

## AMIC BoM Appoints Dr. Marco M. Polo as Vice Chairperson



The AMIC Board of Management (BoM) has announced the appointment of Dr. Marco M. Polo as vice chairperson of the board during its first meeting in 2025 held on 30 January. Along with the BoM members, Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, chairperson of the AMIC Board of Directors, was also present at the meeting. Dr. Polo has been a member of the AMIC BoM since 2014.

The AMIC BoM serves as an oversight body in the operational management of the organization. In contrast, the AMIC Board of Directors (BoD) is the highest policymaking body of the Centre. It sets strategic policy directions and program guidelines for implementation by the AMIC Secretariat.

Dr. Polo is Presidential Communication Adviser, Associate Professor at the Communication and Journalism Department (CJD), and a Faculty Lecturer at the School of Governance, Public Service, and Corporate Leadership at De La Salle University-Dasmaringas (DLSU-D) in Cavite, Philippines.

He is a two-term national president of the Philippine Association of Communication Educators (PACE) Foundation Incorporated. PACE is the oldest and largest membership organization of teachers of media and communication in the Philippines. He joined AMIC in 2005 and has been a member of the BoM since 2014.

He was the first recipient of the Educational Technology and Innovation Award for teachers by the Center for Innovative Learning Programs of DLSU-D. He was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumni in Communication Education by the College of Development Communication-University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

He holds a bachelor's degree in Development Communication from UPLB, a Master's in Communication Management from the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, and a Doctorate Degree from the Asian Social Institute.

*AMIC Asia Communication Award Webinar Series 2*

## **Dr. Cherian George cites need to balance freedom of expression and protection from hate speech**



Dr. Cherian George, recipient of the 2024 AMIC Asia Communication Award, emphasized the need for a paradigm shift on how media researchers and journalists approach the examination and reporting of hate speech and hate propaganda.

He also highlighted the need to balance people's freedom of expression and the right to be protected from harm caused by hate speech.

Dr. George was the speaker in the AMIC webinar series titled, *Rethinking Responses to Hate Speech: From Reactive Censorship to Active Resistance* held on 24 March 2025.

The webinar was hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas through the Departments of Journalism and Communication.

According to Dr. George, academics and journalists have not responded adequately to hate speech challenges as they are operating in an inadequate mental model. Says Dr. George, "If we cannot picture the problem in its full complexity, there is little chance of dealing with it properly."

The Hong Kong Baptist University professor described the existing model as operating in "message level analysis" even if context is recognized. This analysis model focuses on questions such as Is this hate speech? How do we detect hate speech? How much outrage is it causing? Should it be blocked?

Dr. George proposes a campaign level analysis which raises such questions as: What is the process? How is hate speech cultivated? How does speech turn harmful? and How can it be countered?

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## *AMIC Asia Communication Award Webinar Series 2 Dr. Cherian George cites need to balance ... continued*

The 2024 AMIC laureate reminded his audience that most harmful hate speech does not occur in individual toxic messages but usually takes the form of long-running campaigns. Therefore, researchers should shift to macro social frame while journalists shift from episodes of hate speech to systems of hate propaganda campaign.

To Dr. George, hate is cultivated not by messages that match the definition of hate speech but through a process that includes “many links in a chain.” He enumerated the elements of the hate propaganda chain to include Othering, Scapegoating, Dehumanization, Threat Inversion, Call to Action, and Erasure.

According to the Hong Kong Baptist University scholar, hate work is distributed and has multiple actors including ideological forerunners, intellectual rationalizers, mass popularizers, media mouthpieces, creative talent, law enforcers, political leaders, creative talents, and grassroot agitators.

Dr. George reminded the audience that hate speech propaganda need not involve explicit toxic words as they may

come in the form of “reasonably sounding political discourse and even pseudo-scientific language” and therefore laws may not be adequate as defense against hate campaigns.

Dr. George lamented that current research studies are dominated by classification and detection of online hate speech using machine learning tools – there is obsession with such questions as How much hate speech is there on social media? How does it spread? How do you detect? He decried the lopsided level of analysis which focuses on individual messages and little attention to societal level and behavior or psychological level. He attributed the imbalances to communication scholars outnumbering sociology and anthropology researchers engaged in this research area and that “it is easier to get research grants for computational research than ethnographic work.”

The media scholar also emphasized the need to investigate production of hate propaganda and disinformation as part of creative industry and the economic incentives involved. He cited similar studies conducted by Dr. Jonathan Corpus Ong. Dr. George warned of possible “elitist assumptions” toward ordinary people in hate speech and disinformation as earlier cautioned by another scholar, Dr. Nicole Curato.

## *AMIC Asia Communication Award Webinar Series 2 Dr. Cherian George cites need to balance ... continued*

Dr. George challenged journalists to “rethink how they cover hate speech” as coverage has been limited to being reactive. “Report not isolated incidents but how the system works...Do not get carried away by episodic coverage of hate speech controversies even after posts can be rewarding in terms of viewership and virality.” He reminded journalists to “do the hard work of covering hate campaigns as a system.” They should examine how hate speech works and who benefits from hate speech controversy. To Dr. George, reporting hate propaganda can adopt journalistic coverage of corruption, trafficking, and environmental crimes.

Dr. George ended his talk with six take-away points which are summarized below:

First, be guided by human rights principles which provide that freedom of expression is essential for building more equal societies;

Second, evaluate responses of state and society in the light of international human rights standards, not popularity or personal prejudices;

Third, adopt professional ethics designed to minimize harm and apply these to the coverage of diverse communities in the society and the world;

Fourth, track campaigns likely to harm groups in vulnerable situations and do not fixate on speech incidents just because they provoke the loudest outrage;

Fifth, investigate hate as an industry backed by major investors and sustained by a supply chain of various producers and distributors; and

Six, collaborate with partners to overcome resource limitations and produce in-depth, high impact investigations of hate campaigns.

The video recording of the webinar will be uploaded on the AMIC YouTube soon.



## AMIC Representative for Russia Named



The AMIC Board of Management has appointed Elena L. Vartanova, PhD as the AMIC representative for Russia.

Dr. Vartanova is the Dean and Chair in Media Theory and Economics of the Faculty of Journalism at the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

She is a Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Education, a member of the Presidential Council on the Russian Language, Board member of the Higher Attestation Commission, and President of the Russian National Association of Media Researchers (NAMMI).

