COLLABORATIVE BROADCASTING
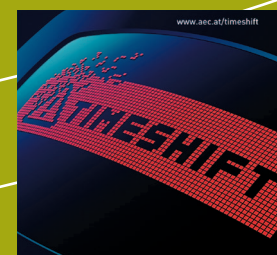## Models of technological innovation for tactical media

A Radio FRO conference within the frame of Ars Electronica 2004
TIMESHIFT – The World in Twenty-Five Years

CONFERENCE
Sunday
September 5
10.30 – 15.00

Sky Media Loft
Ars Electronica Center
Hauptstrasse 2
4040 Linz

105.0 MHz
das freie linzer stadtradio

ARS ELECTRONICA

TIMESHIFT
www.aec.at/timeshift

COLLABORATIVE BROADCASTING

Free media, thanks to the development and adaptation of technologies that transcend the boundaries of individual media are creating expanded possibilities for communication particularly in socially and geographically marginal zones. Their creative patchworks of technologies and communication systems are especially well adapted to each respective social, political and spatial context and open up expanded scopes of action.

Free media are defined as communication platforms and public access is simultaneously the precondition and the most important tool for bringing about communication. The mission is to make available opportunities for the expression of opinions and self-representation, to actively involve listeners in the work with the medium and to integrate them into the production process.

The central challenge for free media is on the one hand the low threshold of access to the medium itself, and this is accomplished by providing expertise both with respect to content and technology. This can happen only by means of a confrontation with immediate local and social conditions. On the other hand free media initiatives are confronted with political tendencies to further regulation and control of media platforms. How can future possibilities for free communication platforms be provided and free media experts be involved in political discussion processes?

Technologies and public access

In order to open up medial spaces for everybody, debates centering on technological developments have taken on increasing relevance in past years. Though, it has not been the demands of free media themselves — for freedom of opinion and information, diversity of opinion, and open access — that are changing; the change has been in the instruments, which have undergone an ongoing process of transformation. Thus, the strategies and practices have had to transcend the purview of individual media. In this context, however, the technological innovations and adaptations constantly orient themselves on the concrete needs of those who use them, whereby the demands and challenges are in continual flux. Marginalized groups like immigrants as well as movements critical of globalization are increasingly using both analog and digital media for self-representation and political activism. Moreover, the reach of networks operating via free media in geographically peripheral zones is increasing.

Therefore free media have to permanently confront the issue of access opportunities. How can "old" analog and "new" digital technologies be made and kept useful for and accessible by the various different user groups and communities and for the infrastructure of the free media themselves? The way free media deal with technical innovation and adaptation works like a modular construction system: The technical infrastructure in actual practice is a patchwork of anything that's available, usually not technical mastery is called for but rather the capability of assembling combinations and tinkering together "intelligent patchworks". Going about this engenders cooperative relationships whose very hybridity is a source of creative and intimately politically relevant potential. Tech-heads work together with — or are themselves — political activists, artists and immigrants and set up tangible interfaces between the users' communication needs and the technical means available.

Free media projects therefore redefine and reinterpret technologies, like the German Ligna Group's "Radioballett," or Manu Luksch's "Virtual Borders". Meanwhile, many free radio stations have been facilitating everyday operations by making use of various digital, Internet-based applications (CBA, YARM). These combinations of technical improvisation and communicative interaction expand free media's ability to act and to a certain extent are even what make cooperative undertakings possible in the first place.

The Radio FRO Conference addresses these developments and discusses the latest communication tools, strategies and projects in order to create real occasions for communication and participation.

Public access and control

The existence of civil society networking and communication is also a question of access and control. On a political level regulations of the WWW and attempts for a restrictive use are being discussed. At the same time the replacement of old analogue transmission technologies by new digital broadcasting systems will lead to changes in frequency spectrum and modification within the regulatory frameworks on national and international level. Thus the diverse independent communication platforms need to develop common strategies for contributing to the decision process, introducing alternative perspectives and solutions and preserving access to future distribution platforms. In fact the current developments are fundamental threats to the freedom of information, expression and the plurality of media. It is essential to be aware of and to take an active part in these discussions. At the Radio FRO Conference experts from different fields in the media sector discuss the consequences of these developments as well as the necessity of future alternative models for community (media) platforms.

