



Media, Multiculturalism & the Politics of Listening

Workshop presented as part of The Listening Project
Wednesday 16 April 2008, 1 - 5 pm
University of Technology, Sydney

Conveners: Tanja Dreher (UTS) & Gay Hawkins (UNSW)

Sponsored by the ARC Cultural Research Network and the
Trans/forming Cultures Research Centre

Workshop Program

12.30 Light lunch, meet and greet (foyer)

1pm Workshop Begins, Introduction to Project and Workshop (Tanja Dreher)

1.15 Hearing Diversity (Gay Hawkins)

2.15 Listening to Media Interventions (Tanja Dreher)

3.00 Tea and Coffee

3.15 Ethics of Listening (Gay Hawkins and Tanja Dreher)

4.15 Where to? Possibilities for research, policy and practice (Gay Hawkins
and Tanja Dreher)

5.00 Close

The Listening Project

The Listening Project is a program of collaboration that will generate sustained discussion and publication around the politics, technologies and practices of the cultural literacy of 'listening'. The project develops a new area of study through an innovative model of networking, bringing together researchers across a range of disciplines as well as media and cultural producers. The program will examine the neglected dynamics of 'listening', an emerging focus in Media Studies and citizens' media interventions. Habitual critiques of representation and the politics of 'speaking' (or giving voice to the voiceless) are giving way to investigation of more active possibilities for social inclusion and change based on recognition, dialogic engagement and acceptance.

Tanja Dreher, Justine Lloyd and Penny O'Donnell, Project Conveners

Roundtable Workshops

Five afternoon tea workshops will be held in 2008, leading to a multi-authored publication around the theme of 'listening' in 2009. The discussion will be structured to lead to the identification of potential collaborative projects and papers for publication. Future workshops:

Technologies of Listening

31 July 2008, UTS

Justine Lloyd (Macq) and Kate Crawford (UNSW)

Disability, Democracy, Media & Listening

13 August 2008, UNSW

Gerard Goggin (UNSW) and Christopher Newell (UTas)

Conflict, Democracy & Listening

26 September 2008, Monash

Mark Gibson (Monash)

Listening Practices

17 October 2008, USyd

Penny O'Donnell (USyd) and Juan Salazar (UWS)

Publications Workshop

14 November 2008, UTS

For further information contact Cate the Project Officer:

Catherine.Thill@uts.edu.au

Workshop Rationale

This workshop will focus on the ethics and politics of listening in order to develop innovative approaches to thinking about media and multiculturalism. To date both research and policy on media and cultural diversity have emphasised questions of speaking, whether in mainstream, community or diaspora media. There is also a vast literature examining questions of representation including stereotyping, racialisation, hybridisation and self-representations. This workshop extends these discussions to focus on questions of listening. Sociologist Charles Husband has long argued that the 'right to be understood' and an ethics of listening are as important as the 'right to communicate' in developing a multi-ethnic public sphere. Susan Bickford suggests that 'just as speakers must reflect on how to speak (and what to say), listeners must be self-conscious about how they listen (and what they hear). Taking responsibility for listening, as an active and creative process, might serve to undermine certain hierarchies of language and voice'.

Attention to listening provokes important questions about media and multiculturalism: How do media enable or constrain listening across difference? What is the role of mediation in the politics of listening? How can a diversity of voices be heard in the media? How are new modes of listening developed or learned (by media producers and by media audiences)? How can media researchers, producers and policymakers best address these questions?

By bringing together researchers, media workers and policy makers we aim to start a conversation on new ways of understanding the dynamics and importance of listening in multicultural societies.

Framing Questions

Hearing Diversity

Linguistic diversity is a fundamental aspect of multicultural Australia. Language is one of the most intimate assets of cultural identity and social communication, and not coming from an English speaking background can cause serious disadvantage. Hence the wide range of programs to enhance English language skills and allow people with diverse language backgrounds to overcome communication barriers. But effective communication in a multicultural society does not simply involve skills in speaking it also demands skills in listening and an openness to the embodied voices of diversity. Resentment about other languages being spoken in public, irritation with accents, demands that everyone 'speak English' are evidence of a hostility to diversity that can come from hearing linguistic differences in everyday life. These reactions are a powerful reminder of the normative power of 'proper English' and the ways in which difficulties in understanding can generate frustration with the speaker rather than and a willingness to change, or listen differently, in the listener.

In this session we want to explore these issues: in what ways do the media invite different listening practices? How do they apprehend accents? How do techniques like subtitling enable cross cultural communication? How can resistance to hearing difference be challenged? In what ways are barriers to communication a product of lack of English language skills or lack of skills in listening to diversity?

Listening to Community Media Interventions

Communities subjected to racism in the media often develop media interventions projects aimed at speaking up and talking back to the news media. In Australia in recent years there has been increasing support for Arab and Muslim communities in particular to develop media skills, to produce media education programs and to be involved in media production - all aimed at giving voice and being heard. In this session we will explore the complex dynamics of listening to such community media interventions: how are racialised communities heard when they talk back to the news media? How do media conventions shape the dynamics of listening and speaking? When and how is listening refused?

