



## Welcome to a New Member

We enthusiastically welcome the **Saudi Association of Communication Sciences (SACS)** as a new member of the International Federation. The association was formed in February 2002. Its founding members have graduated from US, Canadian, and European universities. It aims to embrace not only university professors, but also graduate students and media professionals. A nine member Board of Directors was elected during the constitutive assembly. Dr. Ali Al-karni, whom I had the pleasure of meeting a few years ago, was elected President, and Dr. Mansour Kadasa was elected Vice President.

No representative of the current members of the International Federation objected to SACS' request to become a member. Those adding comments to their vote expressed delight.

We are particularly pleased about the emergence of this new communication association, as there are very few communication scholars in this conflict-ridden region. The Saudi Association lists five aims – encourage concepts of communication, archive (publish) the works of its members, provide scientific advice on issues of communication, enhance the communication practices of its members, and perhaps most importantly, facilitate the production and exchange of ideas within the scope of the association's interest (about communication) inside and outside the Kingdom. These are commendable objectives in a world where force is rampant and dialogue needs to be encouraged.

Klaus Krippendorff  
Chair of the Council

## Observations From the Past

“Thanks to the printing press – the mail coach and the steam packet gifts beyond the gifts of fairies we can all see and hear what each other are doing and do and read the same things nearly at the same time.”

Maria Edgeworth, 29 December 1821 (from *Maria Edgeworth: Letters from England, 1813-1844*)

“Imagine a spider's web with innumerable threads radiating from New York more than a thousand miles over land and sea in all directions. In his station, our operator may be compared to the spider, sleepless, vigilant, ever watching for the faintest tremor from the farthest corner of his invisible fabric...These operators, thousands of miles apart, talk and joke with one another as though they were in the same room.”

Francis Collins, 1912 (quoted in Susan Douglas, 1987, *Inventing American Broadcasting - 1899-1922*)

## Members

- \*Australian & New Zealand Communication Association
- \*Latin American Communication Research Association
- \*The Association for Chinese Communication Studies
- \*Canadian Communication Association and Culture
- \*Center for the Study of Communication and Culture
- \*Chinese Communication Association
- \*Croatian Communicologists Association
- \*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kommunikationsforschung
- \*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Publizistik und Kommunikationswissenschaft
- \*Finnish Society for Communication Research
- \*Institute of Development Communication
- \*Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos Interdisciplinares de Comunicacao (INTERCOM)
- \*International Communication Association
- \*Israel Communication Association
- \*Korean Society for Journalism and Communication Studies
- \*National Communication Association
- \*Saudi Association of Communication Sciences (SACS)

## News from Members

### JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

**JULY 21-26, 2002, BARCELONA, SPAIN. 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION RESEARCH – Working Session on the Digital Divide: Frontiers within Intercultural Communication*

Convenor: Elena Vartanova, Moscow State University

Proponents of the Internet have claimed that the new digital environment would encourage the development of society in all its domains. This would be true of culture, too. Emergence of virtual museums and theatres, growth in national cultural production would contribute to increase in general literacy and better understanding of foreign cultures and nations. Promotion of distance education and creative leaning would become an essential part of the new digital culture thus fostering emergence of more professional and knowledgeable society of new digital culture universally accessible by everybody.

Real life happened to be quite discouraging. Diffusion of ICTs has hardly cured social and economic inequality in the world. This became also true of the area of culture. New divisions based on unequal access to ICTs by individuals, social groups, regions and nations have created new barriers and divides within societies and families. Until now research has focused upon economic and social consequences of disproportional access to the Internet. The very concept of Digital Divide is built around the unevenness of Internet access and uses. However, it has put little attention to obstacles in intercultural communication resulting from unequal access to ICTs, lack of skills to use them and lack of competence to grasp new digital media.

