



incommunicado.05

information technology for everybody else



15, 16, 17 June

De Balie, Amsterdam

www.incommunicado.info







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IICD



introduction

Incommunicado.05 is a two-day working conference working towards a critical survey of the current state of 'info-development', also known as the catchy acronym 'ICT4D' (ICT for development). Before the recent "flattening of the world" (Thomas Friedman, 2005), most computer networks and ICT expertise were located in the North, and info-development mostly involved rather technical matters of knowledge and technology transfer from North to South. While still widely (and even wildly) talked about, the assumption of a 'digital divide' that follows this familiar geography of development has turned out to be too simple. Instead, a more complex map of actors, networked in a global info-politics, is emerging.

Different actors continue to promote different -and competing- visions of 'info-development'. New info-economies like Brazil, China, and India have suddenly emerged and are forming south-south alliances that challenge our sense of what 'development' is all about. Development-oriented systems (like simputers and MIT's \$100 computer system) emerge and re-emerge. The corporate sector suddenly discovers the "bottom of the pyramid" and community computing, in their drive for markets beyond those now increasingly stagnant in the OECD countries, and among the prosperous and professional in the rest of the world.

However tempting, these new developments and particularly the emerging alliances should not be romanticized in terms of a new tri-continentalism. Brazil's info-geopolitical forays are anything but selfless. And while China's investments in Africa have already been compared to the 19th century scramble for Africa led by European colonial powers, many expect it to be soon exporting its 'Golden Shield' surveillance technologies to states such as Vietnam, North Korea, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, for all of whom it is acting as a regional internet access provider.

However, the cohesion of the new south-south alliances originates in part from the shared resistance to an emergent Euro-American front on intellectual property rights (IPR) and related matters. In parallel, and in eager response to the newfound enthusiasm

for ICT4D through Public-Private Partnerships (fueled largely by the ongoing UN financial crisis and the broader neo-liberal privatization agenda), major info-corporations are advertising themselves as "partners in development" and are promoting ICTs as the vehicles for "good governance and effective service delivery" („e-governance"), but also to stake out their own commercial claims, crowd out public-sector alternatives, and subvert south-south cooperation.

Ambitious info-development projects struggle to find a role for themselves either as basic infrastructures supportive of all other development activity or as complement to older forms of infrastructure and service-oriented development. And often they are expected to meet a host of often contradictory aims: alleviating info-poverty, catapulting peasants into the information age, promoting local ICT and knowledge based industries, or facilitating democratization through increased participation and local empowerment. Meanwhile, of course, info-development also facilitates transnational corporate efforts to offshore IT-related jobs and services in ever-shorter cycles of transposition, leaving local 'stakeholders' at a loss as to whether or not scarce public subsidies should even be used to attract and retain industries likely to move on anyway.

Info-development creates new conflicts, putting communities in competition with each other. But it also creates new alliances. Below the traditional thresholds of sovereignty, grassroots efforts are calling into question the entire IPR regime of and access restrictions on which commercial info-development is based. Commons- or open-source-oriented organizations across the world seem more likely to receive support from southern than from northern states, and these coalitions, too, are challenging northern states on their self-serving commitment to IPR and their dominance of key info-political organizations.

Meanwhile lesser-known members of the UN family, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), are beginning to feel the heat brought on by "no-logo"-style campaigns that are targeting the entire range of public international actors and





bring an agenda of accountability to the institutions of multilateral governance. As a response to the increasingly contradictory (dare one say confused) info-political activities of the major agencies like the ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, and WIPO, even the UN has begun to lose its aura. As public tagging of a perceived positive UN role in governance, humanitarianism, and peacekeeping shifts towards corruption and inter-agency rivalries, (carefully guided by neo-conservative think-tanks), the ensemble of supra-state apparatuses supposed to sustain visions of a post-imperial order suddenly seems mired in a frightening family dispute that threatens to spin out of control.

In spite of the neat sociological grammar of declarations and manifestoes, increasingly hybrid actors no longer follow the simple schema of state, market, or civil society, but engage in cross-sector alliances. Responding to the crisis of older top-down approaches to development, corporations and aid donors are increasingly bypassing states and international agencies to work directly with smaller non-governmental organizations. And while national and international development agencies now have to defend their activity against both pro- and anti-neo-liberal critics, info-NGOs participating in public-private partnerships and info-capitalist ventures suddenly find themselves in the midst of another heated controversy over their new role as junior partner of states and corporations. Responding by stepping up their own brand-protection and engaging in professional reputation management, major NGOs even conclude that it is no longer their organizational culture but their agenda alone that differentiates them from corporate actors.

The spectacular world summit on the information society (WSIS), barely noticed by the mainstream media but already uniting cyber-libertarians afraid of UN interventions in key questions of internet governance, will conclude later this year. While many info-activists are assessing (and re-assessing) the hidden cost of invitations to sit at 'multi-stakeholder' tables along with mega-NGOs and corporate associations, others are already refusing to allow an organizational incorporation of grassroots or

subaltern agendas into the managed consensus being built around the dynamic of an 'international civil (information) society'. Mirroring the withdrawal from traditional mechanisms of political participation, there is growing disaffection with multilateralism as the necessary default perspective for any counter-imperial politics. Unwilling to accept the idioms of sovereignty, some even abandon the very logic of summits and counter-summits to articulate post-sovereign perspectives.

And alongside this of course, is the day to day reality of those at the grassroots and most importantly working as policy, research and practice info-intermediaries to find ways of using (and remaking) ICTs to be of benefit to the "multitudes". The challenge for ICT4D is not to ensure that everyone in the world has 24/7 access to .xxx, but that the opportunities that the Walmarts of this world have so successfully and creatively seized are similarly the basis for a transformation towards creative and open access opportunities relevant to the lived realities of everybody else.





History

The 'incomunicado' project started early 2004 as a web research resource combined with an email-based mailinglist. It was founded by Soenke Zehle and Geert Lovink, who had earlier collaborated during the European Make World and Neuro events, that attempted to develop critical work around new media and no border issues.

Incomunicado didn't start out of the blue. It was a merger from two lists, Solaris, founded late 2001 by Geert Lovink and Michael Gurstein, and a defunct G8 Dotforce list. The Solaris email list was an early attempt to develop a critical discourse around the ICT4D policy complex and was inspired by the then-newly opened centre Sarai in Delhi, a place that embodies new cultural practices beyond the classic development models. Beginning in late 2003, the first World Summit on the Information Society accelerated the awareness that critical voices, inside and outside the Machine, had to gather in order to reflect on the circulating metaphors and rhetoric. Poor outcomes of the alternative 'WSIS, We Seize' campaign, which positioned itself outside of the world conference spectacle, proved that there is a great need for a radical critique of notions such as 'information society', 'e-governance', 'digital divide' or 'civil society'.

At the moment there are 300+ subscribers to the list, and at any given moment in time 50-70 users are either reading the incomunicado rss-news or searching the collaborative weblog, whose topic areas include network(ed) ecologies, ICT for Development, internet governance, analyses of the NGO sector, and emerging South-South relations. So far, incomunicado has been an exclusively online resource and list community, consisting of researchers, ICT practitioners, activists and social entrepreneurs. The event in Amsterdam in June 2005 will be the first meeting of this emerging network. Future plans include the launch of an open-access journal or an incomunicado reader.

On Being Incomunicado

The term incomunicado generally refers to a state of being without the means or rights to communicate, especially in the case of incomunicado detention and the threat of massive human rights violations. The latter also implies an extra-judicial space of exception, where torture, executions and "disappearances" occur - all-too-frequently in the lives of journalists and media activists, online or offline, across the world.

After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the bilateral order, the discourse of human rights has become an important placeholder for agendas of social change and transformation that are no longer articulated in third worldist or tricontinentalist terms. Yet despite the universalizing implications of human rights, they can also invoke and retrieve the complex legacy of specific anti-colonial and third-worldist perspectives that continue to inform contemporary visions of a different information and communication order.

The term 'incomunicado' was chosen as the name for this research network to acknowledge that while questions related to info-development and info-politics are often explored in a broader human rights context, this does not imply embracing a politics of rights as such. Instead, one of the aims of the incomunicado project is to explore tactical mobilizations of rights-based claims to access, communication, or information, but also the limits of any politics of rights, its concepts, and its absolutization as a political perspective.



Wednesday
15.06.2005:

Opening Night

Wednesday 20.00-22.30 Main Hall

Situating the workshop agenda in the broader context of the UN Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as the controversy over an emerging international civil society, the public event on Wednesday night will introduce the topics of the work conference to a broader non-specialist audience. Offering a first definition of info-development/ICT4D, the public event will raise some of the key conference issues, including the extent to which this field is indeed characterized by a shift from North-South to South-South alliances and the role played by info-development NGOs.

Chair:

Tracey Naughton
(chair WSIS Media Caucus, South Africa)

With contributions by:

Soenke Zehle and Geert Lovink,
introduction to the Incommunicado project

Nnenna Nwakanma
(Africa Civil Society for the Information Society, Nigeria) :
The mirage of South-South cooperation in ICT4D

Jeebesh Bagchi
(Sarai New Media Initiative, India): Forgetting Development:
Cybermohalla Practices and Information Networks

Bernardo Sorj
(University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil):
Internet in the Slums

Anthony Mwaniki
(One World, Kenya):
Mobile Technology - A Tool For Development?

Partha Pratim Sarker
(Bytesforall, Bangladesh):
ICTs at the grassroots and intermediaries:
who empowers whom?

Anriette Esterhuysen
(APC, South Africa)



topics

Plenary Lecture 1:

Introduction and Overview

Thursday 10.00-11.00 Main Hall

ICT4D is widely considered a key element in processes of democratization, good governance, and poverty alleviation. This plenary will situate the rise of ICT4D in the context of the transformation of development as a whole, and outline individual workshop agendas.

Chair:

Geert Lovink
(INC, NL)

With contributions by:

Roberto Verzola

(sustainable agriculture campaigner, Manilla):

The emerging information economy. Respondant:

Heimo Claasen

(researcher, Brussels)

Monica Narula

(Sarai New Media Initiative, Delhi):

The Delhi declaration, a new context for new media



Workshop A1:

NGOs in Info-Development

Thursday 11.30-13.00 Main Hall

We have become used to thinking of NGOs as 'natural' development actors. But their presence is itself indicative of a fundamental transformation of an originally state-centered development regime, and their growing influence raises difficult issues regarding their relationship to state and corporate actors, but also regarding their self-perception as representatives of civic and grassroots interests. Following a survey of some of the major info-development NGOs and networks, this workshop will address questions related to the politics of representation pursued by these actors: why should they sit at a table with governments and international agencies, and who is marginalized by such a (multistakeholder) dynamic of 'inclusion' dominated by NGOs?

Chair:

Anriette Esterhuysen
(APC, South Africa)

With contributions by:

Loe Schout

(HIVOS, NL):
Internet connects world citizens,
but does it breed new ones, too?

Maartje OpdeCoul

(One World, NL):
Evaluating ICT4D projects

Michael Gurstein

(New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA):
Civil Society or Communities:
The Contradiction at the Core
of the Information Society

Maja van der Velden

(University of Bergen, Norway):
Cognitive Justice

Partha Pratim Sarker

(Bytes4all, Bangladesh)

Toni Elias

(Ungana-Afrika, South Africa):
What CSOs bring to ICT Policy Processes



Workshop A2:

After WSIS: Exploring Multistakeholderism

Thursday 11.30–13.00 Salon

For some, the 2003–5 UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is just another moment in an ongoing series of inter-governmental jamborees, glamorizing disciplinary visions of global ICT governance. For others, WSIS revives 'tricontinentalist' hopes for a New International Information and Communication Order whose emphasis on 'civil society actors' may even signal the transformation of a system of inter-governmental organizations. Either way, WSIS continues to encourage the articulation of agendas, positions, and stakes in a new politics of communication and information. Following the effort to actively involve civil society actors in WSIS activities, the idea of an emergent 'multistakeholderism' is already considered one of the key WSIS outcomes. This workshop will take a critical look at different approaches to the idea of multistakeholderism.

Chair:

Neeltje Blommestein
(IICD, NL)

With contributions by:

Lisa McLaughlin
(Mass Communication and Women's Studies,
Miami University–Ohio, USA):
Introduction: Issues in Multi-stakeholderism

Ralf Bendrath
(University of Bremen, Germany):
Experiments in Multi-Stakeholderism:
Lessons learned from WSIS

Beatriz Busaniche
(Fundacion Via Libre, Argentina):
WSIS and Multistakeholderism:
Could we call them "best practices"?

Ljupco Gjorgjinski
(Center for Dialogue and Democracy, Macedonia):
Multistakeholder partnerships—cybernetic Governance
for the information society

Tracey Naughton
(Chair WSIS Media Caucus, South Africa)

Stijn van der Krogt
(IICD, NL): The Polder model applied to ICT4D in the South-
lessons learned from IICD's multi-stakeholder processes

Sally Burch
(ALAI, Equador):
Building policy advocacy capacity

Paul Maassen
(HIVOS, NL):
Civil society as a stakeholder: the dilemma of constituency

Ned Rossiter
(University of Ulster, UK):
Post-Representation & the Architecture of Net Politics

Nnenna Nwakanma
(Africa Civil Society for the Information Society, Uganda):
Partnerships and Networks: the African Civil Society Perspective



Workshop A3:

Open Source, Open Borders

Thursday 11.30-13.00 Cinema

Some of the organizations active in the WSIS process lost their accreditation because participants used their visa to say goodbye to Africa. Widely reported, the anecdote suggests that media and migration form a nexus that is nevertheless rarely explored in the context of ICT4D. In this session, we will survey some of the work on migrant and refugee media. It will also introduce the agenda of the wireless bridge project, a sister event of the incommunicado work conference that will take place in Tarifa (Spain) later in June.

Chair:

Jo van der Spek
(radio maker, NL)

Presenters:

Florian Schneider
(kein.org, Germany)

Roy Pullens
(researcher, NL):
IOM and border control as info development

Rene Plaetevoet
(December 18 movement, Belgium)

Nnenna Nwakanma
(Africa Civil Society for the Information Society, Nigeria):
An Anecdote of a would-be illegal immigrant.



Thursday 14.00-16.00

Open Sessions:

Salon: E-Waste

14.00-16.00

E-Waste: Special session on electronic waste, organized by Waste, advisors on urban development and development. In this session, a highly diverse group of people from the development, ICT, recycling, finance, insurance, and waste management worlds consider strategies and approaches in relation to preventing, reusing or recycling WEEE, or waste from electronic and electrical equipment in the Netherlands. The impulse behind the session comes from a twinning project between Stichting WASTE, in the Netherlands, and the NGO ACEPESA, in Costa Rica. The goal of the session is to arrive at ideas for interventions in both the Netherlands and Costa Rica.

Session organisers:

Anne Scheinberg, Kiwako Mogi,
Stichting WASTE, Gouda (www.waste.nl).

Session chair:

Jeroen IJgosse, WASTE.

