

International Challenges (Greenway Ballroom I)

Chair: Leslie Regan Shade - Concordia University

Pinitta Sukkosol - Naresuan University, Phitsanulok Thailand -

Indigenous Rights and Knowledge

The research titled “An approach to empower community radio in the lower northern Thailand” was conducted using integrative concept on mass communication: community media, human right community media freedom, knowledge management. The objective of this study on the knowledge management of community radio broadcasting is to search for good prototypes on the approach and learning process of the radio. All analysis is based on notes and videotape records of the opinions of local experts, academics and project collaborators from 18 locations nationwide.

The results revealed community radio prototypes for implementing public radio broadcasting as the following: Kon Muang Singh Community Radio in Singhaburi province, Kethchaiyo Community Radio in Ang-thong province, KonRamai Community Radio in Nakon Si Thammarat province and KonMuangLii Community Radio in Lampoon province.

Meanwhile, the researcher could categorize community radios into 7 types as they were opportunity seeker, pleasing for survival, outspoken, compromising, idealism, project hunter and radio SMEs. Furthermore, the key characteristics of community radio should be having same ideal and goal as well as similar background, also good willingness on community development and interested on contents.

After researcher went through the practice of community radios in selected samples, it could be categorized into 7 types: opportunity seeker, pleasing for survival, outspoken, compromise, idealist, project hunter and radio SMEs. Key characteristics of community radio should be (1) having the same ideology and goal, (2) having the similar background, good willingness to help community, and (3) having been interested in contents.

Recommendation of this study was that to become a community radio the

operator should have the process of knowledge transfer using the same pattern of conversation as regularly done among sender, receiver and technician. The process also include promoting communities to be ready and willingness to be self-learning and developing.

Donald Browne - University of Minnesota - What Is 'Community' in "Community Radio?"

Drawing upon my international field research over the past 25 years, as well as various academic and other studies of community media, I consider the concept of 'community' in 'community radio' from two standpoints: the 'actors' (audiences, media staff members) and 'nature of community' (indigenous/ethnic/linguistic minority, gender, generation, sexual orientation, topical interest such as hobbyist, etc.). I focus the ways in which audience members and radio staff constitute communities that interact with each other and among themselves, and how those interactions may influence both the nature and the effectiveness of community radio. I present my findings through a framework including the elements of goalsetting, community as presenters, community as audience, media staff as 'internal community,' and the role of audience research in articulating the nature of communities.

Md. Abu Naser - Southern Illinois University - Restructuring Public Service Broadcasting Television Network: A Suggested Model for Emerging Democracies

Despite all the challenges and the decline in public service broadcasting (PSB) institutions in the past twenty years or so, interest in public service media remains high among the media practitioners and scholars. PSB is particularly relevant to countries undergoing democratic transition, including those in post-conflict situations. Unfortunately many of these countries are reluctant to make necessary changes to create or even approximate the conditions required to support the major criteria for PSB. In many fragile democracies of Asia, Africa and Latin America, governments are afraid of losing control over the existing PSB stations. The concept of freedom itself is a regulated one in many of these countries and the broadcast media is no exception. As democracy itself is not governed by the parliament or rule of law and can not be protected by the judiciary, media freedoms in these countries are asymmetric and unpredictable. The states continue to retain its monolithic ownership structure over the PSBs as the governments fully and absolutely own and

manage these institutions practically turning those into government broadcaster, rather than a truly public broadcaster. Heavily influenced by Habermas's notion of public sphere, the article's theoretical grounding is that PSBs can truly operate as servants of the public interest only when the independence of public broadcasters is guaranteed. Taking Bangladesh as a case study, this article suggests an alternative model to make public service broadcasting television network more effective. Based on the literature and statistical data from multiple sources, this article argues that there is indeed a trend toward renewed confidence in the future of PSBs and these institutions should be protected in countries like Bangladesh for the sake of proper functioning of democracy. However recognizing the fact that society is more diverse now and that technology provides us many more alternatives, public service broadcasting be re-structured to make it more relevant for the 21st century. The findings of the study show that bodies which exercise regulatory or other powers over broadcasters, such as broadcast authorities or boards of public broadcasters, must be independent. In this back-drop this article suggests a total restructuring of the PSB governance, finance and management systems with the establishment of an independent broadcasting commission. The article details the structure and functions of this independent and quasi-judicial regulatory body for Bangladesh that might be followed in other developing nations. Apart from independent management, PSBs must be economically viable to compete in the global digitalized media market. The PSB institutions should actively participate in the new media broadcasting industry. The study concludes that all these new services would help PSBs to effectively reduce its dependence on private advertising and direct government funding. The author believes that the proposed model for Bangladesh might be followed in other developing countries to ensure the desired qualities and functions of public service broadcasters.

Jane Regan - Paying the piper at Haiti's community radio stations: The nefarious role of foreign funding

Clandestine radio played an important role in the political and ideological resistance to the brutal three-year coup d'état (1991-1994) against Haiti's first-ever democratically elected president. Not surprisingly, the post-coup period saw a flowering of the popular and community radio movement, with over two dozen stations springing up in just a few years. Peasant groups, women's organizations, youth, workers and the unemployed seized the microphones and took to the airwaves as Haiti's democratic and popular movement tried to recover from the coup by speaking up and speaking out.

The sudden growth of so many stations as part of what was then assumed to be a vibrant democratic and popular movement was only made possible by a torrent (by Haitian standards) of outside funding – from the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Did the radios play a role in the Haitian peoples' struggles for justice and democracy? Could their impacts be detected? What part did the outside funders and "experts" – trainers from the capital and abroad – play in the lives of the radio stations and grassroots groups that ran them? What lessons – practical and theoretical – could be learned about popular and community radios and their potentials, for Haiti and for the rest of the world?

Looking at the popular and community radio movement in 2002-2004, about six years after most stations were founded, with an update this year, this study made some disturbing discoveries.

Respondent: Fabrizio Germano - Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona