Stremlau is Director of the Africa media programme at the Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research. She holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics in Development Studies. Her research focuses on media during and in the aftermath of guerrilla struggles in the Horn of Africa.

Events

September 19, 2008: NGOs as News Entities: Production, Gatekeeping, Diffusion

CGCS co-sponsored a London workshop on Sept. 19 with LSE’s POLIS (a media think tank) to discuss the role of NGOs in the media environment. Participants included representatives from Christian Aid, Crisis Group, Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), Global Voices, Human Rights Watch, Institute for War & Peace Reporting, Internews Europe, Open Society Institute/Open Society Foundation, Save the Children, The NewsMarket’s, and WITNESS. Annenberg professors Monroe Price and Barbie Zelizer participated, along with doctoral students Matt Blanchard and Lokman Tsui. Lokman Tsui’s dissertation research focuses on the impact of citizen journalism on global news production, by conducting a virtual newsroom ethnography of Global Voices.

October 29, 2008, Lecture: Andras Sajo

In law and legal ideology the prevailing view is that legal institutions serve rationally determined needs and/or values. Yet brain science indicates that emotions play a crucial role in cognition. The talk will present a model that accommodates emotional needs and urges in the shaping of human rights.

Andras Sajo is a Justice on the European Court on Human Rights. He is also a Professor, Legal Studies Department and Chair of Comparative Constitutional Programs at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. He serves as a Visiting Professor with the Global Law Faculty, New York University School of Law. (More) <hyperlink to http://www.global.asc.upenn.edu/index.php?page=10>
This lecture will take place at 5:30 p.m. in Room 500 of the Annenberg School on Wednesday, October 29, 2008. Please RSVP to Sylvie Beauvais.

June 25-27, 2009 Conference: "Beyond East and West: Two Decades of Media Transformation After the Fall of Communism"

A new media landscape has emerged in Central and Eastern Europe, with new ownership patterns; new relationships between politics and the media; and new modalities of media use. Two decades after the transformations of 1989, it is time to take stock of these processes, investigate challenges such as commercialization and persistent political pressures, explore future trajectories of media development in the region and develop new concepts for understanding media change.

Central European University’s Center for Media and Communication Studies, the European research initiative “East of West: Setting a New Central and Eastern European Media Research Agenda,” and the International Communications Association (ICA) will co-host the conference “Beyond East and West: Two Decades of Media Transformation After the Fall of Communism” which will look at all these and many more issues. Call for papers. The conference will take place in Budapest on June 25-27, 2009; the deadline for abstract submission is November 15, 2008.

Annenberg Doctoral Program Admissions Deadline: December 15, 2008

Annenberg is seeking qualified international applicants for its doctoral program.

There are no hard and fast rules regarding the people whom Annenberg accepts, but we can say that most successful applicants present the following profile:

- A concise statement of purpose describing your academic and professional background, interests, and preparation in the social sciences, the humanities and other studies. This statement would explain what career objectives an Annenberg degree would help realize, and discuss the potential research area or topic fit with the Annenberg School for Communication faculty or research centers.
- A GRE verbal and quantitative score over 500 with a writing score of 4.5 or higher.
- TOEFL or IELTS score that demonstrates English competence (for non-native English speaking candidates only).
- Solid academic transcripts. GPA, course load, and relative degree of course difficulty are taken into consideration.
- Recommendations from individuals who can discuss the applicant’s ability to complete doctoral study and describe previous scholarly work.
- A C.V. or resume tailored for an academic application.
You can find out more information about applying to the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania [here](#).

**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](#).