

Editorial

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As President of the Australian and New Zealand Communication Association, I am very proud to present this special edition of *Communication Politics Culture*, showcasing research presented at the Association's 2014 conference at Swinburne University in Melbourne. ANZCA is the peak professional association for communication scholars and practitioners in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, and its annual conference has provided an important opportunity for presentation and discussion of research and practice in varied communications disciplines. The 2014 ANZCA Conference, held in July, was attended by over 250 local and international media and communications scholars. The program featured international keynote speakers including Professor Robert Picard, Director of the Reuters Institute at Oxford University and Dr Jason Farman, a locative media expert from the University of Maryland. Attendees also had access to special opportunities including a discussion of freedom of speech with the Human Rights Commissioner of Australia, Tim Wilson, about freedom of speech in Australia. ANZCA also sponsored an artist-in-residence at the conference, games academic and media artist Dr Troy Innocent, who developed an urban street game especially for the conference.

The conference theme, 'The Digital and the Social: Communication for Inclusion and Exchange' provided an opportunity for discussion of social media and the paradoxical nature of our ubiquitous communications environment. The conference theme recognised that while the promise of digital and social media was inclusion and exchange, the development of these platforms has become increasingly complex. The collection of papers presented here represents some of the innovative research and critical examination of digital and social media technologies and the complexity of communicating for inclusion and exchange to which the conference bore witness.

Katie Ellis writes about digital inclusion for those living with disabilities in her article: 'Netflix Closed Captions Offer an Accessible Model for the Streaming Video Industry But What About Audio Description?' Ellis argues that despite the growing opportunities for viewers with disability to access television with accessibility features such as audio descriptions, captions, lip-reading avatars, signing avatars, spoken subtitles and clean audio, these opportunities are not always being realised. Using the debate about whether closed captioning or audio description should be available on online television services such as Netflix, Ellis reflects on online television as an opportunity for personalisation and mobility for those living with disability.

Suneel Jethani also focuses on mobility, technology and the body in his article: 'Mediating the Body: Technology, Politics and Epistemologies of Self'. Jethani's research critically examines the use of networked digital technologies to mediate human physiological processes (heart rate, physical activity, sleep), daily routines (commutes, productivity) and behaviours (hydration, food and alcohol consumption) as a means of generating personal agency and self-betterment. This article critically examines these processes with questions around how one goes about locating the politics of novel forms of media.

Amelia Johns and Anthony McCosker refer to politics regarding race and cultural citizenship in their article: 'Social Media Conflict: Platforms for Racial Vilification, or Acts of Provocation and Citizenship?' Using case studies of 'racist rants' on public transport and racist reactions to 'flash mob' performances of the Maori haka that were recorded and uploaded to social media, the article focuses on social media's productive capacity to generate

‘agonistic publics’ from which expressions of cultural citizenship and solidarity might emerge.

Rowen Wilken et al. focus on digital inclusion in their article: ‘Framing the NBN: An Analysis of Newspaper Representations’. The article performs a content analysis on the media coverage of Australia's National Broadband Network, Australia's largest public infrastructure project, initiated to deliver universal access to high-speed broadband. Wilken et al. argue that despite the aims for digital inclusion, the NBN has attracted a great deal of media coverage, coupled with, at times divisive, political debate around delivery models, costs and technologies. Indeed, their findings show that coverage was overwhelmingly negative and largely focused on, impact on Telstra, lack of a business plan and of cost-benefit analysis, problems with the rollout, cost to the Federal budget and implications for business stakeholders.

Finally, Jonathon Hutchinson's article ‘Bolstering Communication for Inclusion in Public Service Media With Social TV: Online Governance and Social Media’, discusses #7DaysLater, a social TV experiment that Australia's public broadcaster, the ABC, facilitated by inviting audience members to take an active role in the conception, development and production of a 10-minute program. Hutchinson's paper discusses governance and regulation and the role of cultural intermediation within social TV and the ABC, arguing for the combination of human and non-human actors to negotiate the production of cultural artefacts.

Presenting this collection of articles would not have been possible without the support of Linda Brennan and the CPC editorial team, and I extend my gratitude for their assistance in producing this issue. ANZCA values its relationship with CPC and the important and productive research that has emerged from publication in this journal. My thanks also go to the authors for their enthusiasm and diligence in preparing their papers.

It gives me great pleasure to be a small part of facilitating this opportunity for ANZCA members and conference attendees to share their research with their colleagues and peers. The Association will continue the tradition of supporting discussion and sharing of research in 2015 during our conference to be held in Queenstown, New Zealand from July 8-10. The call for papers and registration can be accessed at the conference website: <https://anzca2015.wordpress.com>. Of course, membership of ANZCA would enable you to access reduced conference rates, but more importantly a network of scholars and mentors that support and facilitate the dissemination of high-quality research from the region. If you are not yet a member of ANZCA, I would encourage you to access the website (www.anzca.net) or our social media sites on Facebook and Twitter for information on the benefits of membership. These benefits include entry to special ANZCA-sponsored events and workshops, reduced conference fees and, importantly, access to MIA and ANZCA's newest journal, *Communication Research & Practice*.