Confirmed Discussants:

Portia Sinnott, Micro Services Plus, California,
Joost Helberg, Vereniging Open Source Netherlands,
Stephan Wildeboer, OS-OSS, Angela Jonker, Flection
Netherlands, dhr Herben, Province of Limburg,
Netherlands

Main Hall:

14.00-15.00

Solomon Benjamin (urban researcher, CASUM-m, Bangalore India): case study on ICT and real estate in Bangalore (including video documentary, produced for Incommunicado 05)

15.00-15.30

Francois Laureys (IICD) in conversation
with Sylvestre Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso)

15.30-16.00

Sally Burch (ALAI, Ecuador):
Social movements, communication and ICTs

Cinema:

14.00-14.20

Kim van Haaster (INC researcher, NL), The University of the Future:
Software Development in Revolutionary Cuba.

14.20-14.40

T. B. Dinesh (BangaloreIT.org, India): Observations on the impact
of IT on Society, in Bangalore.

14.40-15.00

Toni Elias (Ungana-Afrika, South Africa): on lacking ICT capacity
among small development organizations and networks

15.00-15.20

Enrique Chaparro (Fundacion Via Libre, Argentina): on the hidden
prices for ICT4 aid.

15.20-15.40

Oliver Vodeb and Jerneja Rebernak, art & ICT4D, a presentation of
the Memefest 2005 competition.

15.40-16.00

Jo van der Spek and others: info solidarity with Iraq (www.streamtime.org)



Plenary Session 2:

After Aid: Info-Development after 9/11

Thursday 16.30-18.00 Main hall

What is the status of aid in the promotion of ICT4D, and how have ICT4D actors responded to the politicization and securitization of aid, including the sale of security and surveillance technologies in the name of info-development? To what extent does info-development overlap with new info-infrastructures in the field of humanitarian aid (ICT4Peace)? Are global trade justice campaigns a response to classic development schemes?

Chair:

Ravi Sundaram
(Sarai, India)

With contributions by:

Enrique Chaparro
(Fundacion Via Libre, Argentina)

Glen Tarman
(Trade Justice Campaign, UK):

Join the band: ICTs, popular mobilization
and the global call to make poverty history

Steve Cisler
(librarian, USA):
PPPP: problems of public-private partnerships

Shuddha Sengupta
(Sarai, India):
Knowing in your Bones:
Politics, Anxiety and Information in Delhi, 2005

20.30-23.00:
Screenings, co-curated by De Balie



Plenary 3:

ICT4D and the Critique of Development

Friday 10.00-12.00 Main Hall

The critique of development and its institutional arrangements -of its conceptual apparatus as well as the economic and social policies implemented in its name- has always been both a theoretical project and the agenda of a multitude of 'subaltern' social movements. Yet much work in ICT4D shows little awareness of or interest in the history of such development critique.

Instead, techno-determinist perspectives have become hegemonic, and even many activists believe that ICT will lead to progress and eventually contribute to poverty reduction. Have development skepticism and the multiplicity of alternative visions it created simply been forgotten? Or have they been actively muted to disconnect current struggles in the area of communication and information from this history, adding legitimacy to new strategies of 'pre-emptive' development that are based on an ever-closer alliance between the politics of aid, development, and security?

Are analyses based on the assumption that the internet and its promise of connectivity are 'inherently good' already transcending existing power analyses of global media and communication structures? How can we reflect on the booming ICT-for-Development industry beyond best practice suggestions?

Chair:

Kees Biekart
(ISS, NL)

Contributions by:

Ravi Sundaram

(Sarai New Media Initiative, India):
Post-Development and Technological Dreams:
An Indian Tale

Solomon Benjamin

(urban researcher, CASUM-m, Bangalore India):
E-Politics of the New Civil Society

Jan Nederveen Pieterse

(University of Illinois, USA):
Digital capitalism and development

Tracey Naughton

(Chair WSIS Media Caucus, South Africa):
Putting Lipstick on Pigs



Workshop C1:

ICT corporations at the UN

Friday 13.00–15.00 Main hall

The controversial agreement between Microsoft and the UNDP, issued at a time when open source software is emerging as serious non-proprietary alternative within ICT4D, is generally considered in terms of a public-private partnership, to be assessed on its own terms. But it should also be considered in the broader context of rising corporate influence in the UN system, from the almost-no-strings-attached Global Compact, widely criticized as multilateral collusion in corporate 'bluwashing', to the Cardoso Panel on UN-Civil Society Relations and its controversial definition of civil society.

Chair:

Soenke Zehle
(Incommunicado, Germany)

With contributions by:

Lisa McLaughlin
(University of Illinois, USA):
Cisco Systems, the United Nations,
and the Corporatization of Development

Michael Gurstein
(New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA):
Critiquing Apple Pie: What We Can Say
and Not Say About the UN These Days

Manuel Acevedo
(consultant, Spain):
ICT4D partnerships at face value:
experiences from the multilateral trenches

Steve Cisler
(librarian, USA):
PPPP: problems of public-private partnerships



Workshop C2:

FLOSS in ICT4D

Friday 13.00-15.00 Salon

Pushed by a growing transnational coalition of NGOs and a few allies inside the multilateral system, open source software has moved from margin to center in ICT4D visions of peer-to-peer networks and open knowledge initiatives. But while OSS and its apparent promise of an alternative non-proprietary concept of collaborative creation continues to have much counter-cultural cachet, its idiom can easily be used to support the 'liberalization' of telco markets and cuts in educational subsidies. What is the current status of OSS as idiom and infrastructural alternative within ICT4D?

Chair:

Paul Keller
(Waag Society, NL)

With contributions by:

Dorkas Muthoni

(Linux Chicks Africa, Kenya):

Chix Presence: A strategic partner in increasing the efficiency of FOSS for the benefit of society

Felipe Fonseca

(MetaReciclagem, Brazil): MetaReciclagem: technology re-appropriation and collective innovation

Ednah Karamagi

(Brosdi, Uganda)

Bill Kagai

(FOSSFA, Kenya)

Nnenna Nwakanma

(Africa Civil Society for the Information Society, Uganda)

Enrique Chaparro

(Fundacion Via Libre, Argentina):

ICT are not (just) tools

Seppo Koskela

(Applied Linux Institute, Helsinki):

Free Software, ICT4D and Finland - the Short Story

Sylvestre Ouédraogo

(executive President of Yam Pukri Burkina Faso)

Alexandre Freire

(Digital Cultures/Ministry of Culture, Brazil)

topics 15.



Workshop C3:

Culture and Corporate Sponsorship in the ICT4D Context

Friday 13.00-15.00 Cinema

Introduction:

Solomon Benjamin
(Bangalore)

Open informal discussion

What is the aim of Western cultural organizations in the context of ICT4D projects? Think of the hip design event Doors of Perception in Bangalore and Delhi, our own Waag-Sarai Platform, Beijing and its new media arts inside the Millennium Dome, or the German media festival in Chiang Mai (Thailand). What is the agenda of these organizations? Is the 'electronic art' they are exporting merely paving the way for the big software and telecom firms to move in, or should we reject such a mechanic, one-dimensional view?



Workshop D1:

New Info-Politics of Rights

Friday 15.30-17.00 Main Hall

After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the bilateral order, the discourse of human rights has become an important 'placeholder' for agendas of social change and transformation that are no longer articulated in 'third worldist' or 'tri-continentalist' terms. In the field of communication and information, major NGOs and their network 'campaigns' have also decided to approach WSIS-related issues by calling for 'new rights', paralleling other trends - creative commons, Berlin Declaration on open access - toward a juridification of info-politics more generally.

Chair:

Richard Rogers
(GovCom/University of Amsterdam, NL)

With contributions by:

Soenke Zehle
(Incommunicado, Germany):
Politics of Info-Rights meets Tactical Media

Jodi Dean
(HWS Colleges, USA)

Noortje Marres
(University of Amsterdam, NL):
Why is this happening to ICT?
Info-rights as a special case of issue hybridisation

Magela Sigillito
(Third World Institute, Montevideo, Uruguay)

Thomas Keenan
(Bard College Human Rights Program, USA):
On some dilemmas in claiming rights:
persistence, elasticity, instrumentality

Ned Rossiter
(University of Ulster, UK):
Organised networks and the situation of rights



Workshop D2:

Digital Bandung: New Axes of Info-Capitalism

Friday 15.30-17.00 Salon

Chair:

Ravi Sundaram

(Sarai, India)

Open informal discussion

We are witnessing a shift from in the techno-cultural development of the web from an essentially post-industrialist euro-american affair to a more complexly mapped post-third-worldist network, where new south-south alliances are already upsetting our commonsensical definitions of info-development as an exclusively north-south affair. One example of this is the surprising extent to which a 'multilateral' version of internet governance has been able to muster support, another is the software and intellectual property rights reform (WIPO Development Agenda). info-development, that is, has ceased to be a matter of technology transfer and has become a major terrain for the renegotiation of some of the fault lines of geopolitical conflict - with a new set of actors. But does this really affect the established dependencies on 'northern' donors, and if so, what are some of the new alliances that are emerging? What is this new 'post-Bandung' movement?





Workshop D3:

Nuts and Bolts of Internet Governance

Friday 15.30-17.00 Cinema

One of the few areas where WSIS is likely to produce concrete results is internet governance (IG). The IG controversy revolves around the limits of the current regime of root server control (ICANN/US) and possible alternatives, but it is also significant because it signals the repoliticization of a key domain of a technocratic internet culture that long considered itself to be above the fray of ordinary info-politics. The sense that IG has info-political implications and should be subject to discussion beyond expert fora is, however, much more widespread than actual knowledge of the techno-cultural dynamic actually involved in governing the internet. This workshop will be a nuts-and-bolts session for non-techies.

Chair:

Reinder Rustema
(Internet Society, NL)

With contributions by:

Enrique Chaparro
(Fundacion Via Libre, Argentina)

Marc Schneiders
(ICANN, NL)

Danny Butt
(Independent Consultant; Researcher, New Zealand):
Cultures of Internet Governance:
From global coordination to trans-cultural dialogue



Plenary 4:

Closing Session

Friday 17.30 – 18.30 Main hall

Moderated by:

Soenke Zehle and Geert Lovink

Plus:

WSIS Awards,
Dutch nominations,
announced by Jak Bouman

Video Session

Rethinking 'underdevelopment or revolution'
through ICTs. Live videoconference
with San Francisco.

Coordinated by:

Sasha Constanze Chock

18:30-19:00 Cinema

This session is focused on appropriation of ICTs by social movements that don't fit into the public private development industry framework. Rather than consider the success or failure of strategies to patch ICTs into a 'development' framework that means binding peripheral locations and populations more tightly to service of the metropole, we'll discuss ICTs and revolutionary activity in Brazil, Korea, Bolivia, and elsewhere. With remote participation from, amongst others, Dongwon Jo from MediACT in Seoul, Dorothy Kidd from University of San Francisco, Pablo Ortellado/Indymedia Brazil and members from ERBOL and CMI Bolivia.



quotes

New Actors, New Models, New Frameworks

Beatriz Busaniche,
Fundación Vía Libre (Argentina),
WSIS and Multistakeholderism: Could we
call them 'best practices'?

"Global governance is under discussion. ICTs and the digital revolution have impact on political debates all over the world. Many new problems but also great new solutions emerged in our interconnected world, particularly a unique opportunity to promote global debates and to open the doors to different and new emerging actors in the Network and Knowledge Societies. WSIS is the first UN forum working under the umbrella of MSP (Multi-Stakeholder Partnership). As the first experience, a critical analysis is in order before accepting it as a "best practice" model. Despite some optimistic approaches, it is necessary to ask ourselves what are the consequences and the risks of this emerging model of global democracy. As one of the main outcomes of WSIS, the idea of "multistakeholderism" is being pushed as a new global governance model that ought to be spread to other forums. This shouldn't happen before we have answers to several crucial questions, such as: Who are the "multistakeholders"? who do they "represent"? Which are the interests behind the debates? And what's the meaning of "civil society" in this context?"

Context & Technology

Toni Elias, Ungana-Afrika, South Africa

"How do we ensure that decision makers really understand the opportunities and threats of different technologies and their impact for sustainable development both locally and globally? It is important for civil society and the academy to combine their forces and challenge corporate lobbyists by providing objective and reliable information. There is a debate about what technologies are most suitable for local contexts. One should keep in mind, regardless of the technology, that without the capacity to utilize these technologies or lack of local and sufficient technical support this debate is irrelevant. When governments and technology initiatives are dumping new technologies on the ground it is their responsibility to ensure that there is an existing foundation for capacity and technology support or they will need to establish comprehensive programs to address these issues."

Means / Flows

Tripta Chandola

"It is important to evaluate what constitute 'information' in a context, what the information 'needs' are, and the reasons why the 'needs' haven't been addressed within the local ecologies, what are the obstacles in doing so; an examination into the existing 'communication channels' identifying the means by which information is circulated within the community, locality, context, the reasons why certain sections/segments/groups are more privileged in their access, appropriations and articulations than others, the 'hacks' within these which allow for the lesser privileged ones to enter these channels; these understandings allow for a more holistic grasp on the technological frameworks and fabrics within the context that have evolved, imposed or introduced. Employing such a strategy in the examination of the communicative ecology would be more useful in approaching the policy implementations and imaginations."



Knowledge Society

WSIS

Cognitive Justice

Maja van der Velden,
ICT Consultant, Oslo

"I have been active in the ICT for development sector for a while as an activist and independent consultant for NGOs and grassroots organisations. In many cases I took part in the 'utopian celebration' of ICT. I looked at ICT as a two-sided thing: it could be used for good and for bad. Since I was very busy on the good side, I didn't worry too much about the rest. When I started to question this position, people and organisations around me didn't seem too interested. Their analysis is based on the idea that ICT itself is neutral.

The arrival of knowledge-based aid and the perceived role of ICT in organising and sharing knowledge (for development) coincided with the fact that I was living at that time in a country with many native/indigenous communities. The instrumentalist approach to ICT for development made it possible that ICT-based knowledge management/sharing for development took off in the late '90s. Overnight, the ICT4Dev discourse changed its 'information exchange' into 'knowledge sharing' - implying a more equal and personal relationship between the people participating in this process. The term 'knowledge' (preferably with qualifiers such as local or global) seemed to function as a comfort blanket: no need to go into detailed discussions of what is knowledge and whose knowledge counts. And ICT provides ideal applications to 'museumise' indigenous knowledges - 'so what's the problem'?

In current debates on the information or knowledge society, e.g. in the context of the WSIS, ICT itself stays outside much of the political debate. The discussions are about knowledge, policies, ownership, what ICT can do or needs to do (the good side; the instrumentalist approach). We seem to ignore that our technologies also limit our choices and potentials, we ignore that ICT also IS. As people with a certain education, resources, interests, needs, and understandings, we discuss and decide what we want ICT to do for the poor and dis-empowered. We don't know, and we often can't see, how ICT limits us too, and that it can hurt the people we support and whose knowledge we want to protect.

As a researcher I look at the other side of ICT-based knowledge sharing for development. One of my interests is the location of control in ICT4D systems/networks (in their code, infrastructure, ownership, organisational/institutional structure, etc.). A second interest is similar to that of Tripta: what is displaced or disrupted by the introduction of ICT? In my PhD research I will look in particular at the introduction of ICT in local development settings: What is the impact of ICT on women as knowers and as local knowledge providers?

