CMCS Annual Report

for the academic year 2008-2009

Prepared September, 2009

For further information please see our website: www.cmcs.ceu.hu
# Table of Contents

**Forward** .......................................................................................................................... 4  
**Introduction** .................................................................................................................... 6  
About CMCS.......................................................................................................................... 6  
CMCS People....................................................................................................................... 8  
Summary of CMCS Activity 2008-09 .................................................................................. 9  

**IMPACTS 2008-2009** .................................................................................................... 11  

**Teaching at CEU** ........................................................................................................... 11  
Department of Public Policy: Media, Information and Communications Policy ............... 12  
Department of Political Science, Political Communication ............................................. 13  
Additional thesis supervision in the Department of Legal Studies .................................. 14  
Further opportunities for students generated by CMCS ................................................ 14  

**Research** ....................................................................................................................... 16  
Major international research collaborations ..................................................................... 16  
European Commission Study: *Indicators for Media Pluralism* ....................................... 16  
European Science Foundation COST Action: *East of West: Setting a New Central and Eastern European Media Research Agenda* ................................................................. 17  
European Science Foundation Framework 6: *CivicWeb* .............................................. 19  
Ongoing Research Projects ............................................................................................... 20  
Broadening the Range of Awareness in Data Protection (BROAD) ................................ 20  
Community Media Research Hub ..................................................................................... 20  
Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Information .............................................................. 21  
Study on Consumer Empowerment ................................................................................. 21  
Visiting Fellows .................................................................................................................. 22  

**Major events and workshops** ...................................................................................... 23  
International Conference at CEU: *Beyond East and West* ........................................... 23  
CEU Summer University (SUN): *Media, Democratization and Development* ............ 25  
Webinar: *Journalism, New Technologies and Media Development* .............................. 25  
Workshop: *Sunshine on Public Data: Access to Environmental Information* .............. 26  
Course Innovation Workshop: *Audiovisual Mass Media: Between Politics and Regulation* ................................................................................................................................. 27  
Workshop: *‘Hate Speech’ and Incitement to Violence* .................................................. 27  
Workshop: *Data Retention on the Internet* ..................................................................... 28  
Follow-up action: Participation in data protection day ..................................................... 29  
Workshop: *Safer Internet – The Hungarian Agenda* .................................................... 29  

**Institutional and network development** .................................................................... 30  
COST Network: *Setting a New Central and Eastern European Media Research Agenda* ................................................................................................................................. 30  
Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania ............................ 30  
Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy (PCMLP) at Oxford ....................... 31  
Magyar Telekom ................................................................................................................. 32  
National Communications Authority of Hungary (NCAH) ............................................ 33
Budapest
28 September, 2009

This is an important year for the Center for Media and Communication Studies.

Media, communication and information are at the center of debates about the future of the world we live in, and how we connect within it. In the short history of the Center, we have seen continued growth at CEU in the high number of students taking part in media-related courses and applying to our summer programs. Research-wise, our level of productivity and involvement in high profile European research consortiums and consultations continues to expand, and we regularly convene workshops on a range of topics with demonstrable outcomes. The academic year closed with a major international media studies conference at CEU, organized and chaired by the CMCS and we will continue to pursue opportunities the success this significant event has brought us.

The goals of the CMCS over the next academic year are to:

1. develop our relationship with the new School for Public Policy;

2. continue to define our role in scholarship and teaching at CEU and support the further growth of media and communication studies here;

3. further our commitment to producing internationally recognized research output;

4. strengthen our participation with an international network of institutions and scholars the Center is a part of;

5. strengthen our financial base; and

6. develop existing and create new strategic partnerships as well as stronger ties with civil society and non-governmental organizations in both research and advocacy.
In seeking to achieve this, some of our specific objectives are to create opportunities for students to pursue studies in the field, develop an advisory board for CMCS, and bring new research fellows to the Center. We also seek to support the development of two year MA degrees with media and communications specializations and explore the possibility of dual degrees with partner institutions. We aim at establishing strong collaboration with other CEU departments and centres, furthering our focus on issues related to new media and technologies, develop the hub for research related to community and civic media, develop an online seminar (‘webinar’) series and a Media Policy Clinic, and to strengthen our relationship with the Open Society Institute and other partners such as Magyar Telekom.

We begin the year under the leadership of a new President and Rector at CEU, John Shattuck, and the birth of a new School for Public Policy, which make this all the more exciting a time to be doing the work that we do.

Institutionally, CMCS also starts this academic year with a new director and a new coordinator. While we are new to our positions, we are not new to the CMS or CEU and look forward to helping realize the continued growth of media and communication studies and research at CEU. The aim of this report is to document the achievements of the last academic year, but it is in looking forward that we focus on the future before us.

Dr. Kate Coyer
Director
Center for Media and Communication Studies
Introduction

About CMCS

CMCS is the hub for media and communication research at Central European University (CEU) focused on advancing media and communication studies throughout Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. The Center produces scholarly and practice-oriented research addressing academic, policy and civil society needs. CMCS promotes pluralism, participation, the democratic potential of the media, and research investigating the complexities of media and communication in transition.

Based in Budapest, CMCS was initiated in 2004 through the joint efforts of CEU and the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. The Center serves as a focal point for an international network of acclaimed scholars and academic institutions; offers innovative courses across several CEU departments; provides training and consultancy; and organizes scholarly exchanges through workshops, lectures and conferences on current developments in the field.

In its short history, the CMCS has developed core competencies and taken on a range of activities, working with CEU departments and centers, European institutions, and with a growing international network.

Specific activities include:

- Create opportunities for CEU students interested in the field of communication through advising, internships, research and summer institutes;
- Teach courses in the Departments of Public Policy and Political Science and support the overall development of media and communication studies at CEU;
- Lead and participate in major European and transnational research projects;
- Serve as advisors for NGO and governmental agencies, including legislative analysis and consultation for Hungary and European bodies;
- Publish a range of academic research, NGO, commissioned reports, conference papers and public lectures;
- Organize multi-stakeholder conferences, workshops and executive trainings.
Research interests and priorities include:

- **Media in transition**: democratization and development in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond;

- **Media and communication policy**: regulations, safeguards and organization across media sectors, digital broadcasting;

- **Media and civil society**: community, alternative and civic media, civil society engagement with policy processes, participation in public discourse;

- **Fundamental communication and informational rights**: freedom of expression, freedom of the media, access to information and privacy protections;

- **New media and technology**: social uses of new technologies, impact of ‘new’ media on ‘old’ media, social media, convergence and mobile communications.
CMCS People

Chair

Monroe Price, Director of the Center for Global Communication Studies at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania; Professor of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Current (from September 2009)

Kate Coyer, Director
Éva Bognár, Coordinator / Researcher
Miklós Sükösd, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Kristina Irion, Assistant Professor, Departments of Public Policy and Legal Studies
Ben Cramer, Visiting Professor, Departments of Public Policy and Legal Studies
Ellen Hume, Annenberg Fellow in Civic Media
Peter Molnar, Senior Research Fellow
Arne Hintz, Research Fellow, Project Director Mapping Global Media Policy
Joost van Beek, Research Fellow

Previous (2008-2009 academic year)

Arne Hintz, Program Director
Laura Ranca, Coordinator / Researcher
Miklós Sükösd, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Kristina Irion, Assistant Professor, Departments of Public Policy and Legal Studies
Peter Molnar, Senior Research Fellow
Kate Coyer, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Annenberg School for Communication
Éva Bognár, Researcher
Karolin Benko, Project Coordinator
Dimitrinka Atanasova, Public Policy Intern (summer term)
Summary of CMCS Activity 2008-09

Following is a brief summary of the major accomplishments, research projects, events, partner collaborations and teaching during the past academic year.