Her research focuses on Russian and foreign media systems, media economics, digital transformation, digital divide, journalism, and media studies in Russia in a global context. She is a member of ICA, IAMCR, ECREA, EMMA, and the Euromedia Research Group, and is an Executive Board Member of IMMAA.

Dr. Vartanova is editor-in-chief of "World of Media. Journal of Russian Media and Journalism Studies", "Medi@almanac" and "Mediascope," Russian academic journals.

Her research articles, monographs, and manuals are translated into many foreign languages and published all around the world.

## AMIC to Convene Plenary Session on Environmental Communication Education at the IAMCR 2025



AMIC will convene a plenary session at the 2025 IAMCR Conference which is scheduled from 13 to 17 July in Singapore with the overall theme: *Communicating Environmental Justice: Many Voices, One Planet*.

AMIC's plenary session theme is *Innovations and Best Practices in Environmental Communication Education in Asian Communication and Journalism Schools*.

The session will discuss how Asian communication and journalism schools are addressing the opportunities and challenges of developing critical

environmental consciousness and practices and the core communication competencies that are essential to effective environmental communication. The discussion will feature innovative teaching-learning strategies to enhance environmental communication education. Session panelists and participants will share their lessons and experiences on environmental communication education.

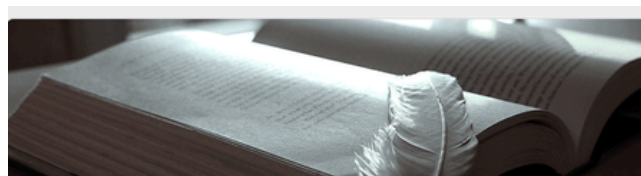
The College of Development Communication in University of the Philippines Los Baños is AMIC's session co-convenor.

## AMIC and al-Farabi Kazakh National University Conduct Survey of Journalism Schools in Central Asia

The Asian Media Information and Communication Centre, Inc. (AMIC), in collaboration with the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, is conducting a groundbreaking survey of journalism schools in Central Asia. This pioneering study aims to profile journalism programs in the region's five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The survey targets heads of journalism programs as respondents.

Results of the survey will provide data on the state of journalism education in the region. The survey will generate information on the history of journalism schools, types of degree programs being offered (from undergraduate to graduate programs), number of fulltime and part-time journalism teachers, practical experiences of journalism teachers, and number of students, among others. Data to be collected will be gender disaggregated.

The survey will also collect the journalism curricula for in-depth analysis which may yield information on basic and advanced



### Профиль факультетов журналистики в Центральной Азии Profile of Journalism Schools in Central Asia

Азиатский центр информации и коммуникации (AMIC) в сотрудничестве с Казахским национальным университетом имени аль-Фараби проводит профильный анализ факультетов журналистики в Центральной Азии в рамках

journalism courses, desired program competencies, areas of specialization, number of units, length of degree programs, among others. The curated curricula will be examined in the context of the UNESCO Model Journalism Curricula.

Results of the survey will be used to identify journalism curricula reform agenda, competency standards, priority training programs for journalism teachers, and topics for teaching-learning resources to be developed. AMIC and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University also envision the creation of an association of journalism teachers and trainers in Central Asia. Regional workshops and training courses are also being planned.

## 2025 AMIC Asia Communication Award Now Open for Nominations



**AMIC Asia  
Communication Award  
2025**  
Asian Media Information  
and Communication Centre

**2025 AMIC ASIA COMMUNICATION  
AWARD NOW OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS**

**Who will be this year's  
AMIC Asia Communication Awardee?**

Started in 2006, the award recognizes individuals who have consistently excelled in Asian communication media development: research, education, journalism, and institution development.

Send in your nominations by 15 April 2025  
Visit <https://amic.asia> for more details.



Nominations for the 2025 AMIC Asia Communication Award are now accepted.

Established in 2005, the AMIC Asia Communication Award recognizes outstanding achievements in various media and communication fields and categories. These achievements include contributions to research, education, institution development, and journalism excellence.

Since its inception, the award has been conferred to 25 communication scholars, educators, and practitioners whose contributions have focused on a single country within Asia- or the whole of Asia.

While the nominees need not be from Asia, preferences are and will be accorded to regional actors.

AMIC's extensive Asian presence spans six distinct regions, including East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, North Asia, Central Asia, and West Asia.

An individual or organization may nominate a candidate for the Award with the consent of the nominee. The nominator must submit a duly filled out nomination form and supporting documents. The nominee is expected to assist the nominator in completing the nomination form.

Self-nomination is allowed. Posthumous nominations will not be accepted.

The nomination form may be downloaded from the AMIC website - <https://amic.asia/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/06-February-2025-Nomination-Form-2025-AMIC-Asia-Communication-Award.docx>

Nomination forms, including supporting documents, must be uploaded in the Google Drive folder created by AMIC via this link: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VYwBvikplnSQaRwFDrm2SQASCNGjszcf?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VYwBvikplnSQaRwFDrm2SQASCNGjszcf?usp=drive_link)

Deadline for nomination is on 15 April 2025.

## SG Tuazon Presents Paper at the 2025 Global Library Summit



AMIC Secretary-General Ramon R. Tuazon presented a paper during the Global Library Summit held from 05 to 07 February 2025.

The summit theme was *Connect, Collaborate, Contribute on Library Diplomacy Uniting Nations Through Library Cooperation*.

Among the summit organizers were South Asian University, National Library of India, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), and Lis Academy (LISA).

SG Tuazon's paper entitled, *Libraries and Other Infostructures as Cultural Agents* was presented during the plenary session on Libraries and Cultural Heritage Preservation held on 07 February. The paper was presented virtually.

According to SG Tuazon, culture is often the "missing link" in many development initiatives. Libraries and other infostructures such as museums and archives are cultural agents recognized by international cultural declarations including the 2007 UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.

SG Tuazon cited the multiple roles of libraries and other infostructures as cultural agents. These include promoting cultural diversity and inclusion; protecting, preserving, and developing cultural heritage and traditional knowledge; protecting, preserving, and promoting cultural expressions; and engaging in language preservation and development.

The many benefits and opportunities of artificial intelligence for libraries was discussed in the paper. However, like any other innovation, AI can also bring issues and challenges.

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## *SG Tuazon Presents Paper... continued*

Open access AI tools now available greatly benefits library and information science (LIS) professionals by automating tasks, enhancing services, and improving accessibility. With the use of AI, LIS professionals can help document, translate, and revitalize indigenous languages. AI can be used to preserve endangered languages and contribute to multilingualism.