The concept/issue of "cognitive justice" is central to my work and research. Cognitive justice is about the equal validity of all knowledges and can be traced back to the work of Shiv Visvanathan, discussing Indian sciences versus Western science, but also to M.K. Gandhi: "The message of the spinning-wheel is much wider than its circumference. Its message is one of simplicity, service of mankind, living so as not to hurt others, creating an indissoluble bond between the rich and poor, capital and labour, the prince and the peasant. The larger message is naturally for all" (M. K. Gandhi in *Young India*, 17.09.1925). The spinning wheel became the symbol of liberation and development - in the context of the British industrial loom-made textiles that flooded the Indian market. What is today's answer? Can we - and if so, how - built cognitive justice into our ICT-based information and communication networks?"





Pro-poor Partnership

Hannah Beardon,
coordinator 'Reflect ICT Project', an international
ICT4D project with pilots in Burundi, India and Uganda
<www.reflect-action.org>

"There are lots of issues arising when approaching ICT from a pro-poor/ empowerment and bottom-up perspective, but my favourite of the day is partnership. In my view a holistic, sustainable or meaningful ICT4D project or initiative is like a jigsaw - and no one body or agency can be all of the pieces. The pieces include technological know-how; an understanding of the context - the information needs and culture of communication, gender differences etc; infrastructure and policy; content etc. What is really missing is an understanding of how these different parts can be brought together - and who can oversee it well. The 'Reflect ICT' project has concentrated over the last couple of years on the 'needs-assessment' or context part of the jigsaw. We developed and adapted methodology to enable local facilitated groups to really think through both their (different) information needs and their existing communication patterns - what they trust, what information sources are useful and meaningful, barriers and power relations etc. This analysis then built into a plan in each pilot for a community communication system with a budget for equipment and staffing for the following two years. The results were not just perhaps slightly different choices of ICTs (lots of radio and video, internet usually as a secondary or indirect informer of informers) but also more emphasis on accountability of information providers, more ownership of the system and more critical analysis and self-monitoring of the orientation of the resulting system - to ensure that it continues to respond to the information needs and styles expressed by the 'target' communities."

(New) Means of Production

Michael Gurstein

"I see ICTs as the new means of production and distribution. We live in what are, by and large, information/knowledge societies, where the economies of most OECD countries and certainly the US are rapidly becoming bi-modal- services and supports on one side, and information/knowledge "processing" on the other. If anyone is interested, I can give you my 3-hour module on Walmart as an information processing machine, and how Dell transformed the computer from a product to a service. The question concerning ICT4D becomes for me access to and control over the (new) means of production viz. ICTs. Those without this will remain/ become powerless/voiceless/immiserated. Access by itself is, of course, insufficient, what is necessary is the capability to "effectively use" these means for the achievement of self-determined goals.

Where previously, the means of production - as for example, factory based machinery - created corresponding and "critical" social formations—like unions, the working class, ICTs as means of production are creating individualized production systems and what might, for lack of a better term be called a "critical entrepreneurialism". I see new modes of organization emerging from the disintegration of the old which are, for lack of a better term, Open Systems where communication and information flow horizontally and within "communities" rather than vertically and within hierarchically determined bureaucratic structures."



ICT Apartheid

Scott Robinson,
writing from Mexico City

“When I look into the mirror lately, I see an ageing pamphleteer, an activist-academic who has tilted with several Quijotesque windmills, imaginary and real, over the past 40 years, most recently the Latin America elites who have served themselves well with ICT connectivity and tools while effectively discriminating against their poor, offline countryfolk and neighbors. The current market-oriented fundamentalism has driven millions of the latter abroad. And nowadays, their remittance transfers homeward support entire economies, providing a de facto subsidy for the rich who have cheap dollars available in their financial systems, and reduced pressure on government budgets to provide social services families are covering with remittance receipts. The elites are tickled pink with increased emigration and remittance flows, applauding each foreign exchange report while reluctantly allowing emerging ICT tools and players into their protected, legacy markets. Yes, it’s an information/knowledge mode of production for the privileged few, who also control the regulatory entities that write the rules. And I confess to a growing pessimism re this new form of what appears to be an irreversible apartheid on a vast, regional scale.”

Open Souce South South

Highway Africa News Agency
(05 April 2005)

„Having tasted the fruits of freedom resulting from the use of open source software, Brazil has opened its doors to African governments willing to adopt the software for the management of Top Level Domain (TLD) registries. And the governments have seized the moment and taken advantage of the emerging south/south solidarity spearheaded by the South American power house. Kenya was the first to train on how to use the software, Tanzania soon followed suit, while Mozambique and Sudan are lining up for the services. When the open source software solution is implemented it will transform African registries from manual to automation. ... Apart from the training, Brazil and the participating countries sign agreements to ensure continuity of the implementation process. To make sure that this goal is achieved, Brazil has offered technical assistance to the recipient countries in case of any problems with the software or even any technical hitches in their operations.”

Politics of the Governed

Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*, Delhi, 2004

“Civil society is a closed association of modern elite groups, sequestered from the wider popular life of the communities, walled up within enclaves of civic freedom and rational law. Citizenship will take on two different shapes - the formal and the real. Governance, that new buzzword in policy studies, is the body of knowledge and set of techniques used by, or on behalf of, those who govern. Democracy today is not government of, by and for the people. Rather, it should be seen as the politics of the governed.”





'Their' Empowerment

Partha Pratim Sarker

"Now a days, there are discussions on mainstreaming ICTs. Some claim champions (best practices) to the projects that use ICTs for poverty alleviation. While 'intermediaries' certainly have a role in integrating ICTs to the services of poor communities, question remains as to what extent this 'integration' would be an 'intervention' but not a 'perpetual service' that maintains the gap as it is.

Many ICT4D projects work on pre-conceived notions that poor people, if given access to information through ICT tools, can make significant development. For example, if a community 'X' gets access to information say on market prices, it would eventually enable them to get connected to the market and to earn more money. Hypothetically it is true, but the reality is, even if someone gets access to information, nothing would happen if s/he doesn't have access to capital. Even if they have capital, nothing would happen, if they don't have trust or understanding to the whole process. Even if they have capital, trust and understanding, nothing would happen if there is no infrastructure or say cheaper mode of transportation or communication available. Absolutely, nothing would happen, if good governance doesn't prevail and the distribution mode of a society is not adjusted. In most of the cases, all these 'IFs' are causes of poverty and lack of access to information, for example market prices, is just a symptom. Too often ICT4D intermediaries are busy working on 'symptoms' but not on the 'causes'. Why? Probably it's easy, simple, eye-catching or more fund-fetching to work with symptoms, OR probably working on 'causes' may end up rounding off our own business. After all, we're the by-product of a system that maintains disparity and enables us to talk about 'their' empowerment.

The idea that Internet/ICTs can revolutionize the grassroots is a popular belief. But popular belief may require a reverse mode of transplantation. If the grassroots are not revolutionizing the process of ICT deliverance and ownership, ICTs will continue to create a gap that would be sustained. Interestingly, other development sectors had also faced these contradictions (where some had adjusted and some did not), and we seem to take no lesson from those. For example, in Bangladesh, 'micro-credit' has grown with a participatory approach of doing the work from the ground, while the idea such as 'adult education' has simply failed.

The danger of not looking at the causes is many-folded. Let me go back to the example of Bangladesh as it is a unique case study of what intermediaries have done to the sector of micro-credit, non-formal education, birth control, rural sanitation, child immunization programs etc. where goals were short-term and were attained with success. But that success is completely fragile, as more people have been victimized by bad governance, and the poverty level has gone up, with an increased number of people falling below the poverty line. In Bangladesh, billions of dollars have come as aid in the last 35 years of its existence, and despite the recession of aid in the global development market, some NGOs are 'uncomfortably successful'. "In Bangladesh, though, the enthusiastic routing of aid money into these local 'success stories' has meant that organizations such as BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), the Grameen Bank and Proshika have become very large very quickly. Size is not a problem in and of itself but it does endanger the very thing which made them valuable in the first place – their closeness to and understanding of grassroots need".... "the large office buildings they have built, often in the midst of the poor areas they serve, are attacked by many as the visible sign that these organizations are no longer driven by any sense of social service" (from: New Internationalist, 30 Years of Aid in Bangladesh). Despite the vertical success of all these organizations, interestingly, the same report also suggests that five years ago the richest five per cent of people in Bangladesh earned 18 times more than the poorest five per cent; now the rich earn 30 times more. A key study of aid effectiveness in Bangladesh has indicated that despite a 'modest growth in per-capita output', 'income distribution has become more unequal; poverty, landlessness, and unemployment have increased'. Then where are all the success stories going? Isn't the same going to happen for the ICT4D sector?"



Multiliteracies

Kris Rutten

“Empirical research is formulating a critique on the retorics of the Digital Divide. Critics argue to broaden physical access to include the necessary skills to use these technologies in an optimal manner. Furthermore, access has to do with a specific form of literacy (or better, literacies) which are dependent of and should be aware of the social and cultural context. The emphasis has to be on the concrete practices of users in a given context. Access to digitization should be approached from a number of perspectives: general and technological skills, literacies, relevant content and the user context. This perspective is central in the theory and practice of ‘multiliteracies’, which focusses on the social construction of literacy in general and more specific digital literacy.”

Are you a stakeholder?

Milton Mueller,

“ICANN, WSIS and the Making of a Global Civil Society” (Interview by Geert Lovink)

“Regarding your reference to ‘multistakeholderism,’ I am starting the hate the word. As a catch word it serves as a Rorschach blob - everyone can see whatever they want in it. The word papers over the really difficult questions about institutional arrangements, power and rights. The point is not ‘stakeholders’ representation per se. The point is individual rights and democratic procedure. Sometimes -- many times, in fact -- those bigger causes are advanced by permitting civil society to participate more fully in institutions that were once restricted to governments. But let’s not fetishize those simple advances. Let’s use them to institutionalize greater advances in global governance that facilitate freedom.”

The Limitation of NGO Actions

“The principal limitation of most NGOs actions is that they are ad hoc local actions, undoubtedly relevant for the target communities, but without a large-scale societal impact for the simple reason that they are not replicable. Instead of complementing government action, all too often they end up substituting the state, relieving it of its responsibilities to low-income communities. Given the rigidity and bureaucracy of the state, NGOs have an important role to play as social laboratories, sources of innovation and new techniques of social intervention, and eventually, as implementers and supporters of government action. But the ability of NGOs to innovate is only relevant to the extent that the experiments they develop are transformed into public policy and/or attract the attention of private enterprise to the potential of low-income communities as consumer and labor markets. For this to happen, NGO action must go beyond homespun programs, whose particularities, functional logic, financing and management make them non-reproducible. Unfortunately, many NGOs actions sometimes resemble a cemetery of well-intentioned projects.”





IT!

Solomon Benjamin

"I think an important point to consider if ICT4D-type interventions are being used to say "count new applications" for say a train ticket... or then for land records and titles. In each, there is embedded an understructure and also overstructure of power relationships. Often, this politics is being glossed over as the clients and funders who promote these ventures have a direct and major stake in these. And this also goes for academic research that promotes investigation into these too!!! To put it bluntly, we have a sort of technical imaginary, and when implemented as pilot projects and extended, these are then researched by a sub-contract to a "general survey based Market research agency" itself. The politics of all the players is such that the local reality soon gets forgotten and subsumed. Maybe this is all a familiar story... but the gloss of technology brings a different spin. An illustration: A small group of us recently finished a research on the Bhoomi program - the South Indian State of Karnataka's ambitious program to digitize 20 million land titles. There has been much showcasing of this project, esp. by the World Bank (most recently in its conf. on poverty in Shanghai) as a 'Best Practice' way for not only India, but other countries too. The broad idea is the land titling is good for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (the caps signifying that the big lead the rest) in the line of Hernando Desoto (The Mystery of Capital). The gov't own hype was along the lines that this will move out the corrupt village accountant, liberate the small farmers and make everything zippy and fast... The main 'research and evaluation' of the program (or at least the study touted to justify its indicator of 'PROGRESS AND MODERNIZATION') came from a civil society NGO whose founding head is Ex-WB, and a major player in the 'reforms agenda'.

At an invitation of a prestigious IT research institute here in bangalore, and as part of a ICT4D project to look at E-Gov., we focused on Bhoomi. We looked at this program in districts surrounding Bangalore (both the high-growth IT-dominated areas of HP, DELL, GE, Huges...) and other districts in the west and north west still laid-back rural. This research still continues to build on our detailed ethnographic research-based work. What we found was that not only were the official claims all wrong, but the program fit into a much larger political economy of BIG land developers in alliance with high level politicians and breaucracts to take over the land of smaller farmers and those who had family conflicts over property (which is very common). Obviously there was a larger political economy of land operating with the IT that makes Bangalore famous for providing a strong demand. However, the computerization as it fit into this system made this transfer much much easier for the largest of the corporations.

Our report to one of the premier institutes (funded in part by the large IT!) is not surprisingly under wraps, pressured in part by the Govt. of India's own department who feels that such reports on the reality of E-Govt will move the mist off, and show the new-found czar'sclothes or not. The main thing is to look at the power structures and to be able to define the types and categories of political economies, including those who do the research (we ourselves too) and those who fund it."