To remedy this situation, the forthcoming working session will focus on topics that deal with the consequences of the Digital Divide in the field of traditional culture and in intercultural communication between nations, cultural groups, and individuals; the promotion of national culture, cultural group production, education and media training and how public policies address these so as to overcome the Digital Divide; the awareness and understanding of foreign cultures in new digital media as influenced by the Digital Divide; the impact of monopolies on the field of cultural production; the major frontiers of intercultural communication posed by the Digital Divide; the impact of circulating popular culture products; and the possible

shift in the dominant West-East patterns of culture resulting from Internet use.

For information on this working session, contact Professor Elena Varanova at [eva@jourm.msu.ru](mailto:eva@jourm.msu.ru).

**JULY 21-26, 2002, BARCELONA, SPAIN. 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION RESEARCH – Working Session on Broadcasting in Europe: Coming to Terms with the New Public – Commercial Competitive Challenge*

Convenors: Jo Bardoel and Jan van Cuilenburg, The Amsterdam School of Communication Research

For a long time public service broadcasting, mostly operating in a monopoly regime, seemed to be Europe's gift to the world. Limited availability of broadcasting frequencies, high barriers of entry to the broadcasting market, an immense impact of the audiovisual media and their central role in the functioning of modern democracies, these were all arguments to keep broadcasting as a reserved activity for public institutions. In 1989 the newly adopted European Directive 'Television without Frontiers' did away with the remaining public broadcasting monopolies on the old continent. In fact this was an outcome of a gradual process over the past two decades in which, as a result of technological and economic changes, competition was introduced in broadcasting markets and a new, dual broadcasting order was put in place all over the European continent.

Over a decade later the new dual order seems to be pretty stable, and most European countries have some kind of a dual broadcasting system in which strong commercial and public broadcasters co-exist more or less peacefully. But the battle goes on, but not least in the European Union level.

The working session will address, among others, issues related to public broadcasters' performance in terms of social responsibility and accountability; the convergence and/or divergence of public and commercial programming; the terms of trade in the new media field; experiences of public/commercial broadcastings orders in countries outside of Europe; and new media policy alternatives and institutional arrangements.

For more information, contact Jo Bardoel at [bardoel@psecw.uva.nl](mailto:bardoel@psecw.uva.nl).

**SEPTEMBER 1-5, 2002. INTERCOM CONGRESS 2002, XXV BRAZILIAN CONGRESS OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES, UNEB – UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF BAHIA SALVADOR, BA**

The central theme of this year's conference is *Communication and Citizenship*. Given the nature of Brazilian culture, with its mix of black, white and aboriginal peoples, issues of diversity and the multiplicity of values, customs and behaviors associated with it are of utmost concern, especially when this involves the various media of expression and communication. With the diffusion of communication technologies becoming or potentially becoming more widespread, this theme is extremely relevant to the contemporary Brazilian situation. As Professor Robert Vieira notes, democracy is recovered with the inestimable aid of the media. In doing so, it reinvigorates the social ethos by representing the "demands and social yearnings of the multiple communities that compose the Brazilian reality." Given this perspective, a number of questions arise which the Congress attempts to address.

With the primary theme being *Communication and Citizenship*, panels will be held on Inter-American communication, specifically between Brazil and Canada, research and graduate education in social communication, experimental communication research, and scientific innovation in communications. Other sessions will be held on Theories of the Communication, Journalism, Advertising, Propaganda and Marketing, Publishing production, Public relations and Organizational

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### **CALL FOR IFNEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

We'd like very much to know what each member association has been doing lately. Don't assume everybody knows, for most probably don't. If you want other communication researchers to know what your association has been doing or is planning, if you want international presence at your national meetings, or if you have any international concerns, see a trend, suggest an action, write to us. We will do our best to make our many readers aware of it. Send your contributions to **Edward Slopek** at [eslopek@acs.ryerson.ca](mailto:eslopek@acs.ryerson.ca) The next issue of *IFnewsletter* will be out in November. The deadline for receipt of news items is **September 10, 2002**.