SG Tuazon warned that using AI for language and content development in cyberspace is challenged by under-representation or even the absence of majority of languages in cyberspace. Only four to six percent of languages is present in cyberspace and 10 languages make up 84 percent of online content.

Another challenge is AI can reinforce and perpetuate biases or even inaccuracies when datasets available are used to reflect only perspectives from mainstream communities.

SG Tuazon challenged LIS professionals to counterbalance the dominance of datasets produced by mainstream

communities and western societies and to uncover, digitize, and make available historical records of indigenous peoples' beliefs and practices. He reminded summit participants that when AI harvests and presents information, due diligence should be practiced to ensure respect for IP's property rights and data sovereignty. However, intellectual property is balanced by open access.

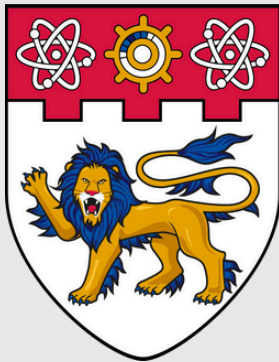
Considering armed conflict happening all over, Tuazon said we should be reminded of the provisions of *The 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*. Cultural property includes works of art, manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest.

SG Tuazon's paper listed 11 proposed policy and action agenda in pursuing libraries and other infostructures as cultural agents especially in indigenous communities.



## Partner Update

# WKWSCI Achieves New Milestones in QS World University Rankings



**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY**  
**SINGAPORE**

“We are proud to share that NTU’s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI) has achieved new milestones in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025!

- #3 in the world for Library & Information Management (up from #7 in 2024)
- #4 in the world for Communication & Media Studies

This ranking is a testament to our continued commitment to shaping the future of communication and information studies, driving innovation, and making meaningful contributions to the global academic community. A huge thank you to our WKWSCI community for making this possible!”

*(Announcement from WKWSCI)*

## Partner Update

### India: Dr. Shubha H S Named Director of Manipal Institute of Communication



Dr. Shubha H S, Professor, has been appointed as Director of the Manipal Institute of Communication (MIC), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal from 01 March 2025. She took over from Dr. Padma Rani who held the reins of MIC for over seven years. The MIC, a constitution unit of MAHE, has been a pioneer in media education in India for over 27 years.

Dr. Shubha holds MS and PhD degrees in Communication and is a certified Media Literacy trainer. She brings extensive expertise in media and communication academics. With over 24 years of experience in media and communication education, she has held key academic roles at MIC and MAHE Dubai Campus.

While on sabbatical from MIC, she was based at Hochschule Bremen University of Applied Sciences, Germany and visits Technische Hochschule Nuremberg Germany on their Ohm lectureship program regularly.

Her early career includes roles at industry in Oman, Bangalore, New Delhi, and Manipal. She started her academic journey as Lecturer in 2002 and served as the HOD of Media Studies at MIC, Manipal since 2015. Dr. Shubha has numerous publications in reputed journals and has presented research papers at national and international conferences. She is supervising five PhD scholars and has guided over 80 Master's and Bachelor's theses.

She has led production of over 350 audio-visual projects and has facilitated numerous international collaborations, including successful grant applications for faculty and student exchanges. Passionate about social impact, Dr. Shubha has delivered numerous talks and conducted workshops on media literacy, tracking misinformation, and communication skills. In the last two years alone, she has trained over 1,600 rural students.

## Partner Update

# UPLB-CDC Welcomes Dr. Edmund G. Centeno as its 5th Dean



The College of Development Communication (CDC) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños officially welcomed Dr. Edmund G. Centeno as its new dean during the Deanship Turnover Ceremony held on 17 February 2025. The event marked the formal transition of leadership as CDC moves forward in its mission of inclusive, transformative, and heartfelt communication.

In his acceptance speech, Dean Centeno reaffirmed his commitment to championing DevCom as a field of study and practice and expressed gratitude for the support he received during his candidacy.

He also introduced his Executive Committee, who will work alongside him in leading the college. The event was graced by Chancellor Jose V. Camacho Jr., outgoing dean Maria Stella C. Tirol, UPLB vice chancellors and deans, CDC's faculty, REPS, and administrative staff, students, and alumni.

Dean Centeno is an associate professor at the UPLB-CDC. He earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Development Communication from UPLB and a PhD in Educational Communication and Technology from Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dean Centeno is recognized for his expertise in instructional design, educational communication, and educational technology. He has authored numerous academic papers on topics such as distance learning, capacity building, and indigenous education.

*(with excerpts from UPLB College of Development Communication Facebook page)*

## Partner Update

# UP-CMC Names 11<sup>th</sup> Dean



PHOTO SOURCE: <https://web.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122117223950794700&set=a.122098680104794700>

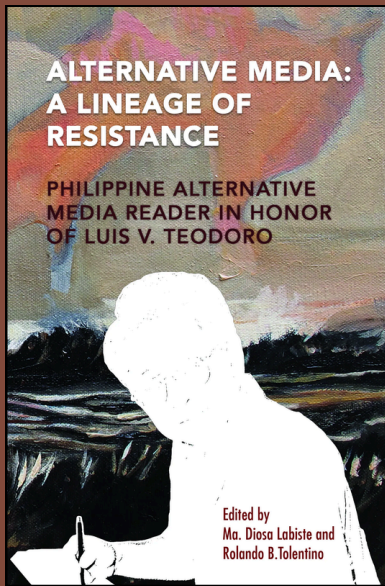
Ma. Diosa Labiste, PhD, is the new Dean of the College of Media and Communication of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Dr. Labiste's program of action focuses on Husay, Tapang, at Unawa (ensuring excellence, courage, and deep understanding in media and communication education). She is an Associate Professor at the Journalism Department of the UP-CMC. She earned her doctorate from the University of Birmingham in the U.K. Dean Labiste has supported AMIC by presenting a paper at its international conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 2023.

(Excerpts from <https://web.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1051254443697117&set=a.451013260387908> and <https://www.plarideljournal.org/may-akda/labiste-ma-diosa/>)



## Publications

# Alternative Media: A Lineage of Resistance Now Off the Press



*Alternative Media: A Lineage of Resistance* brings together scholars and media workers to theorize and account for the history and practice of alternative media in the Philippines.