Teaching at CEU

CMCS staff and researchers teach post-graduate courses across several CEU Departments as part of the following media-related specializations:

- **Media, Information and Communications Policy stream in the Department of Public Policy:**
  
  MA students enrolled in CEU’s Master’s Program in Public Policy (MPP) can choose a specialization in Media, Information and Communications Policy.

- **Certificate in Political Communication in the Department of Political Science:**
  
  MA students enrolled in CEU’s Master’s Program in Political Science can choose a specialization in Political Communication.

Summer University (SUN) at CEU

CMCS regularly organizes a summer course for students and emerging scholars from around the globe as part of the CEU SUN program. Our 2009 course, *Media, Democratization and International Development: Foundations for a More Robust Research Agenda*, was co-organized with the Annenberg School and the University of Georgia, with financial support for student scholarships from the OSI Media Program.

Research

CMCS has participated in and taken a lead role in several international and collaborative research projects. Projects during 2008-2009 include:

- **East of West: Setting a New Central and Eastern European Media Research Agenda**
  
  4-year COST initiative (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), coordinated by CMCS

- **Indicators for Media Pluralism – Towards a Risk-Based Approach**
  
  Study for the European Commission

- **CivicWeb: Young People, the Internet and Civic Participation**
  
  Research project as part of the EU Framework Program 6

- **Broadening the Range of Awareness in Data Protection (BROAD)**
  
  Study for the European Commission
• **Consumer Empowerment in the Communications Sector**  
  Study for the National Communications Authority of Hungary

• **Community Media Research Hub**  
  Networking community media research on policy, practice, impact and sustainability

**Executive trainings and consultancies**

CMCS offers trainings to policy-makers, regulators, journalists, media managers, and NGOs, including a recent week-long workshop for members of the National Communications Authority of Hungary, *Advanced Policies and Regulation of Electronic Communications Networks and Services*, January 2009.

The Center also participates in international consultancy projects and provides expert advisory input, including work with the European Commission, Council of Europe, National Communications Authority of Hungary on issues such as self-regulation, the impact of digitalization on local media, and media pluralism.

**Public events, conference and workshops**

The Center hosted a major international conference in June 2009 and selected multi-stakeholder workshops during the year in its fields of interest and expertise. CMCS offers a series of public lectures throughout the academic year, bringing international media scholars to CEU. Recent events include:

- **International conference**: *Beyond East and West: Two Decades of Media Transformation After the Fall of Communism*, conference in collaboration with the International Communication Association (ICA), June 2009
- **Workshop**: *Global Norms on Access to Environmental Information: A Point of Departure for Improving International Access to Information*, December 2008
- **Workshop**: *Data Retention on the Internet: Challenges for Small, Alternative and Citizen-based Internet Service Providers*, September 2008

**Partners**

CMCS collaborates with many partner institutions. In the past academic year, this included: Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy at Oxford University, ICRI University of Leuven, National Communications Authority of Hungary, Magyar Telekom, Arnold & Porter LLP, South East European Network for Professionalization of Media, Mediacentar Sarajevo, Electronic Privacy Information Center, World Association of Community Broadcasters, Community Media Forum Europe, Open Society Archives, Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Open Society Institute.
Teaching at CEU

CMCS collaborates with the Department of Public Policy in the Media, Information and Communications Policy stream offered as part of the MA in Public Policy, and with the Department of Political Science in the certificate in “Political Communication” offered as part of the MA in Political Science. Both programs are growth areas for their respective departments and have enjoyed high numbers of applications and a strong international reputation. CMCS activities bring additional benefits to the students with an interest in the field by organizing public lectures, thematic workshops and conferences.

In collaboration with the CMCS, Kristina Irion, the academic coordinator of the Media, Information and Communication Policy stream, has submitted a proposal for a second year specialization in Media and Communications Policy to the Department of Public Policy. This proposal assesses the potential for such a specialization based on experiences with the existing stream, and proposes an innovative and coherent curriculum of mandatory and elective courses in this field. This proposal will be further developed under the framework of the new School of Public Policy.
Department of Public Policy: Media, Information and Communications Policy stream

For the academic year 2009-2010, the Department of Public Policy has received the highest number of dedicated applications for its stream in Media, Information and Communications Policy since its establishment. More than twenty candidates from eleven countries applied to CEU for admittance to the media stream. Two partial scholarships are provided by Magyar Telecom, whose support has been instrumental in the development of the stream and in attracting top students.

In the last academic year, nine students accomplished the specialisation in Media, Information and Communications Policy, by taking six credits in the stream’s portfolio, with many more students taking individual courses within the stream.

Courses

Courses by CMCS members during the 2008-2009 academic year:

- Fundamentals of media and communications policy (Kristina Irion)
- Global broadcasting and telecommunications law (Kristina Irion)
- Information privacy protection (Kristina Irion)
- Enabling policies to freedom of the media (Peter Molnar)
- Global media governance and civil society (Kate Coyer / Arne Hintz)

Thesis titles

Dimitrinka Atanasova, “The Digitalization of Television in the US: The Sweet Spot Policy between Ad Revenue and Protection of Minors” (initial supervisor: Kristina Irion; Kristina was initial supervisor as she is on maternity leave from June ’09– January ’10)

Tamas Bodi, “How to Measure Contribution of Community Media to the Policy Objective of Media Pluralism and Diversity?” (initial supervisor: Kristina Irion)

Maya Nikolova, “Safe Internet use for Children: An Analysis of Awareness Campaigns for Internet Literacy under the European Commission’s Safer Internet Programme” (initial supervisor: Kristina Irion, second supervisor: Arne Hintz)

Nevena Ruzic, “Tacit Freedom of Expression Limitation by Internet Service Providers: Role of ISPs in Freedom of Expression Limitation”, first year SJD candidate (initial supervisor: Kristina Irion)
Department of Political Science, Certificate of Specialization in Political Communication

The Department of Political Science offers MA students the possibility of earning, in addition to their MA-degree in Political Science, a Certificate in Political Communication. In 2008-09, six students were eligible for the certificate and general interest in this field is among the fastest growing in the department. Students can accomplish the specialization by taking twelve credits from a list of approved courses.

Courses

Two courses for this specialisation were taught within the Department of Political Science in 2008-09:

- Nationalism and the Media (Miklós Sükösd)
- Political Communication (Miklós Sükösd)

In addition, students could opt from a number of cross-listed courses taught in the Department of Public Policy (see above). Other courses in this certificate program offered in the past include Media and Democracy, Alternative Media, Green Politics and the Media, and Image, Memory and Culture in Media Policy. In 2008-09, Prof. Miklós Sükösd was on sabbatical leave for the winter term.

Thesis titles

Katherine Barna, “Citizen Participation and Online Media: Crossroads of Technology and News” (supervisor: Kate Coyer)

Mariia Kovalenko, “Media Freedom and Democracy: Does Culture Matter?” (supervisor: Kate Coyer)


Nevena Rsumovic, “Representation of the Neighbor in the Serbian and Croatian Print Media” (supervisor: Miklós Sükösd)

Fouad Touzani, “Al-Jazeera and the Democratic Transition in the Arab World: Empowering Arab Civil Society and Compensating for the Decline of Political Parties” (supervisor: Miklós Sükösd)
Additional thesis supervision in the Human Rights Program of the Department of Legal Studies

Ekanem Bassey, “The right to Freedom of Information as a Human Right and a Prerequisite to a Functioning Democracy: A Case Study on Nigeria” (supervisor: Peter Molnar)

Katarzyna Romanska, “Freedom of Expression in Rwanda – Peace Building or Peace Destroying?” (supervisor: Peter Molnar)

Further opportunities for students generated by CMCS

In addition, CMCS members invite policy makers and advocates as guest speakers during class sessions, including representatives from the National Communications Authority of Hungary, Hungarian Data Protection Authority, and take students on field trips to organizations like Magyar Television and CEU’s Open Society Archives. At present, the Center is seeking to develop other networking opportunities for students.