## **A Note from the New Editor**

As I write this, some forty-four forest fires are raging out of control in northern Quebec a thousand miles away from Toronto. With the heat generated, strong air currents and thick smoke, water bombers are becoming progressively more ineffective in containing their spread because the water is simply evaporating as it is dropped. As vast hectares of land are left scorched, villages are being evacuated and, as far-off as Montreal, people are being cautioned to stay indoors so as to avoid inhaling the noxious air. The resulting columns of smoke have drifted southward and, last night, entirely and ominously blocked-out the sun over Toronto. Meanwhile, the city is in the midst of a two-week old municipal workers' strike and essential services have been for the most part curtailed, with both sides in a stalemate and no end in sight. Thus far, it has been a long, hot summer.

By contrast, cyberspace has never seemed so pristine. But, even there, not all is well. And, without a doubt, as I sit here in front of my computer terminal compiling the current issue of the *IFnewsletter*, this condition is clearly reflected in the overwhelming number of conferences dealing with matters arising out of the *Digital Divide* debates. More than a usefully alliterative slogan, this important social problem points to other related divides, including the socio-economic, learning, and content. For Oscar Gandy Jr., the "real digital divide" is the product of the "widening... distinction between the citizen and consumer." Van Dijk argues that, in a familiar pattern of media adoption, the gap between those advantaged and those disadvantaged by technologies such as the Internet is increasing (for more see [http://www.nua.ie/surveys/how\\_many\\_online/index.html](http://www.nua.ie/surveys/how_many_online/index.html)). But beyond these issues, concerns have also been raised over the extended and vastly enlarged powers of surveillance of electronic communications governments have assumed since September 11. As David Noble has observed in his extraordinary critique of the automation of higher education, since then these undemocratic powers have posed a significant threat to academic freedom and free speech. In light of this development, I wonder what impact this will have on online journals.

Journals and newsletters are part of the larger cultural project. Originally appendages of the market, early gazettes featured commercial news in addition to accounts of colonial political appointments, marriages and so forth. For the readers for whom the information mattered, opening the pages assured them membership in an imagined community. In that the earliest journals and gazettes also had a unity of place and time, they represented, according to James O'Donnell, a "wide range of observations about the world of learning reported to and from a particular location at the date of issue."

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Communication, sound media, Audiovisual communication, Technologies of the Information and the Communication, Political Economy and Public Politics of Communication, Educative communication, Communication and Citizenship, and Culture of the Minorities, Serial fiction, Semiotic Approaches to Communication, Folk Communication, and Sports Media.

For more information, visit the website at [www.intercom.org.br](http://www.intercom.org.br).

**OCTOBER 17-19, MOSCOW, RUSSIA. THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH (ECCR) AND THE FACULTY OF JOURNALISM OF MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY – Mass Media and Communication in the E-society in the XXI Century: Access and Participation**

Issues related to the development of mass media and telecommunications will be discussed in the October forum. Events at the conference include sessions on the Information Society as well as 300 Years of Russian Newspaper: From a Printing Media to E-media.

The Congress Program includes plenary and section meetings which will cover a wide range of issues related to the history of Russian journalism as well as today's transformations of media in the broader context.

Leading media and communication scholars, policymakers and practitioners are expected to participate. Among them are: **Mr. Michael Gorbachev**, former President of the USSR; **Dr. Waheed Khan**, Deputy Secretary-General for Communication, UNESCO Paris; **Mr. Philippe Busquin**, EU Commissioner for Research, Brussels; **Dr. Peter Johnston**, EC ICT, Brussels; **Dr. Jean-Claude Burgelman**, IPTS, Sevilla, Spain; **Dr. Brian Showsmith**, ECU, Perth, Australia; **Dr. Jan van Cuilenburg**, Media Commissioner, Netherlands; **Dr Pradip Thomas**, Research Director, WACC, London, UK; **Dr. Kaarle Nordenstreng**, Tampere University, Finland; **Tefhi Rantonen**, Tampere University, Finland; **Dr. Robert Picard**, Manager, Media Group, Business Research and Development Center, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Finland; **K.M. Shrivastava**, Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, India; and **Dr. Antti Kasvio**, eTampere, Finland.

