ICTs, New Media and Social Change in Africa

15 June 2012

Conference organised by the Africa Media Centre Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI).

In Africa, as in many societies, new technologies increasingly play a prominent role in the production and exchange of information. In spite of their limited penetration on the continent, new information technologies are beginning to have a noticeable effect on politics, activism, culture, entertainment and many other facets of public and
private life. There is frequent usage of the Internet and of mobile devices, the rise of influential blogs and news sites, evidence of social media that are more than tools for self-presentation together with the overreliance of major newspapers, radio and television on websites for a broader and more diverse reach in ways that suggest a paradigm shift and the alteration of social values in communication practices today. Evolving media policies, attitudes and use patterns in Africa and the Global South remarkably indicate that the benefits of ICTs and New Media are not confined to the Global North alone. Key questions, however, relate to how new forms of communication technologies have advanced or subverted social change in Africa.
The purpose of this one-day conference is to bring together African scholars from diverse disciplines to collectively explore the thematic issue of the transforming role of ICTs and new media. We are concerned to bring to the fore sub-themes of changing production environments, shifts in funding mechanisms, the role of audiences/users, regulation debates and the ICTs' potential for human development. Wikileaks have, for example, shown
how African governments have struggled to maintain transparency and uphold their citizens' right to information.

5th annual Media Education Summit, 11-12th September 2012 at Bournemouth University.

This national summit will provide valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges facing media education both now and in the future. The summit builds on four previous successful meetings, each of which attracted over 150 delegates from 65 Higher Education Institutions.
This year the event will be hosted by Bournemouth University. We are now inviting proposals for papers and panel discussions relating to the conference themes. Please submit a short abstract of up to 300 words, including no more than 3 references. The best papers from the Media Education Summit 2012 will form part of a special edition of the Media Education Research Journal (MERJ). Therefore, prospective presenters should keep this in mind

when submitting proposals for the summit. The summit paper then will be delivered in one form, but in the preparation the work should also be conceived as a potential written piece. Please see submission guidelines on the MERJ website for further details. The editors of MERJ will commission submissions for the journal at the summit.
Please send your 300 word abstracts and any queries to info@cemp.ac.uk with 'Summit Paper' in the subject line by Friday June 1st 2012.

More details on conference at: http://www.cemp.ac.uk/summit/2012/index.php

Moving boundaries in mobilities research

University of Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy)
Dates: 5-7 July 2012.

This conference aims at discussing new directions in mobilities research, showcasing the state of the art in the field, and providing a unique opportunity to create lasting links among researchers, especially in the north and the south of Europe. This is part of a series of regular events jointly organised between European universities and Cosmobilities to pro-mote mobilities research in southern and eastern Europe
and strengthen links between researchers in and outside academia. The language of this event will be English but the range of papers presented will be a reflection of the diversity of concerns, approaches and methodologies informing mo-bilities research in Europe and beyond. In order to maximise opportunities to present a wide ran-ge of research and learn about what is happening in the field of mobilities, this event is organised as a 'festival of ideas' consisting of short presentations followed by plenty of time for questions and collective discussion.

Central & East European
Communication & Media Conference
Media, power and empowerment

INVITATION FOR CEECOM PRAGUE 2012

The Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism at Charles University in Prague and ECREA's Central and East-European Network are pleased to invite you to the Central and Eastern European Communication and Media Conference CEECOM Prague 2012.

The conference will take place in Prague, Czech Republic on April 27-28, 2012.

CEECOM Prague 2012 is a follow-up to conferences previously held in Książ, Poland (2008), Brno/Telč, Czech

Republic (2009), Bratislava, Slovak Republic (2010) and Kraków, Poland (2011). For the fifth edition of this regional assembly we are happy to bring together the communication and media scholars from all CEE countries. The conference is organized in cooperation with the CEE Network formed within European Communication Research and Education Association ECREA.

CEECOM Prague 2012 calls for papers, posters and panels pertaining to all aspects of communication and media processes in Central and Eastern Europe. Topics related to the conference main theme "Media, Power, Empowerment" are especially encouraged, although this is not deemed necessary, and contributions to a variety of other themes are welcome.

The call for papers, posters and panels will be open until February 6, 2012.

The submissions will be reviewed by members of the conference's Scientific Board. All dates that are important for the submission of proposals and for participants' registration are summarized below; the procedure for submitting papers, panels and posters, and for registering for the conference is explained in the sections "Abstracts submissions" and "Registration" on the conference website. Some food for thought to inspire participants on potential conference topics is provided in the section "About the conference".

CEECOM Prague 2012 is a bottom-up initiative encouraging CEE media and communication scholars to strengthen their sense of belonging to European academia and manifest their perspectives as a distinctive but integral layer of established knowledge on communication and media processes. It also seeks to provide support in the CEE researchers' pursuit of excellence in scholarship. In doing so it is a part of a broader endeavor emphasized by the European Communication Conferences in Hamburg, 2010 and Istanbul, 2012.

CEECOM Prague 2012 will arrange for distinguished key notes, a democratic environment open to top researchers as well as starting scholars, a prolific working spirit combined with warm friendliness - and it will all be "packaged" together with the charming sceneries of the golden city of Prague.

Welcome to CEECOM Prague 2012.

Schedule of important dates:

- 6 Feb, 2012 abstracts submission deadline

- 1 Mar - 7 Mar, 2012 notification of acceptance/refusal period
- 1 Mar - 13 Apr, 2012 registration period
- 1 Mar - 13 Apr, 2012 payment period
- 1 Mar - 19 Mar, 2012 early bird fees payment period
- 20 Mar - 13 Apr, 2012 regular fees payment period
- 20 Apr, 2012 programme available on the website
- 27 - 28 Apr, 2012 CEECOM Prague 2012

THE CONFERENCE MAIN THEME

The main theme of the conference is "Media, Power, Empowerment". The theme reflects the ambiguity of media communication in its relation to societal dominance and resistance. This theme aims to motivate contemplations on how these potentials are actualized in the distinctive political and historical situations of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Topics related to the conference main theme are especially encouraged, although this is not deemed necessary, and contributions on a variety of other themes are welcome. Subthemes that can be used as an inspiration for potential conference topics are provided below. These subthemes anchor the main theme's broader complexities and are especially relevant to the post-transformational character of the media systems and cultures of Central and Eastern Europe.

      Subthemes:

- Citizenships through and by media
- Educating media professionals: between vocational training and academy
- Engagement and deliberation in the European public sphere
- Establishing community/alternative media
- Future of journalism as a democratic institution
- Historical development of media institutions and organizations
- Media histories and memories
- Media industries transformed?
- "People formerly known as the audience": consumption, use, participation
- Perspectives on media ownership
- Political communication in times of mediation
- Popular culture and meaning-making processes
- Post-transformational challenges for media policies
- Social networks: connecting across divides and challenge to the "Fourth Estate"