Summer school participation

CMCS has provided financial and organisational support for several students to participate in academic summer programs.

Media, Information and Communications policy stream student and Magyar Telekom scholarship recipient Maya Nikolova was awarded a fee waiver and a travel stipend from the CMCS to support her participation in the 2009 Annenberg-Oxford Global Media Policy Summer Institute at Oxford’s Programme in Comparative Media Law & Policy.

Political Communication students Katherine Barna, Mariia Kovalenko, and Nevena Rsumovic were granted placement, as well as stipends from the Open Society Institute’s Media Program, to participate in the CMCS co-organized CEU SUN Summer School on "Media, Democratization and International Development".
**Internships**

As part of the program of the media policy stream at the Department of Public Policy, students are required to complete a two months internship. Recipients of the Magyar Telekom (MT) scholarship are invited to intern with the company. MT scholarship holder Tamas Bodi recently completed a successful internship with Magyar Telekom and has recently taken up a fulltime position in the company as Research Manager for Origo, one of the two largest Hungarian online news portals.

Dimitrinka Atanasova interned with the CMCS office. As part of her CMCS Internship, Dimitrinka drafted a study of consumer empowerment for the National Communications Authority of Hungary (NCAH) and assisted with event coordination.

Ten students volunteered as conference organizers for the international conference *Beyond East and West: Two Decades of Media Transformation After the End of Communism*. Without their energy and support, in particular with participant registration, the conference would not have run as smoothly as it did. CEU students were the face of the conference and the first contact many attendees had with the university.
Major international research collaborations

Over the past several years, the CMCS has participated in and/or led three major research projects that came to a close in 2009, in addition to numerous ongoing research activity and related events.

Study for the European Commission: “Indicators for media pluralism in the Member States - towards a risk-based approach”

Duration: January 2008 – July 2009

The CMCS was part of a research consortium contracted by the European Commission to conduct a major study to identify indicators on media pluralism.

As media concentration advances and at the same time new technologies and media uses are changing the media landscape, a new understanding of media pluralism is required. The research consortium developed a multi-faceted definition of media pluralism, an elaborate model of 175 indicators in the socio-demographic, legal as well as economic sphere, and an elaborate model to identify and assess various levels of risk to media pluralism in the 27 EU Member States.

This model, together with the indicators, is to be used by the European Commission, national governments and media regulators to monitor media pluralism and to create informed strategies to develop a pluralistic media landscape.

On 8 June 2009, the consortium presented the results of its study in Brussels to an audience of over 100 key policy-makers, academics, industry representatives, politicians and civil society advocates. Conference participants agreed that the new model is likely to have a significant impact in future policy, research and education across Europe.

Participants

The consortium was led by Peggy Valcke from the Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and Information & Communication Technology (ICRI) at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. The other members were the Media Management and Transformation Centre (MMTC) at the Jönköping International Business School, Ernst & Young Consultancy Belgium, and the CMCS.
The CMCS established a working group that developed part of the indicators, which was led by Miklós Sükösd and included Beata Klimkiewicz from the Jagiellonian University in Poland; Brankica Petković from the Peace Institute in Slovenia; Sandra Hrvatin from the Ljubljana University in Slovenia; Artemon Vogl from the Corvinus University and the CEU in Hungary; as well as CMCS’ Arne Hintz and Laura Ranca.

**COST A30 Action: “East of West: Setting a New Central and Eastern European Media Research Agenda”**

Duration: 2005 –2009

**Introduction and Aims**

The COST A30 Action *East of West: Setting a New Central and Eastern European Media Research Agenda* ([www.costa30.eu](http://www.costa30.eu)) is a 4-year long research project (2005–2009) that has established an outstanding network, bringing together approximately 60 distinguished media and communications media researchers from 27 countries in Western and Eastern Europe and is also building a network of media studies & communication research centers, higher education programs and departments in Western and Eastern Europe. The Action was coordinated and led by CMCS. The COST program itself is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level.

The CMCS-led Action engaged in research concerning media production, media reception and use, and the political implications of the transformation of the media in the Eastern and Central European context. Action participants worked on empirically based frameworks of analysis for specific media problems facing the region. A major outcome of the Action has been the development of a European social science research network with a focus on emerging problems of Central and Eastern European media in a comparative perspective. By involving both leading scholars West and East and a new generation of young Central and Eastern European researchers, organizing academic conferences, workshops and innovative research collaboration, and initiating policy dialogues, the Action promotes a European level cutting-edge media research agenda.

The COST A30 Action has recently published its first book: *Finding the Right Place on the Map: Central and Eastern European Media Change in Global Perspective* (Edited by Karol Jakubowicz and Miklós Sükösd; London, Intellect Books, 2008) and it is preparing to issue a second book publication on: *Nationalism, Media and European Identity* (edited by Karol Jakubowicz). Another volume on European communications policy and journal themes issues on online politics, public interest media and other subjects are also planned.
COST A30 Working Groups

The COST Action was Miklós Sükösd, and the coordinator was Laura Ranca. The scientific work and research projects in the Action are supported by its four Working Groups (WGs):

1. **WG1 – Comparative Research Methods & New Media Developments** (WG leader: Nicholas Jankowski, University of Nijmegen, Netherlands)
2. **WG2 – Democratic Theory and Democratic Performance of the Media** (WG leader: Karol Jakubowicz, Poland)
3. **WG3 – Media Regulation and Policy** (WG leader: Beata Klimkiewicz, Jagiellonian University, Poland)
4. **WG4 – Textual Analysis and Media Use** (WG leader: Joke Hermes, InHolland University and University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

The *East of West* COST initiative included participation from universities and researchers in the following countries: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, UK, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Sweden, and Ukraine.
European Science Foundation Framework 6 (FP6) funded collaborative research project “CivicWeb - Young People, the Internet and Civic Participation”

Duration: September 2006 – August 2009

The CMCS was part of the European collaborative research project ‘CivicWeb’, which was conducted over the past three years. In this project, which was funded by the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme, members of seven leading European research institutions studied the use of different social groups, and particularly young people, of the Internet.

The project focused on analyzing the potential contribution of the internet to promoting civic engagement and participation among young people, and the range of youth-oriented civic sites that has emerged on the web. The research assessed how the development of online civic content varied across the different political cultures of seven European member states. It identified instances of 'good practice' that can inform practitioners and policy-makers in relevant fields.

The CivicWeb project was led by the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media at the University of London (Prof. David Buckingham). Project research officer Éva Bognár and research assistant Judit Szakács ran the program for CMCS, with Arne Hintz serving as lead researcher during 2008-09. The other partners in the project were the Media and Communications Studies Unit at Lund University (Prof. Peter Dahlgren); the Amsterdam School of Communications Research at the University of Amsterdam (Prof. Liesbet van Zoonen); the Faculty of Communications Studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Prof. Magdalena Albero-Andres); the Social Communication Research Centre at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana (Prof. Slavko Splichal); and Istanbul BILGI University (Prof. Aydin Ugur).

The final CivicWeb conference was held in London on 30 June– 1 July 2009. Researchers from the project discussed the research results on civic Internet use together with online activists and young Internet users. Éva Bognár also presented research findings at the Beyond East and West conference (2009 Budapest) and at the Annual Conference of the European Sociological Association (2009 Lisbon).
Ongoing Research Projects

Broadening the Range of Awareness in Data Protection (BROAD)

CMCS and partners won a European Union grant under the Director General Justice, Freedom and Security’s Specific Programme Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, for the project "Broadening the Range Of Awareness in Data protection (BROAD)". The BROAD Project is a collaborative effort of Hungarian and Dutch not-for-profit organizations to raise awareness in the area of data protection and information privacy by using innovative means and methods.