The book honors the late professor Luis V. Teodoro whose writings on alternative media have challenged the dominant-mainstream framework of media history in favor of alternative media. Dr. Teodoro was a journalism professor of the then University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication (UP-CMC) where he was dean for two terms (1994–1997; 1997–2000). Prior to his deanship, he was thrice chairperson of the journalism department.

The book is edited by Dr. Ma. Diosalabiste, associate professor of the Department of Journalism of the UP-CMC and Dr. Rolando B. Tolentino, professor of the University of the Philippines Film Institute and former dean of the UP-CMC.

For additional information, please visit the UP Press [website](#).

## Publications

# Communication Theory: The Asian Perspective, 2nd edition (2022) Now on its Second Printing



The book *Communication Theory: The Asian Perspective*, 2nd edition (2022) is now on its second printing. Edited by Dr. Wimal Dissanayake, it compiles the thoughts, perspectives, and arguments of leading Asian communication scholars. This new edition includes both old and new articles written by Asia's leaders in communication and journalism theory and research. The book aims to enrich and expand the global communication setting with Asian communication theories, paradigms, and practices. The first edition was published by AMIC in 1988. To buy a copy of the book, please email [info@amic.asia](mailto:info@amic.asia).

## Publications

# Tagpo: Right Place, Right Time by Dr. Florangel Rosario-Braid



2009 AMIC Asia Communication Awardee Dr. Florangel Rosario-Braid recently wrote and published her autobiography. Writing within a formula of utter truth and deep humility, Dr. Rosario-Braid guides the readers, not only through her own life story, but the history of journalism and communication in the Philippines as well. The word tagpo means "meeting place" or "intersection".

The reader will experience the happy coincidences and the well-planned events that have brought together a community that loves writing, listening, and appreciating symbols of Filipino art and culture, embedded in journalism.

Journalism and communication in the Philippines did not happen just by chance. Deliberate studies and scholarly works from experts and authors like Dr. Braid will guide readers of the vital roles played by current events in the overall progress of our country. Various languages and dialects in the Philippines use the word tagpo, making it understandable in Central Luzon, Bicol, Aklan, the Visayas, and Mindanao. This act of meeting, encountering, and experiencing a rendezvous with history is the best contribution of this book, which will surely enhance the love for country and its contemporary history.

Proceeds from the sales of the book will contribute to a scholarship fund for underprivileged youth and community journalists who wish to pursue a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Journalism or Master of Arts in Journalism.

For more information about the book, please email [cjrb.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:cjrb.scholarship@gmail.com).

## Publications

# Indonesian Books on Communication Theory and on Family Communication



To ease the difficulties of students in Indonesia in understanding communication theory especially since published communication theory books are fragmented according to context or type of communication, then Professor Emeritus Dr. Hafied Cangara, M.Sc. finally published a book on Communication Theory entitled **COMMUNICATION THEORY AND MODEL: Metatheory, Perspective, and Context**.

Dr. Cangara has devoted himself as a lecturer for 50 years at the Department of Communication of Hasanuddin University, and 20 years of his time were dedicated to teaching Communication Theory.

The book consists of two volumes containing 13 chapters with 74 theories. Chapter 1 is the Introduction; Chapter 2 focuses on Understanding Communication; Chapter 3 focuses on Understanding Theory, Model, and Metatheory; Chapter 4 discusses Communication Theory according to Perspective and Context; and Chapter 5 contains seven theories and models of Intrapersonal Communication.

Chapter 6 contains 10 theories and models of Interpersonal Communication while Chapter 7 contains seven theories and models of Group and Organizational Communication; Chapter 8 has five theories and models of Public Communication; Chapter 9 has nine theories and models of Mass Communication; Chapter 10 has nine theories and models of Development

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## *Publications*

### *Off the Press: Indonesian Books... continued*

Communication and Innovation; Chapter 11 contains eight theories and models of Intercultural and Ethnic Communication; Chapter 12 contains six theories and models of Critical Communication; and Chapter 13 contains 13 theories and models of Digital Communication (New Media).

This book is written in Indonesian and tries to adjust to the Asian Perspective, so that it is easier to understand for readers in Indonesia. It is published by Publisher PT Prenadamedia Group Jakarta, Indonesia with ISBN 978-623-384-801-5.t . For book orders, email [pmg@prenadamedia.com](mailto:pmg@prenadamedia.com) or visit [www.prenadamedia.com](http://www.prenadamedia.com).

Meanwhile, the high number of household breakdowns that end in divorce shows an increasing trend in the last 20 years in various countries. In Indonesia, according to the Religious Courts of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, the number of family divorces has increased by 300 percent from 2007 to 2020. Based on the latest data released by the Central Statistics Agency in Indonesia, there were 408,347 cases of couples experiencing divorce in 2024. It is suspected that one of the main causes is the influence of social media communication technology.



In his book, "Family Communication: The Road to Family Resilience in the Digital Era," Prof. Cangara, tries to raise the issue of family fragility. This book consists of ten chapters. Chapter 1 is the Introduction, Chapter 2 is on Family Communication: Concept, Definition, Purpose and Theory, while Chapter 3 focuses on the Meaning and Significance of Marriage. Chapter 4 tackles Family and Kinship, Chapter 5 discusses Information and Communication Technology, Chapter 6 delves into Happy and Harmonious Families, and Chapter 7 looks into Family Disharmony: From Infidelity to Divorce.

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## *Publications*

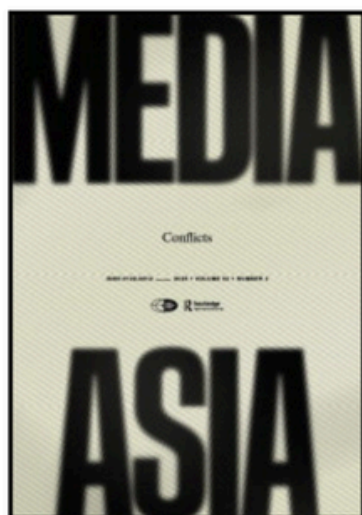
### *Off the Press: Indonesian Books... continued*

Chapter 8 focuses on Family Resilience, Chapter 9 discusses Communication: The Road to a Happy Family, and Chapter 10 tackles Developing a Career with Family Communication Skills. The author asks that Family Communication subject be taught at the undergraduate level because while everyone wants to get married, some may

not necessarily be able to protect their families from household breakdown. This book is published in Indonesian by PT Prenadamedia Group Jakarta, with ISBN 978-623-384-350-8. For book orders, email [pmg@prenadamedia.com](mailto:pmg@prenadamedia.com) or visit [www.prenadamedia.com](http://www.prenadamedia.com).