ICT4D and the Critique of Development

Yash Tandon, „An Alternative Perspective on Technology,“ SEATINI Factsheets (Sept 2004),
<<http://mail.kein.org/pipermail/incom-l/2005-May/000490.html>>

„Technology, above all, is a means of control over both production and market. Technology is not neutral. It is embedded in capital, and it is controlled by whoever controls the capital. Capital and its embedded technology enable its owners to make policy on production, marketing, pricing and the distribution of income. It is an illusion to think that developing countries will secure this kind of embedded technology from the West and then out-compete the West. Countries such as Korea and Taiwan, as all other now advanced economies in history, were able to do it because they disembedded the technology from its capital base (by, for example, copying intellectual property, and through reverse engineering), and by creating a “national” base for capital. Some countries were able to do this during the cold war years when the West needed them to fight against the Communist threat coming from China and Vietnam. In countries like Korea and Taiwan the local entrepreneurs created their own national companies (national “champions”), generously supported by their governments (through credit facilities and trade barriers against foreign goods), that first secured the domestic market and then entered into competition with the Western companies in the global market. Since the end of the cold war, this option is no longer available. Now that the cold war is over, even Korea cannot expect indulgence from the United States. The US, Europe and Japan took the first opportunity that availed itself with the financial crisis in Korea in 1997/98 to assert their control over the industrial and financial empire that Korea had so painstakingly created over thirty years of hard work of its workers and the skill of its entrepreneurs. Now, with intellectual property rights embedded in the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), scientific knowledge has become monopolised in the hands of a few thousand multinational corporations that use this knowledge to control the economies of the third world. High technology has come in areas such as mining (especially oil, gas and strategic minerals) and services (banking, finance, etc.), only because these have given the foreign direct investors control over these sectors. All the hype about creating the “enabling environment” for FDIs on the grounds that they would “bring” technology must be seriously discounted.“





NGOs

Ralf Bendrath,

„Civil Society and Multi-Stakeholderism:
About Opportunities and Strange
Bedfellows“,

<[http://www.worldsummit2003.de/en/
web/735.htm](http://www.worldsummit2003.de/en/web/735.htm)>

„In a way, the proponents of more civil society involvement in global governance processes and the sceptics of these disciplining measures are not necessarily taking contradictory points of view. They are rather complementary. While the latter are afraid of the evil (repressive, neoliberal, imperialist, <put your favourite derogatory political term here>) forces on the other side and are careful not to lend any legitimacy to them, the former are more confident in civil society's own strength and its role as the world's public conscious. What is just starting is a debate on how to link the two sides of the equation.“

Doing Business with Business

W. Elbers,

Centre for International Development

Issues (Dec 2004),

<[http://www.ru.nl/search/contents/
pages/31703/elbers-doingbusiness
withbusiness.pdf](http://www.ru.nl/search/contents/pages/31703/elbers-doingbusiness-withbusiness.pdf)>

„The report „Doing Business with Business: Development NGOs Interacting with the Corporate Sector“ is specifically written from the development NGO-perspective and aims to help NGOs in making strategic decisions about their relationships with business. Some of the main research findings include: business has become increasingly important to Dutch development NGOs in the past few years; nearly all NGOs expect that this trend will continue in the future; NGOs pursue relationships with business for three key reasons: to acquire corporate funding, to regulate business and promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and to achieve development objectives through partnerships; despite the increasing importance of business, most (Dutch) development NGOs still lack a clear vision regarding the role of the private sector in their activities, NGOs regard this lack of a vision is regarded as the main problem in their relationships with private sector.“

Digital Bandung

Yash Tandon,

„The future of Asia-Africa collaboration,“
SEATINI Bulletin 8.05

<<http://www.seatini.org/>>

„The rise of the dynamic economies of Asia (especially China and India) provides new opportunities for challenging the currently dominant North/South axis of trade, and encouraging emergent Asia-Africa trade relations. There is evidence that the Asia-Africa trade and investment ties are on the increase, reflecting a new geopolitical configuration. Some African countries are already putting in place „Looking East“ strategies as a means of reducing their dependence on traditional Western markets and sources of capital and technologies. ... However, the relationship between Asia and Africa must be based on qualitatively different principles from the currently prevailing relations between these two regions and the West. If this is not done, then the old patterns of trade between the West and Africa will simply be repeated with Asia substituting Europe and America in an asymmetrical power and trading relationship, where Africa continues to export raw materials to Asia and imports finished products and finance capital from Asia.“





An Email Exchange on Aid...

Emer Beamer

"Consider the following - a large donor organisation offers you 100, 2 year old pc's - if you can come up with a plan to use them usefully in the slums of nairobi, kenya they tell you there could be some money available to facilitate installing the computers. What would you do? Keep in mind, in the slums, there's little electricity, large threat of robbery, no or as good no telephone, no ready to use training programs, there are some local trainers with web design and other general computer skills available, the target group is youth."

Robert Verzola

"I will discuss with the people of the slums the best use we could put money to, if we had so much amount of money. I'd be surprised if they said computers. It might be a good idea to document the process, for the benefit of the donors. Then I'll ask the donors to sell the computers and donate to us the proceeds, including the money meant for installation, to be used as the slum people had earlier decided. Many donations such as your example, I'm afraid, are often meant to create a liking, and then a dependence, for products. Many market creation efforts start with giveaways."

Paul Swider

"If you asked people in developed countries what they would do with a windfall of free something, especially money, the vast majority would not give an answer that would effectively invest that windfall. That does not mean investment is wrong, just that most people, including the poor, don't think in those terms. If donations of computers are meant to create a dependence, what would donations of money create? Likely a dependence -- on the donor. The puzzle presented can be turned to advantage, most likely by the recipients themselves. Maybe we should ask them."





Under Attack

Hugh Williamson,

„Under Attack“ Development and Cooperation (April 2005),

http://www.inwent.org/£+Z/content/archive-eng/04-2005/tribune_art1.html

„International NGOs are bracing themselves for greater public scrutiny of whether they should be trusted to do what is right. They have become familiar with business strategies and aware of the value of their brands. ... In recent years suggestions that NGOs are gaining influence compared with governments or companies has been accompanied by a parallel surge in interest in the responsibilities such power brings. In what some term a backlash against NGOs, this debate has focused on the “accountability” of NGOs to some or all of their various stakeholders, and, more broadly, on their “legitimacy”. Among NGO leaders, a sense of foreboding has hovered over the relatively low-key nature of this backlash. Is it a calm before the storm? Unless NGOs are careful, and are ready for more intense public scrutiny, then an NGO ethics scandal on the scale of the crisis that hit US energy giant Enron may be lurking around the corner. ... Therefore, international NGOs need to find ways of answering such questions as “Who are NGOs speaking for?” To tackle such challenges, 30 international NGOs established a loose network as early as 2003. ... The top executives of the organisations involved meet annually. ... Since 2003 several senior AI directors, including Khan herself, have attended seminars at Harvard Business School in Boston designed specifically to improve the management and strategic planning skills of NGO leaders. The AI staff were not alone: The most recent course, in June 2004, had 65 participants from around 15 NGOs. One result, Khan reports, was to discover that in many ways NGOs are similar to companies. Both operate the same computer systems, have the same financial reporting obligations and are dealing with assets. According to the AI leader, NGOs and companies should be using “the same hardware, but different software”. Robert Napier, head of the WWF’s UK section, agrees. He not only deals regularly with the business community but, as ex-CEO of a major construction company, he is from that community. He says that business-related concerns previously rejected – or at best ignored – by NGOs are now being addressed. For instance, “the WWF symbol, the panda, is a real global brand. This means the 30 WWF sections around the world that use it have to co-ordinate more closely to protect that brand.” He adds that a problem one country, for instance concerning a dubious source of funds for a member group, can easily affect the WWF internationally. “My legitimacy is only as strong as the weakest part of the network,” says Napier.“





Citizen

Zoe Wilson, „Wishful thinking, wilful blindness and artful amnesia: power and the UNDP's promotion of democracy in Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania," Centre for Civil Society Research Report 31 (2004)

Dark Sides of Virtue

David Kennedy, *The Dark Sides of Virtue, Reassessing International Humanitarianism*, Princeton University Press, 2004

Aspiring to good, humanitarians too often mute awareness that their best ideas have had consequences. When things do go wrong, rather than facing the darker consequences of humanitarian work, we often simply redouble our efforts and intensify our condemnation of whatever other forces we can find to hold responsible. How does this blindness set in? I have become convinced that it often begins at the moment the humanitarian averts his eyes from his own power. Identifying with the weak and the marginal - perhaps he comes to think of also in those terms. But international humanitarians do participate in global governance, both as activists and as policy makers. Their criticisms, strategies, and language all have consequences, allocate stakes, exercise power. When things go wrong, they - we - share responsibility.

„If there is such thing as the development zeitgeist, it is today embodied by the linked concepts of good governance, democracy and human rights. ... More specifically, the Report is concerned with the related programmes of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP), most notably rule of law, media reform, civil-society support, election-support and state capacity-building. ... Many argue that the more pernicious outcomes have been yielded by the conditionalities of the International Financial Institutions - such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. As I hope it will become clear, more caution is needed when drawing distinctions between the institutions of global governance. Their programmes may be far more symbiotic and interdependent than fans of the humanitarian work of the United Nations may be willing to concede. ... UNDP's democracy agenda has an overlooked propensity to contribute to the construction and re-construction of a space where authoritarian practices and elite capture will flourish. It may also, simultaneously, contribute to relative citizen powerlessness. ... Rather, the democracy discourse harbours assumptions and discounts complexities in ways that may ultimately frustrate efforts to enhance life chances across the social spectrum.“

Corporatization of the UN

Kristen Dawkins, *Global Governance, the Battle over Planetary Power*, Seven Stories Press, New York, 2003.

“Civil society activists tend to be supportive of the UN and its overall agenda, although recent trends toward corporatization in the organization have been severely criticized. These include Secretary-General Kofi Annan's 'Global Compact' with the business community, which appeal to, rather than requires, them to put into practice the principles of human, social and environmental rights; the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development 's promotion of 'partnerships' with the private sector to supply what were previously public services, including the delivery of water and electricity; and the acceptance of funds for advertisements - evidenced in their hanging a Coca-Cola banner over the entryway to a major UN conference. But the biggest failure most activists point to is the UN's incapability to keep up: poverty, misery and conflict continue to worsen worldwide.“





participant biographies

Acevedo, Manuel

Acevedo, Manuel has been involved in information and communication technology (ICT) for human development since 1994, when he joined UNDP in Cuba and helped set up the INFOMED national public health network. He was part of the Info XXI group at UNDP HQ in 1996-97, promoting the introduction of ICT in the operations and culture of the organization. In 2000 he set up a novel 'e-Volunteering' unit at the UN Volunteers agency, where initiatives like UNITEs (the United Nations Information Technology Service) or the UN Online Volunteering Service were launched and managed. He served on the task force establishing a 'Private Sector Strategy' for the agency, partly based on experiences with companies in those ICT4D initiatives. He participated in the UN ICT Task Force, serving as co-chair of the Capacity Building Committee. He represented the UN Volunteers programme during the preparatory phase of the 1st phase of the World Summit for the Information Society, preparing the report 'Volunteering in the Information Society'. Since late 2003 he works as an independent consultant, and is working on a Ph.D., doing research on ICT mainstreaming in large development cooperation agencies, and studying the crossover between the 'human development' and 'network society' paradigms. He is introducing ICT4D into the curricula of some academic programmes about Development and Cooperation in his native Spain, and also promoting the integration of ICT into Spain's international cooperation policies. He lives in Madrid.

Bendrath, Ralf

Bendrath, Ralf, (37) is a political scientist, currently part of the Collaborative Research Center "Transformations of the State" at the University of Bremen conducting a case study on privacy regulation in the project "Regulation and Legitimacy on the Internet". He has worked extensively on cyber-security, information warfare, international security policy, and peace research. Ralf Bendrath is also chief editor of worldsummit2005.org, the leading civil society website

on the WSIS. In WSIS Civil Society, he is co-coordinator of the international "Privacy and Security" Working Group and active in several caucuses. He was a civil society member in the German government delegation to the WSIS Geneva summit in 2003. He is a founding member of the German advocacy group 'Netzwerk Neue Medien' and also active in European Digital Rights (EDRi). His research network "Forschungsgruppe Informationsgesellschaft und Sicherheitspolitik" (FOGIS) has organized the first public international conference on 'Arms Control in Cyberspace'.

Benjamin, Solomon

Benjamin, Solomon is an independent researcher operating from Bangalore, India. He received his doctorate from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and a Master's degree in housing and settlement design from the Department of Architecture at MIT. Dr. Benjamin focuses on issues of urban governance, economy and poverty. Over the last two years, Benjamin has focused on the way Indian cities are being re-structured by big business in collaboration with international capital. The specific focus here, in the case of Bangalore, is on politics of land and city administration as influenced by this city's IT elite. In particular he focused on the way e-governance has re-worked land titles to facilitate the entry of the corporate groups. At present he is working on the so-called urban reform agenda promoted by US-AID and the World Bank in particular. Benjamin was a keynote speaker at several Worldbank symposia, presenting his study on the influence of business on land politics in Bangalore. Benjamin was sector leader Economic and Livelihood Development for the design phase of the Kolkata (Calcutta) Urban Services Program (KUSP) funded by DFID. He has lectured extensively in universities in research institutes in the US and Europe, and has joined several international research projects. He has consulted to the UNDP, UN-Habitat, SDC and advised various national level policy groups and state governments. He is a visiting faculty at the National Law School in Bangalore. Benjamin's publications include 'Urban land transformation





for pro-poor economies' in 'Differentiation in South Africa and Indian Cities' in *Geoforum* (Pergamon Press) Volume 35, Issue 2 (March 2004), edited by S. Oldfield, 177-187, and (2000-2001) Democracy, Inclusive Governance, and poverty in Bangalore as part of a series 'Urban Governance, Partnership, and Poverty'. IDD, School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham (2000-1).

Biekart, Kees

Biekart, Kees, is a political scientist, holds a PhD from the University of Amsterdam, and is currently a Senior Lecturer at the international Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague. His research deals with civil society, democracy and the role of NGOs, with an emphasis on Latin America. He is also a fellow of the Amsterdam-based Transnational Institute, where he worked in the 1990s coordinating 'activist research projects' on and with the Central American peasant movement, the politics of European NGOs, and on new social movements. His publications include 'The Politics of Civil Society Building: European Private Aid Agencies and Democratic Transitions in Central America' (TNI/International Books 1999) and 'Compassion and Calculation: The Business of Private Foreign Aid', co-edited with David Sogge and John Saxby (TNI/Pluto 1996). He is currently living in Amsterdam and otherwise travelling in the global orbit.

Blommestein, Neeltje

Blommestein, Neeltje (1973, Netherlands). Neeltje is (co-)responsible for IICD's Monitoring & Evaluation system and coordinating M&E activities in Burkina Faso, Mali, Zambia and Uganda. She used to coordinate the Global Teenager Project, a worldwide educational project. Educational background: Msc in Business Information Systems.

Burch, Sally

Burch, Sally is a British journalist, based in Ecuador since 1983. She is executive director of the Agencia Latinoamericana de Información (ALAI), a regional communications organization linked to social movements. During the first phase of the WSIS process, she acted as joint coordinator of the civil society working group on 'content and themes'. In 1993-95, in the run-up to the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995), she was coordinator of the global Women's Networking Support Program of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). She has published numerous articles on ICTs, social networking and democratization of communication, and is co-author of three books on these issues, (with Osvaldo León and Eduardo Tamayo), published by ALAI, which are available online: 'Social Movements on the Net', October 2001; 'Se cayó el sistema: Enredos de la Sociedad de la Información', July 2004; 'Movimientos Sociales y Comunicación', febrero 2005 (to be published shortly in an abbreviated English version).

Busaniche, Beatriz

Busaniche, Beatriz, is a free software activist and a member of Fundación Vía Libre, Argentina. She has a Mass Communication Degree from the Universidad Nacional de Rosario, and is currently following Sociology Studies at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. She has participated actively in the whole WSIS process from the Southern hemisphere. She is actively engaged in the Education, Academia and Research caucus (former civil society bureau member), and in the Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks (PCT) working group. Together with the Free Software Foundation Europe, Fundación Vía Libre followed the WGIG Process, by sending comments to IPR Executive Summary and Cybersecurity and Cybercrimen Issue Paper. She works on Free Software, Patents, copyrights and trademarks and Education. She attended events and gave speeches throughout Asia, Europe and Latin America. Recent publications include: Free Software Foundation Europe and Fundación Vía Libre: "Comments on IPR and Cybercrime and cybersecurity Issue Papers." WGIG; with





Diego Levis "Between words and actions - Civil Society and Education at WSIS", ITID Journal (Information Technologies and International Development) MIT Press; " - algunos duelos jurídicos por la distribución del conocimiento", México DF, October, 2004, Heinrich Boell Foundation (in Spanish), and "Patentes de Software - ¿Por qué las pymes y organizaciones sociales deben decir NO?" (in Spanish).