The project started in January 2009 and will last for 18 months. The other partners in this project are: Eötvös Károly Public Policy Institute (EKINT); Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology, and Society (TILT) at the Law Faculty of Tilburg University.

CMCS’ Kristina Irion is the project coordinator of BROAD and Éva Bognár will conduct the Hungarian research.

Community Media Research Hub

The CMCS is developing a hub for community media research. The aim is to build capacity among scholars and advocates and develop an international network to help build and strengthen the work among academics and advocacy groups engaged in supporting the growth of community media around the globe. The hub was launched with a European Science Foundation funded Exploratory Workshop in spring 2008.

Projects to come out of this hub in the last academic year are: a comparative study of community broadcasting policy and practice in Europe, with a focus on developments in Central and Eastern Europe; participation in a study on community media sustainability commissioned by Internews; case studies related to the role of civil society in community media advocacy; examination of research methodologies to measure community media’s impact; and a current project is underway in partnership with Mediacentar Sarajevo, where Kate Coyer, who leads this research area for CMCS, is also contributing to a study on the impact of local media on local government.
Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Information

CMCS maintained its commitment to research related to freedom of speech and freedom of information. CMCS Senior Research Fellow Peter Molnar continued two research projects, both begun in 2004.

As part of his project “‘Hate Speech’ and Its Remedies”, Peter is co-editing, with Michael Herz of the Cardozo School of Law, a forthcoming book that will be published by Cambridge University Press. A workshop Peter initiated and co-convened at Columbia Law School in spring 2009, as well as two earlier conferences he co-organized at Cardozo and the CEU, prepared the ground for this publication. As part of this project, he also continued his work for improved application of the anti-“hate speech” provisions of the radio-television law in Hungary.

Further developing his “Freedom of Information” project, Peter initiated research on "Access to Environmental Data in Hungary" in cooperation with the Eötvös Károly Public Policy Institute (EKINT) and the Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA). The findings of this research, and legislative proposals based on them, were presented at a press conference at the Hungarian Environmental Ministry in January 2009. The study was also presented at the CMCS International Experts Workshop “Sunshine on Public Data: Access to Environmental Information” in December 2008.

In connection with his continuing work on testing access to information with his students, Peter initiated and co-edited the Freedom of Information section of the 2/2009 issue of the Cardozo Public Law, Policy, and Ethics Journal.

Study on Consumer Empowerment

Users of electronic communication tools often meet obstacles such as high service prices, low coverage, and limited provisions for vulnerable groups such as people living in rural areas, the elderly, minors, and the disabled. Communications regulators across Europe, including the National Communications Authority of Hungary (NCAH) who commissioned this study, increasingly seek to highlight consumer rights and offer support to the more vulnerable users of communications services. In this light, the CMCS conducted a study on consumer empowerment policies for NCAH, examining comparatively the existing initiatives of the national telecoms regulation bodies of 14 European countries. The study was conducted by CMCS researchers Dimitrinka Atanasova and Laura Ranca, who proposed a range of best practice models. Further research in this area is in development.
Visiting Fellows

CMCS welcomes academic visitors for periods of one month to one year who wish to contribute to and participate in the ongoing research activities of the Center, and play an active role in the vibrant academic life of the university. CMCS fellows work on their own projects as well as collaborative and comparative projects with the Center, and support the development of events and workshops as related to their fields of interest.

Kate Coyer held an Annenberg Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Center from January 2007 to July 2009. During this time, Kate spent the fall term at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and the winter and spring terms at the CEU with the Center helping build community media research activities.

Tarik Jusic joined the CMCS as a Visiting Research Fellow from September 2008 to June 2009. Tarik is Program Director of the Mediacentar Sarajevo, a media research and development institution in Bosnia-Herzegovina that is engaged with innovative work on investigative journalism, media policy, training and consulting. During his fellowship, Tarik contributed to CMCS’ work in the fields of media development, public service media and Central and Eastern European media in transition.

Jessie Labov worked with the CMCS from January to July 2009. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University. During her time with CMCS, Jessie continued her research on cross-border publishing in Central Europe, convened several panels on alternative media for the COST A30 conference, and coordinated the summer session of the OSI-HESP project “Alternative Culture Beyond Borders.”
Major events and workshops

International Conference at CEU: “Beyond East and West: Two Decades of Media Transformation after the End of Communism”

The past academic year at CEU ended with a major international event organized by CMCS. Evaluating those twenty years, the conference probed several key questions: To what degree have free and independent media systems and an open public discourse emerged since 1989? What are the likely future trajectories of media development? How can comparative analysis help us better understand media development and the transition processes as a whole?

The conference served as a mode of transcending older categories of thinking and bridging to new ones, and demonstrated the role that CEU and CMCS can play in the ongoing debate over communications and society. The conference was co-chaired by Miklós Sükösd and Arne Hintz. The range of topics conference participants addressed included questions of democratic legitimacy in media policy and the promotion of open public discourse that CMCS has been engaged with over the past years, including Miklós Sükösd’s work on media in transition; Kate Coyer, Arne Hintz and Éva Bognár’s research around civic participation, community media and digital technologies; Peter Molnár’s work redressing restrictions on freedom of speech as a former Member of Parliament; and Kristina Irion's communication policy research. A number of public film screenings and art exhibitions taking place concurrently at CEU rounded out the cultural program, including an historical exhibition of political posters from 1989.

Leading and emerging media scholars participated in over fifty parallel sessions, with plenaries featuring Miklós Haraszti, Representative on Freedom of the Media for the OSCE; Chin-Chuan Lee, City University Hong Kong; Sonia Livingstone, London School of Economics; Balazs Kiss, European Science Foundation; Andrei Richter, Moscow Media Law and Policy Institute; Colin Sparks, University of Westminster; James Curran, Goldsmiths College; Ellen Hume, MIT and Elihu Katz, Barbie Zelizer, and Monroe Price, Annenberg School, University of Pennsylvania.
The conference served as the closing event of the European Science Foundation funded COST initiative “East of West: Setting a New Central Eastern European Media Research Agenda”, which the CMCS coordinated over the past four years, and which involved regular meetings among over fifty media scholars from across Europe. The event was also a regional conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), and was co-sponsored by the Annenberg School, the Open Society Institute (OSI), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Austrian Cultural Forum.

The CMCS will publish two edited volumes, one around the conference theme, and another with selected papers from the freedom of speech sessions.

**Selling Democracy: The Lost Films of the Marshall Plan, 1948-1953**

In parallel with the conference, attendees were given the chance to view some of the lost films of the Marshall Plan, which were screened in Hungary for the first time in history.

The films offer a fascinating cross-section of some of the more than 280 shorts and feature films produced by the Marshall Plan’s Motion Picture Section to “win the peace”. In view of contemporary campaigns to “sell democracy” around the world, these films yield thought-provoking insights.

The public screenings were organized by CMCS, Open Society Archives, and the U.S. Embassy. The screenings were curated by Marshall film historian Sandra Schulberg, who has spearheaded efforts to preserve and revive this provocative and little-known body of work. More information can be found at [www.sellingdemocracy.org](http://www.sellingdemocracy.org).

**Punk, Hardcore and Alternative Fanzine Culture in Hungary, 1986-2009**

As part of the conference, an exhibition was held that provided a glimpse of the Hungarian fanzine scene from its first publications in 1986 to the present. During the past near-quarter century, the significance of fanzines in underground culture has changed in several ways. During the communist regime, fanzines served as both alternative sources of subversive, radical and oppositional views and as information sources for non-mainstream music scenes. Today, fanzines continue to be produced, distributed and enjoyed within the same alternative cultural environments where the format was first pioneered. The exhibition was curated by Zoltan Kacsuk and Laszlo Klein, whose collection can be found at [fanzine.extra.hu](http://fanzine.extra.hu).
The 2009 CEU SUN Summer School: “Media, Democratization and International Development: Foundations for a More Robust Research Agenda”

The CMCS partnered with the Center for Global Communication Studies (CGCS) at the Annenberg School for Communication to organise a summer school program on "Media, Democratization and International Development: Foundations for a More Robust Research Agenda". The program was based at the CEU in July, 2009 through CEU’s Summer University (SUN) program.

