News from the Center for Global Communication Studies

Volume Two, Number Three, April 2009

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Staff News

Congratulations to Libby Morgan and her husband, Aditya Beri. The couple welcomed their first child, Anika Audrey Beri, seven pounds eight ounces, 19.5 inches, on Thursday, March 12. Libby will be on maternity leave until May 17. If you need to assistance, please contact Christy Nickles via e-mail.

Sylvie Beauvais left CGCS for a new opportunity as the Associate Director of Wharton Entrepreneurial Programs for the Wharton School. We are most grateful to Sylvie for all her efforts at CGCS these past few years. Her new email is: Beauvais@wharton.upenn.edu.

Visiting Scholar: Moustafa Ayad

Moustafa Ayad (March 2009)

Moustafa Ayad, a master’s student at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, has been working with CGCS on gathering resources for the Annenberg-Jordan Media Institute Workshop to produce a course reader and bibliography that can help make a permanent contribution to
civil society groups interested in the rule of law.

Prior to his bachelor’s degree, he worked as a journalist for three years for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Additionally, he has written a number of editorial pieces on the state of democracy and media in the Middle East and its effects on its populace. His research focus is on the construction of identity through the use of digital media and journalistic practice by youth in economically depressed and marginalized communities. It is his hope to apply his findings and research interests in a similar fashion to youth in the Arab Middle East and North Africa.

Currently, he runs a program at a rural high school in Rantoul, IL, where youth are struggling with issues of race, economic disparity and methods for addressing social, political and economic change. The youth are using digital media in hopes to address those issues. Moustafa also has worked as a consultant for independent media and is appearing in an upcoming Public Broadcasting Service documentary in June entitled “New Muslim Cool,” chronicling the plight of American Muslim converts in a post-9/11 environment. He hopes he can channel his professional and academic background into pursuing a doctoral degree on the role and use of digital media production within distressed environments to effect policy and social change. Contact Moustafa via e-mail.

Events

**Reporting with the Mobile Phone: The Role of Mobile Technology as an Information Platform in China**  
**April 20, 2009: Room 500**

CGCS, in cooperation with the Communication University of China, will examine the relationship between cellular phones and the flow of news and information in a society where Internet access is still restricted.

This event will be the first-ever interactive webinar run by Annenberg and CGCS. Hop on line to watch, or join in the conversation. More information here.

**Annenberg-Jordan Media Institute: Media Culture and Society**  
**April 26-30, 2009, Amman; Jordan**

This year’s Institute, the third held under CGCS’s Jordan Media Strengthening Program, will include general foundational lectures on media and communications law and policy, as well as discussion on culture industries, the impact and influence of media on women and youth, and important trends and developments affecting media in Jordan. This unique training course, offered in Arabic and English, is targeted to journalists, academics, civil society, lawyers, and regulators.

**India and Communications Studies: CGCS Preconference at the ICA**  
**May 20-21, 2009, Chicago**
In an effort to create a new coherence for the field of communication studies in India, CGCS, along with the Center for Culture, Media and Governance at Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi, is organizing a preconference (to be held alongside this year’s Chicago International Communication Association (ICA) conference) that will help map communication and culture studies in India and gather some of the leading and emerging scholars in the field. The preconference, to be held May 20 - 21, is designed to promote greater awareness of the impact of India on global pathways, and to encourage research opportunities and foster partnerships between scholars and practitioners.

The planning committee includes Biswajit Das, Radhika Parameswaran, CGCS Director Monroe E. Price and Aswin Punathambekar.

Radhika, an associate professor at the School of Journalism at Indiana University, is spending this semester as a Visiting Scholar with the Annenberg Scholar’s Program in Culture and Communication.

The pre-conference is co-sponsored by the Mudra Institute of Communication, Ahmedabad (MICA) and the Mudra Institute of Communication Research (MICORE).

Visit here for a detailed agenda. Register here.

**CIRC 2009: The Chinese Internet and Civil Society: Civic Engagement, Deliberation and Culture**

**May 27-29, 2009**

The theme of the Seventh Chinese Internet Research Conference, "The Chinese Internet and Civil Society: Civic Engagement, Deliberation and Culture," is designed to bring together scholars and professionals to examine the Chinese Internet from socioeconomic, political and cultural perspectives. While there has been significant research on the political implications of the Internet in China, we have yet to fully understand the changes the Internet is fostering in civil society, or on the intersection between the market and the state, as well as the Internet's cultural implications for identity formation, emergent cultural phenomena and social networking. This conference seeks to explore these uncharted areas through sessions on *Public Sphere and Deliberation; Censorship, Surveillance, and the State of the Chinese Internet; Civil Society in China - Challenges and Opportunities; Women and Minorities; Civic Engagement and Participation; Panics, Nationalism; and Grassroots Culture*, among others.

On May 29, a small post-conference workshop will concentrate on prominent academics, bloggers and policy analysts on Chinese Perspectives on Internet governance. For more information on CIRC 2009.

**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 Christy Nickles, 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 Christy Nickles.