PROGRAMME PANELS

Panel A
Sunday / September 5 / 10.30 – 12.30
Models & Stories:
Usage of technological tools for community media initiatives

Media activists and artists present and discuss actual projects which by utilising "old", analog as well as "new" digital technologies to foster communication and the possibility of self representation and to facilitate open, public access to community media platforms. Based on the development and adaptation of technological tools by community media the debate focusses on current forms of political activism, involvement of socially and geographically marginal zones and the enhancement of the capacity to act for community media initiatives.

Hosts: Gerhard Fröhlich (A), Simone Griesmayr (A) – Culture and media theorist
Manu Luksch (UK) – Ambient TV, London, GB/ Project "Virtual Borders"
Agnese Trocchi (IT) – Candida TV, Rome
Georg Wimmer (A) – Radiofabrik Salzburg
Ingo Leindecker (A) – Radio FRO, Cultural Broadcasting Archive cba.fro.at
Gruppe LIGNA (D)
Wolfgang Temmel (A) – Blind TV/Sinnlos
Matthew Smith (A/CA) – Firstfloor

Screening: "Virtual Borders", documentary film by Manu Luksch
Stadtwerkstatt main stage
September 5 / 16.00 – 18.00
Subsequently: Public debate with Artist Manu Luksch

Panel B
Sunday / September 5 / 12.45 – 15.00
Strategies & Perspectives:
Scenarios for alternative Platforms and possibilities of media convergence

Experts discuss scenarios of the information society, their effects on community media and pose the question of future alternative models for open, cross-platform information exchange. Creative and innovative dealing with technological development is a prerequisite for the future of community media initiatives. Which are the consequences of the changeover from analog to digital broadcasting, the currently discussed changes in international radio frequency planning, or attempts to regulate the worl wide web? How can these processes, which bring about new standards and new regulations, be followed and designed by community media initiatives? And at the same time: How can alternative and independent platforms be developed to guarantee and foster the freedom of speech and of the exchange of information and opinion?

Host: Armin Medosch (UK) – Author, new media curator and artist
Steve Buckley (UK) – Amarc World/Community Media Association
Robert Horvitz (CZ) – Open Society Institute
Eric Kluitenberg (NL) – DeBalie
Christopher Dawes (GB) – Council of Europe, Media Division
N.N. – RTR / Austrian Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Broadcasting

PARTICIPANTS – BIOGRAPHIES AND PROJECTS
PANEL A

Gerhard Fröhlich – Johannes Kepler Universität, Linz/A
Culture and media theorist at the Institute for Philosophy and Philosophy of Science, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, A. Main research on culture and media theory, culture and media philosophy, philosophy of science, science of information and information retrieval, qualitative and quantitative methods of evaluation (peer review, impact factors)
http://www.iwp.uni-linz.ac.at/lxe/FROEHLICH

Simone Griesmayr – Johannes Kepler Universität, Linz/A
Member of staff at Institute for Philosophy and Philosophy of Science, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, A.

Gruppe LIGNA – Hamburg, D
Ole Frahm, Michael Hüners, Torsten Michaelsen
The free radio group LIGNA was set up in 1995 by the media theorists and radio artists Ole Frahm, Michael Hüners and Torsten Michaelsen, all working for "Freies Sender Kombinat (FSK)", community radio initiative, Hamburg. In various shows and performances they have examined the meaning of diversion in or of radio broadcasting by referring amongst other things to forgotten or discarded uses of this medium and developing thereby new practices and procedures (Mental Radio Show). Production of perforative radio plays (Labyrinthe und Interferenzen. Ein nächtlicher Gang durch eine sterbende Stadt – Labyrinths and Interferences. A walk at night through a dying city) and development of concepts as to how the radio can intervene in public spaces that are under surveillance, so that the public there reemerges as a situation out of control (Radioballett: Übung in unnötigem Aufenthalt – Radioballet: An exercise in unnecessary loitering). With these different models they examine both theoretically and practically the limits of (liberal) media theory, of closed artistic space and of political intervention.
http://www.republicart.net/disc/artsabotage/meessen401_en.htm
http://www.momenta.net.tf