## **MEDIA ASIA June 2025**



Media Asia's June 2025 issue is now off the press. The issue, which has six articles, two commentaries, and four reviews, was released four months ahead of schedule.

Check out the new articles in this issue via this link:

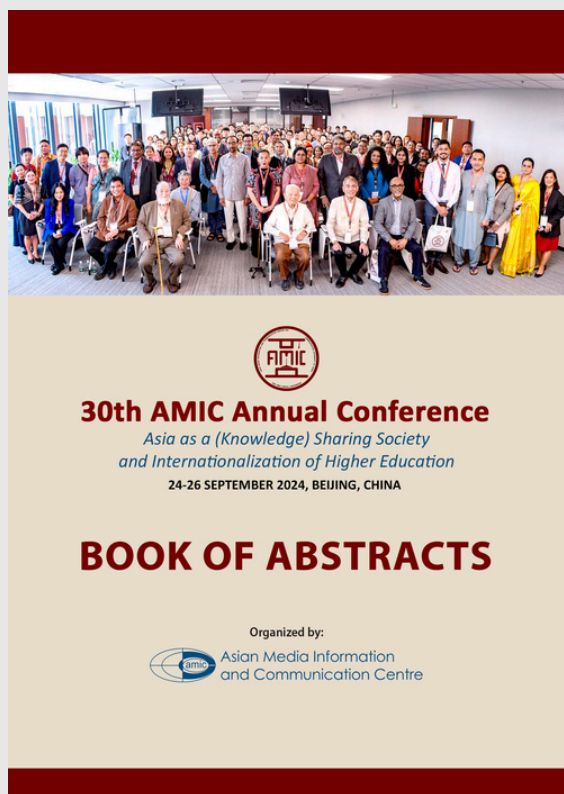
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rmea20/52/2>

Media Asia is published by Routledge Taylor & Francis on behalf of AMIC. For article submissions and subscriptions, visit <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rmea20>



## Publications

# 2024 AMIC Book of Abstracts Out Soon



The 30th AMIC Annual Conference Book of Abstracts 2024 will soon be available via the AMIC website.

The book contains 172 research abstracts presented during the September 2024 AMIC conference held at the Communication University of China in Beijing and covers a vast area of diverse topics—from digital platforms used for better

social services, good governance, health, education, and other aspects of sustainable development, to how Artificial Intelligence has reshaped the field of journalism and communication, to Media Literacy among the youth, to media representation of gender issues, cultural integrity, and many other media-related issues under the sun.

Ramon Guillermo R. Tuazon, AMIC Secretary-General, said: "This publication is a key contribution of AMIC to strengthening communication and media research in Asia. It showcases the research priorities of communication scholars and researchers while also highlighting the evolving research agenda in Asian media and communication sector, particularly in light of its rapid digital transformation."

The book also serves as a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, educators, and students, seeking related studies to inform their ongoing or future research endeavors, he added.

## *AMIC Reps in Action*

# Fiji: Acting Prime Minister Prasad Praises USP Journalism for Excellence in Media Research



Fiji acting prime minister Biman Prasad has commended the University of the South Pacific's (USP) Journalism Programme for its service to journalism scholarship including its research output in Pacific media, which has been published in top-ranked international journals.

Professor Prasad made this remark during his keynote and opening address at the Pacific Media Partnership Conference 2025, held at the Suva Civic Centre in Suva, Fiji on 11 February 2025.

He stressed the importance of media training and recommended that media organizations look beyond daily routines

and deadlines to reflect on and advance the industry and profession.

"Consequently, research into the media in Fiji and the Pacific is essential to inform and improve journalism," he said.

"The USP Journalism Programme is the only institution conducting regular research on Pacific media, which addresses a major gap in international understanding of journalism cultures around the world."

As a strong advocate for media freedom and academic freedom, as well as for knowledge creation, Professor Prasad said the government had restored USP's annual Government of Fiji grant funding, which the previous government had halted. Professor Prasad said the restoration of the USP grant revitalized the university's academic culture and enabled government support for the USP Journalism's 2024 Pacific International Media Conference in July.

Professor Prasad co-edited the book *Waves of Change: Media, Peace, and Development in the Pacific* with colleagues Dr. Shailendra Singh and Dr. Amit Sarwal, former staff of the School of Pacific Arts, Communication and Education (SPACE).

(<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/acting-prime-minister-prasad-praises-usp-journalism-for-excellence-in-media-research/>)

## *AMIC Reps in Action*

# Kazakhstan: Memorable Meeting

*By Barlybaeva Saule, Doctor of History, Professor  
Department of Print and Electronic Media*



### *As always – a photo for memory!*

On 13 February 2025, at the Faculty of Journalism of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, a round table was held as part of the “Barmankulov Readings” on the topic “New Media Space of the 21st Century”, dedicated to the memory of the founder of television and radio journalism in Kazakhstan, professor, doctor of philological sciences Marat Karibaevich Barmankulov.

He laid the foundations of the scientific school of journalism and television and radio broadcasting in Kazakhstan, made a

significant contribution to the development of national television and radio broadcasting, journalistic education in Kazakhstan, and was a mentor to many generations of journalists in the country.

At the meeting, speeches were made by the relatives and friends of M.K. Barmankulov, colleagues, and students of the professor, who remembered him as a man with a broad soul and a big heart, a progressive scientist-researcher, a talented teacher and organizer of the educational process.

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## ***Kazakhstan: Memorable Meeting....continued***

He believed in some, giving confidence, he supported someone in word and deed, he helped someone find themselves in this life, supported them in difficult times, he hired someone, he was a scientific supervisor for someone and for all of us – his colleagues and students – he was a fair person, a kind mentor, a Teacher and Master with a capital T.

Marat Karibaevich Barmankulov (1937–2000) worked at his native university for over 35 years. Since 1965, he has worked his way up from an assistant in the department to a Doctor of Philology, professor, dean of the full-time and part-time faculties of journalism, permanent head of the Department of Television and Radio Broadcasting. In 1991, he became the first deputy editor of the country's leading republican newspaper "Kazakhstanskaya Pravda".

