

REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 2016-2017
FOR PRESENTATION TO THE IAMCR INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
JULY 16TH CARTEGENA

The Committee has been without a full time chairperson for this last year , but major thanks are due to Pradip Thomas has been acting as interim Chair until a new chair was appointed. Maria Michalis has agreed to chair the committee, subject to her position being confirmed by the due election process.

The existing committee met once this year by Skype, on March 29th 2017 to review the present state of the Association's publications and discuss possible future plans for expansion and development. Members Present: Claudia Padovani, Karin Wilkins, Pradip Thomas, Graham Murdock (EB liaison) Apologies: Chandrika Kaul, Denize Araujo

On Going Book Series

The Association currently has two on-going book series

Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research published by Palgrave <http://iamcr.org/publications/iamcr-book-series> edited by Claudia Padovani and Marjan de Bruin. This series aims to provide space to rethink traditional approaches and develop new concepts and approaches with a framework that is both trans disciplinary and global in scope

Global Handbooks in Media and Communication Research <http://iamcr.org/publications/iamcr-handbook> published by Wiley Blackwell edited by Janet Wasko and Annabelle Sreberny . This series is designed to provide authoritative overviews of research and theorising in key areas relevant to the Association's interests

Global Transformations The latest book in the series is Vemula and Gavaravapu's (Eds.) *Health Communication in the Changing Media Landscape: Perspectives from Developing Countries*. There are two more in production *Media Convergence and Deconvergence* (Spaerviero, Pell & Balbi, Eds) & *Honing the Visual: An Examination of Evolving Human Rights Practices* (Ristovska & Price, Eds.). New proposals are currently under review. This series is thriving and fulfilling its remit.

The Advisory Committee has been discussing ideas for the developing the series and will meet in Cartagena.

Global Handbooks. This series has run into problems this year. The editor originally responsible for the series at the publisher has moved and the new editor has not displayed the same level of support and enthusiasm. Talks are currently underway with other publishers with a view to finding a new home for the series. Annabelle Sreberny has relinquished her post as co-editor of the series and has agreed to assume this role.

On Going Journals

IAMCR is currently associated with two on-line journals arising from the work of the Association's Sections

The Political Economy of Communication <http://polecom.org/index.php/polecon> based at Auckland University of Technology and organised and edited by members of the Political Economy Section has established itself as a key site for discussion in the area of political economy, attracting a wide range of contributors. The first issue of volume five has just appeared.

Journal of alternative and community media www.joacm.org is a more recent, and very welcome, addition, based at Griffith University and published by Griffith Press with the support of IAMCR's Community Communication Section

Future Plans

New Publications

For some time there has been a strong feeling among both Committee members and the general IAMCR members that the Association should expand its publications portfolio. Several possibilities have been floated and are now under active consideration.

- A new book series of interventions around current issues, longer than a journal article but shorter than a monograph taking advantage of shorter publication times to intervene in on-going debates. One model is the Palgrave Pivot series <http://www.palgrave.com/gb/palgrave-pivot>.
- Edited collections based on the themes of IAMCR's annual conferences
- A general IAMCR journal

The key decision in all these cases is whether to work with an established publisher or to move to an open access system, either supported by an existing on line platform or developed by the Association. All these options pose major issues of costs, access and reputation that need to be carefully examined.

Graham Murdock is currently preparing a position paper looking in detail at the organisational and financial implications of various options, drawing on evidence from a range of current practices.

Future Membership and Organisation of the Committee

Membership During discussion The Committee recommended that exiting members - Denize, Claudia, Marjan & Karin - who have been productive and wished to continue should be invited to do so but that a call from new members be issued

Organisation. Given the projected expansion of the Association's publications portfolio it was strongly recommended that the Committee appoint two sub chairs, one to oversee the print portfolio and one to oversee the on-line strands.

On behalf of the Executive Board of IAMCR and the Association's membership at large let me take the opportunity to say a sincere 'thank you' to all those who have served on the Publications Committee, and particularly to Pradip Thomas whose dedication has been exemplary. The voluntary service of members is the essential bedrock on which IAMCR is built.

- 1) **E-books:** The meeting began with a consideration of support for a proposal sent by Denize Araujo on an e-book that she and others (Adilson Cabral, Cesar Bolano, Fernando Andacht, Fernando Oliveria Paulino) are currently involved in preparing on the Cartagena theme (Title: *New Concepts and Territories in Latin America*) and that will be readied/launched at Cartagena. While the committee acknowledged Denize's continuing enthusiasm for IAMCR e-books, it was felt that the asking (\$250), specifically to help with marketing (book marks) the product, fell outside the ken of IAMCR support for strategic projects (IAMCR funds has been used previously to support translation, the PE Open Access online journal, etc.). It was felt that Denize ought to explore crowd-funding options among members to support this project.

This led to a larger discussion on the need for an IAMCR series. Graham mentioned that here are discussions at the EB on increasing IAMCR's online visibility through creative uses of digital platforms such as Youtube and new journals. However any e-series with the IAMCR imprimatur will need to be an undertaking that ensures 'quality & diversity' (these issues have been part of on-going discussions at the EB). Denize will be invited to become involved in any plans for a future IAMCR ebook series. We discussed an annual IAMCR e-book based on the conference and contributions from Sections and WGs sending in their two best papers.

The availability of conference proceedings (print, online) will be the responsibility of the LOC. We discussed the LOC taking the responsibility for publishing material from plenary and special sessions.

We also discussed publishing in an e-book that is acceptable in some academic institutions and not so in others. The issue of quality remains paramount.

- 2) **Ongoing Series:**

Claudia also mentioned a book that she is currently involved in writing in Palgrave's PIVOT series on Gender equality. These shorter books could of interest to IAMCR members.

- a) **Wiley:** Four books in the series have been published. Two books are under contract and these include Frau-Meigs, Kotilainen & Pinto's (Eds.) *Handbook on Media and Information Literacies in the Digital Era* & Retis-Tivas (Eds.) & Tsagarousianou's *Handbook on Diasporas, Media & Culture*. While the committee acknowledges the weight and heft of this series, it was felt that 1) There needs to be close contact with the new person at Wiley in charge of this series with a view to taking back its ownership and the PC becoming responsible for it 2) That Karin Wilkins being invited to become one the editors of the series is an excellent move. It would be useful to have some clarity on the Wiley-IAMCR relationship before Cartagena.

- 3) **PC:** The current state of the PC is a matter of concern. There is a need for a new committee. Existing PC members who have been productive and pro-active such as Denize, Claudia, Marjan & Karin should be invited to continue on the PC. We discussed ways to revive the PC's fortunes and it was felt that the way forward was for the EB to 1) Consider names from the new IC of those who have volunteered to take part in the PC, & 2) issue a call for Co-Chairs (each with responsibilities) and committee members (whose members are also tasked) ensuring that there is a gender, region, language balance. IAMCR's Publication policy may be helpful as the EB thinks through this exercise. The EB will need to factor in the need for members who are specifically mandated to work on the e-book series and online projects. It is best that Janet informs the current PC that there are plans for its overhaul. The new committee will need to be in place before Cartagena.