Ingo Leindecker – Radio FRO, Linz/A
Ingo Leindecker has worked for Radio FRO as an active radio artist and content-producer since 1998. He is in charge of developing cross-media publishing technologies for radio / internet and he has relaunched and expanded the Cultural Broadcasting Archive, a digital audio-exchange data bank of all the Austrian free radio stations.
http://www.fro.at

Cultural Broadcasting Archive cba.fro.at / TransPons
The Cultural Broadcasting Archive is the digital audio archive of all the Austrian free radio stations. It facilitates a quick and flexible publication of radio programs on the internet. TransPons is a project that develops the archive and analyzes prevailing technical conditions with regard to the access of immigrants participation as a medium and the use of the internet as an opportunity of self-representation and self-articulation and exchange with other ethnical groups. The project tries to promote immigrants participation on the internet and links local and European activities of intercultural media work by extending the audio archive CBA.
http://cba.fro.at

Manu Luksch – AmbientTV.net, London/GB
Manu Luksch, filmmaker who works outside the frame. Techniques and effects of live data broadcasting and transmission provide theme, medium, and performative space for many of her works. She founded ambientTV.NET, a crucible for independent, interdisciplinary art projects ranging in form from installation through documentary, dance, and theatre, to sound and video composition and live manipulation. Manu, who studied Fine Arts in Vienna and Bangkok, was artistic director of the Media Lab Munich before she moved to London where she is based now.
http://www.ambienttv.net

Virtual Borders – Documentary film project by Manu Luksch
Virtual Borders tells the story of an Akha village headman, Abaw Busoev, who goes on a journey from Thailand to China. He is accompanied by an Akha radio broadcaster and the filmmaker. Their aim is to attend the gathering of the Akha people and to transmit discussions about their situation and future of the Akha people to remote mountain villages. The documentary film structure recognizes the emerging "media loop": TV, radio, and the internet. An internet link from the meeting in China to the radio station in Thailand was established, which transmits the live discussions to the villages in the mountains. The 3 million Akha are an ethnic minority group scattered across the border regions of the five countries Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), China, Vietnam and Laos. "A film always has an end while reality continues."
http://www.ambientTVNETrakha
Screening "Virtual Borders", documentary film by Manu Luksch: Stadtwerkstatt main stage, September 5 / 16 to 18, subsequently public debate with artist Manu Luksch

Matthew Smith – Firstfloor, Vienna/A, Vancouver/CA
Born 1974 in Innsbruck,Austria, lives in Vienna and Vancouver. Trained as a Media Designer by Rens Veltman. 2 years at Veltman&Veltman involving work in various media. 1995 – 1997 Media Designer, Ars Electronica Center, Linz. Founding Member of FirstFlooR Electronix. Concept & Production of the Public Net Access at Tacheles, Berlin. Since 1997 on line project: Vehicles of Progress and Prosperity. With Sandra Wintner.
http://vehicle.aec.at
Since 1998 FIRST FLOOR EASTSIDE, On line-installations, net.radio. Matt Smith aka PC Omez has been producing a weekly radio show on CITR 101.9FM in Vancouver for the last 4 years, and participates in various audio art projects as a producer and technician.
http://www.firstfloor.org

Wolfgang Temmel – sinnlos/Blind TV, Graz/A
Born in 1958, stays in New York and London, now living in Wies in Styria. Work in various media and art forms. In and through various projects temporally or spatially not simultaneous "works of art" emerge from shared authorship or joint processes of authorship. These works are not mainly intended to be objects of art, but ought to reflect the creative process itself. In the production of these works Temmel creates momentary systems based on prevailing contexts and mechanisms, which he takes up, goes over and transforms into a part of his work: "space" of art which cannot be depicted and which can only partially be grasped in finished "products" (video, book, radiowork, CD, brooch) as this is about forms of dialogue, the interplay of intentions and accidents, events that these projects provide a stage for without entirely defining them.
http://www.temmel.org