The first books by M.K. Barmankulov, "Reporting on Radio and TV" (1970), "The Whole World is in Your Apartment" (1972), and "Journalism for Everyone," are reference books for the current generation of student journalists of the 21st century.

Marat Karibaevich is an academician of the Kazakhstan Academy of Journalism, a public figure, an outstanding scientist, a television journalist (hosted the program "One Hundred Paths, One Hundred Roads" on Kazakh Television), the author of many books on journalism and mass communication, cultural studies, and Turkic studies.

It's been 25 years since Marat Karibaevich has been with us, but every year on his birthday (he was born on February 13, 1937), the Faculty of Journalism holds "Barmankulov Readings" to exchange opinions, views on the development of journalism, listen to colleagues about new trends in the media space, share experience and knowledge with students to compare notes on modern times.

Traditionally, on this day, a student competition is held for Best TV story; Best audio clip; Best newspaper material; and Best scientific work. The winners were: in the nomination "Best TV Story" is third year student Daria Sizova, and the best in the nomination "Best Scientific Work" is first year master's student Chen Meimei.



## AMIC Reps in Action

# Thailand: Innovative Learning between Southern Luzon State University (Philippines) and Thai Experts on Distance Education



On 24 February, Dr. Kamolrat Intaratat and Dr. Piyachat Lomchavakarn from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand, visited Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) in Lucban, Philippines, to exchange insights on distance education. They were welcomed by SLSU President, Dr. Frederick T. Villa, along with Resource Linkages Director, Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, and International Affairs and External Linkages Director, Dr. Joanna Paula E. Verano.

Graduate School OIC Dean, Dr. Marife S. Magpantay appreciated the furthering of

learning opportunities through distance education. A special message from the University President followed, extending gratitude to the guests for sharing valuable insights on the topic and exploring collaboration opportunities.

Dr. Intaratat provided a comprehensive overview of her engagement in distance education, highlighting the ecosystem of a holistic education, micro-credit courses such as e-Smart Ageing course, Digital Entrepreneurship, Smart Farm, and AI Skills. She also illustrated Thai's Education 4.0 driven by ICT and innovation. VP-Academic Affairs, Dr. Dhenalyn Aquino-Dejelo gave an appreciation message on the insightful sharing on distance education. Following the photo opportunity, the College Deans and other officials engaged in networking and discussions.

*(Excerpts and photo from [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1151051230146759&id=100057256787715&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=DqNjgrAy9FXULMUA#](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1151051230146759&id=100057256787715&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=DqNjgrAy9FXULMUA#))*



## AMIC Reps in Action

# Fiji: AMIC Exhibits Strong Presence at the 2024 Pacific International Media Conference

AMIC had a strong presence and impact at the 2024 Pacific International Media Conference in Suva, Fiji, hosted by the University of the South Pacific (USP), with four representatives actively involved in various capacities.

The conference was convened by Dr. Shailendra B. Singh, the AMIC representative in Fiji, who is the head of the USP Journalism Program and Associate Professor of Pacific Journalism.

Keynote addresses were delivered by two AMIC honorary awardees: Professor Cherian George from the Hong Kong Baptist University, who spoke on the topic “Cracks in the Mirror: When Media Representations Sharpen Social Divisions” and Professor David Robie, formerly from the Auckland University of Technology, who spoke on “Frontline Media Faultlines: How Critical Journalism Can Survive Against the Odds”.

A former Head of Research at AMIC in Singapore from 2005–2012, Dr. Kalinga Seneviratne, also presented a paper on



“Pacific Media Needs to Look More Towards Asia”. Dr. Seneviratne, a consultant to the USP Journalism program, was part of the conference organising committee and chaired a session.

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## *AMIC Reps in Action*

### *Fiji: AMIC Exhibits Strong Presence... Continued*

Held from 04 to 06 July 2024 with the theme “*Navigating Challenges and Shaping Futures in Pacific Media Research and Practice*,” the conference was the first of its kind in the Pacific in two decades. It brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to address the urgent need for rigorous research in the Pacific media sector.

In total, the conference attracted 120 attendees from 12 countries: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, the United States, and Hong Kong.

Fiji’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, opened the event by commending Pacific media for their work and acknowledging the challenges they face.

In his address, Papua New Guinea’s Minister for Information and Communications Technology, Timothy Masiu, highlighted the need for the Pacific to reclaim control over its media narrative, emphasising its cultural, economic, and environmental contexts in the face of intense geopolitical interests. Fiji’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Professor Biman Prasad, emphasised the importance of media and academic research in addressing regional challenges.

The United States Embassy in Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu, along with the France-based International Fund for Public Interest Media, were the major sponsors of the conference. (END)

## AMIC Reps in Action

# Sri Lanka: Pilot Initiative: Information Environment Assessment (IEA) in Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka joined hands with the World Health Organization (WHO) to jointly develop and pilot a tool for rapid Information Environment Assessment (IEA) in February 2025. Asoka Dias, AMIC country representative for Sri Lanka, was invited to be a resource person for this process, which was organized in Colombo by Health Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Health Sri Lanka and the WHO on 20 and 21 February 2025.

The WHO defines IEA as the entire space of information that individuals, communities, health systems and societies inhabit. This constitutes structures, agents, and systems that influence information seeking, access, sharing and use.

Understanding a country's information environment is critical when responding to public health crises, as it provides valuable insights into factors that influence how people seek, process, and exchange information. By understanding a country's information environment, it enables public health authorities and responders to implement communication and engagement strategies and approaches that are most effective and efficient in responding to the information needs of populations. Furthermore, it provides valuable insights for mitigating and managing infodemics during public health crises.

Objectives of this WHO initiative were:

- To pilot the draft IEA tool to assess its functionality and effectiveness in real-world scenarios for health emergency preparedness and response;
- To pilot a training package on the use of the WHO IEA tool in Sri Lanka for health emergency preparedness and response, through two-day, in-person workshops;
- To provide practical sessions on mapping key IEA components/domains across:

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## *Sri Lanka: Pilot Initiative: Information... continued*

- o People and community
- o Information sources
- o Actors in the information environment
- o Policy, process and enablers

- To provide guidance on producing actionable IEA reports; and
- To support Sri Lanka to produce country specific IEA reports.

WHO Headquarters and Regional Office facilitated by the WHO Sri Lanka Country Office and Health Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Health and Mass Media organized piloting of the IEA in Sri Lanka.