The summer school program brought together CEU faculty and faculty from a number of institutions, including Tom Jacobson, Temple University; Maureen Taylor, University of Oklahoma; Lee Becker and Tudor Vlad, University of Georgia; Linje Manzoyo, London School of Economics; and James Deane and Gerry Power, BBC World Service Trust.

Participants embarked on a four-day mentored field research trip during the course, with one group going to Cluj, Romania and one to Novi Sad, Serbia (organized by the Novi Sad School of Journalism), to gain direct experience in testing different methods of measuring and evaluating the impact of media development programs and to gain a better understanding of the current media situation in these two regions.

The course was open to graduate students, media practitioners, members of policy and development institutions, and others. 26 participants from 21 different countries, including Bangladesh, Palestine, Uganda, South Africa, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Ukraine, took part.

Course directors were Monroe Price, Kate Coyer, and Susan Abbott, Associate Director of the Center for Global Communication Studies, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania. The summer school greatly benefited from the financial support of the Open Society Institute (OSI)’s Media Program, which provided substantial support for student scholarships.

Webinar: “Journalism, New Technologies and Media Development”

As part of the summer course on media development (see above), the CMCS, the Annenberg School for Communication and the Hungarian telecommunications provider Magyar Telekom hosted an interactive web seminar – or “webinar” – on the ways new technologies are changing journalism, the media, and the information landscape.

As new media augment and challenge prevailing orthodoxies, traditional boundaries are tested. Broadcast entities and newspapers are losing their primacy as news providers, while mobile telephony and social media like Twitter and Facebook become an
increasingly significant platform for the diffusion of news.

The “webinar” featured a discussion on the implications of these developments between James Deane, director of policy for the BBC World Service Trust; Persephone Miel, Senior Advisor of Internews and a fellow with the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University; András Benedict, developer of iwiw, the largest and oldest Hungarian social networking site; and practitioners, researchers, and journalists in media development who participated in CMCS’ summer school.

The two hosts, Susan Abbott (Annenberg School for Communication) and Kate Coyer (CMCS) brought in other participants and presenters via Skype, including Iranian specialists to discuss the post-election demonstrations there, while over 100 people around the globe watched the video stream of the event online and participated in the simultaneous online chat forum.

**Workshop: “Sunshine on Public Data: Access to Environmental Information”**

As part of ongoing work around freedom of information, CMCS hosted an International Experts Workshop on "Global Norms on Access to Environmental Information: A Point of Departure for Improving International Access to Information" on 12-14 December 2008.

As a result of the workshop, participants drafted and adopted the "Budapest Declaration on the Right of Access to Information." The event was created and the declaration initiated by Peter Molnar. The workshop was co-organized with Access-Info Europe and supported by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Participants in the workshop included Frank LaRue, UN Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Miklós Haraszti, Media Freedom Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); Jaime Aparicio-Otero, President of the Juridical Committee of the Organization of American States (OAS); Helena Jaderblom, Chair of the Council of Europe group of specialists on Access to Official Documents; Jeremy Wates, Secretary of the UNECE Aarhus Convention; Eduardo Bertoni, former freedom of expression Rapporteur of the OAS; Helen Darbishire, Executive Director of Access Info Europe; Toby Mendel, Senior Legal Counsel of Article XIX; Alexander Abdo, attorney, American Civil Liberties Union; Darian Pavli, Legal Officer for Freedom of Expression and Information, Open Society Justice Initiative; as well as CMCS’ Peter Molnar and Kristina Irion and students in Peter’s MA course who demonstrated the process of filing data claims.
The participants analyzed internationally developed safeguards on access to environmental information, discussed how those norms can foster the improvement of access to public data in other fields, and debated the controversial and recently revised Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents. In the Declaration on the Right of Access to Information drafted during the workshop, participants underlined the need to recognize Access to Information as a fundamental human right.

**Course Innovation Workshop on Audiovisual Mass Media: “Between Politics and Regulation”**

On 13-17 October 2008, eight faculty members from universities located in the former Soviet Union participated in the curriculum development workshop "Audiovisual Mass Media: Between Politics and Regulation" at the CEU. The workshop was offered by the Departments of Public Policy and Political Sciences and by CMCS, in collaboration with the CEU’s Curriculum Resource Center (CRC), and coordinated by Arne Hintz and Kristina Irion.

The workshop examined objectives, instruments and outcomes of public policy of the media sector in Central and Eastern Europe, and discussed the role and agendas of different stakeholders in shaping media policy.

Participants received training in course development, attended courses offered by CEU faculty, and discussed their curricula, teaching methods and research interests with CMCS faculty and staff. In a roundtable discussion, CEU faculty and the visitors explored recent developments in the media and policy situation in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Workshop: ““Hate Speech’ and Incitement to Violence”**

In spring 2009, Peter Molnar initiated, and co-convened with Columbia Law School’s Kendall Thomas, a semester-long workshop at Columbia on ““Hate Speech’ and Incitement to Violence”.

The workshop was part of Peter’s work on his project on ““Hate Speech” and Its Remedies”, which is the subject of a forthcoming book edited by Peter and Michael Herz. The workshop provided a special opportunity for eight authors to the book – including CMCS Chair Monroe Price; Robert Post, Dean of Yale Law School; Irwin Cotler, Member of the Canadian Parliament; Frederick Schauer, University of Virginia; and Edwin Baker, University of Pennsylvania - to present their draft chapters or related work.
Workshop: “Data Retention on the Internet”

On Friday 19 September 2008, the CMCS hosted the workshop Data retention on the Internet, which it organised together with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the European Digital Rights Initiative (EDRI), with support from the Dutch internet provider XS4ALL and the Open Society Institute (OSI).

Seventy international experts and e-activists, including scholars, lawyers, policy experts, digital rights advocates and members of grassroots/non-commercial ISPs from Europe, Canada, Brazil and the US, met at the workshop to discuss EU-wide policies on data retention and to develop strategies for defending and enhancing the privacy of Internet users.

The workshop included a presentation by Kristina Irion, who introduced the EU Data Retention Directive. According to this recent Directive, all telecommunications operators and Internet Service Providers in the region have to retain email and telephone connection data of their customers and users for up to two years, creating a "comprehensive digital dossier about every individual" (TJ McIntyre, Digital Rights Ireland).

Workshop participants exchanged information about the implementation of the Directive in different EU member states and explored options of challenging data retention on three different levels: legal complaints and court cases, technological by-passes, and public campaigns.
Follow-up action: Participation in data protection day

Many of the groups and organizations that took part in the workshop agreed to organize a local event on the international day of action against data retention on 11 October 2008, entitled *International Action Day "Freedom not Fear - Stop the surveillance mania!"*. The aim of the annual day of action is to protest secret searches of private computer systems, online or offline; blanket surveillance and filtering of internet communications; and blanket logging of our communications and locations (data retention).

In Budapest, the CMCS joined a rally of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union and the local NGO Zöld Pók in front of a building of the Hungarian Parliament at Jászai Mari tér. The organisers projected videos representing the process of users' electronic data interception on the wall of the so-called "White House". Maria Morozova created a short film of the Budapest campaign.