Blind TV - Sinnlos
Sinnlos (meaningless) does not consider itself to be a "project for disabled people", but to be a project that sees its central theme in the methods and strategies of hindrance and handicap in daily life, in society and art. Sinnlos also sees itself as a postulate for a new way of thinking and acting.
With Blind TV, blind or visually impaired people have the possibility to create their radio programs independently. The program is run frequently at Radio Helsinki, the free radio station in Graz, A.
http://www.sinnlos.st
http://www.helsinki.at

Agnese Trocchi – Candida TV, Rome/IT
Agnese Trocchi, born in 1971, Rome/Italy. Artist, writer and videomaker; active from 1995 in the field of ICT, developing practical experiences with television, internet communities and satellite broadcasting. Since 1997 organisation of Independent Film Festival in Rome (Overground Fiction Festival). Collaboration with Francesca da Rimini (AUS) and Diane Ludin From (USA) on the net.art project "Identity_Runners": in 1999 co-founder of Candida TV. Invitation to various media conferences and events: Sydney, TILT festival 2001, Amsterdam Next 5 Minutes Festival 2003, Florence Firenze World Vision Festival 2003, etc. In 2003 – 2004 organisation of an international event on the issues of communication and information networks (Sample Image Workshop, Rome 2003; Wsis? We Seize event, Geneva 2003). 2002 Prize of the Critic at VideoMinutePop (Italian competition for innovative videomaking) with the video "Discover your Future".
http://www.ngvision.org/mediabase/313
http://www.id-runners.net

CandidaTV
Candida TV was founded in 1999 as an independent group of videomakers which produces spots, magazines, documentaries and fiction for terrestrial television, satellite and for the internet. The core group fuses the experiences of self-managed squatted community centers and technical knowledge in the field of video production. In 1999 construction of a new television channel, on air from December 1999 to February 2000 with a weekly show on a TV station in Rome, in which people were called to send their tapes and to create a commentary TV Channel. Candida is working on the creation of an information network from below, by giving access to communication technologies to people. Organisation of practical workshop for alphabetization to video languages in different cities: Rome, Barcelona, Naples, Bruxelles.
http://www.candidatv.tv

Georg Wimmer – Radiofabrik, Salzburg/A
Georg Wimmer, born in 1961, was one of the founders of Free Radio Salzburg, since 2002 has been editor in chief and coordinator of programs at Radiofabrik, Salzburg. Before that, he worked as a free-lance journalist for various Austrian newspapers and magazines and studied journalism, educational theory and Romance languages and literature at the university. Numerous awards and nominations, (among others he won the Cultural Award for Integration and Human Rights sponsored by the Green Party Salzburg in 2003 and was nominated for the European Radio Award, the Prix Europa, in 2002)
http://www.radiofabrik.at

YARM - Yet Another Radio Manager
YASH - Yet Another Studio Helper
Radiofabrik, Salzburg, A
YARM is a software to manage an exact timing of radio broadcasting. It was developed by Radiofabrik and is well-suited to the demands and requirements of community radios. The planned next step in development is YASH (Yet another Studio Helper), which will facilitate programming and signal transmission independent of where you are. Moreover an adaption of the automated and software supported studio work to the needs of disabled people will be implemented, in order to ensure a low threshold of access for the users.
http://www.radiofabrik.at

PANEL B

Steve Buckley
Steve Buckley is a communications activist with particular interests in communication for development, freedom of expression and communication rights. He has been a member of the International Board of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) since 1992 and was elected President of AMARC in 2003. He is also a member of the Organising Committee and the Executive Secretariat of the Communication Rights in the Information Society campaign (CRIS) and a member of the Council of IFEX, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange. He has been an external media consultant to UNESCO, UK Department for International Development, World Bank and Ford Foundation among others. He was a founder of the UK Community Media Association in 1983 and its chief executive from 1991 to 2004.
http://www.amarc.org
http://www.commedia.org.uk

