Democratizing Global Communications

**Conference Schedule** (there will be breaks throughout the days):

Friday FRIDAY, SEPT 26: 3PM-5PM:
-- Opening panel discussion with initial presentation by Professor Hamelink explaining the background to, and current state of, organizing around the Charter. 3 Panelists (to be determined) will also present reactions. Group Discussion to follow.

-- 6:30-9:30 Cocktail Hour and Dinner at Friedrick Center.

SATURDAY, SEPT 27: 9AM-5PM:
-- 9-12 am -- 4 Working Groups:
Normative and Conceptual Clarification: Definitions, Values, Underpinnings, Assumptions

-- 12 - 1 Lunch

-- 1-5 pm -- 4 Working Groups:
Elements of, and Strategies for, Democratizing Global Communications: Who, What, Where, When, Why, How.

-- 6:30/7:00 -- ? Cocktails and Dinner at Local Restaurant. Transportation provided for those without cars.

SUNDAY, SEPT 28: 9AM-12PM:
-- 9-12 -- Closing Full Group Discussion:
Summary and Strategy: Large group discussion about strategies and next steps. Commitments for action, collaboration, etc.

-- End of Conference

# Democratizing Global Communications

Dear Democratizing Global Communications Conference Attendees:

We are pleased that you will be joining us in September for the DGC Conference. As you will see from the broad range and scope of responses to the PCC, it is going to be a time of provocative and productive discussion.

In this packet you will find the following materials enclosed:

- A copy of the People's Communication Charter
- A reader of the PCC responses submitted thus far (loose leaf/3 hole punched).
- A map of the UW campus.
- The Conference Schedule (including meal and social event locations).
- Food and lodging information.
- Information about travel from the Dane Co. Airport.
- Telephone, Fax, and E-mail contact information.
- Conference Attendee List

**********

**Please respond BY E-MAIL OR FAX to the following by September 20th:**

1) What meal would you like for Friday's dinner at the Friedrick Center?:

Please Choose One (if we don't hear from you, we will select Chicken unless you requested vegetarian meals):

Lemon Rosemary Chicken
Vegetarian Lasagna
Beef Tenderloin

2) Please e-mail or fax a list of your publications. Conference attendees have requested that we compile a publications list. If you get these to us by September 20th, we can have it compiled for the conference.
**********

Upon your arrival in Madison, a registration packet containing further conference information, additional PCC responses, and a guide to local restaurants and sites in the Madison area will be available.

Those of you who are arriving from other locations will be contacted by e-mail and/or fax regarding lodging and airport pick up arrangements. You will hear from us by Sept. 16th.

We are grateful to a number of people and organizations for making this conference possible. We thank the Wisconsin Anonymous Fund and the Evjue Foundation for their financial support. We also thank the Cultural Environment Movement, the Centre for Communication and Human Rights, and the Journalism and Comparative Literature Departments at the University of Wisconsin for co-sponsoring the conference. Finally, we thank all of you for your contributions in making this intellectual and political gathering a reality.

Until we convene in September,

Allen Hunter, Jo Ellen Fair, Mary Layoun, Robert McChesney, Hemant Shah, and Sousan Arafeh

Please see other side

Allan Hunter
212 583 1726
and 2 more
fax 1727
EHUNTER@FACSTAFF.WISC.EDU

**Food and Lodging Information:**

**Food:**

All meals will be supplied by the conference and will be provided at the times and locations indicated in the conference schedule. **Please respond with your meal selection as requested on the first page of this letter.**

**Lodging:**

Attendees from Out of Town: We will contact you by e-mail or fax by September 16th with information regarding your lodging arrangements. Most out of towners will be staying at the Friedrick Center. Please let Sousan know if you would like to smoke in your room.

Out of Town Attendees Staying With Friends Or At Other Locations: Please let us know if you have arranged to stay with someone in town as well as whether will need initial transportation assistance to your lodging location after the Opening Session on Friday..

Attendees In The Madison Area: We'll see you at the conference, with everyone else, on Friday, September 26th at 3:00 in the Lake Room (Rm. 8060) of the Social Sciences Building at 1180 Observatory Drive. (If you are willing to host a conference attendee as a guest at your home, please let us know).

**Information About Travel from the Dane Co. Airport:**

We will be shuttling attendees from the airport to the campus at regular intervals. As noted earlier, please let us know your flight information so that we can develop an efficient schedule. We will notify you of your pickup time by e-mail or fax.

You may also take a taxi from the airport. Taxis are located at the south end of the airport near the baggage claim area. The cost of the ride typically ranges between $10-$15 US dollars.

Unfortunately, there is no bus service from the airport.

