

IAMCR 2017 Community Communication and Alternative Media Section. CFP

The IAMCR Community Communication and Alternative Media Section invites submissions of abstracts for papers and panel proposals for the 2017 IAMCR conference to be held from 16 -20 July, 2017 in Cartagena, Colombia. The deadline to submit abstracts is midnight GMT on 9 February 2017.

Conference theme: Transforming Culture, Politics & Communication: New media, new territories, new discourses.

The Community Communication and Alternative Media Section (CoC) brings together research on community, alternative and citizens' media, media activism, and other forms of civil society-based communication. It considers a range of non-governmental and non-commercial communication practices such as do-it-yourself media, media for and by communities of locality, identity or interest, social movement communication, social media protests, counter-cultural expressions, and media that form a 'third sector' distinct from public service and commercial media. Such communication practices may use a variety of communication technologies, from print newsletters to mobile phones, from community radio to online social networks.

The section asks questions such as, How do marginalized groups develop, adapt and appropriate communication technologies? What makes citizen media effective and sustainable? What are innovative forms of media activism? What is the social, economic, legal and political environment of community and alternative media? What are appropriate theories and research methods for these media? What forms of journalism do they practice? Do they point us to new forms of networked publics, participatory democracy, and active citizenship (and/or are these concepts problematic)?

The work of the section is concerned with the role of different community and alternative communication and media practices in a world full of uncertainties and resistances, and it therefore relates closely to the overall theme of the upcoming conference, "Transforming Culture, Politics & Communication: New media, new territories, new discourses". The conference theme will allow us to review the transformations in communication and media practices that have emerged from civil society, social movements and lay citizens. We will explore the use of creativity and innovation to build new discourses and practices that seek to achieve equity and social justice, to build peace, to challenge corporate media and government surveillance. The section will draw upon experiences from social movement media, citizen journalism, communication practices for social change, third sector media and different forms of media activism to foster a rich theoretical and methodological discussion about the field.

Community Communication and Alternative Media focus areas, Cartagena 2017

The Community Communication and Alternative Media Section welcomes contributions from all scholars who research and work in this field and is encouraging submissions particularly on the following themes:

1. Cultural transformations and communicative practices

In a rapidly changing environment filled with tensions and ruptures at the political, cultural and social levels several innovative and creative ways to communicate have emerged. Using dialogue, music, graffiti, theatre, performance, photography, audio or video individuals and collectives are engaging in diverse communicative practices that aim at fostering social justice, building peace, and challenging corporate media and surveillance. Where do these practices emerge? Are there any transformations in the cultural arenas resulting from these practices? What methods are we using to register and analyze them? How are innovation and creativity being used to develop original ways to communicate? How are these practices related to social movements, local struggles, social justice issues and peace building efforts?

2. Social Media, Activism and Social Change

Major protests of the past decade have led to the emergence of innovative and experimental media practices – from DIY live streaming to social media uses to hacktivism. Many of them have been accompanied by claims that communication technology was at the heart of their success (or failure). Academia has seen debates on ‘Twitter Revolutions’, ‘liberation technology’, cyber-optimism and cyber-pessimism, and the values and limitations of commercial media platforms. What have we learnt from these experiences and the debates around them? What role has digital activism had in fostering social change?

3. Community and Alternative Journalism: Contexts and Characteristics

We are facing a time when we have information overload while at the same time information remains a means to control, surveil and punish. What is the role of community and alternative journalism in such a context? What new forms of grassroots media (and collaborations) are emerging in the wake of Wikileaks and other whistleblower projects? What journalistic practices have led to social and political transformations?

4. Challenges and Opportunities for Freedom of Expression and Communication Rights

The policy environment for community, alternative and citizen media offers a diverse picture. Community media are increasingly being legalized, but media freedoms are threatened by the ‘war on terror’, mass surveillance and content restrictions (such as internet blocking/filtering). How are community, alternative and citizen media impacted by global governance processes? What is the legal and regulatory situation of community, citizen and alternative media in different parts of the globe? How are local initiatives and experiences facing the challenges to freedom of expression and communication rights? What practices have emerged in the struggle to protect and exercise communication rights?

5. Theorizing Alternative, Community and Citizen Media

The Community Communication and Alternative Media Section is interested in investigating, continuing and challenging the theoretical directions laid out by leading thinkers in the field, and developing understandings of relevant emerging concepts. How do we update critical concepts in light of technological and social change? How can classic works in our field help us understand new practices and technologies? How do digital cultures affect collective communicative action and alternative media? How do we explore connects and disconnects between this field and related academic fields?

