



EU Centre at RMIT University



RMIT School of Media and
Communication

Media and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe

CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE (31 August – 02 September 2011)

Media, Communication and Democracy: Global and National Environments

SPECIAL ISSUE OF Communication, Politics & Culture (Issue 45.1, July 2012)

The EU Centre at RMIT University with the School of Media and Communication (RMIT) and the Media and Democracy in Eastern Europe Research Project (MDCEE) at the University of Oxford, UK, invite you to attend the Centre's inaugural annual conference entitled *Media, Communication and Democracy: Global and National Environments*.

The Treaty of Lisbon, adopted in December 2009, has marked a significant development in the European Union's approach to external affairs. The European Union has been at the forefront of debate and legislative action about democracy, and about establishing common principles in relation to rights and democratic processes, especially with the ongoing expansion of the number of Member States in the Union. In the wake of Wikileaks, it is apparent that the role of media and communications in democratic processes is more important than ever.

Panels, papers and debate will focus on media, communication and democracy in the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, the Asia Pacific region, Latin America or Africa, as well as the established areas of Europe and Australia. In a world of regular, unforeseen crises and growing power of media owners, online and otherwise, various questions about the implications for democratic processes will be explored.

Key participants include:

- [Professor Paolo Mancini](#), University of Perugia. (Keynote Speaker)
Visiting Fellow with the ERC-funded project on Media and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe;
- [Associate Professor Ingrid Volkmer](#), University of Melbourne. (Keynote Speaker)
- [Professor Jan Zielonka](#), University of Oxford.
- [Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald](#), RMIT University.

Programme:

- *Wednesday 31 August, 2011*
Time: 6:00pm. Opening Keynote Address and Public Lecture presented by Professor Paulo Mancini.
Venue: Theatre, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne.
- *Thursday 01 – Friday 02 September 2011*
Time: 9:00am. Conference sessions, including keynote speaker A/Professor Ingrid Volkmer.
Venue: Storey Hall, RMIT University, Swanston St, Melbourne.
(Note: times approximate, to be confirmed closer to the event)

Conference Themes:

- National media and globalization
- Class, democracy and the media
- Media ownership and democracy
- Political advertising
- Media policies and media politics
- Populism and democracy in new media
- Religion, media and democracy
- Technology and journalism as a profession
- Public interest journalism
- Media and political parties
- Journalism in the global news world
- Democracy and transformation of public spaces
- Citizen journalism
- Political blogging and the rhetorics of democracy
- Changing political control of the media
- Media, location and culture
- Objectivity, impartiality and the governance of journalism
- Media and elites
- E-government and Government 2.0.

Discussion Topics:

- Class, property, markets and money: the social environment of communication and democracy
 - Re-thinking the relations between media and democracy: institutions, organizations, representations, scales of government
 - The changing practices and relations of journalism: towards democratic affordances?
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Registration Information

Registration to attend the conference is via the [Registration form](#) on the Centre's website.

Fees are as follow and cover the Welcome Event at the State Library of Victoria on Wednesday 31 August; lunch, morning and afternoon tea on both conference days (01–02 September), the concluding drinks and conference materials.

	EARLY BIRD	STANDARD
	Up to and incl. 31 July 2011 (AUD inclusive of 10% GST)	01 August - 30 August 2011 (AUD inclusive of 10% GST)
Full fees (per day)	\$126.50	\$137.50
Full fees (both days incl. Welcome Event)	\$203.50	\$253.00
Concession* (per day)	\$71.50	\$82.50
Concession* (both days incl. Welcome Event)	\$126.50	\$143.00

* Concession fees are available to full time students and people holding a current concession card. Please include a copy of your card showing your current enrolment/eligibility status WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM. You will also be required to present the original upon registration.

For more information about the conference please visit the EU Centre website: www.rmit.edu.au/eucentre or email the Centre at eucentre@rmit.edu.au. For registration queries ONLY, please email events@rmit.edu.au.