

In this issue (June 2014)

By Florencia Enghel¹

Nine months have passed since the publication of Issue No. 19 of Glocal Times, and in the meantime there has been plenty of activity within the field. To mention but a few examples: in November 2013, the [Second Nordic Conference for Development Knowledge “Knowing Development – Developing Knowledge?”](#), held in Finland, included a [Working Group on Communication for Development](#) chaired by [Hilde Arntsen](#) that looked into the practice of communication of development and social change in a critical vein. In May 2014, the University of Sheffield in the UK hosted the conference [Media and Governance in Latin America: Exploring the role of communication for development](#). On the publishing front, the [Handbook of Development Communication and Social Change](#), edited by [Thomas Tufte](#) and [Karin Wilkins](#) with Rafael Obregón, has just been released. [Pradip Thomas](#) has recently published a chapter entitled “Theorizing Development, Communication and Social Change” in the collection [Communication Theories in a Multicultural World](#), and Martin Scott has just written [Media and Development](#). Malmö University’s [Master’s program in Communication for Development](#) in turn has been busy with the Glocal Classroom project and preparations for the [Voice & Matter](#) conference, to be held in September of this year, arranged by [Ørecomm](#).

Amidst what may be described as a flurry of activity, Issue No. 20 of Glocal Times once again engages with communication for development from a threefold perspective: as a field of study, as professional practice and as an institutional project.

Three articles speak to the richness of the field of study. To begin with, *Poul Erik Nielsen* exemplifies and discusses the challenge of how to investigate the technological, financial, political and socio-cultural dynamics behind the development of ‘locally specific’ but ‘globally influenced’ media environments, with an eye to the link between individual and collective appropriations of the media available in specific scenarios. Next, two recent graduates from Malmö University’s Master’s program in Communication for Development introduce their respective theses. *Charlotte Jenner* investigates audience engagement with the novel audiovisual media genre of interactive web documentary. Combining the use of surveys, individual semi-structured interviews and focus groups, Jenner identifies modes of, and barriers to, engagement among audience samples from Norway, Sweden and the UK. *Pearl Jones* studies the role of the visual arts and of film among North Korean defectors/refugees. Jones explores visual representation from the combined perspective of production and consumption, supplementing her interpretation of the cases selected with interviews to artists and questionnaires to audiences.

Two articles consider varieties of the professional practice of communication for development. *Gareth Benest* walks us through the process of facilitating a capacity-building program in participatory video in Myanmar (Burma) and shares his reflections on the experience, which constituted the first venture into the country of [InsightShare](#), an organization based in the UK that specializes in the use of participatory video for community development. *Nubia Rojas* starts from an interview with filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer, the

director of the documentary “[The Act of Killing](#)”, and considers the film’s impact in the process of social change taking place in Indonesia.

Last but not least, an article contributed by two members of the [Communication for Development Team of the Food and Agriculture Organization](#) introduces us to the Team’s goals and activities for 2014, declared by the United Nations [International Year of Family Farming](#). Here, communication for development as an institutional project comes into view.

We hope that you will find this new issue of Glocal Times both informative and thought-provoking, and we welcome your views on the matters raised here, and your suggestions for future issues.

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