Butt, Danny

Butt, Danny works as a writer, consultant, and educator on culture and technology, based in Aotearoa New Zealand. His last few years were spent in the academic sector; including being founding Director of the Creative Industries Research Centre at the Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) in Hamilton, which he left to do more research and consultancy, including in cultural and political issues. Besides occasional organizational consultancy, Danny is the New Zealand member on the Panel of Authors for UNDP/IDRC/ORBICOM's Digital Review of Asia Pacific. He is also chairing the Place, Ground and Practice Working Group for the Pacific Rim New Media Summit at the International Symposium on Electronic Arts 2006.

Carnu, Andreea Iuliana

Carnu, Andreea Iuliana is a Romanian born new media artist and activist. Between 1991 and 2004 she lived in the USA where she obtained a BA in new media art and foreign languages (french, german and italian); she has recently moved to the Netherlands. She is a co-founder of Indymedia-Romania and has recently begun organizing Dorkbot Eindhoven. Her interests lie at the intersections between art, technology and theory.

Chaparro, Enrique A.

Chaparro, Enrique A., (48, Buenos Aires) is an information security consultant and researcher, and a free software advocate. He has worked as a consultant for numerous private sector companies, governments throughout Latin America, and multilateral organizations as the United Nations Development Programme and the InterAmerican Development Bank. He is also a frequent speaker on free software and information security issues, and as such he has given talks for organizations and universities in Latin America, Europe and the U.S. His most recent field of research is the set of complex relationships between computer technology and society, with a special focus on the appropriation of knowledge and the artificial barriers to development posed by the aggressive "intellectual property" policies set forth by the U.S. and Western Europe. He is a member of Fundacion Via Libre, an Argentinian NGO focused on the sharing of knowledge, and on free software as its vehicle. He is also a member of IACR (the International Association of Cryptologic Research), IEEE CS Technical Committee on Security and Privacy, and the Argentinian representative before Technical Committee 11 (Security) of IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing). Since 2002, he has been a member of the FSF Free Software Award Committee. Mr. Chaparro holds a degree in Mathematics from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, and M.S. and M.Phil. degrees from University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada and Royal Holloway - University of London, Egham, Surrey, UK.



Cisler, Steve

Cisler, Steve is a librarian by training who only began using computers when he was middle-aged (42). He had a one Macintosh public computer lab in his branch library in the San Francisco area in 1984. In 1985 he joined The Well, a computer conferencing system, and ran a forum on information and libraries for many years. In 1988 at Apple Computer library he started a grant program called 'Apple Library of Tomorrow'. He made dozens of grants for innovative projects in the U.S. and Canadian museums and libraries. He supported the first copyright free online book about the Internet (Electronic Frontier Foundation's "Big Dummies Guide to the Internet"), and at the same time he became very interested in local community networks like the Free-Nets and early citizen-run community web sites. He worked on de-regulation of the radio frequencies and standards that became known as 802.11 or Wi-Fi. Over the past seven years he has consulted in Latin America, Thailand, Jordan, and Uganda on short-term ICT projects involving telecenters, school computer labs, and indigenous groups. Texts: EduAction: Product Placement in Learning Environments, Digital Divide: Metastasis of a Buzzword.

Claassen, Heimo

Claassen, Heimo (Journalist): Earlier German, now Belgian national, thus "European" of sorts; Sociologist by origin (Frankfurt/Main "School" for the theoretical, Lund/Sweden University for the empirical part), working as independent journalist from Brussels (for German language papers/media, some English language publications too) mostly on North/South relations, for some three decades by now; thus involved "from the beginnings" in the "digital divide" (and on the very practical side of it too - e.g., how to get out news from Mobutu's Kinshasa or Apartheid South Africa.) More theoretical-analytical involvement with the upcoming "browser war" in the mid-90s (e.g., at the German IMD conference '98. A number of current publications on "digital divide" issues, and editing of thematic issues of the German

Entwicklungspolitik magazine (#11/2002, featuring Roberto Verzola e.a., and in the same journal, 3/11/2003 on the onset to the WSIS).

Dean, Jodi

Dean, Jodi teaches political theory, feminist legal theory and 'Public Spheres, Globalization and Democracy' as an Associate Professor in the department of Political Science, Hobart-William Smith, Geneva, NY. Dean's research and writing focuses on the contemporary space or possibility of politics. A current research project is 'We are Geneva', a community media project that draws from disadvantaged people's familiarity with cell phones to involve them in collaborative journalism on the web. Jodi Dean is co-editor (together with Jon Anderson and Geert Lovink) of 'Reformatting Politics', a collection of work from the SSRC internet and civil society project. Books include: Solidarity of Strangers (1996), Aliens in America (1998), Publicity's Secret (2002). Dean has edited Feminism and the New Democracy (1997), Cultural Studies and Political Theory (2000), and with Paul A. Passavant, Empire's New Clothes: Reading Hardt and Negri. Also see her weblog and her homepage.

Eliasz, Toni

Eliasz, Toni is a rising young visionary advocate, and a speaker on international digital divide issues. He has gained a reputation as a mission driven social entrepreneur with the aim to understand the opportunities and risks of future technologies (especially Information and Communication Technologies, ICTs) and use this knowledge to contribute towards sustainable world and society. Toni is one of the key figures of a Global eRiding Network, a world-wide movement of non-profit technology consultants. Toni co-founded Ungana-Afrika, a regional ICT capacity building organization, that incubates and manages ICT support programs within Southern Africa's development community. As an executive director of ngana-Afrika his main responsibility is the overall performance of the organisation with focus on the strategy, fund-raising,





and partnerships development. Before Ungana-Afrika, Toni had six years career experience combining technology and business positions in software industry in Finland. He holds a Master of Science degree in Computer Sciences from University of Helsinki. During his free time, Toni is continuing his Ph.D. studies focusing on the Global Information Society.

Endt, Menno

Endt, Menno is an Amsterdam-based student/artist of Media and Culture, with a strong focus on social network theory. He was involved in the production of the issuecrawler-movie for an installation at the ZKM exhibition 'making things public' in Karlsruhe, Germany. For *incomunicado 05*, Menno researched the ICT4D situation in Iran and the involvement of the Iranian government in stimulating the use of ICT.

Esterhuysen, Anriette

Esterhuysen, Anriette (South Africa) is the Executive Director of the Association for Progressive Communications, an international nongovernmental organization that focuses on the use of information and communication technologies by civil society for social justice and development. She was Executive Director of SANGONET, an electronic information and communications service provider for the development sector in South Africa from 1993 to 2000. She has a background in information and communications in the social justice and development sectors. Anriette is also a founder of WomenNet in South Africa and served on the African Technical Advisory Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa's African Information Society Initiative. She was a member of the Social Science Research Council's Information Technology and International Cooperation Steering Committee and is currently a member of the UN ICT Task Force. She serves on the governing boards of Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange, Ungana-Afrika in Pretoria, and the Society for International Development.

Fonseca, Felipe

Fonseca, Felipe has been the co-founder of Projeto MetaFora, a collaborative incubator for social technology projects (currently inactive); and the MetaReciclagem movement that aims the transformation of communities through the re-appropriation of technology. Felipe is also one of the founders of CoLab. Felipe acts as a consultant to the Brazilian Ministry of Culture's Pontos de Cultura (Cultural Points) project, that will create nearly 1.000 free-software-based media labs throughout the country. Felipe works with projects related to free knowledge and independent media since 2002. He has helped develop or plan projects such as Liganois, an interaction environment for the users of Brazilian Telecenters; Conversê, the social website for the Pontos de Cultura project; MetaOng, a collaborative website about third sector and entrepreneurship; and Xemelê, an ongoing research on learning and community management systems. Felipe and MetaReciclagem became fellows to the Waag/Sarai platform in 2004, and developed research on MetaReciclagem (also see here).

Gjorgjinski, Ljupco

Gjorgjinski, Ljupco is educated in political philosophy, international relations, economics and diplomacy. He has served as Governor on the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, as well as worked for the President of the Republic of Macedonia as his External Advisor on the Information Society - only to cite each of his most distinguished positions among many others in Canada and Macedonia, respectfully. He now works as Executive Director of the "Kiro Gligorov Foundation". His research focus is on Information Society governance, observed from the point of view of political philosophy and through the prism of art and cybernetics.



Gurstein, Michael

Gurstein, Michael is currently a visiting Professor in the School of Management at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and a Principal with Michael Gurstein & Associates, Vancouver BC specializing in community-based technology applications. He is an Honorary Professor at Central Queensland University in Australia. A Canadian, he completed a B.A. at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada and a Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge and was a senior public servant in the Provinces of British Columbia and Saskatchewan. From 1992-95 Dr. Gurstein was a Management Advisor with the United Nations Secretariat in New York. Among the projects with which Dr. Gurstein was directly engaged in the early 90s was an extensive analysis and evaluation of a major program in Community Radio among the Inuit and Cree aboriginal people of Northern Quebec funded by the Government of Canada. Dr. Michael Gurstein has pioneered in the development of the strategic and policy thinking concerning community ICT implementations and has advised and consulted widely in this area including with a number of UN agencies, and Departments and agencies of the Canadian, US, and Australian governments among others. His publications include "Community Informatics: Enabling Communities with Information and Communications Technologies" (Idea Group, 2000); and "Burying Coal: Research and Development in a Marginal Community" Collective Press, Vancouver.

Haaster, Kim Van

Haaster, Kim Van is an Amsterdam-based cultural anthropologist. She recently worked at the Institute of Network Cultures in Amsterdam, as a production assistant for the conference 'A Decade of Webdesign' organized by the INC in collaboration with PZI Rotterdam and the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. She has obtained her MSc in Cultural Anthropology of Non-Western Societies at the University of Amsterdam. For her Masters thesis, Kim researched the workings of intercultural contacts in tourism in contemporary Cuba. For incommunicado 05, Kim researched 'The University of the Future: Software Development in Revolutionary Cuba'.

Kagai, Bildad

Kagai, Bildad, is the coordinator of the Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) as well as the CEO of Circuits and Packets Communications Limited, one of the leading Open Source Software companies in Kenya. Born in Nairobi, Kenya, 31 years ago, Bildad obtained a degree at the University of Nairobi, in Building Economics and Management. Bildad started his career at the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNHABITAT) in 1997 after graduation as a database consultant. He consulted for GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) and the Canadian International Development Research Center (IDRC) where he introduced Adaptive Technology to victims who got visually impaired following the 1998 terrorist twin bombing of the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Bildad started his business career in 2001 as the Business Development Manager of Circuits and Packets Communications Limited where he encountered open source software for the first time. In November 2002, a number of like minded open source enthusiasts met under the auspices of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and formed the Open Source Task force for Africa. Consequently on 21st February 2002, he helped launch the Free Software and Open



Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) during the second preparatory meeting of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS PrepCom2) in Geneva, Switzerland. Since then, FOSSFA has been the leading light campaigning for Open Source and Free Software in Africa with tremendous success in various countries such as South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, and Namibia amongst others where Open Source initiatives have started to thrive. Bildad is currently based in Nairobi, Kenya as the CEO of Circuits and Packets Communications Limited which also hosts the FOSSFA Secretariat.

Karamagi, Ednah

Karamagi, Ednah, is the general manager of BROSDI, the Busoga Rural Open Source & Development Initiative in Uganda. Until 2004, she worked as head of research, information and consultancy at Karabole Research and Resource Center, a local NGO in western Uganda. She is specialized in the use of both modern and traditional ICT for development methodologies, empowering participatory methods, community development, gender, knowledge sharing and information management. She is currently writing a book on knowledge sharing and information management tools for poverty reduction in rural communities.

Keenan, Thomas

Keenan, Thomas, teaches media theory, literature, and human rights at Bard College, where he is associate professor of Comparative Literature and directs the Human Rights Project. He is author of *Fables of Responsibility* (Stanford University Press 1997), and is finishing a book called *Live Feed: Crisis, Intervention, Media*, about new media and contemporary conflicts. With Andras Riedlmayer, he started International Justice Watch (JUSTWATCH-L), an Internet discussion list on war crimes and transitional justice. He has served on the boards of WITNESS and the Soros Documentary Fund.

Keller, Paul

Keller, Paul heads the Public Research programme of Waag Society in Amsterdam. He has been one of the co-editors of the 'Next 5 Minutes 4' conference in Amsterdam in September 2003. For Waag Society he coordinates the Euro-Indian exchange programmes (Waag-Sarai Exchange Programme) and 'Towards a Culture of Open Networks' and leads the project DISC (Domain for Innovative Software and Content). He is Public Project lead for the Creative Commons in the Netherlands. He is also an active member of the European Noborder network.

Koskela, Seppo

Koskela, Seppo born in 52 in Finland, hitchhiking through Sahara and West-Africa 80 - 81, a proud member of the extended family Jammeh in The Gambia since then, political activist in 70s, media activist and video teacher and organizer in 80s and 90s, from now on (in 00s) working in a small scale research project called "Applied Linux Institute Project" in University of Helsinki, Department of Communication with my wife professor Sinikka Sassi.



Lovink, Geert

Lovink, Geert, is a Dutch-Australian media theorist and activist. In January 2004 he was appointed as associated professor/research professor at the University of Amsterdam and Hogeschool van Amsterdam, where he founded the Institute of Network Cultures. He received a PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2003. He is a co-founder of the Amsterdam-based free community network 'Digital City' and the support campaign for independent media in South-East Europe Press Now. Since 2000 he has been a consultant/editor to the exchange program of Waag Society (Amsterdam) and the Sarai New Media Centre (Delhi). He is (co)organizer of conferences, festivals and (online) publications and the founder of numerous Internet projects such as Next Five Minutes, Tulipomania Dotcom, Nettime, Fibreculture, and FreeCooperation. He recently published *Dark Fiber* (2002), *Uncanny Networks* (2002) and *My First Recession* (2003). Most of his texts can be found online.

Maassen, Paul

Maassen, Paul (1973) holds a Master of Science degree in Industrial engineering & management, with a specialization in non-western management and information management from the University of Twente (The Netherlands). After his graduation he started working for Dutch telecom incumbent KPN as a management trainee. In 2002 he switched back to his desired working habitat: non-profit development sector. He started with the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries. His field of expertise within Hivos is the role ICT can play for development. He represented Hivos as a member of the Dutch delegation to the WSIS, and will do so again in November of this year. As of 1 July 2005 he will take the position of programme manager ICT, Media & Knowledge Sharing.

Marres, Noortje

Marres, Noortje is currently completing her Ph.D. thesis 'No Issue, No Public: Democratic deficits after the displacement of politics' at the philosophy department of the University of Amsterdam. In recent years, she has co-organized the workshop series *The Social Life of Issues* and she was one of the editors of the festival *Next Five Minutes 4* which took place in Amsterdam in 2003. She recently contributed an article to the catalogue *Making Things Public* (MIT Press, 2005) on the debate between the philosopher John Dewey and the journalist Walter Lippmann about the fate of democracy in the technological society. Together with Richard Rogers, she wrote the piece "Subsuming the Ground. How local realities of the Ferghana Valley, the Narmada Dams, and the BTC pipeline are put to use on the Web" (available via SSRIC).

