

## **PROGRESS REPORT IAMCR'S PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Report prepared by co-chairs: Marjan de Bruin and Ibrahim Saleh.

Report approved by the other members of the Publication Committee (PC): Denize Araujo, Chandrika Kaul, Guillermo Mastrini, Claudia Padovani, Ibrahim Saleh, Karin Wilkins, Pradip Thomas (liaison person with EB)

### **Focus 2015/2016**

In its post Hyderabad and Montreal deliberations, the IAMCR Publication Committee (PC) worked with the Executive Board (EB) in developing a Mandate for the Committee as well as Governance structure. Both documents can be found on the IAMCR website and have been guiding the PC actions during the 2015/2016 year. The PC's recently formulated Mandate refers to its responsibilities as to foster linguistic and cultural diversity in/through publication activities and to promote better connection between IAMCR and regional academic association, particularly in a South-North perspective, by means of information exchange and cooperation on matters related to the circulation of knowledge and scholarly contributions.

In addition, the PC has been working on sustaining and improving its book series, as well as discussing a proposed e-book format.

This report will address:

1. PC Membership and leadership
2. The development of new products: books
3. Publications: e-book (in progress)
4. Comparison recently formulated Mandate with actual activities

This year the Publication Committee did not manage to have Skype meetings as regularly as the previous year. It was difficult to get all members together at the same day and time and communication was done solely through email, except for the co-chairs who met several times on-line.

## **1. PC membership and leadership**

1.1. The PC realized that the EB liaison person, Pradip Thomas in this case, might in some instances be faced with a conflict of interest, when the PC has to vote on a proposal coming from the EB. The liaison person should have no voting rights, in which case the PC needs one additional member with voting rights. The question remaining is: Who will be the additional member and who will be the next co-chair?

The PC proposes inviting Billy Sarwono, from University of Indonesia, Indonesia to join and Uma Shankar Pandey, from University of Calcutta, India. Billy K Sarwono, is a Professor of Communication Science Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia (UI FISIP). She is research focused on Media Literacy for Gender Equality in Indonesia. Her research interest is on communication Theory ; Communication Research Methods II , and Mass Media Research . She works on media monitoring of Children and Climate Change . Dr. Uma Shankar Pandey is Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Surendranath College for Women, Kolkata, India. He is a Member Board of Studies at a number of Indian Universities. He was earlier a senior Journalist with The Asian Age, Kolkata. Research interests include Framing of election news and Study of social media activity.

1.2. PC's leadership (two co-chairs): When the former co-chair, Claudia Padovani, stepped down in Hyderabad, one of the PC's members, Ibrahim Saleh, was invited to take up Claudia's position while she returned to her position of a regular PC member. In Hyderabad it was agreed that Marjan de Bruin, who also wished to return to regular PC membership, would step down in 2016. This timing would avoid a vacuum in organizational memory due to two co-chairs going out at the same time. Marjan's position as co-chair will be open for nominations when she will return to regular PC membership this year. The PC would prefer to have a current member replacing the current co-chair but no nominations have come forward.

## **2. Development of new products: books**

The Publication Committee has been involved in the production of new books through two arrangements: a) the *Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research*, co-

published by Palgrave and IAMCR and b) *The Global Handbooks in Media Communication Research* series, co-published by Wiley-Blackwell and IAMCR, with co-editors Annabelle Sreberny and Janet Wasko.

2.1 The *Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research* series, launched in 2014 at the IAMCR Hyderabad Conference, “seeks to address the challenges posed by fast evolving communication developments in a connected world.” As the series editors described, “It aims to capture creative, and trans-disciplinary, approaches in exploring these challenges, which will reflect the richness and diversity of IAMCR’s intellectual work.” The series will also offer – on an annual basis – the opportunity for outstanding contributions, especially from non-Anglophone regions, to be made available to a global readership after translation into English. *Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research* offers systematic and comprehensive opportunities for publishing key research and intellectual debates to reflect the intellectual capital of IAMCR. It also aims at making available, to an international audience, relevant contributions from different geocultural contexts, translated into English.

The series editors (Marjan de Bruin and Claudia Padovani) report:

Four volumes have been published since the launch of the series in the summer of 2014:

- Paterson, C., Lee, D. , Saha, A., Zoellner, A. (Eds) (2016). *Advancing Media Production Research; Shifting Sites, Methods, and Politics*.
- Albornoz, L. (Ed) (2015). *Power, Media, Culture* (English translation of the volume *Poder ,medios, cultura. Una mirada crítica desde la economía política de la comunicación*. (2011). Buenos Aires: Paidós).
- Fattorello, F. (2015). *The Theory of the Social Practice of Information*.
- Padovani, C. , Calabrese, A. (Eds) (2014). *Communication Rights and Social Justice: Historical Accounts of Transnational Mobilizations*.