Workshop: “Safer Internet – The Hungarian Agenda”

On the occasion of the 2009 "Safer Internet Day" promoted by the European Commission - DG Information Society and Media, CMCS hosted the half-day workshop "Safer Internet - The Hungarian Agenda" on 10 February. The event was organized in collaboration with several Hungarian NGOs and included participation from civil society, academia, media and policy makers.
Institutional and network development

CMCS has benefited from collaborations with academic institutions, policy making bodies, and non-governmental organizations internationally and in Hungary. Our activities help raise the profile of CEU internationally and we see these partnerships as opportunities to demonstrate the role that CEU and CMCS can play in the ongoing debate over communications and society. Such partnerships are also invaluable as the Center seeks to impact scholarship, policy and advocacy, and to diversify our sources of funding as we move forward.

Network and strategic partner development is an area CMCS is focused on developing in the coming years. To that end, the Center is now actively pursuing international research projects and has recently begun conversations to join the EU-funded Multimedia and Mobility Cluster group, a network of over sixty universities and companies in Hungary with the aim of developing research collaborations between industry and the academy.

In Europe, CMCS has been a part of research collaborations as described earlier in this report, such as Media Pluralism, CivicWeb, and the COST Network that have placed CEU and CMCS on the map as valuable research partners and network builders in media and communications.

Specific, key partnerships and networks are detailed as follows:

**COST Network: East of West: Setting a New Central and Eastern European Media Research Agenda**

The Action positioned CEU as a leader in the region for media and communications research. The Action has been instrumental in the development of media scholarship in the Central and Eastern European region, and in providing platforms for the development of comparative research and methodologies. Though the four-year long Action concluded this year, the benefits of this network will continue to be realized.

The network has created a forum for continued exchange across the whole of Europe by bridging the gap between media scholarship in this region with that of Western Europe. At the same time, the closing conference for the Action, Beyond East and West: Twenty Years after the Fall of Communism, was initially planned to be a European event amongst the network, but became instead a major international conference through the leadership of the CMCS, lead by Arne Hintz. The conference was also established as a regional conference of the International Communications Association (ICA), which brought a wider global audience to CEU and sought to move forward scholarship about media transition.
CMCS continues to collaborate with partners involved in the action and conference, including project development for future EU research funding calls. Out of this project, five edited books will have been published.

**Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania**

Internationally, CMCS has benefited from very close institutional ties with the Annenberg School, its Dean Michael Delli Carpini, and especially their Center for Global Communication Studies (CGCS), led by Professor Monroe Price. Monroe also serves as the CMCS’ Chair. CMCS benefits from advisory support, project development, and access to a valuable and growing international network of media scholars, funders and development agencies. As a result, CMCS is currently pursuing collaborations with scholars in Jordan, Thailand, and India.

Annenberg and CGCS have been fostering the developments of the CMCS since its inception in 2004. Four faculty members from Annenberg taught at CEU that year. Graduate students from Budapest came and worked at Annenberg, and Annenberg faculty and graduate students have continued to be involved. The relationship was further enhanced with the appointment by Annenberg Dean Delli Carpini of Kate Coyer as a Postdoctoral Fellow, whose position was funded by Annenberg for three years. She split her time between the two institutions during her fellowship, and has sought to further develop the relationship between CEU and Annenberg. The Center is also very pleased to host, beginning in September 2009, Ellen Hume as the Annenberg Fellow in Civic Media.

Annenberg faculty Elihu Katz, Barbie Zelizer (current ICA President), Joe Turow, Amy Jordan, and Monroe Price all participated in the *Beyond East of West* conference, in addition to Annenberg graduate students.

With CGCS’ Associate Director Susan Abbott, CMCS has developed an ongoing summer school series that will take place for the third consecutive year at CEU in 2010, focussed on issues of media development. The 2009 course provided student scholarships funded by OSI and benefited from program development from the BBC World Service Trust and the University of Georgia. CMCS has also fostered CEU graduates seeking placement in Annenberg’s PhD program and other advanced studies programs internationally.
Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy (PCMLP) at Oxford

PCMLP is another important node in the international network anchored by Monroe Price at Annenberg. CMCS and PCMLP are currently developing research proposals for comparative studies of transition in Eastern Europe, Latin America and West Africa. CMCS is also now collaborating on a Global Media Law website and discussion list under development by PCMLP. Michael Starks has played a key role in the delivery of trainings as part of CMCS workshops and as a consultant for the Hungarian communications regulator through the Center’s network.

Lead by Nicole Stremlau, PCMLP runs an Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute on Global Media Policy, which CMCS’ Kristina Irion and Kate Coyer have both participated in. CMCS provides a travel stipend to a strong CEU media stream student in the Department of Public Policy to attend. Past recipients have included Linda Austere, Andreana Stankova, Zivile Stubryte, and Maya Nikolova.

Magyar Telekom

CMCS has also a long-standing and successful partnership with the largest Hungarian telecommunications provider, Magyar Telekom. Magyar Telekom has been an important partner to the Center since its inception, as well to CEU in general. CMCS, through the efforts of Viktor Böhm, who has been instrumental in building the Center and continues to be of assistance in fostering network development, was also instrumental in the development of the Media, Information and Communications stream in the Department of Public Policy, and in securing financial support from Magyar Telekom for student scholarships, the faculty teaching position in the stream (Kristina Irion), and general operating support for CMCS and project management (now Kate Coyer).

In summer 2009, CMCS created an online seminar series (‘webinar’) with Magyar Telekom, and is looking to develop this model further. The first joint webinar was held in connection with the CMCS/Annenberg media development summer course and was hosted at the offices of T Mobile. The event included a live audience of summer school participants, an online viewership of over 100 people, and remote contributions from Britain and Egypt. It was made possible by the technical support and expertise of Magyar Telekom staff.

Magyar Telekom has a strong history of promoting culture and education and supports a range of initiatives for scientific education. CMCS has given talks as part of workshops at Magyar Telekom and seeks continued development of this important long-standing relationship.
National Communications Authority of Hungary (NCAH)

CMCS has renewed its commitment to provide expertise to the National Communications Authority of Hungary (NCAH). The cooperation includes providing an executive training for NCAH employees and conducting a study on consumer empowerment in communications services. NCAH Vice Chair Krisztina Rozgonyi is an advisor to the Center and will serve as co-chair of the new CMCS Advisory Board that is in development.

NCAH provides funding to the CMCS in support of its core activities, research, and legislative advisory work, including partial funding for Peter Molnar’s fellowship.

South Eastern European Network for the Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM)

CMCS has worked with SEENPM as a way to connect students with practice in the region. In summer 2009, CMCS collaborated with one of their fifteen partner media centers, the Novi Sad School of Journalism, as part of the summer course on media development. CMCS regularly organizes field trips to their offices along with visits to their partner organizations the Center for Independent Journalism and the Roma Media Project. The network’s executive Director Sandor Orban is a former director of the CMCS, and we are looking to develop a closer working relationship with SEENPM, especially with regards to policy initiatives, research and training.

Arnold & Porter, LLP

Leading international law firm Arnold & Porter has agreed to support CMCS in its various activities in the field of media and communications policy. Arnold & Porter has a truly global spread and extensive experience in working across geographic, cultural, technological, and ideological borders. The firm provides first-class expertise in telecommunications, internet and media regulation, and it has a strong record of community involvement and pro bono practice. This fall, the Center is working with Arnold & Porter on a proposal to assess the economic impact of digital television in Serbia with Oxford.
Network Neutrality and Privacy Protection

In the context of the on-going revision of the EU Communications Framework Directive, CMCS has joined a European civil society initiative of internet, media and communications NGOs and policy research institutes that advocates the principles of Network Neutrality and Privacy Protection in the online environment. The initiative was launched in late-January 2009 and a joint declaration was published in February. The declaration, which has been publicly supported by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), states concern on those amendments to the Telecoms Package which challenge the traditional freedoms of the Internet and of its users. The campaign continues and a follow-up declaration drafting by the same coalition is currently in progress.

