



Information, Communication and New Media Studies: Good For What?

Date: Thursday 2 February 2006, 5:00-6:30pm

Location: Oxford Internet Institute, 1 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3JS

An underlying premise of this workshop is that information, communication and media studies provide ways of understanding the fundamental transformation of public life, as new information and communication technologies proliferate. But we might well ask: understanding for whom, and for what?

This is an open session designed to stimulate and inform an invited workshop to be held on 3-4 February. Panelists in policy, practice and advocacy fields will provide brief perspectives on the intersection between research and more applied agendas. It is an opportunity to reflect on what constituencies outside the research field expect from information, communication and media studies. Can it meet these expectations? Under what conditions?

This event has been organised by the OII in collaboration with the SSRC (<http://www.ssrc.org/>) and made possible in part by funding from the Knowledge, Creativity, and Freedom' Program of the Ford Foundation

Chairs: William Dutton, Director, Oxford Internet Institute; and Craig Calhoun, President, SSRC.

Panelists to include:

Vera Franz, OSI, London

Alison Bernstein, Ford Foundation, New York

Sean O'Siochru, NEXUS, Dublin

Karen Banks, Association of Progressive Communication, London

Richard Allen, Cisco Systems

6:30 Optional meeting at the Lamb and Flag pub, St. Giles



Friday 3 February 2006

9:00 Coffee

9:30 Envisioning a Multidisciplinary Field

What is the 'field' in which we work? Who does it include in theory and who in practice—and via what forms of connection? What would we like it to be, and what do we expect it will become—e.g. a fragmented, multi-media circus; a burgeoning, multi-disciplinary network of academics shaping policy, practice and advocacy; an adjunct to commercial research; a discipline; some combination of these or something else entirely. Whose definitions matter to whom?

Facilitator: Bill Dutton

Panelists:

Judy Wajcman

Christian Sandvig

Nigel Thrift

Sergio Godoy

10:45 Coffee

11:00 The Emerging Institutional Ecology

What kinds of institutions have proven successful and sustainable, and why? What bets on institutional change are being placed today, by whom, and why? What are some of the institutional responses and initiatives that will shape the field? How extensible are these models? Is this a field forming moment?

Facilitator: Sheizaf Rafaeli

Panelists:

Craig Calhoun

Jonathan Aronson

Jonathan Zittrain

Ravi Sundaram

12:30 Lunch



2:00 International and Regional Divides

How do differences in resources, capacities, and perspectives shape research globally, and with what consequences? Is the field becoming more global or—at least—less geographically parochial? Is there specificity to US, British, European, Asian, and other national/regional approaches? What do these approaches do well, or poorly? How do they circulate and influence research outside their home countries/institutions.

Facilitator: Becky Lentz

Panelists:

Guo Liang

Thierry Vedel

Cesar Bolaño

Ravi Sundaram

Randy Kluver

3:30 Tea

3:45 Technology and Transformation of the Field

In what ways are technological innovations contributing to trends in the field? How are practices of training adjusting to the new objects and methods of research? Are there changes in forms of e-science, collaboration or communication that are particular to the field? What are the institutional implications of technological change, if any?

Facilitator: Christine Borgman

Panelists:

Sharon Gillett

Christine Borgman

Geoffrey Bowker

Ralph Schroeder

Nina Wakeford

Joe Karaganis

5:00 Conclusion

7:00 Dinner, Pembroke College



Saturday 4 February 2006

9:00 Coffee

9:30 Networking the Field: Next Steps

Facilitators: Craig Calhoun and Joe Karaganis

What are the most promising approaches for connecting research efforts across disciplines, borders, and constituencies? What is easy and what is hard? What is an international research network? What might it be?

11:15 Break

11:30 Points of Summary and Conclusion

Facilitators: Bill Dutton and Craig Calhoun

This concluding roundtable discussion will be recorded for editing and archiving on the OII and SSRC Websites.

12:30 Workshop Concludes