Robert Horvitz – Advisor for Media, Open Society Institute, Cz
Robert Horvitz, born 1947, Massachusetts (USA). 1970s artist and art instructor. 1977 – 1987 Art Editor of CoEvolution Quarterly (later Whole Earth Review). In 1979 field curator of the first US Government-sponsored modern art exhibition in Bulgaria. From 1982 work as a radio journalist, involvement in media lobbyism. From 1989 work for Internews, a nonprofit group specializing in journalism training in underdeveloped countries. From 1992 radio specialist for the Soros Foundation (a.k.a. the Open Society Institute) in Prague, working in the development of new radio stations especially in the Balkans (Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia) and in Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan). 1996 International Coordinator of the Soros Foundations' Internet Program. Currently he is the Manager of the Global Internet Policy Initiative (GIPI), which promotes the reform of legal and regulatory frameworks to accelerate the growth of an uncensored, affordable and user-controlled Internet
http://www.soros.org/initiatives/information/about
http://litu.int
http://www.internetpolicy.net

Eric Kluitenberg
Theorist, writer, and organiser on culture and technology, currently based at De Balie – Centre for Culture and Politics in Amsterdam. He taught courses on culture and new media at the University of Amsterdam, the post-graduate education programs of Academy Minerva in Groningen (NL), and worked on the scientific staff of the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. He lectures and publishes extensively on culture, new media, and cultural politics internationally. Since 1988 he has been involved as an organiser in a series of important media culture events in Europe. Kluitenberg is also involved in the establishment of a Science Commons.
http://www.debalie.nl
http://creativecommons.org/projects/science/proposal

Armin Medosch
Armin Medosch was born in Graz, Austria, in 1962. From 1985 to 1992 free-lance author and media artist in Vienna; together with Antonia Neubacher and Uni Blaser he set up the group "Radio Subcom"; radio- and video-art, spacial installations, conceptual texts and short stories. 1992 – 1994 Rostock, Germany: co-initiator and artistic director of the project "Stubnitz Kunst-Raum-Schiff" (Stubnitz Art-Space-Ship); "Baltic Tour 94". 1995 project manager, (with Florian Rötzer and Stefan Iglhaut) curator of "Telepolis – interaktive und vernetzte Stadt" (Telepolis – interactive city) in Luxembourg. 1996 / 1997 editor of the online magazine "Telepolis" of Heise publishers in Munich. Since 1997 editor and special correspondent of Heise publishers for Telepolis in London. Most recently: "Freie Netze. Geschichte, Politik und Kultur offener WLAN-Netze", 2004 (Free networks. History, politics and culture of open WLAN networks).
Download: http://www.heise.de/tp/deutsch/html/bureh_11.html
Telepolis – Magazine of NetCulture http://www.heise.de/tp

Christopher Dawes – Council of Europe, Media Division
Head of Broadcasting Policy Division at the Department for Media, Culture and Sport in London. Expert on digital broadcasting for the Council of Europe, Media Division.
http://www.coe.int/T/E/human_rights/media

N.N. – RTR / Rundfunk & Telekom Regulierungs GmbH
The Austrian Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Broadcasting (RTR-GmbH) was established as the operative arm of Austrian Communications Authority (KommAustria) to create a "convergence regulator". RTR is split up into two specialized sections (Broadcasting and Telecommunications) and among others fulfills the duties of arbitration procedures, the setup and management of a competence center especially for media and telecommunications convergence issues as well as the administration and allocation of grants from the Digitisation Fund and the Television Film Fund.
http://www.rtr.at

For more information on the conference, participants and projects check
http://www.fro.at/ars04

TEAM AND CONTACT

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Engineering: Peter "Schnuffi" Müller
Website: Ingo Leindecker
Translations: Radio FRO Editorial Team, Hanna Six
Artwork: Ulrich Kehrer

Radio FRO 105.0 MHz is a free, noncommercial radiostation, that works according to the open access concept and has been broadcasting since September 1998. Roughly 400 programming providers turn out over 100 radioshows a month. Areas of emphasis are informational and public service programs by NGOs and local initiatives, diverse language shows, a cultural and educational channel, broadcasts for young people as well as senior citizens and a variety of music programming.

Collaborative Broadcasting is a conference by Radio FRO in cooperation with the Ars Electronica Festival 2004

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ARS ELECTRONICA