NGO collaborations on community media

The CMCS regularly cooperates with organizations such as the World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC) and the Community Media Forum Europe on research and advocacy. The Center is currently developing a study of impact assessment tools for community radio with AMARC, and seeks to collaborate with scholars in this field in India, Thailand, Mexico and across Africa.
Consultancies and executive trainings

Executive Training on “Advanced Policies and Regulation of Electronic Communications Networks and Services”

The CMCS and the National Communications Authority of Hungary (NCAH) collaborate in an executive training program, for which Kristina Irion serves as Academic Director and main instructor. As part of this program, CMCS conducted an Executive Training on 'Advanced Policies and Regulation of Electronic Communications Networks and Services' to the staff of the NCAH and invited Hungarian executives on 26-30 January 2009.

The aim of the Executive Training was to present significant developments in EU policy and regulation concerning the electronic communications sector, and examine the policy making process in other Member States.

The program introduced participants to current policy approaches in the electronic communications sector, their underlying objectives and their reflection in sector specific regulation. The aim was for participants to be able to understand and apply these concepts to local conditions and ultimately to implement corresponding regulation.

The training featured international guest lecturers such as Michael H. Ryan (Arnold & Porter LLP), Monica Arino and Alistair Bridge (Ofcom), Chris Doyle (Warwick Business School), and Russ Taylor (Oxford University). Kristina Irion delivered a number of sessions, while Laura Ranca presented on “Network Neutrality from the user’s perspective”.

NCAH delegated more than twenty staff members to attend the Executive Training and invited five colleagues from the Hungarian Competition Authority to attend. After the successful completion of the program sixteen certificates of attendance were issued jointly by CMCS and NCAH. The program received strong marks from participants in their evaluations of the training.
**Legislative advisory work**

CMCS provides legislative analysis, consultation and expert testimonies to international, European and Hungarian institutions. Following are some examples of this work during the past academic year.

Peter Molnar has continued serving as a legislative advisor in Hungary, drawing on his experience as a former Member of Parliament and civic activist. During the past year, he has worked on the draft law on classified data, pushing for the application of internationally recognized principles, and for replacing lingering restrictions to freedom of information with comparative best practices.

In January 2009, Peter co-organized and moderated a CMCS-Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU) roundtable with Members of Parliament from all parliamentary groups on this subject. He also organized a CMCS-HCLU conference in advance of the Parliamentary roundtable which was the first public discussion of the draft. Peter has participated in the ongoing work on new draft legislation updating and reforming the existing law on radio and television of which he was among the original drafters, and has continued his work concerning responses to “hate speech”. Peter is a member of the Complaint Commission of the National Radio and Television Board, and initiated action with the Ombudsman for National and Ethnic Minorities in regard to an anti-Roma broadcast in Hungary.

In addition to her other advisory work, Kristina Irion was commissioned by the public foundation Civil Initiative on Internet Policy, based in Bishkek, to provide expertise on a legal assessment of the Kyrgyz Law on Personal Information in the light of international standards on data protection, submitted in February 2009.

Kate Coyer served as a consultant for the Council of Europe at its roundtable “Possible solutions for signal distribution of local TV and radio” in Kiev, Ukraine, April 2009. The roundtable was organised within the framework of the Joint Program “Promotion of European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment” of the European Union and the Council of Europe, co-organised by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs and the Council of Europe Secretariat Office in Kyiv.
Occasional events

CMCS organizes a number of public lectures and film screenings during the year for the CEU community and the public at large. Public lectures feature visiting scholars and academics as well as policy makers, journalists and representatives from local and international governmental agencies, NGOs and media institutions. During 2008-09, this included guests from Media Lab Helsinki, Tel Aviv University, Georgetown University, the Broadcast Mobile Convergence Forum, and the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.

The CMCS also organizes film screenings followed by discussion, often in partnership with local entities such as the U.S. Embassy, Canadian Embassy, and the Romanian Cultural Institute.

Public lectures hosted by CMCS


*Secrets and Spies: How the CIA has evaded the U.S. Freedom of Information Act*, by Martin Halstuk, Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University, 9 October 2008.

*Mobile TV and its implementation in Central and Eastern Europe*, by Claus Sattler, Executive Director of Broadcast Mobile Convergence Forum (bmcforum), 21 October 2008.

*Breaking news! - Why is news from the Middle-East often so different from reality?*, by Joris Luyendijk, international journalist and former Middle-East correspondent, 6 November 2008.

*Complexity and the Future of the University*, by Linda Garcia, Director of the Communication, Culture and Technology Program at Georgetown University, 10 November 2008.
Telepopulism: Media and Politics in Israel and the U.S., by Yoram Peri, Head of the Chaim Herzog Institute for Media, Politics and Society, Tel Aviv University, 7 January 2009.

Makeover television, audiences, and the reflexive self, by Katherine Sender, Associate Professor, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 25 March 2009.

Guest lectures (as part of courses taught)

Ferenc Bánhidi, Board member of the National Communications Authority of Hungary (NCAH), guest speaker in the Master course on “Fundamentals of media and communications policy”, November 2008.


Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Member of the House of Lords, guest speaker in the Master course on “Enabling Policies for Freedom of the Media”, November 2008.

Endre Szabo, Lawyer at the Hungarian Data Protection Authority, guest speaker in the Master course on “Information privacy protection”, February 2009.

Ivan Szekely, Open Society Archives and Professor at Budapest Technical University, discussion in the Master course on “Information privacy protection”, March 2009.
Film screenings

Commonplaces of Transition, documentary-film series including Common Places of Transition, Precarious Lives and Two or Three Things about Activism, directed by Joanne Richardson from D-Media, 16-17 October 2008. Accompanied by discussions on transition, labor conditions and activism in the post-communist spaces.


Don’t get me wrong, a documentary directed by Adina Pintilie, and Viva Constanta, a documentary directed by Ambrus Emese, 2 March 2009. Introduced by Dr. Brindusa Armanca, Director of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Budapest.

Wapikoni Mobile, a series of short documentaries made by First Nations youth of Quebec, 23 March 2009. Introduced by Ms. Manon Barbeau, the film producer of Wapikoni Mobile (a motorized motion picture training and production studio that has been touring among Canada's Aboriginal communities since 2004). Screening in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada in Hungary.

Rocking the Nation, a documentary by Bori Kriza exploring the phenomenon of right wing “National Rock” in Hungary, screened during the conference Beyond East and West, June 2009.

Street Punk Moscow / Gypsy Side, two films on underground culture from young punks in the outskirts of Moscow to teenage rappers from the “Harlem” of Budapest, directed by Janna Ji Wonders and Korinna Krauss respectively, screened during the conference Beyond East and West, June 2009.
New research project development

New project development is a major aim of the CMCS. We are currently working with the University of Oxford in developing comparative research projects; seeking funding for work related to the community and civic media research hub; and preparing a joint proposal on Cybersecurity for the EU. The CMCS is also preparing proposals to study monitoring and evaluation methods and impact studies with NGOs; assisting in a study of the economic impact of digitalization in Serbia; and preparing for further research into consumer empowerment and network neutrality for the Hungarian National Communications Authority. It is exploring avenues to develop projects studying the impact of new media platforms, and developing opportunities for collaborative studies with industry, including a study of digital libraries and archiving with Magyar Telekom.

Grants Proposals Submitted

Over the past year, collaborations with international partner universities have included funding applications for major collaborative projects under the European Science Foundation’s FP 7 calls, including an application for research on community media, which was submitted together with the London School of Economics (LSE), the Free University Brussels and the University of Padova, and an application for research on digital television, submitted with the Autonomous University Barcelona and others.

The following grant proposals were recently submitted by Kristina Irion:


In addition, Kristina Irion is working on developing the following projects: “Policy and Regulations of Digital Television Platforms”; “Communications Privacy and Surveillance of International Communications”; and “Information privacy policy for behavioural advertising”.