**Telephone, Fax, and E-Mail Contact Information:**

If you need to be contacted during the conference, here are the numbers and addresses that will be checked regularly:

Phone: 608-262-1420
Fax: 608-265-3405
E-Mail: smarafeh@students.wisc.edu (Please ask sender to clearly indicate your name in the subject line).
Late Night Emergency Number: 608-251-2602 for people not staying at the Friedrick Center.
608-231-1341 for people at the Friedrick Center.

There are pay telephones throughout campus and the Friedrick Center as well as phones in the Friedrick Center rooms. Access to fax or e-mail facilities can be arranged through Sousan Arafeh, the DCG Conference Coordinator. She can be contacted at the first 4 numbers/addresses above.

**Information about Smoking:**

For those attendees who smoke, it is useful to know that smoking is not allowed in any of the University buildings and only in the Friedrick Center's basement Smoking Lounge and sleeping rooms designated for smoking. The University's policy is that smoking should take place outdoors. Thus, smokers will find ashtrays at the entrances/exits of most buildings.

Democratizing Global Communications

**Democratizing Global Communications: Evaluating "The People's Communication Charter" as a Strategic Document**

In response to the global transformations in communications and culture, people around the world -- professional and popular cultural producers, consumers, and indigenous peoples, as well as fundamentalist movements and progressive democratic coalitions -- are organizing against corporate control of information and culture. Responses include attempts to develop alternative media (desktop publishing, micro-radio stations, local theater and dance troupes, for example), forge alternative uses of dominant media (email and cable tv), and develop policy initiatives to regulate emerging communications. The responses are motivated by many impulses -- complementary and incompatible -- ranging from a commitment to cultural pluralism as crucial for political democracy, to a commitment to cultural repression and censorship as essential to thwart secularism and commercialism. Indeed, major disagreements exist over whether democratic control of today's communications systems:

- is feasible or desirable,
- can be used to enhance a broader democratic political culture, and/or
- is compatible with individual liberty and technical innovation.

Not all scholars, policy analysts, and citizens even agree that concentrated corporate control of communications undermines democratic discourse, and those who do think this to be the case differ:

- normatively about how democratic oversight ought to be structured, and
- strategically about how democratic oversight can be achieved.

Analyzing what political responses to the globalization of communications make sense is therefore both intellectually exciting and politically relevant.

The People's Communication Charter is an intervention into a particular political, economic, and cultural context. The object of the conference is to explore the Charter's strengths and weaknesses as a normative statement and as a basis for creating alliances. This conference will focus on what kinds of research and strategic planning can further – or perhaps refine -- the goals enunciated in the Charter.

****

The statements and questions below are designed to stimulate thought for discussion. You may want to consider those questions that seem most relevant to your own work and concerns as you prepare your 2-page (double-spaced) think piece; however, please do not feel bound by either their range or scope.

How are those cultural forms, practices or aesthetics that you like being enhanced or undermined by the globalization of the media?

How does the current corporatized communications structure affect you/your community's/your organization's ability to communicate?

What light do historical perspectives shed on the issues raised by the People's Communication Charter?

please see other side

What light do inter-cultural perspectives shed on the issues raised by the People's Communication Charter?

Do the controversies concerning the New World Information Communications Order provide lessons for adherents to the People's Communication Charter? How? What are they?

Do constituencies currently exist for a movement to democratically control communications? In which countries? Are there non-dominant constituencies that are resistant to progressive democratic interventions such as the People's Communication Charter? How might they be won over to democratic practices?

Would the People's Communication Charter be beneficial (or harmful) for different constituencies such as non-state peoples; diasporic populations; oppressed religious, ethnic, racial, and other cultural groups; women and children; rural populations; etc.? How?

What are the People's Communication Charter's strengths and weaknesses as a symbolic political intervention? What other symbolic interventions might be needed?

What are the range of phenomena over which democratic control of communications might be sought (folk culture, mass culture, various mass media, corporate communications, information generation and distribution, etc.)?

What political forms might democratic control of culture and communications take?

What forms of property might be most consonant with a democratic media?

Are there any specific economic, political, or cultural trends in communications, media, and culture that subvert democratic control? Which aspects most contribute to democratic control?

What could/should the roles of nation-states and/or global governance bodies be in ensuring democratic control of communications?

Does the purported need for security by various military and intelligence bodies frustrate democratic control of communications? How?

What roles could/should non-governmental bodies such as representatives of non-state peoples, trade unions, religious organizations, etc. have in controlling or providing democratic oversight of the media?

What, if any, fears does the prospect of the democratization of communications raise for you?

Does the concept of "globalization" need to be refined to adequately grasp current trends in information, culture and communications? In what ways?

Can we assume traditional or practical definitions of key terms/concepts such as “communications”, “democracy”, “control”, etc.? Should we strive to create new terms/concepts? How?

Is the classic tension in political theory between democracy and liberty constituted or resolved in the domain of communications? How?

