



Connecting Communities: Towards open, free and sustainable citizen communication

Universidad de las Américas, Quito, 24th-25th of July 2017

Call for papers

Network and Internet culture has been built on non-state, non-proprietary organizational models, making possible the widespread use of digital technologies. However, the neoliberalization of technology has limited its access beyond industrialized countries. In addition, access to technology does not necessarily guarantee its equal distribution or use within communities. Current approaches to technology also often overlook its relation to the wider ecology of communities. This two-day symposium will take a closer look at the use of digital communication at the community level. The symposium will also engage the perspectives of social movement actors concerned with free and open software and knowledge, as well as ancestral and less main stream approaches to technology in order to consider issues of sustainability and biodiversity, within the context of the use of digital communication and social networks in local community projects.

The symposium aims to provide opportunities for practitioners, indigenous communities and academics to share experiences, interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological tools, and best practices in relation to digital technologies, community media and the documentation of indigenous languages and cultures. Both individual and panel submissions are welcome. A panel submission is one in which a group of colleagues propose a coherent theme to be discussed by multiple speakers. Papers, posters or other formats (e.g. film and animation) are welcome. Proposals should be submitted in the form of a 200-250 word abstract and aim to fit within one of the following themes:

1. Methodologies and approaches to knowledge and information sharing: Case studies and proposals of how indigenous, urban and rural communities have adapted diverse technologies for community use.
2. Legislative challenges in the current context: The legislation and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and community media for enhancing citizen participation and community organizing as well as the promotion of community values.
3. Media activism, citizens' media and popular communication – tools, strategies, challenges.
4. Use of audiovisual methodologies to document, promote, and strengthen indigenous languages, knowledges and cultures.



Invited Speakers:

- Ana Acosta, El Churo – *Digital Communication Challenges for Community Radio in the Amazon*
- Etsa Sharupi, Quijos Nationality – *Experiences of Quijos Community Radio programmes*
- Diana Coryat, Udla – *The Contested Terrain of Media in the context of extractivism in Ecuador*
- Mike Wilmore, Bournemouth University, Faculty of Media and Communication – *Working across the digital divide: Methodological Considerations*
- Paula Vásquez, FLOK Society – *Proposals for a social economy of free and open access in Ecuador*
- Ivan Terceros, Media Lab UIO – *Mapping Digital*
- Anne Schwarz - *Language documentation and digital communication in Napo Kichwa varieties: Potentials and opportunities*
- Andrea Medrado, Federal Fluminense University, Brazil - *Technology for Empowerment: The Use of Mobile Phones and social media by activists in Brazil to fight oppression and injustice.*
- Loreto Alejandra Bravo Muñoz. Maka Muñoz, Palabra Radio, Mexico –*Use of Free and Open Software; gender and digital communication.*
- Gonzalo Choquehuanca Quispe, Wayna Tambo, Bolivia –*Digital networks, territoriality and community living.*
- Anita Say Chan, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign – *Networked Futures and Inter-tecnología in the Andes*

The symposium is sponsored by FES-ILDIS, in collaboration with Universidad de las Américas, FLOK Society, El Churo, Bournemouth University and FLACSO Ecuador. It will be conducted in both Spanish and English, with translation available.

Publication of Proceedings: Symposium proceedings will be peer reviewed and published digitally under a Creative Commons license

Location: Universidad de las Américas, Quito, Udlapark Campus, Nayon

Important dates:

Abstract and Panel proposal deadline: Wednesday, May 31st, 2017

Symposium registration deadline: Friday, June 23rd, 2017

Paper submission deadline: Friday, June 30th, 2017

Enquiries and abstract submissions: ComunidadesConectadas@gmail.com