

SPECIALISED REPORTING WORKSHOP

REPORTING FOR COMMUNITY RADIO

Level of Course: Bachelor Level Final Year Special Project/Elective of an undergraduate degree in Journalism or Mass Communication.

Course Description: The commercialization of the media across the globe has created a counter movement for community media, especially in radio, which is the most accessible media for poor and marginalized populations. The aim of this course is to demonstrate and teach to students – who already know how to produce radio contents/programs – to produce radio news features of a non-commercial nature produced in a people-centric fashion using participatory communication methodology to produce such material. This workshop could be incorporated into specialized reporting electives such as Development Reporting or Human-Centric Reporting modules or it could be a final year specialist reporting project, especially for those who have learned radio modules.

Mode: Seminar style workshops.

Number of weeks: Half-Day (4 hour) workshop followed by a reporting project or research paper

Required and Recommended Texts:

- Arnolda, C ed (2008), Community Radio in Asia: putting people in charge, Tambuli Foundation-IPDC, Manila
- Jallov, B (2004), Community Radio for empowerment and impact, Journal of Development Communication, vol.12, no.3, pp56-68
- Seneviratne, K (2009), Maintaining the Enthusiasm: Assessment of the economic viability of community radio in the Philippines, UNESCO-AMIC, Jakarta
- Seneviratne, K ed (2012), Peoples' Voices, peoples' Empowerment: Community Radio in Asia and beyond, AMIC, Singapore
- Tacchi, J (2005), Supporting the democratic voice through community media centres in South Asia, February, 3CMedia, Australia

Workshop Description and Outline: This half-day workshop is designed to introduce the concepts of participatory communication and community radio, and its application to producing people-centric local news with the participation of the community and geared towards social and economic development/empowerment of the community.

Part 1 (1 hour): Introduction to Participatory Communication and Community Radio

Introduction to principles and concepts of participatory communication, practices of alternative media and understanding the community and communicating to assist in the socio-economic development of the community. Giving examples of the different roles played by community radio as an information and news provider at a very local context. Using the videos listed below, Radio DXUP shows how daily news teams keep the community informed of happenings in the community (such as local market and

police activity); Doko Radio shows how information could be taken to remote communities by low powered radio; the video from the US shows how local community news and cultural empowerment can take place with participatory community radio in the US; and Radio Bakdaw in the Philippines is an example of the important role community radio plays in disaster relief today.

References:

- Seneviratne, K ed (2012), ch 2 Tabing – Community Radio, a means of peoples empowerment: opportunities and challenges pp 25-31, ch 3 Lucas – Community participation in the power of the media
- Arnolda (2008), Doko Radio: bringing information to peoples' doorstep, pp 57-66
- Tufte, T and Mefalopulos, P (2009), Participatory Communication: A Practical Guide, World Bank, Washington – retrieve from <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDEVCOMMENG/Resources/Participatorycommunication.pdf>

Videos:

- Radio DXUP Connecting the Tri-Community - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DoGNLt4IKM
- Doko Radio – Antenna Foundation Nepal - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8v7HK6M_IPo
- Community Radio by and for the people: Impact of Low Power FM - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci1grHatKGo>
- Kothmale e TukTuk - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Un_gXqN-XnY
- Radio Bakdaw in the Philippines – providing a voice for the local community - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmUodfIJcpU>

Part 2 (1 hour): Explore Local News Production Using Participatory Communication Methodology

This session will examine several examples from the readings below on how local news for community radio could be produced. What are the news priorities? How does it differ from national and regional radio? How do you organize the news teams and make it sustainable? The Radio Sagarmatha example provides an inspiring case study of how community radio has been able to change the agenda of public service broadcasting; Australia's university community radio news shows how the corporate bias of mainstream news values could be challenged; and Thailand's taxi radio shows how marginalized voices could be disseminated to a receptive audience.

References:

- Seneviratne, K (2012) – ch 16: Radio Sagarmatha – from community radio to PSB, pp213-226, Ch 19: Australia: News that is different, pp248-253, Ch 23: Taxi Driver Radio and politics of community radio, pp274-293.

Part 3 (2 hour): Discussion of Reporting Strategy and Role of Community Radio Reporter

In this session using the two videos listed below from India and Laos as triggers for discussion, discuss what role and what reporting strategies community radio broadcasters need to adopt to use radio news as a socio-economic empowerment tool. In India, there is much democratic space to report on traditional media, but community radio may have to be sensitive to local cultural or even political taboos; while in Laos, the government tightly control the media and the role of a community radio broadcaster may be to merely retransmit government news in the local ethnic language.

Video:

- Community Radio – One Voice for all (India) (12.45) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW5h_MgYeYw
- From Ripples to Waves – Scaling up Community Radio In the LAO PDR (10.00) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoMRc62rdWk>

Assessments: The assessments and grading for this modules may include, either writing an essay / research paper on community radio news production strategies using participatory communication methodology or do a radio news feature from a local community using a participatory communication strategy.

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