



# OURMedia: NUESTROS Medios VI

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sydney, Australia – April 9-13, 2007

**Sustainable Futures:** Roles and Challenges for Community, Alternative and Citizens' Media in the 21st Century

## ABOUT OURMEDIA / NUESTROS MEDIOS

**OURMedia / Nuestros Medios** is an international network and forum founded in 2001 by a group of engaged academics interested in advancing the democratic potential of community, alternative and 'citizens' media. Recognising that the intellectual and policy frameworks for citizens' media are often out of touch with the on-the-ground reality, the purpose of OURMedia is to connect scholars, practitioners, activists, artists, and policy-makers and to provide spaces for dialogue and exchange.

**OURMedia is now a network of over 500 people from 50 countries.**

Past OURMedia conferences have been held in the United States (2001), Spain (2002), Colombia (2003), Brazil (2004) and India (2005). These conferences featured academic

presentations, media activism initiatives, policy workshops, community cultural development roundtables, new media labs, research-led forums and presentations by local media producers. ●●●



**Alternative and community media in Australia** have a long tradition of citizen engagement, experimental arts and community participation, with a vast array of alternative, autonomous and tactical media groups working on innovative new media environments. The sector in Australia is over 30 years old, and is founded on the principles of access, diversity, localism and independence. Australian community media has traditionally been highly resilient, surviving in spite of regulatory and technological barriers. It is also now the largest sector of the Australian media: in 2005 there were 341 community radio stations, 54 additional stations holding or seeking temporary licenses, 76 remote Indigenous community television licensees and 6 generalist community television stations.



## OM6

### OURMEDIA 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: SYDNEY APRIL 9-13, 2007

The OM6 Conference Committee received close to 200 proposals from academics, activists, community media practitioners, artists and media/social researchers in over 35 countries.

OURMedia aims to build strategies and collaborations amongst action researchers, engaged academics, community practitioners, artists and advocates for the promotion of communication rights, effective access to ICT, community and citizen participation in the media and community engagements that foster social change, women's participation in the sector and cultural development and revitalisation.

The conference explores the significance of independent community and alternative media and the major challenges in the decades lying ahead. It brings together international and national experts, researchers, policy makers, activists and local community development practitioners to discuss ways to ensure a sustainable future for building participatory community, alternative and citizen's media. ●●●

Visit [www.ourmedia07.net](http://www.ourmedia07.net) for more program & registration details and a full list of speakers.

## KEYNOTE PANELISTS & INVITED SPEAKERS

**John D.H. Downing** (Professor of International Communication; Founding Director, Global Media Research Center, Southern Illinois University, USA)

**Sharon Bhagwan Rolls** (Founding Director, femLINKPACIFIC: Media Initiatives for Women, Fiji. AMARC Asia-Pacific)

**Luis Evaristo dos Santos Soares** (Coordinator, Community Radio Center, Timor Leste)

**Suman Basnet** (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters [AMARC AP] – Regional Coordinator for Asia and Pacific regions, Nepal)

**Stuart Allan** (Professor of Cultural Studies, University of the West of England, UK)

**Faye Ginsburg** (Professor of Anthropology; Director, Centre for Media, Culture & History, New York University, USA)

**Helen Molnar** (Executive Director, MC Media & Associates)

**Clemencia Rodriguez** (Oklahoma University; Our Media Network – Colombia)

**Alfonso Gumucio-Dagron** (Communication for Social Change Consortium; Our Media Network – Bolivia)

**Robert A. Hackett** (Simon Fraser University; NewsWatch Canada)

**Dorothy Kidd** (University of San Francisco; Media Alliance, USA)

**Andrew Garton** (Open Channel; Association for Progressive Communications, Australia)

**Barry Melville** (General Manager, Community Broadcasting Association of Australia)

**Nalaka Gunawardene** (Director/CEO, Television for Education Asia Pacific – Sri Lanka)

**Kosala Keerthirathne** (N.G.D, Kothmale Community Media Centre – UNESCO Program Coordinator – Sri Lanka)

**Raghu Mainali** (Director, Community Radio Support Centre, NEFEJ, Nepal)

Plus representatives from **hi8us**, UK



## WHERE & WHEN

**Pre-Conference Event: Tactical & Community Media OnScreen**

9 April, 2-9pm Sidetrack Theatre, Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville

**Main Conference**

**10-12 April** Guthrie Theatre, Peter Johnson Building, **University of Technology, Sydney**, Broadway Campus, 702-730 Harris Street, Ultimo

**12 April** Conference Dinner

**13 April** Site visit, Western Sydney (full day)

**Full Rate Registration AUD\$300**

(includes lunches and conference dinner). Subsidy rates available.

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## PARTNERS

The conference is hosted by the School of Communication Arts, **University of Western Sydney** (UWS) in association with UWS Centre for Cultural Research, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at **University of Technology, Sydney**, and Information and Cultural Exchange.



## OM6 Organising Committee

**Juan Francisco Salazar** (University of Western Sydney, Australia) **Ellie Rennie** (Swinburne University of Technology, Australia) **Tanya Notley** (Queensland University of Technology, Australia) **Lena Nahlous** (Information and Cultural Exchange, Australia) **Caitlin Vaughan** (Information and Cultural Exchange, Australia) **Clemencia Rodriguez** (University of Oklahoma, USA) **Alfonso Gumucio-Dagron** (Communication for Social Change Consortium) **Penny O'Donnell** (University of Technology, Sydney) **Gabi Hadl** (Tokyo University, Japan) **Michael Meadows** (Griffith University, Australia) **Jethro Pettit** (IDS, Sussex University, UK) **Elvira Truglia** (Social Justice Committee, Montreal) **Leo Berkeley** (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia) **Stefania Milan** (European University Institute, Italy) **Antonio Castillo** (University of Western Sydney) **Hart Cohen** (University of Western Sydney) **Rachel Morley** (University of Western Sydney) **Tanja Dreher** (University of Technology, Sydney) **Lucia Salinas**

## FEATURED EVENTS

In addition to the conference sessions, featured events include:

**OMSix Polymedia Lab:** Skill-sharing, knowledge-sharing, and exchange of experiences between media groups/projects/organisations/activists. A space for practical communication experiments, development, collaboration, within the OM6 conference.

**Community Use of Digital Spectrum Public Forum:** This public forum will gather Australian and international speakers to open up debate about the critical issue of digital television and media for community use, access and ownership.

### Information & Cultural Exchange (ICE):

One day dedicated to sharing and exchanging ideas through hands on community media training workshops led by international and local community media organisations. Includes showcase of recent ICE projects with diverse communities in Sydney.

### Tactical & Community Media OnScreen:

An afternoon of free video screenings at Sidetrack Theatre, Marrickville, presented by video-makers and showcasing a selection of local and international community, alternative and tactical videos.