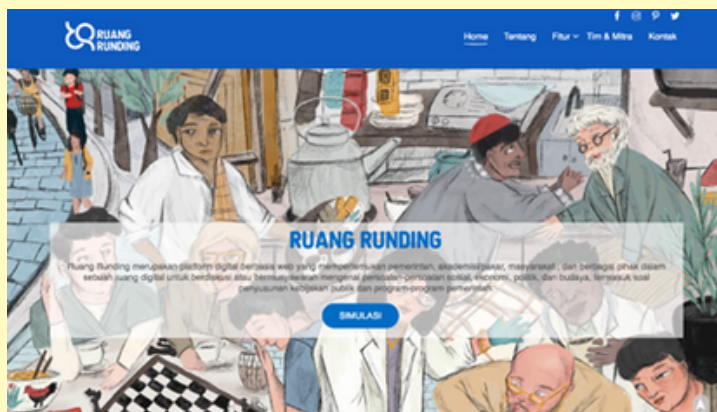
## *AMIC Reps in Action*

# **Indonesia:** Prof. Hermin Indah Wahyuni Develops Prototype Digital Platform for Deliberative Public Policy Making and Advocates for a Systems Theory Perspective in Communication Studies in Indonesia



Professor Hermin Indah Wahyuni is a lecturer in the Department of Communication Sciences at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. She completed her doctoral study at Leipzig University in Germany in 2006. She led the Center for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) research institute for eight years (2016–2023). After conducting research for three years (2020–2022), she is now developing a prototype for a digital platform promoting deliberative democracy.

The platform, named *Ruang Runding* (Indonesian language for “Room for



discussion”) was created with a multidisciplinary research team and external collaborators. *Ruang Runding* was developed to bring together the government, academics and experts, the community, and various stakeholders to discuss and address multiple social issues, including creating public policies and government programs. Currently, one of the regional governments in Indonesia, Kutai Kartanegara Regency, has tested the prototype of Ruang Runding to develop its regional development plans.

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## **Indonesia:** Prof. Hermin Indah Wahyuni Develops... continued

Prof. Wahyuni is also encouraging the development of communication science in Indonesia by introducing broader theoretical perspectives, one of which is the Autopoiesis System Theory approach. This perspective, developed by the renowned German sociologist Niklas Luhmann, is a "treasure trove" or a "hidden gem" that can lead communication scientists and scholars to a broader and deeper area of exploration to understand the complexity of contemporary societal problems. The latest publication from Prof. Wahyuni is *Komunikasi Autopoiesis: Sebuah Pengantar Memahami Perspektif Sistem Niklas Luhmann* (Autopoiesis Communication: An Introduction to Understanding Niklas Luhmann's System Perspective).



She engages actively as a member of the advisory board of the journal Asia Network Public Opinion Research based in South Korea and the editorial board for several scientific journals, including Environmental Communication, and Pacific Journalism Review.

## *AMIC Reps in Action*

### **Taiwan:** Dr. Hamilton Cheng Attends Digital Broadcasting Symposium, Witnesses Sea of Change in Broadcast Media and Development Communication



Dr. Hamilton Cheng joined the four-day Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Digital Broadcasting Symposium in Klang, Selangor, Malaysia. He was the PTS' delegate to the conference. ABU is a long-time partner organization of AMIC. It organizes annual meetings for broadcast technicians and policy makers. The ABU-DBS served as a platform for exchanging ideas and finding solutions to serve Asian Public Service Broadcasters in a fast-changing digital world.

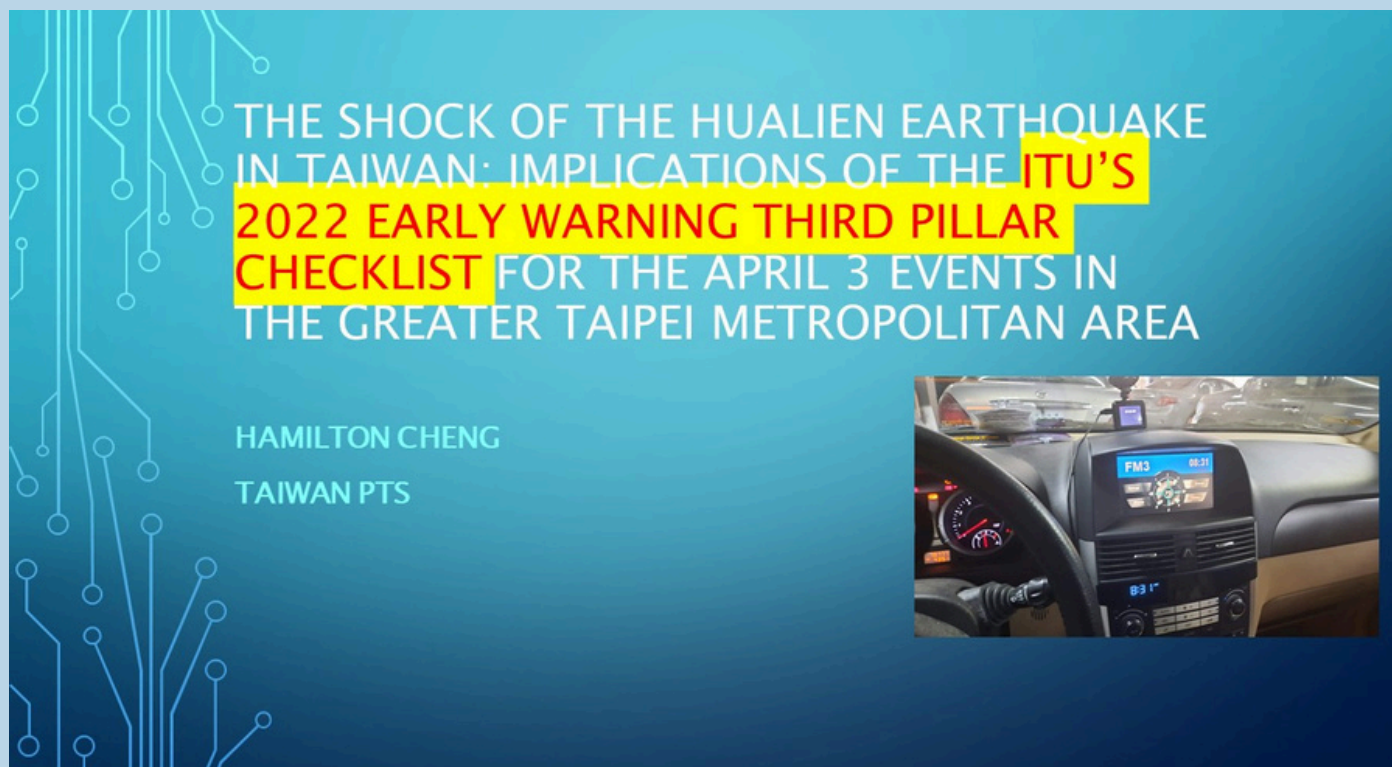
This year's topic is "Personal-cast Interactive Broadcasting, Tailored for You." Due to AI production and streaming

technology, the consumer or audience sovereign is moving into new heights while watching programs. The FAST (Free Ad-supported Streaming TV) platform completely replaced the daily watching TV behaviour. It is easier to select, search, and make a boutique for themselves individually since the new audiences are equipped with smart and connected devices.