Peter Molnar is involved in a pending EU application for the study on the independence of media authorities under the AVMS Directive and is preparing applications to the European Research Council on “hate speech” and to the Open Society Institute on “hate speech” and freedom of information.

**Mapping Global Media Policy**

During the academic year 2009-10, CMCS Research Fellow Arne Hintz will work as a post-doctoral researcher at McGill University, Montreal on the international collaborative project Mapping Global Media Policy.

The project seeks to address the growing interest in the international and global governance of media and communication. It does so while tackling concerns that Global Media Policy as a field of research is under-theorized, not well defined in its boundaries and open to controversial interpretations regarding the main processes and actors involved. The objective is to develop a Global Media Policy Observatory consisting of a continuously updated and expanding inventory and a multi-representative think tank for critical analysis of trends in global media policy.

In developing the project, Arne is working together with Prof. Marc Raboy (McGill) and Prof. Claudia Padovani (University of Padova, currently Visiting Professor at McGill).
Publications

CMCS Book Publications


Karol Jakubowicz and Miklós Süksöd (Eds.), *Finding the Right Place on the Map: Central and Eastern European Media Change in a Global Perspective*, Intellect books, 2008, supported by COST, selected as a Book of the Year by the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).

CMCS Member Publications

Books


Miklós Süksöd and Adla Isanovic (eds.), *Public Service Television in the Digital Age: Strategies and Opportunities in Five South-East European Countries*, Mediacentar Sarajevo 2008.

Journal Articles and Chapter Publications


Conference Papers and Presentations

Academic Conference Papers, Workshops and Presentations by CMCS Members


Arne Hintz and Stefania Milan, “At the margins of internet governance: contributions from the grassroots”, at Communication Policies and Culture in Europe, the second European Communication Conference, European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), Barcelona, 25-28 November 2008.


Éva Bognár and Judit Szakács, “Young people, the Internet and civic participation: Use of Internet by civic groups”, at conference Beyond East and West, Central European University, Budapest, June 25-27.


Kate Coyer, “What if You Create a Policy and Nobody Comes? Lessons Learned from Community Radio in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, Beyond East and West, Central European University, Budapest, June 2009.

Kate Coyer, participated in the workshop NGOs as gatekeepers: the changing roles that NGOs play in gathering, packaging, and delivering international news, organized by the Annenberg School, held at the LSE, London, September 2008.

Kate Coyer and Arne Hintz, “Community Media in the Academic Context: Current Situation and Tendencies”, at workshop on Community Media and European Policy, medien ost e.V., Halle, 13-14 March 2009.


Kristina Irion, "The relationships between the audiovisual media sector and the consumers after the digital switch-over of television in Germany", at conference on Challenges and Opportunities of Television Distribution in Cable Networks, Alkalmazott Kommunikációtudományi Intézet (AKTI), Budapest, 18 September 2008.

Kristina Irion, "Introduction to the EU Data Retention Directive”, at workshop on Data Retention on the Internet: Challenges for small, alternative and citizen-based Internet Service Providers, Center for Media and Communications Studies (CMCS), CEU, Budapest, 19 September 2008.

Kristina Irion, panelist and co-organiser of workshop on "The Future of Online Privacy: Online advertising and behavioral targeting", at the 3rd meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Hyderabad, 3-6 December, 2008.

Kristina Irion, "Youth and Internet Governance: Challenges for future?", at the 3rd meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Hyderabad, 3-6 December 2008.

Kristina Irion, "Separated Together: The International Telecommunication Union and Civil Society", poster session at the 3rd Annual Symposium, Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet), Hyderabad, 2 December 2008.


Miklós Sükösd and Peggy Valcke "Indicators for Media Pluralism in Europe: Results from a Study for the European Commission", Beyond East and West, Central European University, Budapest, 26 June.

Peter Molnar, "Freedom of Speech and the Legislation of Memory" session panelist, at conference Healing the Wounds: Speech, Identity, and Reconciliation in Rwanda, Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, 30 March 2009.

Public Lectures and presentations and roundtables by CMCS Members

Arne Hintz, “Online Activism: opportunities, challenges and myths”, Presentation at Mediacentar Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina 14 May 2009.

Kate Coyer, "Data, Door-knocking and Donations: The many uses of technology in the Obama campaign", presentation for Magyar Telekom as part of a half-day session examining the strategies and tactics employed in the U.S. 2008 elections. Budapest, January 2009.

Kate Coyer, “Data, Door-knocking, and Donations: Mobilizing voters online and offline in the Obama Campaign”, Presentation at Mediacentar Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina, 14 May 2009.

Kate Coyer, “Community Media: hyper local media in a hyper globalized world”, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NY, December 2008.


Miklós Sükösd, Invitation to the stakeholders workshop by European Commission for the collaborative research project “Study on Indicators for Media Pluralism in the Member States”, Brussels, 8 June 2009.
**Other Individual Member Activities, Achievements and Affiliations**

**Other Individual activities**

Éva Bognár taught courses (“Information Society” in the Fall semester of 2008; “Comprehension of sociological texts in English” in the Spring semester of 2009) at the Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Social Relations.

Kristina Irion is a member of the organizing committee of the conference *The Public Voice: Global Privacy Standards in a Global World*, which will take place in November 2009. Last April, Kristina attended the European Summit on "Consumer Trust in the Digital Market Place" held in Brussels. The summit’s agenda featured policy workshops related to consumer advocacy, data collection and profiling.

Laura Ranca took part in the Consumer Forum on Communications (CFC) hosted by the UK communications regulator Ofcom in London in March. The trip was part of a study tour during which she interviewed a wide range of international policy experts for a policy study on “International Regulatory Practices for Consumer Awareness and Empowerment in the Communications Market”. Laura spent the summer of 2009 as a press officer for a UN Volunteer Mission office in the Democratic Republic of Congo and is now at Loughborough University in the U.K. pursuing her PhD.

Kate Coyer participated in the Community Forum on Meeting the Public’s Information Needs in Philadelphia held by the Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy. Following the OurMedia conference in Medellin, Kate Coyer participated in a study tour in the Magdalena Medio region of Colombia, visiting community media projects and speaking with local activists, rural journalists and media producers. A documentary video is being directed by Liz Miller and Kate is writing up her experience for publication.

Peter Molnar spent the spring semester in New York as lecturer in law at Columbia Law School. While there, he attended the Paul Robeson conference at Columbia Law School; the Third Law & Information Society Symposium at Fordham Law School; The Impact of User-Generated Content on Traditional Media Industries conference at the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information; and “Democracy Today” at The New School for Social Research. In May and June 2009, the staged version of Peter’s novel, Searchers was screened in the Living Theatre in New York. The play earlier won awards for best alternative and independent play in Hungary, 2007.
Awards

Miklós Sükösd received the 2008 “Media Award” of the Romanian Cultural Institute (RCI) in Budapest, one of the three prizes the RCI awarded to Hungarian personalities of the year in the fields of music, literature and media at an event in the Hungarian Science Academy.

Professional affiliations and memberships

- European Communications Policy Research Scientific Committee (Kristina Irion)
- Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet) (Kristina Irion)
- Complaint Commission of the National Radio and Television Board in Hungary (Peter Molnar)
- International Communications Association (Arne Hintz, Kate Coyer)
- Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) (Hintz, Coyer)
- Global Media Policy Working Group Steering Committee, IAMCR (Arne Hintz)
- Social Science Research Council Necessary Knowledge program (Kate Coyer)
- The Public Voice Coalition (Kristina Irion)
- Transparency in Public Life Association (Peter Molnar)
- Community Media Forum Europe (Arne Hintz, Board Member; Kate Coyer)
- Organization of Free Radios in Hungary (Peter Molnar)
- World Association of Community Broadcasters
- OurMedia Network