How might various interpretations of human rights frame the politics of communications? What might the strengths and weaknesses of this approach be?

Democratizing Global Communications Conference Attendee List

Mark Alleyne
Loyola University Lakeshore
Communication Arts and Sciences
820 N Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611 USA

Harry Brighouse
UW-Madison
Philosophy Department
Rm 5117, 600 N Park, HC White Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Mark Crispin Miller
Johns Hopkins University
3736 Tudor Arms Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21211 USA

Kate Duncan
Cultural Environment Movement
35-8 Market Street, Suite 0303
Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

George Gerbner
Cultural Environment Movement
3508 Market Street
Philadephia, PA 19104 USA

Cees Hamelink
Center for Communication and Human Rights
Burgemeester Hogguerstraat 123
Amsterdam, 1064 CL The Netherlands

Janine Jackson
FAIR
130 W 25th St.
New York, NY 10001 USA

Shanti Kumar
UW-Madison
Communication Arts
Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Tomislav Longinovic
UW-Madison
Slavic Languages
1438 Van Hise Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

David McPherson
University of Western Ontario
School of Journalism
London, ONT Canada

Dan Appelman
Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe
525 University Ave., 11th Floor
Palo Alto, CA 94301 USA

Jeffrey Chester
Center for Media Education
1151 K Street, Suite 518
Washington, DC 20005 USA

James Danky
The State Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Jo Ellen Fair
UW-Madison
Journalism
5148 Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Ruth Goldman
UW-Madison
Communication Arts
Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Michele Hilmes
UW-Madison
Communication Arts
6177 Vilas Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Karol Jakubowicz
University of Warsaw
Institute of Journalism
PTASIA 4 M. 29
Warsaw, 00-138 Poland

Mary Layoun
UW-Madison
Comparative Literature
938 Van Hise Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Rick Maxwell
Northwestern University
Communciations Department
535 E 80th St.
New York, NY 10021 USA

Toby Miller
NYU
Tisch School of Arts - Cinema Studies
721 Broadway, Rm. 600
New York, NY 10003 USA

Sousan Arafeh
UW-Madison
Havens Center
8117 Social Sciences
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Rosemary Coombe
University of Toronto
Faculty of Law
78 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ONT M5S 2C5 CANADA

Ann DeVaney
UW-Madison
Curriculum and Instruction
Rm 544B Teacher Education
Madision, WI 53706 USA

Lew Friedland
UW-Madison
Journalism
5138 Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Jean Grow-von Dorn
UW-Madison
Journalism
Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Allen Hunter
UW-Madison
Havens Center
8117 Social Sciences
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Heinze Klug
UW-Madison
Law Department
Law Building, Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Jaques Lezra
UW-Madison
English Department
7187 H.C. White Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Robert McChesney
UW-Madison
Journalism
5158 Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Steve Miller
CPSR
92 Henry St.
Cambridge, MA 02139 USA

Please see other side

Bella Mody
Michigan State University
Department of Telecommunications
College of Communication
East Lansing, MI 48824-1212 USA

Kaarle Nordenstreng
University of Tampere
Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication
P.O. Box 607
Tampere, SF-33101 FINLAND

Lisa Parks
UW-Madison
Communication Arts
Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Marc Raboy
Universite de Montreal
Communications
CP 6128 Succursale Centre-ville
Montreal, QUE H2V 2Y4 Canada

Hemant Shah
UW-Madison
Journalism
5002 Vilas Communications Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Pradip Thomas
World Association for Christian Communication
357 Kennington Lane
London, ENG SE11 5QY UK

Zarni
UW-Madison
Curriculum and Instruction
Teacher Education Building
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Alfonso Morales
University of Arizona
Department of Sociology
SS 400
Tuscon, AZ 85721 USA

Sean O Siochru
McBride Roundtable/Nexus Research
14 Eaton Brae
Shankill, Co. Dublin Ireland

Darrell Posey
Mansfield College, University of Oxford
Oxford Centre for the Environment, Ethics, and Society
Oxford, OX1 3TF UK

Louise Robbins
University of Wisconsin
School of Library and Information Studies
4238 HC Whitel Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Marc Silberman
UW-Madison
German Department
818 Van Hise Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Shalini Venturelli
American University
International Division, School of International Service
400 Massachusettes Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016 USA

John Nichols
The Capital Times
1901 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Madison, WI 53713 USA

Barry Orton
UW-Madison
UW Outreach
Rm 220, Lowell Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Todd Price
UW-Madison
Curriculum and Instruction
225 N Mills St.
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Raphael Roncagliolo
AMARC
Avenida 2 de mayo 1609, 3 B
San isidro, Lima Peru

Marion Smiley
UW-Madison
Department of Political Science
110 North Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA

Silvio Waisbord
Rutgers University
Communications
4 Huntington Street
New Brunswick, NJ 8903 USA