



CGCS

Center for Global
Communication Studies

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An Annenberg Summer in Budapest

Arriving in Budapest, Hungary on June 29, 2009 with the desire to collaborate with media development academics and practitioners, Annenberg doctoral students Susan Haas and Olesya Venger participated in the summer university course, “Media, Democratization and International Development: Foundations For a More Robust Research Agenda,” organized by CGCS in collaboration with the Center for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS) at the Central European University (CEU).

This intensive three-week summer school on media development was designed to help early-stage researchers gain an understanding of the theory, history and practice of media development, and gain practical hands-on experience in research techniques.

“This is one of the most exciting analyses of media development and media assistance programs, as it is a bridge between theory, methods and practice in the form of case studies,” said Haas. “We are building a network of scholars and practitioners interested in working in the development and evaluation of media development in many nations and connecting diasporas across national borders.”

The fieldwork component of the summer course took Haas to Cluj, Romania to interview managers, editors, and journalists working in both traditional and new media organizations. Venger joined a second group of students traveling to Novi Sad, Serbia. “During the field trip, we were able to ask questions on the ground and to develop our own research agenda alongside the research project that was developed by the group,” said Venger, who is researching media in transition and advertising regulation for her dissertation. “The fieldwork in Serbia helped me to better understand how media development and media for development are connected to a country’s changes in political and economic power-structures.”

More information on the CEU Summer University is available [here](#).

Assessing attitudes toward peace in Darfur

In an effort to better understand the roots of the conflict in Darfur and avenues for a potential solution, Annenberg doctoral student Lauren Kogen and Annenberg Alumna Magdalena Wojcieszak, Ph.D. (ASC '09), Assistant Professor in Political Communication, IE School of Communication, are playing a central role in CGCS’s five-month survey research project evaluating Darfuri public opinion on the Darfur conflict.

“The survey by CGCS is an unprecedented undertaking not only because public opinion polling has been virtually nonexistent in Sudan,” said Wojcieszak. “It gives a voice to those who have been most affected by the conflict, such as the Internally Displaced Peoples in refugee camps, and to those people who have been somehow involved in the conflict but not given the opportunity to present their perspectives, such as the Arab nomad tribes.”

Wojcieszak is working in conjunction with ASC doctoral student Kogen, Colin Irwin, Research Fellow in the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool, and Maureen Taylor, Professor at the University of Oklahoma, on preparing the survey questionnaire and developing a training workshop for the local researchers who will be administering the survey.

The project, "Assessing Attitudes and Public Opinion in Darfur: Frameworks for Moving Forward and Advancing Dialogue," is funded by a grant awarded to CGCS from the U.S. State Department. The project seeks to provide a reality check on claims by various segments of Darfuri society as well as the government and provide local and international mediators the knowledge needed to move towards a peace agreement that has more legitimacy among the population.

CGCS has been working in Sudan since 2007. Reports and background information related to the work the center has done to date related to Darfur and public opinion research are available at [the CGCS web site](#).

Doctoral student Matt Blanchard at Oxford

Q&A with Annenberg doctoral student Matthew Blanchard on Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute 2009

The 2009 Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute, held at the University of Oxford from July 5 to July 18, 2009, brought together young scholars and regulators from around the world to discuss important recent trends in technology and their influence on information policy. Annenberg doctoral student Matthew Blanchard, who is spending the summer with CGCS's partner, the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy (PCMLP), was among the participants.

Q: What are your impressions of this year's Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute sessions? Are they influencing your research at all?

A: "Annenberg's Oxford Summer Institute is an incredible meeting of the minds; I've met regulators, attorneys, journalists and students from Bosnia to Brazil, Canada to Kazakhstan. Each class session focuses on one aspect of media policy. That means we might have public service broadcasting for breakfast, and Iran's so-called 'Twitter revolution' for lunch. Dinner, since we're in Oxford, seems always to involve a lot of beer.

"For my research, the experience is a bit like an aerial view. You see the wider landscape of global media policy, and start to understand your place in the discussion."

Q: Tell us about the project that you're working on in Oxford.

A: "Right now I'm working with an Oxford researcher to wrap up a report on the media in Kenya. We see lessons in Kenya's experience – particularly the election violence of 2007 – that should be heeded by journalists and governments in other African states. And because we have good contacts in Somaliland, a breakaway region of Somalia, the first version of our report will be tailored to that audience."

[NOTE: A video on Matt's field research in Kenya can soon be found on the [Annenberg YouTube Channel](#)]

Q: While in England, have you had time to explore any of the tourist spots?

A: "So far, I've visited BBC's London headquarters at Bush House, and the most storied of Oxford's private college quads. But my big ambition is to hike the Scottish Highlands and see some ruined castles on windswept crags."

Q: Favorite part of the Annenberg-Oxford program...

A: "My favorite moment may have been scholar Min Jiang's description of the three

timeless principles of news coverage on Chinese state television: 1) Chinese leaders are busy, 2) Chinese people are happy, and 3) everyone else in the world is miserable.”

Matthew Blanchard is a second-year doctoral student at Annenberg. He is closely involved in CGCS activities, including as part of a small group, organized by CGCS, looking at patterns of emergence of “environmental communications” as a field of research in U.S. and non-U.S. graduate programs.

Video on Chinese Internet Research Conference

The Seventh Annual Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC) was held at Annenberg from May 27 through May 29, 2009. Entitled “The Chinese Internet and Civil Society: Civic Engagement, Deliberation and Culture,” the conference was a dynamic and successful event that connected academics and policymakers with new information on the Internet and civil society in China – and the intersection of the two. [Click here](#) to hear the impressions of several scholars who participated in the conference.

About CGCS

The director of CGCS is Professor [Monroe E. Price](#), a leading authority on issues relating to media and civil society, media law and policy advocacy, and the intersection between communication, development, and globalization. The associate director of CGCS is [Susan Abbott](#). Abbott works with Prof. Price on increasing international and comparative research and activities. She helps to identify and develop capacity with international partners such as CMCS in Budapest and manages international development projects. CGCS staff includes [Diedra Krieger](#), Project Coordinator; Noa Michaeli-Shachar, Development Officer; and [Libby Morgan](#), Research and Editorial Coordinator. [More information on CGCS Staff](#).

[The Center for Global Communication Studies](#)

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Comments and suggestions for the newsletter may be forwarded to [Libby Morgan](#).



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