McLaughlin, Lisa

McLaughlin, Lisa is an associate professor at Miami University-Ohio where she holds a joint appointment in Mass Communication and Women's Studies. Her Ph.D. is in media studies. McLaughlin is editor of *Feminist Media Studies*, an international peer-reviewed journal published by Routledge. She is also the representative to the World Summit on the Information Society on behalf of the Union for Democratic Communications, an organization that brings together academics, activists, and practitioners whose work is critical of the communications establishment. During the first phase of the WSIS, she was a member of a sub-committee on civil society participation and the civil society content and themes group. McLaughlin has published a number of articles and chapters on feminism, media, and the public sphere, and, more recently, on feminism and the political economy of transnational public space. She teaches courses in international communications, global media governance, and feminist media theory and practice. Her current work focuses on ICTs and the corporatization of development as it has emerged under the auspices of the United Nations. At present, McLaughlin's research concentrates specifically on





Cisco Systems' Networking Academy Programs and the corporation's Gender Initiatives that have originated as public-private partnerships brokered through the UN.

Muthoni, Dorcas

Muthoni, Dorcas (Kenya), has a background in Computer Science. She is in private business where she is the director of the company Openworld Limited (www.openworld.co.ke). She also works at a non-profit organization called the Kenya Education Network, where she serves as the Technical Manager. She is involved in two projects. One is the LinuxChix Africa (www.africalinuxchix.org), an initiative that facilitates the active participation of African women in the FOSS movement across this region. The second project dubbed ITDAWN is a development project that is working towards a Linux distribution for Kenyan schools.

Mwaniki, Antony

Mwaniki, Antony is the Business Manager & Chief Executive for OneWorld International Kenya, a company set up by OneWorld International to provide SMS driven information services. The company received an award for excellence during an exhibition for private sector companies held in Nairobi in February 2005 and was a finalist for the Halfkin Prize. Antony is a Civil Engineering graduate of the Nairobi University and has Masters of Science Degree in Construction Management from the University of Leeds and a Masters in Management from the London Business School. At the London Business School Antony majored in entrepreneurship and managing change. Prior to joining the London Business School in the year 2002, Antony worked as a project manager on various building and infrastructural projects for 8 years with one of Kenya's oldest consultancy firms in the area of Construction, reaching the position of partner at the firm before he left in 2002 to go to the London Business School. He joined OneWorld International in his current capacity in January 2004.

Naughton, Tracey

Naughton, Tracey has professional experience that spans crystal sets to the latest innovations in information and communication technology. Her foundation interest is in technology, specifically the content it carries, as a means of fostering democratic participation, communication and development. She has been a media producer and policy advocate for seventeen years, twelve of which have been based in Africa. In the late 1980's in Australia, the regulatory environment for participatory media was opened and Tracey led the national team that advocated for the establishment of new, local media services. As a result, a single frequency was allocated to community television across Australia, in 1992. Concurrently she was President of a Community Newspaper and program presenter on a Melbourne wide radio station. In recognition of her contribution to media democratisation, she received a Professional Development Award in 1991 from the Australia Council for the Arts and undertook a twelve-month field research project on community media in Europe, Asia, America and Africa. In 1993 Tracey moved to South Africa to take up an AusAID Contract as Advisor to the nascent community radio sector there, subsequently contributing to a large network of community based radio projects, and the national co-ordinating network. She then adopted Johannesburg as a base and has since consulted in twenty African countries and others in Asia in the area of community based ICT initiatives, including community radio. She is currently engaged in the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society which is credited as the first UN multi-stakeholder process that is realising the approach to global governance described in the Millennium Development Goals. Tracey Chairs the WSIS Media Caucus and the Civil Society Bureau.



Nederveen Pieterse, Jan

Nederveen Pieterse, Jan, professor of sociology at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, specializes in transnational sociology with research interests in globalization, development studies and intercultural studies. He taught in the Netherlands, Ghana and as visiting professor in Japan, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and lectured in many countries. He is associate editor of *Futures*, *European Journal of Social Theory*, *Ethnicities*, *Third Text*, and *Culture & Society* and Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. Recent publications include: *Globalization or Empire?* (Routledge, 2004); *Global Mélange: Globalization and culture* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003); *Development Theory: Deconstructions/Reconstructions* (Sage, 2001); *Globalization and Social Movements* (co-edited, Palgrave, 2001); *Global Futures: Shaping Globalization* (edited, Zed, 2000); and about 200 articles and chapters.

Niederer, Sabine

Niederer, Sabine (1977), works as a producer and researcher at the Institute of Network Cultures in Amsterdam. Sabine graduated in 2003 as an art historian (MA) at Utrecht University, with a masters thesis on manipulated photography (from Dada-2000). In 2003, she worked as producer of the international games conference Level Up. From 2001-2004 she worked as curator of Hoogt4, the platform of film-related arts at Filmtheatre 't Hoogt in Utrecht. Until recently she taught (media) theory at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam. Sabine is one of the editors of the bimonthly film and video program 'Cinematiek', and writes music video reviews for the Dutch broadcasting company NPS at www.cinema.nl.

Nwakanma, Nnenna

Nwakanma, Nnenna, holds a triple Bachelors degree (in the Social Sciences, History and Religion) and a Masters degree in International Law and Relations. She has worked within international development organizations and institutions in Africa as an Information, Documentation and Relations Officer: The Home Health Education Service, The Helen Keller Foundation (HKI) and The African Development Bank (AFD). Nnenna is the co-founder of different pan-African organizations: The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA), The Africa Network of Information Society Actors (ANISA), and the Africa Civil Society for the Information Society (AC SIS). One of the major Civil Society Actors in the World Summit on the Information Society, she represents the African Civil Society on the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF), and advises on the Africa Information Society Initiative (AIS). She is also the co-author of *Our Side of the Divide and Silenced: Censorship and Control of the Internet*. At present she works as a consultant to governments, civil society organizations, business entities and international development organizations on various domains of her expertise in African Development: Human Rights, Conflict Management, Gender Mainstreaming and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Op de Coul, Maartje

Op de Coul, Maartje has been new media evaluation manager for OneWorld International since November 2002. As such she conducts worldwide audience and partner surveys and develops and coordinates evaluation activities for a variety of OneWorld projects. For one of them, the Open Knowledge Network, she has developed a methodology and oversees its implementation in several African countries. In the past 2 years she has also conducted 20 ICT for development case studies in South Asia, Southern Africa and Central America and developed a general framework for evaluation for the OneWorld network. Furthermore she contributes to the development, testing and publication of a toolbox





for evaluating information products and services. Before she joined OneWorld Maartje worked as an 'ICT for development' programme officer with Hivos (Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries) from 1997-2002. She was responsible for co-writing, implementing and monitoring the Hivos ICT policy, the programme management of ICT projects and awareness and capacity building on 'ICT for development' issues both nationally and internationally. Maartje graduated (with honours) in History (of International Relations and Latin America) from Utrecht University, Netherlands, 1997. Recent publications: What can computers do for the poor?, June 2004 on openDemocracy.net, and ICT for development Case Studies on Southern Africa, South Asia, Central America (Synthesis report) Dec. 2003.

Ouéadraogo, Sylvestre

Ouéadraogo, Sylvestre (Burkina Faso) is lecturer in economy at the University of Ouagadougou. He is an ICT4D expert, coordinator of Local Information and Exchange Networking and President of Yam Pukri. Sylvestre is the author of "Computer and the Djembe, between dreams and Realities", Harmattan, 2003. His passion, however, lies in applied sciences, especially in the application of science for the benefit of the projects in the countries in the process of development. After his doctorate in 1996, he started again to work in the associative field, but this time by creating an association which is called YAM PUKRI, which in local language MOORE means Open your mind. This association has as principal objectives training, popularization and the advise in new technologies (computer and Internet). To date, six centers of formation were create and we add up more than 3000 people trained since 1998. YAM PUKRI association is a pioneer in the field of ICT's association in Burkina Faso. He has partnership with several organizations in the world and more mainly Terre des Hommes, Genève in the area the training of the young people to new technologies. In 2002, YAM PUKRI concluded an agreement from partnership with IICD and within this framework, they have created a Local Information and Exchange Network (LIEN).

Plaetevoet, René

Plaetevoet, René is the coordinator of the European Platform for Migrant Workers Rights and the co-founder of december18.net the online network for the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants. An international group of volunteers maintains the portal site and supports the online campaigns which the organisation has set up in favour of the universal ratification of the UN Migrant Workers Convention. From 1999 to 2004, René was international coordinator with oneworld.net, the leading civil society portal site on human rights and sustainable development.

Pullens, Roy

Pullens, Roy (1976), researcher Incommunicado 05. Research titled 'Migration Management: Export of the IOM Model for EU Security'. From artschool student to disillusioned artist. From disappointed student media studies to motivated trouble maker in possession of cute boyfriend with huge sideburns.

Raqs Media Collective

Jeebesh Bagchi, Monica Narula and Shuddhabrata Sengupta are members of the Raqs Media Collective and co-initiators (with Ravi Sundaram and Ravi Vasudevan) of the Sarai Programme at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies Delhi. At Sarai, Jeebesh Bagchi coordinates the Cybermohalla project, Monica Narula is coordinator of the Media Lab and Shuddhabrata Sengupta is co ordinator Research Network. All three work at the Sarai Media Lab and are editors of the Sarai Reader series. Their work (as Raqs) includes the installations -"A Measure of Anacoustic Reason", "Lost New Shoes", "The Impostor in the Waiting Room", "The Wherehouse", "5 Pieces of Evidence", "Co-Ordinates of Everyday Life - 28.28N/7 7.15E::2001/2002", "Location(n)", "A/S/L" and the "Temporary Autonomous Sarai" (in Collaboration with Atelier Bow Wow, Tokyo), "OPUS" a web based system designed for the sharing of creativity, and print projects for 'Utopia Station', 'Soda', 'Data Browser'





and the Sarai Readers. Raqs has exhibited at the 51st and 50th Venice Biennales, Documenta 11 (Kassel), at the Taipei and Liverpool Biennales, Palais de Beaux Arts (Brussels), Emocao Artifical (Sao Paulo), Generali Foundation Gallery (Vienna), Ars Electronica (Linz), the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), the Roomade Office for Contemporary Art (Brussels) and at the Bose Pacia Gallery, New York.

Rebernak, Jerneja

Rebernak, Jerneja was born in Slovenia in 1981 and has lived in Italy since 1989. She has graduated in Communication science at the University of Ljubljana in 2004. Currently she is enrolled in the Research Master in Media Studies at the University in Amsterdam. She is an activist from the group Dost je! and was coordinator of the project Vox Pupuli, a group focused on the elaboration of posters on the enlargement process of NATO. She participated at conferences in the Czech Republic "Media and Xenophobia" organized by Eyfa and helped as a volunteer in the "Tuning into diversity" organized by Miramedia, the Netherlands (2004). Her current interests and topic of research are Communication Rights in the WSIS process and the state of civil society in Tunisia.

Riphagen, Margreet

Riphagen, Margreet (1977), producer at Waag Society, graduated in 2000 at Integrated Communication Management at the Hogeschool of Utrecht. After graduating, Margreet worked three years at an advertising agency in Utrecht, as an account manager. In June 2003 she started working at Waag Society as a producer. The projects she has been working on are Pilotus (pilotus.com) and the Storytable (storytable.com). In 2005 she produced the Creative Capital Conference in Amsterdam, together with The Netherlands KnowledgeLand.

Rogers, Richard

Rogers, Richard, is University Lecturer in New Media at the University of Amsterdam, recurrent Visiting Professor in the Philosophy and Social Study of Science at the University of Vienna, and Director of the Govcom.org Foundation (Amsterdam). Previously, Rogers worked as Senior Advisor to Infodrome, the Dutch Governmental Information Society initiative. He also has worked as a Researcher and Tutor in Computer Related Design at the Royal College of Art (London), as Research Fellow in Design and Media at the Jan van Eyck Academy (Maastricht), and as a Researcher in Technology Assessment at the Science Center Berlin (WZB) and in Strategic Computing in the Public Sector at the JFK School, Harvard University. He earned his PhD and MSc in Science Studies at the University of Amsterdam, and his B.A. in Government and German at Cornell University. Over the past five years, Rogers and the Govcom.org Foundation have received grants from the Dutch Government (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science), the Open Society Institute and the Ford Foundation. Rogers is author of *Technological Landscapes* (Royal College of Art, London, 1999), editor of *Preferred Placement: Knowledge Politics on the Web* (Jan van Eyck Press, 2000), and author of *Information Politics on the Web* (MIT Press, 2004). See here for maps, also see InfoId, Issue Network, and Issue Crawler.

Rossiter, Ned

Rossiter, Ned, is a Senior Lecturer in Media Studies (Digital Media) at the Centre for Media Research, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, and Adjunct Research Fellow at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney. Ned is co-editor of *Politics of a Digital Present: An Inventory of Australian Net Culture, Criticism and Theory* (Melbourne: Fibreculture Publications, 2001) and *Refashioning Pop Music in Asia: Cosmopolitan Flows, Political Tempos and Aesthetic Industries* (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2004). He is also a co-facilitator of fibreculture, a network of critical Internet research





and culture in Australasia. Research interests: Digital media cultures; information economies; network societies; social movements & ICTs; media theory; political philosophy. Current research projects: organized Networks as New Institutional Forms; Political Economy of the Internet and Civil Society; Creative Industries, Information Economies and the Precarious Condition of Labour; Latin American-Asia New Media Initiatives Group.

Rustema, Reinder

Rustema, Reinder (1972) is a writer and lecturer, teaching at the University of Amsterdam and the Arts & Technology school in Breda. He travels between both his homes in Amsterdam and Paris. He actively contributes to many usenet newsgroup and other internet fora. His wide area of expertise ranges from such diverse fields as digital culture, politics and the public domain. He wrote an MA thesis on The Rise and Fall of the Digital City In Amsterdam. In 2005 he launched the website petities.nl where Dutch citizens can sign or initiate a petition. He is self-employed through RRR Media, a company he started five years ago. Rustema has been on the Internet Society board since 2003.

Rutten, Kris

Rutten, Kris studied Comparative Sciences of Culture and Development Studies. During his education he was a trainee for the Digitaal Platform IAK/IBK (<http://www.digitaalplatform.be>) where he did research on themes such as Patents, Communities, Gender and Network Literacy. Afterwards he collaborated in concrete projects for the non-profit organization Constant (<http://www.constantvzw.com>) and the Digitaal Platform IAK/IBK. For both organizations he does editing work on a regular basis. Recently he started working as junior faculty member at Ghent University (<http://www.ugent.be>), more specific for the Department of Education within a team which focuses on culture, education and media.

Rutten, Matthijs

Rutten, Matthijs is a third year student Integrated Communication Management at the Hogeschool of Utrecht. The main subject of his Communication Studies is European Public Affairs. After his graduation he is planning to obtain his master in political science at the University of Amsterdam. He currently works as a communication and research intern at the Institute of Network Cultures for the international work conference and public event 'ICT for Development'. These events are organized by the INC, in cooperation with Waag Society, De Balie in Amsterdam and the Delhi-based media centre Sarai. The international character of the coming work conference and public event corresponds with his international orientation; before and during his study he spent several months in South America, South East Asia and the Middle East.