On October 17, 2002, plenary meetings will be dedicated to the 300th Anniversary of the Russian Press and some of the issues that will be discussed include Russian Media in the International Context, 1703-2002, Russian Press Abroad, , and Glasnost and World Press at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. On October 18-19, 2002, an International Scientific Conference will be held on the topic of "Mass Media and Communications in the E-Society of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Access and Participation."

## New Editor's Note Continued

The *IFnewsletter* continues this tradition of negotiating the local and the global. But, more so, it presents news of events that span what Felix Guattari has labeled the *three ecologies*: the environmental, the social, and the mental. As I sit here, in my overheated office, I ponder the relationship between these ecologies and wonder, once again, what impact the digital will have on the analogue world before me. For, as Guattari once declared, "an ecology of the virtual is...just as pressing as ecologies of the visible."

As the new editor of the IFNewsletter, this undertaking is in effect a return for me to an earlier day when the *IFNewsletter* saw its first iteration and I served as its first editor. Since first being asked by Prof. Krippendorff to edit it nearly a decade ago, I have moved on from being a member of the faculty of the University of Calgary Communication Program to my current position as Program Director of New Media in the School of Image Arts of Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and instructor in the joint Ryerson/York University Graduate Program in Communication and Culture.

It is from this vantage point that I now approach the editorship of the *IFnewsletter*. In view of that, it is with great pleasure and anticipation that I assume the responsibilities recently held by Ling Chen (who I must say did a splendid job) and invite you to contribute items to upcoming issues. Any news of events (conferences, etc.), updates on ongoing projects, proposals for new and collaborative projects, etc. involving fellow *IFederation* members will be most welcome. Aside from the above information, I would be most interested in including reports on conferences held, surveys of perceived trends, and brief reviews of worthwhile books.

As Prof. Krippendorff once observed in a paper written in 1975 outlining the principles of information storage and retrieval in society, "cultural heritage may well be regarded as a body of past information which has survived the interaction with the individual problems of every day life and is found to be in a continuous process of transmission from one individual to another, including from one generation to another. It is maintained not because it is useful to society – a possibility that need not be denied – but because the existing channels of interpersonal communication continue to let it circulate repeatedly." The *Ifnewsletter* is but one such channel.

Dr. Edward Slopek,  
New Media Program,  
The School of Image Arts,  
Ryerson Polytechnic University,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

## Calls for Participation

**AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 6, 2002, UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON, UK. 2002 DOCTORAL SUMMER SCHOOL**

The doctoral school will be divided into two parts of 5 days. The first part of the summer school is student based, and will involve a series of workshops and presentations relating to the doctoral students' research on the theme of "public access and interactivity in the digital age." The last five days of the summer school involves structured events on the theme of "public service broadcasting in the digital age."

The summer school offers an invaluable opportunity for international doctoral students to disseminate their research, assess the international standards for doctoral research in media and communication and network with scholars and peers in their field. The deadline for submission is the end of July. For more information, contact Jan Servaes and Rico Lie at [freenet002@pi.be](mailto:freenet002@pi.be) or [www.eccr.info](http://www.eccr.info).

## Related Events

**SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2002, WASHINGTON, D.C., USA. AMERICAN COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION – "Resurrecting the Generalist: Interdisciplinarianism and the Return of the Classical Scholar"**

New communication technologies facilitate relationships across disciplinary boundaries. Interdisciplinary studies have been given a new voice as communication scholars everywhere are beginning to open doors to areas once thought beyond the scope of what we do. The upcoming conference will provide an opportunity to reflect upon the relevance of disciplinary boundaries and to consider how the expanding breadth of the communication field can present new avenues for research.

For more conference information, please contact Todd S. Frobish at [tfrobish@iona.edu](mailto:tfrobish@iona.edu).

