

Caucasus Media Institute
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Conference Program

Mass-Media Transformation in Post-Soviet Conditions

Yerevan, September 26-27, 2003

Organized by the Caucasus Media Institute, Yerevan and CIMERA, Geneva
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The last decade has brought revolutionary changes to the media sector and the professional practice of journalists working in post-Soviet societies. The collapse of Soviet censorship, the emergence of new independent states and the new rhythm given to communication thanks to the new technologies, have transformed the profession and the work conditions of journalists beyond recognition.

After initial successes in the last years of Glasnost and in the early nineties, the media sector finds itself in a very deep crisis. Although the profession played an important role in revealing what was still taboo in the Soviet society - from Stalinism to environmental damage – today mass media are in most cases unable to shape public opinion or lead debates in their societies, and have lost the popular trust they enjoyed a decade ago.

What is it that has lead mass media into such a difficult situation? What role does the state play in this sphere? How does the new market environment affect mass media? What is needed in order to secure independence of journalists? How are new technologies transforming the media scene? And what are the individual stories of journalists and their media institutions in the newly independent republics?

In order to discuss those questions, the CMI in collaboration with CIMERA is organizing an international conference on September 26-27 in Yerevan. The conference will bring together over 20 media experts, journalism professors, researchers, and reporters from various CIS

countries, Iran, Eastern and Western Europe, and the US. Working languages are Russian and English.

Conference proceedings will be published in Russian and English.

For more information, please contact Moritz Gathmann, moritz.cmi@netsys.am

The Organizers

Caucasus Media Institute assists in the development of mass media in the Caucasus. Our aim is to achieve a professional standard of journalism capable to inform the public and offer debate through the mass media. CMI works in three directions: to introduce international standards of reporting into journalism in the Caucasus, to train journalists to use new technologies which are reshaping the media profession, to offer background knowledge and critical analysis of recent developments in the region and the world.

CMI brings together training and research, so that our practical experience is enriched by our efforts to better understand the changing socio-political conditions in post-Soviet Caucasus.

www.caucasusmedia.org

CIMERA is a Geneva-based non-profit organization, working in good governance, conflict transformation, and media development projects. CIMERA is active in the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Balkans, as well as in Switzerland.

www.cimera.org

Special Thanks

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Conference Program

Arrival of guests: Thursday, September 25

Day 1, Friday, September 26

- 9:00-9:30 Registration
- 9:30 – 10:00 Opening of the Conference
- Vicken Cheterian, Director, CMI
Hans-Wulf Bartels, German Ambassador to Armenia
Zara Allahverdyan, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,
National Programme Officer in Armenia
- 10:00-11:00 **Session One, moderated by Andrei Kolesnikov, journalist at Izvestia, PR-Director at FBK Consulting, Moscow. *The Political Underpinnings for Post-Soviet Media Development.***
- Oleg Panfilov, Director, Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations, Moscow. *Post-Soviet Press: Oppositional or Independent?*
- Vicken Cheterian, Director, CMI, Yerevan. *The Changing Political Conditions and the Social Role of the Media.*
- Marina Muskhelishvili, political scientist, Tbilisi. *Free but not Liberal: Mass Media and a Particularistic Social Context.*
- 11:00-11:30 Discussion
- 11:30-11:45 Break
- 11:45- 12:30 **Session Two, moderated by Alexander Iskandarian, Deputy Director, CMI: *New Technologies and Media Transformation.***
- Andrei Rezaev, professor of philosophy at the Russian Humanitarian Institute of St. Petersburg. *Communication in Post-Soviet Societies Seen in the Light of the Communication Revolution.*
- Diana Schmidt, Queen's University, Belfast. *The Use of ICTs by Local Civil Society Organizations in Post-Soviet Russia.*
- 12:30-13:00 Discussion
- 13:00-14:30 Lunch
- 14:30-15:30 **Session Three, moderated by Iлона Urbanovich. *Electronic versus Print Media.***

Sergei Bondarenko, Director of Radio Rostov. *The Role of the Radio in the New Media Spectrum.*

Irina Kostrichenko, journalist, Alianta. *The Role of "Paid Articles" in the Collapse of Print Media.*

Mesrop Movsessian, Director, A1+ TV company, Armenia. *The Main Role of Television: to Inform or to Entertain?*

15:30-16:00 Discussion

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-17:30 **Session Four, moderated by Alexander Khamagaev: *And the Truth in All That...***

Irada Huseinova, CJES, Moscow. *The Media of Azerbaijan in the Pre-election Season.*

Aleksei Sukhov, journalist, editor of www.osmedia.kg and Media Insight Central Asia. *Poor Education as a Factor for Low-quality Publications in the Media of Southern Kyrgyzstan.*

Alfia Kharchenko, Radio Poitakht Info, Tashkent. *Mass Media Development in Uzbekistan: Facts and Myths.*

17:30-18:00 Discussion

Day 2, Saturday, September 27, Country Profiles

9:30-10:30 **Session Five, moderated by Diana Schmidt. *The Russian Model.***

Andrei Kolesnikov, journalist at Izvestia, PR-Director at FBK Consulting, Moscow. *Evolution of the Russian Media. From Censorship to Self-Censorship.*

Zoya Khotkina, Moscow Center for Gender Studies. *Image of Women in Russian Media.*

Iosif Dzialoshinsky, President of the Commission on Free Access to Information. *Social Partnership and Mass Media in the Russian Regions.*

10:30-11:00 Discussion

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 **Session Six, Moderated by Vicken Cheterian. *Stories from Abroad.***

Remzi Lani, Director, Albanian Media Institute. *The Difficult Road towards Independent Media in the Balkans.*

Steven Pasternack, Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications, New Mexico State University. *Baltic Journalism: New Freedoms and New Problems.*

12:00-12:30 Discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 **Session Seven, moderated by Oleg Panfilov. *Media and Restrictions in Central Asia.***

Habibollah Shirazi and Hossein Seifzadeh, Tehran University. *The Information Age and the Wisdom of Media Restrictions in Central Asia.*

Andrei Aranbaev, journalist, Turkmenistan. *State Monopoly on Mass Media: a Story from Turkmenistan.*

Alexander Khamagaev, journalist, CIMERA country project coordinator, Uzbekistan. *Mass Media and the Ideology of National Independence.*

14:30-15:00 Discussion

15:00-15:30 Break

15:30-16:30 **Session Eight, moderated by Steven Pasternack. *The Stony Road from Soviet Style Journalism to Journalism of Independence.***

: Lyudmila Kalashnik, RFE/RL correspondent in Poltava Region. *Ukrainian Media under Pressure.*

Tatyana Orlova, journalist, Bishkek. *A Personal Story of 'Moia Stolitsa'.*

Ilona Urbanovich, journalist, Belarus. *The Situation of Journalists in Belarus.*

16:30-18:00 Discussion

18:00 Closing of the Conference