Sarker, Partha Pratim

Sarker, Partha Pratim works as an International Consultant to 'ICT for Development' issues and co-founded a citizen's network - Bytes for All - which is one of the oldest and most popular ICT4D network in South Asia. Partha has worked to rebuild bytes for all as a public domain that is community driven and brought out different on-line portal issues on ICT for public health, disaster mitigation, mass education, rural connectivity, non-English computing, E-governance etc. He also runs a popular discussion channel - Bytes for All Readers Forum - which is being integrated to the network. An ITU fellow, Partha also works as an Asian correspondent to Government Technology International Magazine in USA and has consulted with different other groups including IDRC, APC, UNESCO Regional Office in New Delhi, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB) etc. His articles are published at Asia Pacific Internet Handbook, Southern Review Journal, GKP Publication on ICT for Poverty Reduction, UNESCO publications on Profiles and Experiences etc.





Schneider, Florian

Schneider, Florian is a filmmaker, writer, and developer in the fields of new media, networking and open source technologies. In his work he focuses on crossovers between mainstream and independent media, art and activism, theory and technology. As a filmmaker he directed several award-winning documentaries and made theme-evenings for the german-french tv station Arte on the topics of migration and new global movements. He is one of the initiators of the KEIN MENSCH IST ILLEGAL campaign at documentaX and subsequent projects. He founded, designed and supported countless online-projects, such as the European internet platform D-A-S-H and the online-network KEIN.ORG. He is the director of the new media festivals MAKEWORLD (2001), NEURO (2004) and one of the co-organizers of the upcoming FADAIAT2 event in Tarifa/Tangiers, in June 2005. His publications include contributions in Der Spiegel and other renowned magazines and newspapers. From 2001, he has published Makeworlds paper 1-4, a newspaper magazine for theory, art and activism.

Schout, Loe

Schout, Loe (1952) has a background in journalism and communications. As Head of Communications and Marketing, he played a pionering role in the online dissemination strategy of Hivos, one of the first Dutch development agencies to have utilized the internet. He is currently head of the ICT & Knowledge Sharing desk being responsible for the implementation of Hivos' ICT support programme in developing countries. As of 1 July 2005 Loe Schout will lead the new Culture, ICT and Media bureau. Schout published articles on internet, networking, civil society building and development in various magazines.

Sedee, Anne

Sedee, Anne, has a background in political studies as well as IT. Current work: manager IT Milieudedefensie (Dutch section Friends of the Earth), ICT consultant Niza, program committee What the Hack, board XminY and Worldcom.org.

Sigillito, Magela

Sigillito, Magela, from Uruguay, is the head of the Internet operations of ITeM (Instituto del Tercer Mundo - Third World Institute) a non profit research and advocacy organization. She is the coordinator of the Choike website (www.choike.org), a leading portal on Southern civil societies. Choike is active in the World Summit for the Information Society, producing research papers with a Southern perspective and manages www.whiteband.org the website of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). Ms. Sigillito was the manager of Chasque, the first Internet provider for the public at large in Uruguay, until December 2004 when that operation was transferred from ITeM to a private firm. She is a member of the boards of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and of IFlwatchnet. Ms. Sigillito holds a degree in Librarian and Information Sciences from the National University of Costa Rica and has worked on ITs for development since the early eighties.

Sorj, Bernardo

Sorj, Bernardo is Director of the Edelstein Center for Social Research and Professor of Sociology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He was visiting professor in several universities in Europe, United States and Latin America and more recently he was awarded the Chaire Sérgio Buarque de Holanda from the Maison des Sciences de L'Homme and the Chaire Simón Bolívar, Institut des Hautes Études de L'Amerique Latine, Paris. He is the author of 17 books and more than a hundred articles published in several languages related to the international system,





contemporary social theory and Latin American development. The title of his most recent books are brazil@digitaldivide.com-Confronting Inequality in the Informatin Society (Unesco), and in Portuguese and Spanish Unexpected Democracy Citizenship, Human Rights and Social Inequality-. And Internet and Poverty.

Starink, Gerben

Starink, Gerben is a Amsterdam-based student/artist of Media and Culture, currenntly starting his masters about open-source software. The main subject of his studies is Open Source. For *incomunicado 05*, Gerben researched the situation of postcolonial discourse in ICT.

Stoop-Alcala, Fatima

Stoop-Alcala, Fatima, researcher and blogger for the *Incomunicado* conference, hails from the Philippines where she graduated with a double-degree in Humanities and Education, minor in Political Science. She also took up a master's course in Development Studies. In 1993 she began teaching politics, communication, gender and art appreciation in De La Salle University and the University of the Philippines both in the city of Manila. Fatima also headed rural communication development programs for NGO's and later delved into copywriting and concept development for several ad agencies. A roleplaying game-junkie, she met her Dutch husband in one of the virtual worlds where she lived. She's now back to being a student, this time taking up Interactive Media in the Hogeschool van Amsterdam. Fatima is specializing in Interactive Communication.

Sundaram, Ravi

Sundaram, Ravi is a fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi and among the initiators of the Sarai programme on media and urban culture. His work deals with the intersection of the city and contemporary electronic cultures, issues of legality and non legality, and new conflicts around

property and the electronic commodity. Sundaram has spoken and presented on these issues in India and around the world; his essays have been translated into many languages. In Sarai, he works with the research project *Publics and Practices in the History of the Present (PPHP)*, which examines the emerging inter-media junctions in Indian cities. He has co-edited the critically acclaimed series: the Sarai Readers: *The Public Domain (2001)*, *The Cities of Everyday Life (2002)*, *Shaping Technologies (2003)*, and the new *Crisis Media (2004)*. Among the recent conferences recently he co-organized was *Contested Commons/ Trespassing Publics: A Conference on Inequalities, Conflicts and Intellectual Property*. In Spring 2005 he is a visiting Fellow at Princeton University.

Tarman, Glen

Tarman, Glen, is the coordinator of the Trade Justice Movement , the UK coalition of over 70 NGOs, trade unions and other organisations campaigning for fundamental changes to the unjust rules and institutions that govern international trade. He is also a member of the coordination team of *MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY* , a one-year only, 400+ organisation alliance from UK civil society that has come together to demand political action on trade justice, debt and aid through massive public mobilisation throughout 2005 including the G8 Summit. Glen is the *MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY* coordination lead on new media strategy (as well as trade). *MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY* is the UK national platform of the Global Call for Action against Poverty . Glen was formerly publicity manager at *OneWorld* where he had responsibility for media relations, online marketing, promotion and public relations for the online development and human rights network. Previously Glen coordinated the UK activist networks for the World Development Movement and VSO as well as working in a number of media and communications roles in global issue campaigning, development education and NGO profile-raising. Glen has written widely on all forms new media campaigning as well as undertaking various consultancy work, training, and public speaking on digital activism and the role of the internet for action on global causes.





Velden, Maja van der

Velden, Maja van der is a Research Fellow, Department of Information and Media Studies, University of Bergen, Norway, working on a multi-year project entitled "Local Knowledges in Global Communications". Since the late 1980s, Maja has been involved in ICT for development, human rights and social justice issues as an activist, journalist, and researcher. Her present research investigates the impact of ICT on human knowledge and focuses on cognitive justice as the basis of an ethical framework for ICT design and policy. Her most recent article, "Programming for Cognitive Justice", discusses the Development Gateway and the Open Knowledge Network, arguing for socio-technical designs that assume the diversity of knowledge. Originally from The Netherlands, Maja has lived for extended periods in Tanzania, Palestine, Canada, and presently lives in Oslo, Norway. Her articles can be found at her site or her research blog.

Verzola, Roberto

Verzola, Roberto is an engineer by training, and a long-time social activist. He introduced many Philippine and Asian NGOs to computers and the Internet, as Chair of People's Access and Interdoc in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He set up the first email service for NGOs in the Philippines in 1992 and for this effort was recognized by the local computer industry as "Father of Philippine Email". Based on his deep familiarity and extensive work with the new information and communications technologies, he developed a framework of analysis, revealing the social impact of these technologies, a unique perspective on ICTs from the eyes of a developing country activist. His work resulted in the book *Towards a Political Economy of Information*, published in March 2004. Verzola continues to advise Philippine NGOs not only on ICTs on sustainable agriculture, genetic engineering, renewable energy, nuclear power plants, and other technologies as well. He helped found the Philippine Greens in 1996 and served as its first secretary-general. Today he is its sustainable

agriculture campaigner. He also serves as Adviser on Sustainable Technologies for the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and a member of the board of Pabinhi, and sustainable agriculture network in the Philippines.

Vodeb, Oliver

Vodeb, Oliver (30) is a sociologist currently completing his PhD at the program of Sociology of everyday life at the Faculty for Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His research focuses mainly on socially responsive communications, critical (media) literacy, tactical education and (new media) networking environments. He teaches "Theories and practices of media and communication" at the Design department at the Academy of Fine Arts, University of Ljubljana. He is the founder and president of Memefest, the international festival of radical communication www.memefest.org, and is a member of Memeworks, a radical communications collective. In the past seven years he worked on different communications projects in the spheres of non profit organisations, ngo's, media activism, social marketing, graphic design and selected commercial advertising projects. He can be reached at oliver AT memefest dot org.

Zehle, Soenke

Zehle, Soenke is a German media researcher. A holder of various degrees in comparative literature, philosophy, political science, and translation, he teaches transcultural media and human rights studies in the Transcultural Anglophone Studies Program (TAS) at Saarland University, Saarbruecken. Publications include essays on media studies and political ecology. He has been involved in numerous info-political grassroots and research initiatives. Along with Geert Lovink, he is also the co-founder of the incomunicado.info project and co-organizer of incomunicado 05.





the delhi declaration of a new context for new media

The Open Networks Agenda for International
Collaboration in Media and Communication Arts
January-June 2005

Preface

The discussions that gave rise to this document took place at a meeting of an 'International Working Group on New Media Culture' hosted by the Open Cultures Network - a network created by the Waag Society, Amsterdam, Sarai-CSDS Delhi and Public Netbase, Vienna. The meeting, which featured contributions by artists, theorists, critics, curators, arts administrators, researchers, social scientists and software programmers from India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, Finland, Italy, Australia and Canada took place at Sarai-CSDS, Delhi in January 2005. The Open Cultures Network is supported by the EU INDIA ECONOMIC AND CROSS CULTURAL PROGRAMME.

This text is a draft of a declaration ('The Delhi Declaration') that emerged from this meeting. This draft of the Delhi Declaration is written by Shuddhabrata Sengupta from Sarai CSDS & Raqs Media Collective, Delhi and Tapio Makela, m-Cult, Helsinki based on the inputs and contributions made by the members of the working group during the course of their deliberations.

Situating New Media in the Space of a Global Urban Contemporaneity

The Streets of our cities are crowded with signals. Cinemas, desk top publishing, satellite television and fm radio, increasingly pervasive and ubiquitous computing, mobile telephony, telecommunications and the internet surrounding us in a matrix that also continues to feature analog and offline communication practices as diverse as theater, live performance, print culture and books and the production of visual and tactile objects. Old and new forms of communication create a new context for culture by their continuous interaction with each other. We live and practice, as artists, critics, curators and audiences - within this context. We also realize that this context extends deep into the substructure of local histories and situations, just as much as it extends far into a global space of communications that spans the entire planet. Our neighbourhoods and streets contain the world, and the world is a patchwork made up of all our local histories.





Background to the Meeting of the Working Group : From Helsinki to Delhi

This document was produced in Delhi subsequent to the discussions of the International Working Group on New Media Culture at Sarai-CSDS in January 2005 and emerged from a dialogue between practitioners, artists, curators, theorists, critics and activists in the field of new media and digital culture that sought to reflect on this reality. The dialogue took place during an International working group meeting under the aegis of 'Towards a Culture of Open Networks' - a collaborative programme developed by Sarai CSDS (Delhi), The Waag Society (Amsterdam) and Public Netbase (Vienna) with the support of the EU India Economic and Cross Cultural Programme.

The meeting took place immediately following from 'Contested Commons, Trespassing Publics' an international conference on culture, conflict and intellectual property organized by Sarai CSDS and the Alternative Law Forum (Bangalore) from the 6th - 8th of January in Delhi. The meeting also comes half a year after the drafting of the Helsinki Agenda, a document produced by a group of experts in the new media field in a meeting hosted by m-cult in Helsinki in the wake of ISEA2004. The Helsinki Agenda took forward the ideas that emerged in the Amsterdam Agenda and it particularly emphasized the need to shift new media arts and culture policy to better support international, translocal, non-nation based cultural practices. The Open Networks Agenda builds on both of these sets of ideas to propose a framework for thinking substantively on what it means to create contexts for collaboration in digital and electronic media practices.

The diverse discussions on culture, conflict and intellectual property that marked the 'Contested Commons/ Trespassing Publics' conference and the broad vision for a renewal of international new media and electronic culture outlined in the Helsinki Agenda provide a set of conceptual foundations for the propositions put forward in this document.

Collaboration, Dialogue, Conversation

We acknowledge that there is a growing incidence of collaboration, dialogue and conversation between practitioners of networked culture in different parts of the world. At the moment we are paying special attention to construct collaboration and networks between Europe and Asia. These transactions emerge from a growing level of formal and informal contact, through residencies, greater mutual visibility in international platforms - such as biennials, festivals and conferences, and actual instances of cross cultural collaboration. There is a strong desire amongst communities of practitioners and theorists in several parts of the world for the laying of stable foundations so as to ensure that this surge of collaborative processes has an enduring and equitable future for all those who are involved. While we endorse the energies that are key to this moment, we are aware that unreflective continuity may actually deepen existing inequalities. This requires us to inaugurate a process of substantive thinking about the plurality of processes that can fall under the umbrella of the term 'collaboration', to develop a set of conceptual tools that can help articulate different ethics and protocols of collaboration, and set pragmatic goals that can be realized through instances of actual practice in a very heterogeneous world. This means we take account of the fact that differences in cultural and societal infrastructure and political conditions (within and between countries and societies) are as real as are the increasing instances of similarity.

This document hopes to initiate precisely such an exercise. It does not claim to provide all or even most of the answers, and it invites the networked culture practitioners to extend, elaborate and deepen the questions and issues we hope to raise. We are addressing practitioners who collaborate or desire collaboration across cultural and disciplinary boundaries, curators, critics and theorists who act as interlocutors in this process, and administrators who influence or shape the concrete conditions that enable cultural dialogue and transactions.





Heterogeneity of Forms and Practices : Communcative Practices in South Asia

The Open Networks Agenda recognizes that the culture of communicative practices in contemporary South Asia is characterized by a rich heterogeneity of forms and protocols and express a healthy diversity in the face of the tendency of the formal operations of intellectual property to flatten the protocols of cultural production on to a single plane. Rather than have every cultural good available as a commodity designed for one time sale, the prevalence of a vigorous cluster of practices of ongoing cultural transaction within and outside formal commodity relations guarantees the diversities of contemporary south asian cultural expression. This does not imply an antagonism or indifference to market imperatives, rather, it places such imperatives within a larger matrix of practices which also include sharing, gift giving and formal as well as informal protocols of reciprocity.