**OCTOBER 13-16, 2002, MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS - AoIR [ASSOCIATION OF INTERNET RESEARCHERS]**

**OCTOBER 16-19, SEPTEMBER 2003, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA - AoIR [ASSOCIATION OF INTERNET RESEARCHERS]**

It will come as no surprise that digital communications networks such as the Internet are changing the way

people interact with each other, with profound effects on social relations and institutions. Research on the Internet is a growing part of academic work which cuts across a wide variety of disciplines. Until recently, this interdisciplinarity led to some isolation among researchers studying the same phenomenon from a variety of perspectives. In 1999, Steven Jones, Nancy Baym and others created the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) to help bring these researchers together.

AoIR has a Web site (<http://aoir.org>) and a mailing list where researchers can exchange the latest information. It has also begun sponsoring an annual conference, the 2001 conference was sponsored by the University of Minnesota. In 2002, the Association of Internet Researchers conference will be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, and, in 2003, it will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Please visit (<http://aoir.org/2002>) for further information on the upcoming conference in Maastricht. This year's theme is **Net/Work/Theory**. Contributors are called to reflect on how to theorize what we know about the Internet and on how to apply what we know theoretically in practice. The conference will be held for the first time in Europe, whose intellectual environments have traditionally been a source of social and cultural theory.

For more information on next year's conference, contact co-chairs Liss Jeffrey ([ljeffrey@mcluhan.org](mailto:ljeffrey@mcluhan.org)) or Ira Nayman ([ira@bydesign-elab.net](mailto:ira@bydesign-elab.net))

## Recently Held

**MAY 28, 2002, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA. Harold Innis Symposium – "Commemorating Harold Innis: The Cultural Mediation of Time, Space, and Technology."**

This symposium examined the legacy of Harold Innis, a long-time professor at the University of Toronto and one of Canada's pre-eminent intellectual figures, who died fifty years ago. Presentations were made by William J. Buxton, Heather Menzies, Charles R. Acland, and James W. Carey. Jody Berland served as the chair/discussant.

Presentations were given on "Innis's Cultural Project: Space-Biased Modernity and the Recovery of Human Time" (Buxton), "Residual Media: Innis in a Cultural History of Technology" (Acland), and the contemporary significance of Innis's work (Carey).

For transcripts, etc., please contact William J. Buxton at [buxton@vax2.concordia.ca](mailto:buxton@vax2.concordia.ca).

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**MAY 29-31, DRESDEN, GERMANY. CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY FOR JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCE.**

Over forty presenters from six countries recently gathered in Dresden, Germany, to deliver papers on the topic of "The Promises and Dangers of Democratic Media." Specific topics included communication during election campaigns, the role of spin doctors, e-democracy, and quality benchmarks in policy development. Among the many participants, Kurk Biendenkopf, Dr. Thomas Patterson and Prof. Boguslawa Dobek, provided lectures on "message hunger" in the entertainment economy, social integration by mass media, the influence of public relations, and the globalization of media democracy.

For more about this conference contact the Institute for Communications Science of the Technical University of Dresden.

**MAY 29-31, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA. Canadian Communication Association Annual Conference**

This year the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada adopted *Boundaries: Geographies, Genres, Genders* as the central theme of the 2002 Congress.

Following on this, there was a rich variety of sessions addressing this theme at the *Canadian Communication Association (CCA)* conference. Papers were presented on mobile boundaries, social aspects of the Internet, communication, social justice movements and globalization, geopoetics and disaster, health

communication, public policy implications on national and international privacy legislation, and communication after September 11. An extension of the last session, a thought-provoking keynote speech was delivered by Prof. James Carey for both the CCA and the *Film Studies Association of Canada (FSAC)*.

For more information, contact Sheryl Hamilton at [sheryl.hamilton@mcgill.ca](mailto:sheryl.hamilton@mcgill.ca), Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

**JUNE 5-8, SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA, BOLIVIA. SIXTH ANNUAL LATIN-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF ALAIC .**

The central issue for this conference was "Communication, Globalization, and the Plural Society." This was coupled with sessions on "Communication Sciences and Society: A Dialogue for the Digital Era."

For more detailed information, please contact Erick Torrico, President of ABOIC and Bolivian Director of ALAIC, at [e\\_torrico@yahoo.com](mailto:e_torrico@yahoo.com).

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