One book is in production: *Health Communication in the Changing Media Landscape; Perspectives from Developing Countries*. Eds: Ravindra Kumar Vemula and SubbaRao M Gavaravarapu. Under contract is: *Media Convergence and De-convergence*. Eds Sergio

Sparviero, Corinna Peil and Gabriele Balbi; as well as *Communication and Peace* by Cees Hamelink.

The Palgrave/IAMCR book series editors do realize that the Palgrave publications would benefit from a higher profile on the IAMCR website; they started to work on this with Bruce.

The series-editors are seeking to develop a closer connection with Sections and Working groups, not only to publicize new productions but also to solicit proposals.

The series editors feel that the one unmet challenge they have ahead of them is to improve the liaison with the Series' Board.

Thanks to a recent agreement with Palgrave, IAMCR members can enjoy a discount of 35% on print and e-book editions in the series *Global Transformation in Media and Communication Research*. The access code for the discount is IAMCR35PM. This news was communicated to the membership earlier this year.

## 2.2 *Global Handbooks in Media Communication Research* (Wiley)

The series Editors (Janet Wasko and Annabelle Sreberny) report: four Handbooks have been published and are advertised on Wiley's website:

*The Handbook of Development Communication and Social Change*, 2014; by Karin Gwinn Wilkins, Thomas Tufte, Rafael Obregon (Eds.).

*The Handbook of Political Economy of Communications*, 2014, by Janet Wasko, Graham Murdock, Helena Sousa (Eds.).

*The Handbook of Global media and Communication Policy*, 2011 and 2014, by Robin Mansell and Marc Raboy (Eds.).

*The Handbook of Media Audiences, 2011 and 2013*, by Virginia Nightingale (Editor)

Two Handbooks are under contract and in progress: *Handbook on Media and Information Literacies in the Digital Era*. Eds. Divina Frau-Meigs, Sirkko Kotilainen and Manuel Pinto.

*Handbook on Diasporas, Media and Culture*. Eds. Jennifer Retis-Rivas and Rosa Tsagarousianou.

### **3. Publications: e-book (in progress)**

The PC has invested time and attention to the proposed new E-book series. PC member Denize Araujo has been working, with the feedback of the PC and EB on a proposed E-book proposal. The PC discussed the options of:

\* pulling submissions from only those papers submitted and presented at the IAMCR yearly Conference, or opening up for papers from a wider audience. The preference of the EB seemed to be to accept papers from all researchers, not only the ones that would have been present at IAMCR conference/congress.

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In email discussions the PC members concluded that authors should send ready texts, translated and revised in order to be selected to avoid time consuming and costly processes. Denize Araujo and her colleague Fernando Andacht are willing to take the responsibility for implementing as soon as the proposal would have dealt with all details, and parties would have agreed on each of those. The PC aims to discuss in Leicester details such as timing and finance; size and membership of an editorial team and scholarly quality control.

The EB has had an opportunity to review the proposal. While it did think that the series would be important and aims at expanding access to IAMCR publications, concerns were raised on issues such as sustainability, quality of material and the rather ambitious scope of the project. Producing such a project of this scale and scope needs sufficient editorial support.

Currently Denize Araujo, who submitted the proposal, is working on addressing these issues so that Expressions of Interest can be sent out and the editorial team expanded. Such a team will be invaluable both in terms of ensuring quality as well as a representative collection of papers in the three languages.

### **4. Comparing the recently formulated PC's Mandate with the PC's actual activities during 2015/2016**

This years activities of the PC, in general, are aligned with its mandate: “to foster the circulation and exchange of 'Knowledges and Insights' that emerge from the intellectual work of the Association.”

At a more practical level, the PC Mandate suggests the Committee to take responsibility “in coordinating and/or providing editorial support to publication projects that are developed by IAMCR members.” The PC did so to a limited degree; through its members/ series editors involved with the Palgrave/IAMCR book series that can show tangible results. It also discussed, and is working on. e-books and conference books.

However, the Global Handbooks in Media and Communication Research Series is managed and reported upon by non-PC members series editors. It is not “anchored” in the PC . More importantly, “coordinating and/or providing editorial support” to Section and Working Group Journals and the IAMCR Newsletter has not been on the PC’s agenda. With the PC’s current size and composition, the activities in the new mandate seem way too ambitious – certainly where reference is made to providing editorial support. The PC will address this issue in its recommendations below.

### **5. Recommendations**

- Review of the contents of the IAMCR website for the purpose of making recommendations for improvement. PC can certainly contribute and help in giving some strategic and logistic advice on the proposals such as E-book or other series.
- Discussion is needed on the scope and width of the newly formulated Mandate, as it relates to Section and Working Group Journals as well as to the Newsletter. More clarity is needed on what the purpose of this engagement would be. Does the EB expect a coordination point for Section and Working Group Journals, nothing more than having an overview of what the Sections and Working Groups are doing? Or does it envisage a greater involvement, and if so, in what respect? What are the expectations of the PC being involved in the production of the Newsletter?