Beyond 'Access'

These impulses to improvise, re-mix and re-purpose that characterizes the daily life of electronic culture in South Asian urban contexts is something that the agenda urges serious consideration of, especially in order to move beyond the 'developmentalist' rhetoric of 'granting access' when speaking of the place of new media in the global south, and in underserved zones in the global north.

Similarly, a more grounded view of the place of digital media would require us to go beyond the naive celebratory rhetoric that sees the mere placement of computers and digital tools in the hands of under privileged and underserved actors as sufficient conditions for the cultivation of a sensibility of digital creativity within society. The important question to ask is not whether the majorities of societies are deprived of digital tools, or are on the 'wanting' side of the 'digital divide' but to question what people can do, and what they actualize when they gain access. Here we are clearly emphasizing content and process more than simply presence of and access to ICT.

In going 'beyond' the discourse of access alone, the Open Networks Agenda recognizes the necessity of resilient thinking that takes difference and conflict as well as collaboration and solidarity into account.

The Collaborative Nature of Cultural Practice

We (the authors of the Open Networks Agenda) recognize that all cultural work is necessarily collaborative, and that collaborators may either be part of generations either contemporaneous or previous to our own. Taking this further, everything that we produce today is aslo potential material for collaboration with partners in all our tomorrows. We also recognize that the collaborative nature of cultural work requires not only freedom of speech, but also increased mobility of our words, images and ideas. A key challenge is to develop methodologies that enable open sharing while developing a plurality of models and approaches towards sustainable, mixed and re-mixed modes of usage of intellectual and cultural resources, some of which may be expressed as different kinds of intellectual property (in some instances) and others as a varied cultural commons (in other instances).





Formal and Informal Media Landscapes

Taken together, these elements constitute a landscape of intermedia constellations and media processes nested within different interlocking and co-existent contexts, some of which may be formal, institutionally anchored, located within recognized forms and disciplines, while others may be informal, located between and across forms and disciplines, and on occasion, expressed in a tangential relationship to the requirements of legality. The formal and informal aspects of this landscape are not a neat binary, but expressed as two poles of a continuous spectrum.

From 'New Media' to 'New Context Media'

Our recognition that all new media objects and processes are located in specific contexts suggests that we see new media as what Nancy Adajania has described as 'new context media' – as instances of what happens when a plethora of communicative practices, ranging from work on and with the web, to video, to radio, to telecommunication based practices, to installations, to sound work, to print and graphic design, and emerging forms of pervasive computing enter new semantic material spaces, and take on different recombinant possibilities that spring from their mutual interactions throughout the world.

We use Adajania's concept of 'New Context Media' with some deliberation, insisting that it is not a drive to strain to keep abreast with the latest technology that concerns us here as much as it is the continuous renewal of the conceptual field of communication context. Also, it is to indicate our impatience with the inadequacy of the portmanteau term 'New Media' because in a sense all media practices were once, 'New'. To say that the internet is later in time than the cinema is not to be in anyway insightful about anything other than chronology. In instances such as that of South Asian media culture, this gets further complicated by the co-existence and synergy between what is today's 'New Media' and what might have been yesterday's 'New Media'. To privilege one of these over the other is to be unmindful of the ecology of the media landscape as well as to the vitality of the relationships between actually existing practices.

The Question of 'Translatability'

The climate of mutuality that characterizes this landscape is founded on the many acts of making, sharing, viewing, listening, reading, researching, curation and criticism that draw their strengths from existing networks of everyday collaborations between different nodes spanning the universe of practice in new context media. Practitioners bring to this intersection of creative, intellectual and discursive energies the markers and histories of different cultural-historical-spatial specificities and the received as well as emerging traditions of different practices. Through processes of sustained interactions practitioners are able to evolve a neighbourhood of affinities in practice, a commons of expression.

However, it needs to be clearly understood that this coming together is not contingent on an easy translatability, or the evolution of some kind of 'Esperanto' form of cultural practice. Rather, we need to work with the understanding that there are and will be necessary difficulties of translation, that invite us to be at least legible to each other, before we make the claim to comprehensively understand each other. We need to share with each other what we do not know about each other before we can make the claim to mutual understanding.

Designs for Commoning

These encounters when allowed to play out to their fullest extent, can give rise to various designs for commoning, different protocols of working together, of sharing materials of having access to each other's work and materials, some of which may be expressed in quasi legal languages – as licenses and charters, while some others may be expressed simply as invitations and invocations.





A Plurality of Commons

We emphatically endorse a plurality of ways in which the commons of cultural and social media use can be and are being constituted through different modes of practice. Some of these may be more discursive than others, some may be more invested with aesthetic pursuits, while others may find themselves more committed to social and political questions, and still others may be recursive in the sense that they may involve practices of consistent but critical self reflexivity. The one thing that we do insist on is that the commons constituted by such collaborations grow organically (admitting that there is no master plan or overall design) and that they make room for an ethic of collegial criticism across the boundaries of cultures, histories, tastes, forms and disciplines. In other words we want to insist that there are and will be many kinds of commons, and that we all must retain the right to be critical of different modes of commoning as they emerge, evolve and dissolve, even as we agree on the value of the commons itself.

Clearly, what this entails is a refined practice of trust. Where people allow for the fact that they need to nurture practices that foreground trust and respect precisely because they may not be transparent to each other. We recognize that the groundwork needed for such trust and for the conditions of collaboration to grow are directly proportional to cultural distance. And here by cultural distance we mean both the distance between practitioners based in different parts of the world, as well as the distances between different kinds of practitioners, regardless of the co ordinates of their physical location or historical inheritances.

Expanding Conceptual Horizons

Collaboration requires an expansion of conceptual horizons. Practitioners, critics, curators and audiences based in the metropolitan centres of global culture (often in the global North) will often have to work harder to learn about the spaces, histories and cultures of other parts of the world. This makes it possible to adequately respond to and reciprocate the informed understanding that people in the global south have of the global north as a result of the histories of colonial encounters. It will also mean that practitioners, critics, curators and audiences in the global south will have to reconsider the articulative privileges that arise from the default and often ahistorical assumption of an automatic 'victim' position by artists and cultural practitioners simply because they happen to be from the south.

Location and Extension

The practice of a networked culture will necessarily involve a rethinking of what we mean by locatedness and extension. This may on an occasion mean a withdrawal or curtailment of the privileges of an excess of locatedness and particularity, and at the same time it will also involve an attenuation of any attempts to construct a heroic hyper-globalist universalism that is not attentive to specific histories and especially to global as well as local inequalities of power and articulative capacity.

Social/Cultural Contexts for FLOSS

"Collaboration" in general, and more specifically free, libre and open source software (FLOSS) co-development, have been romanticized in the past and continue to be romanticized in the present as benevolent, essentially "good" practices. We insist that attention must be paid instead to the cultural and social contexts of use and effect of these practices in order to evaluate them. Special attention needs to be paid within the FLOSS milieu to the urgency of localization and for creating software interfaces that are able to translate the ideals of sociality inherent in FLOSS practices to the relationships between lay users, software, the hacker scene, software developers, artists, critics and accessible technological interfaces.



Beyond 'First Wave New Media Culture'

We assert that it is time to move beyond the self congratulatory mutual self recognition that characterized the global expansion of what may be called first wave new media practices. To continue in that mode would be to allow us to degenerate into a clique of cliques of global new media practitioners, united by an arcane 'inspeak' and insulated by the hermetic comfort of their practices from the exigencies and disturbances of the world outside our media labs, gatherings, galleries and conferences. Rather, new context media practitioners will have to learn to be open to each others vulnerabilities, they will have to work with difficulties in translation, will need to learn to live with and thrive on the fluid, unpredictable and dynamic (as opposed to the solid and stable) nature of the contemporary global moment.

Types of Collaborations

What kinds of Collaborations Do we See ?

- Firstly, between practitioners based in different spaces and cultural contexts
- between theorists/curators/critics/researchers based in different spaces and cultural contexts
- between practitioners and theorists/curators/critics/researchers
- between practitioners of different kinds of media practices
- between practitioners at different levels of visibility and recognition
- between practitioners, theorists and local communities

3 Models for Collaborative Practice

We also propose that serious attention be paid to the task of evolving different models of collaboration, not just those of people making things together, but also based on the idea of dialogue and conversation.

The Dramaturg Model : Here, for instance we propose the 'dramaturg' model which is used in some theatre practices as something that might merit serious consideration. This entails a structural accommodation of interlocution and interlocutors in the shaping of a practice. Practically, it may involve the dialogic presence of theorists, writers, researchers in situations where media processes and objects, or art projects are being created. This would necessarily involve the cultivation of hospitality and attention by practitioners towards people engaged primarily with discourse, just as it requires theorists and researchers to be sensitive to the exigencies of practice and artistic creation.

The Archive Model : Another model of collaboration could emphasize the rigorous documentation, chronicling and archiving of a practice. Here, practitioners could enter into a seriously considered relationship with people dedicated to the act of documenting and archiving what practice entails. Here documentation would not be seen as a 'service' performed for the practitioner, but crucially as a means to ensure the durability of a practice through critical annotation and detailed description. What this necessarily involves is the creation of many archives of practices and process. Here, we also see the necessity of the public rendition of processes a key function of extended archiving. Involving writers and documentary filmmakers to work with the archives of completed and ongoing artistic collaborations will generate a 'public intelligence' of processual work that we feel will be crucial to the imperatives of wider audience development for new media/new context media works

The Ensemble Model and 'Collaboratories' : Collaboration can also be dynamised through structured co improvisation and ensemble playing. This would require media practitioners to learn from the traditions that animate the worlds of music and dance where the presence of performing bodies in given co ordinates of space and time as ensembles can be a sufficient condition for acts of collaborative creativity. Situating programmers, technicians, artists, practitioners and theorists from different backgrounds in conditions of real time, offline conviviality in 'collaboratories' - workshops, residencies, tactical media labs and field work - (collaborative laboratories) can produce conditions of high synergy. This recognizes that the deepening of new media practices are crucially dependent on the interplay between embodied learning and knowledge. On the conventions of knowledge sharing that often tie communities of practitioners together. This requires us also to deepen our awareness and understanding of the ethic of friendship and informal solidarity that significantly underpins substantial aspects of the 'everyday life of practice' in new media cultures.





Users and Producers

In a new media context, the distinctions between producers and users, practitioners and audiences, writers and readers are characterized by porosity. Users can be and often are producers, however, mere access to media technology and networks does not in itself provide the productive agency. In order to facilitate productive agencies and critical media literacies, we need to think of audiences as partners in collaborative processes, and requires support for development, education and outreach activities that bring audiences/users and producers/practitioners into close contact. As new media is an emerging domain of practice, support for it also involves sensitivity to the urgency that audiences and practitioners both feel for developing the conventions and expectations that are pertinent to questions of audience-practitioner interaction appropriate to the field. This means support for familiarization, for informal and formal immersion and education processes, for publications that contextualize works and practitioners, and for greater attention to activities that involve young and new audiences by cultivating a heightened curatorial sensitivity and innovative outreach strategies.

Collaboration as Transformation

We need to acknowledge that collaboration is a transformative process, that it changes people, organizations and institutions, challenges them and provokes them to grow and branch out in different directions. This can be a necessary precondition for collaboration, just as it may be a consequence of its success. In the event of the inauguration of a relationship between partners who are not at the same level in terms of infrastructure, the upgradation of resources may be a necessary precondition for the collaboration to occur. In other instances, the density of exchanges and upscaling of activities that occur during the process may demand a process of deepening, expansion and renewal, within each node in the networks. This process of growth often requires an expansion in capacity and infrastructure which need to be understood and acted upon by the structures (at the governmental, inter governmental and non governmental level) that enable and support collaborative networks.

Duration and Time

Collaboration also necessarily involves duration and different temporal registers. There can be synchronous as well as asynchronous modes of collaboration and dialogue, and both merit consideration and support. Sometimes it may be crucially necessary that people come together to work at the same time, at other times the process of collaboration may require intervals, periods dedicated to re-evaluation and assessment and re-engagement at a different level of intensity and activity. Support for one form of engagement (short term, intensive, goal oriented) should not preclude the possibility of durable for support alternative (long term, processual, durable) temporal registers. We need to recognize that the interplay between these two rhythms is vital for both research and artistic practices.

Practitioners and Publics

Finally, we need to recognize and endorse the fact that in the end, the most important collaborative process is that between practitioners and their publics. This is especially true in the case of new media/new context media, because the cultures of online file sharing and digital peer to peer protocols have already laid the foundations for the blurring of the boundaries between users and producers, audience and artist, publics and practitioners. We need to found structures of support for creative audiences and creative end-users, by enabling communities of fans, artist-audience interfaces and a vibrant critical culture that actively intervenes in artistic production. This will involve support not only for those who speak and perform, but also for those who listen, view, read and participate. New media practices will require infrastructural support through the creation of pods, interactive archives, workshop spaces and listening rooms in all cultural institutions and public spaces which will become the hubs of a dense and dynamic culture of pleasurable and informed exchange through art and creativity.

This will require us to be imaginative not only about how we see practitioners, but also about how we see publics, and will involve rethinking the paradigm of 'permissions' and consent that an audience implicitly grants to itself and those it has come to see. In the end this could involve a transformation of how we see creative activity and art in society, but that is precisely the challenge new forms of communication place before us. The streets of our cities are live with signals, and we have to learn to respond to them.





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TOWARDS A CULTURE OF OPEN NETWORKS: A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE ON BRIDGING 'INFORMATION SOCIETY' IN EUROPE AND INDIA THROUGH CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION





program

Wednesday, June 15

20-22.30 Main Hall Opening Night

Thursday, June 16

10:00-11:00 Main Hall Plenary lecture 1: Introduction and overview

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11.30-13:00 Main Hall Workshop A1: NGO's in Info-Development
Salon Workshop A2: After WSIS: Exploring Multistakeholderism
Cinema Workshop A3: Open Source, Open Borders

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 Main Hall Workshop B1: Open session
Salon Workshop B2: Open session
Cinema Workshop B3: Open session

16:00-16:30 Tea break

16:30-18:00 Main Hall Plenary Session 2: After Aid: Info-Development after 9/11

18:15-20:15 Conference dinner at Wagamama

20:30-23:00 Main Hall Screenings, co-curated by De Balie

Friday, June 17

10:00-12:00 Main Hall Plenary 3: ICT4D and the Critique of Development

12:00-13:00 Main Hall Lunch

13.00-15:00 Main Hall Workshop C1: ICT corporations at the UN
Salon Workshop C2: FLOSS in ICT4D
Cinema Workshop C3: Culture and Corporate Sponsorship in the ICT4D Context

15:00-15:30 Tea break

15:30-17:00 Main Hall Workshop D1: New Info-Politics of Rights
Salon Workshop D2: Digital Bandung: New Axes of Info-Capitalism
Cinema Workshop D3: Nuts and Bolts of Internet Governance

17:30-18:30 Main Hall Plenary 4: Closing Session & WSIS Awards

18:30-19:00 Cinema Video Session