The advanced technological innovation is sounded as a global move but taken up in the symposium into a local drive to make it happen. The leading Asia PSB by Turkey (TRT), Malaysia (RTM), and Hong Kong (RTHK) demonstrated how the new technology (AI) was incorporated indigenously into their program production and workflow. In Dr. Cheng's viewpoint, these results are reflected in the themes of AMIC's book, "Rethinking Development Communication" (1987, edited by Neville Jayaweera and S. Amunugama). Dr. Cheng attended the related sessions, welcomed those presentations, and echoed that the need for a "development support communication" was proclaimed 38 years ago in that book.


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## *Taiwan: Dr. Hamilton Cheng Attends... continued*



THE SHOCK OF THE HUALIEN EARTHQUAKE  
IN TAIWAN: IMPLICATIONS OF THE **ITU'S**  
**2022 EARLY WARNING THIRD PILLAR**  
**CHECKLIST** FOR THE APRIL 3 EVENTS IN  
THE GREATER TAIPEI METROPOLITAN AREA

HAMILTON CHENG  
TAIWAN PTS



During the conference, Dr. Cheng also contributed a case study to the ABU project, "Early Warnings for All." Commissioned by UNESCO and DRR, ABU promoted the Early Warning Broadcasting System in Asia-Pacific region in order to accomplish the goal of "Climate Action" (SDG 13) before 2030.

He analyzed the early warnings distributed by mass media and mobile devices during the earthquake in Hualien on April 3, 2024 along several metropolitan areas in the West Coast of Taiwan. The result proved the strength of public broadcast media in dealing with emergent and real-time requests for a quick alert to all.



## *AMIC Reps in Action*

# **Afghanistan:** Narrating Resistance: Censorship, Survival, and the Enduring Power of Journalistic Storytelling



Yasa Mohammad Sajjad, former war journalist explored the narrative strategies employed by journalists in exile to resist censorship and survive in hostile environments. Through a critical discourse analysis of autobiographical narratives, interviews, and journalistic outputs, he examined how exiled journalists negotiate power dynamics, reconstruct their professional identities, and maintain their journalistic integrity in the face of repression.

This study sheds light on the ways in which censorship and exile shape the journalistic

narrative, influencing the representation of truth, objectivity, and resistance. By analyzing the intersection of journalism, trauma, and exile, this research reveals the complex ways in which journalists in exile navigate the tensions between personal and professional identities, homeland and hostland allegiances, and the imperative to bear witness versus the need for self-preservation.

This study contributes to the growing body of research on journalism in exile, censorship, and journalistic narrative, offering new insights into the resilience and adaptability of journalists in the face of adversity. By examining the narrative strategies of journalists in exile, this study highlights the enduring power of journalistic storytelling as a form of resistance, survival, and truth-telling in restricted and censored environments.

## Batangas State University is newest AMIC institutional partner



Batangas State University (BatStateU) is a premier state university in the Philippines, recognized for its commitment to academic excellence, research, and innovation. With a strong emphasis on producing globally competitive graduates, the university offers a wide range of programs across various disciplines, including engineering, business, information technology, and the arts and sciences. BatStateU is known for its high-quality education, modern facilities, and industry-aligned curriculum, ensuring that students are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their respective fields. Additionally, the university is dedicated to fostering leadership, social responsibility, and technological advancement, solidifying its reputation as one of the top institutions in the country.

The **Bachelor of Arts in Communication** program at **Batangas State University – The National Engineering University** is a comprehensive academic program designed to prepare students for careers in media, public relations, corporate communication, journalism, and digital communication. It aims to equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation to excel in various communication fields while adapting to the evolving demands of the industry. The program emphasizes three key areas: **specialization, professionalism and leadership, and lifelong learning**, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to contribute meaningfully to the communication profession.

Graduates develop expertise in creating and managing internal and external communication strategies. They learn to conceptualize and produce communication materials tailored to specific audiences while adhering to ethical standards and media laws. Additionally, the program trains students to actively participate in business ventures that rely on strategic communication, as well as to address communication needs in social development projects.

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## *Batangas State University is newest... continued*

The curriculum is designed to instill professionalism and leadership skills, enabling graduates to take on influential roles in various industries, including media, academia, government, and private organizations. Students gain a strong understanding of communication laws, media ethics, and the role of media in a democratic society. They receive training in participatory communication strategies for planning, implementing, and evaluating programs, as well as in mediation, negotiation, and conflict resolution. Moreover, they develop sound decision-making and leadership abilities rooted in ethical considerations and social responsibility.

Recognizing the ever-evolving nature of the communication industry, the program promotes continuous learning and professional development. Graduates are encouraged to pursue industry certifications from recognized organizations such as the **Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP)** and the **International Organization on Broadcasting and Journalism**. Many graduates also continue their education through master's and doctoral programs in communication and related fields.

Furthermore, they engage in various training programs and professional development activities to keep their skills and knowledge up to date.

The **Bachelor of Arts in Communication** program opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities in both traditional and digital media industries. Graduates can pursue careers as **journalists, public relations officers, corporate communication specialists, media researchers, social media managers, advertising and marketing specialists, broadcast producers, and digital media content creators**. With a strong foundation in communication strategies, ethical practices, and leadership, the Bachelor of Arts in Communication at **Batangas State University- TNEU** prepares students to become skilled and responsible professionals in the rapidly evolving media and communication landscape. Through a balance of theoretical knowledge and practical application, graduates emerge as critical thinkers and effective communicators capable of making a meaningful impact in their chosen careers.

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