Submissions Format

All proposals must include

1. Title, author/coordinator name(s), institutional affiliation(s) and full contact information (mailing address, email address, and telephone number)
2. Topic area (one of the five topics, see above).
3. Type of proposal:

TYPE A:

Individual or co-authored scholarly paper: Applicants must submit a 300-500 word abstract. The abstract should describe:

- the main question or research problem
- its significance
- the theoretical framework
- what is known from existing research
- the research method
- expected outcomes
- relation with the chosen topic area

Submitted abstracts will be evaluated on the basis of:

- theoretical contribution
- methods
- quality of writing
- literature review
- relevance of the submission to the work of the Section or Working Group
- originality and/or significance

TYPE B:

Panel proposal: Applicants must submit a 300-500 word abstract of the panel including

- the main theme to discuss
- its significance
- the perspectives from which the theme is developed in the different papers
- the theoretical and research frameworks used in individual papers
- relation with the chosen topic area
- the titles of the individual papers (4 or 5)

Submitted abstracts will be evaluated on the basis of:

- theoretical contribution

- methods
- quality of writing
- literature review
- relevance of the submission to the work of the Section or Working Group
- originality and/or significance

TYPE C:

Innovative formats: We encourage proposals for innovative formats such as workshops, video screenings, and performances, among others. Please bear in mind that these should have some scholarly analysis. The coordinator must submit a well-defined 300-500 word document including

- statement of purpose
- conceptual framework or theoretical background
- a detailed description of activities
- any infrastructure requirements (space, projectors, etc.). We cannot guarantee that all these formats will be feasible, but we commit to supporting proponents in making them possible.

Submitted abstracts will be evaluated on the basis of:

- theoretical contribution
- innovation of format
- quality of writing
- conceptual framework
- relevance of the submission to the work of the Section or Working Group
- originality and/or significance

Please indicate at the end of your abstract if you would be willing to chair a session.

Procedure

Proposals for consideration must be submitted via the IAMCR [Open Conference System](http://iamcr-ocs.org) at <http://iamcr-ocs.org>

Abstracts should be submitted from 1 December 2016 – 9 February 2017. Early submission is strongly encouraged. There are to be no email submissions of abstracts addressed to any Section or Working Group Head.

It is expected that for the most part, only one (1) abstract will be submitted per person. However, under no circumstances should there be more than two (2) abstracts bearing the name of the same author either individually or as part of any group of authors. Please note also that the same abstract or another version with minor variations in title or content must not be submitted to more than one Section or Working Group. Such submissions will be deemed to be in breach of the conference guidelines and will be rejected by the OCS system, by the relevant Head or by the Conference Programme Reviewer. Authors submitting them risk being removed entirely from the conference programme.

Decisions on acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to applicants no later than 3 April 2017.

Paper Submission

Presenters are expected to bring fully developed work to the conference. Prior to the conference, it is expected that a completed paper will be submitted to the Section. We strongly encourage presenters to bring full papers to the conference and to consider submitting them for publication in the Journal of Alternative and Community Media. Deadline for full papers: 26 June 2017

Submitting to the correct Section

If you submit your proposal to the wrong section, it may be rejected. Please consider carefully if the Community Communication and Alternative Media Section is most appropriate for your proposal (check the list of sections at <http://iamcr.org/s-wg>). Please contact us well before the deadline if you are unsure.

Languages

IAMCR accepts submissions in its official languages of English, Spanish, and French, though a translation (even a brief summary) of your abstract will be much appreciated. For conference presentations, we encourage presenters to prepare handouts and slides in English (if presenting in Spanish) and in Spanish (if presenting in English) to facilitate linguistic diversity in the section and to engage with the conference location. To this end, we are looking for volunteer translators/interpreters for abstracts, sessions and papers. If you can contribute and help translate some papers or key points into Spanish or English, please contact us (see details of Chairs and Vice-Chairs below).

Deadlines

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 9 February 2017. Please note that this deadline will not be extended.

Decisions on acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to applicants by their Section or Working Group Head no later than 3 April 2017.

For those whose abstracts are accepted, full conference papers are to be submitted by 26 June.

Information

General IAMCR Conference Call: <http://cartagena2017.iamcr.org/>

Community Communication and Alternative Media Section Website: <http://iamcr.org/s-wg/section/community-communication>

To contact your Community Communication and Alternative Media Section Head, or to find out more about CoC in IAMCR, contact:

Co-Chair: Salvatore Scifo ([sscifo\(at\)bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:sscifo@bournemouth.ac.uk))

Co-Chair: Andrea Medrado ([andreamedrado\(at\)id.uff.br](mailto:andreamedrado@id.uff.br))

Co-Vice Chair: Tanja Dreher ([tanjad\(at\)uow.edu.au](mailto:tanjad@uow.edu.au))

Co- Vice Chair: Claudia Magallanes ([claudia.magallanes\(at\)iberopuebla.mx](mailto:claudia.magallanes@iberopuebla.mx))