Speaking & Listening Relations: Not Liking What You Hear

Media are slowly beginning to include a diversity of perspectives on multiculturalism and other issues. This can reveal competing and conflicting ways of making sense of public issues. These discussions also generate a sense of democracy in action, the ways in which public debate is always dense and contested: a jostle of opinions that need to be listened to with respect. How does a commitment to inclusion and diversity of opinions demand a different ethics of listening? Rather than trading opinions and polemic how does the dissonance of democracy generate different ethical practices in listening and speaking? If diverse groups are given recognition and legitimacy in public culture how can we ensure that they are heard in ways that encourage intercultural dialogue?

Participants

Tanja Dreher	Workshop Convenor, University of Technology, Sydney	Tanja.Dreher@uts.edu.au
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Vicki Bamford

Vicki Bamford is a Lecturer in Public Communication and Undergraduate Program Coordinator for Media and Culture, Public Communication and Social Inquiry at the University of Technology, Sydney. She is also the International Student Advisor for Public Communication undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

Research interests

Community consultation, the role of media for enabling cross cultural communities to participate equitably. Empowering minority groups by using appropriate media forms to aid communication.

Current research Longitudinal study of the effectiveness of community consultation within a local government area with a population comprising 58% Non-English Speaking Background people; Ongoing research to improve teaching and learning opportunities for all students, particularly international students and minority groups.

My aim for attending the Listening Project workshop series is to find synergies to continue research across cultural and minority groups through developing robust public communication and participation opportunities.

Teaching areas

Undergraduate: Public Communication: Public Relations Principles, Public Relations Professional Practice, Public Relations Strategies, Public Relations Contexts and Applications

Postgraduate: Cross Cultural and International Communication, Managing Public Communication Strategies, Managing Communication

Professional Memberships

Member of the Public Relations Institute of Australia (PRIA)

Member of the Australian Centre for Public Communication

Member of UTS Cosmopolitan and Civil Societies Research Centre

Member of The Sunnyfield Association

Member of X-ray Theatre Board

Barbara Bloch

Barbara Bloch is a Research Associate with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney. She has been involved in multiculturalism in various guises - activism, research, writing, reading and listening - for many years.

Barbara's particular interest in listening concerns listening across intractable and historical differences between people for example, but not only, between Israelis/Jews and Palestinians/Arabs. In this example, the media has a huge responsibility to listen to all 'sides' and present them to the public with subtlety and sophistication.

Plans: 1. Writing a book based on her Phd entitled 'Unsettling Zionism', about the paradoxes in the Australian Jewish community's relationship with Israel.

2. Develop research project around concepts of Anglo resentment towards ethnic minority groups in Australia, particularly focusing on public spaces.

ARC Project: 'Social Memory and Historical Justice' - involved with others in writing for this project (Melbourne/Swinborne universities)

Relationships Australia, South Australia
Consultant to review the work of the P.E.A.C.E Multicultural Services (Personal Education and Community Empowerment) team.

Research Project - Shopfront, UTS (2006)
Co-researcher on project with Rockdale Council: *Capacity Building for Community Conflict Resolution*
Centre for Cultural Research, UWS
Researcher on Professor Ien Ang's ARC Professorial Fellowship: *Cultural Intelligence for the 21st Century*

Book chapters:

'Aborigines don't blow up buses': The discursive effects of Australian Jewish interventions in Indigenous issues in the 1990s, in Toth, A and Hickey, B eds. *Reconciliations*, 2005, API Network, Perth.

With Eva Cox, "Mending the World from the Margins: Jewish Women and Australian Feminism", in Levey, G and Mendes, P, *Jews and Australian Politics*, 2004, Sussex University Press: Sussex.

Political/community activities:

Management committee of NSW Immigrant Speakout (1990s)

Management of Working Women's Centre NSW

Member of Women in Black and Jews against the Occupation (Israel/Palestine)

Amrita Cheema

Amrita Cheema presents World News Australia on SBS. She is a Rhodes Scholar with a D. Phil in Modern History from Oxford University.

She came to Australia in December 2005 from Berlin, where, for seven years she anchored Deutsche Welle' TV's flagship English news programme, *Journal*. She also produced two leading news and current affairs shows, and her documentary "*The Truth is in no Hurry*" won critical acclaim. She was a guest lecturer at Deutsche Welle's Television Training Department and went to Africa as a consultant for a national TV network. In addition, she reported for Indian national television, covering the fall of the Berlin Wall and German unification.

Amrita returned to India for four years in 1994 to be part of a select team that launched TVI, the country's first news and current affairs channel. As Executive Producer, she set up the international desk, designed news programmes, anchored the news, produced and presented news specials and conducted in-depth interviews. After an invigorating and challenging period, she moved to New Delhi Television (NDTV) as Associate Editor and anchor on *Star News Sunday*, the country's highest rating news and current affairs programme. She also hosted prime-time news and current affairs shows. She was part of a team which hosted the 48 hour live special during the national elections.

Amrita has lived and worked on three continents. Apart from English, she speaks fluent German, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu and a smattering of other languages.

She enjoys contemporary literature, theatre, good films and sport. Her taste in music ranges from opera to reggae and techno. She plays squash and is a member of various discussion groups.

Alissar Chidiac

Alissar Chidiac has been engaged in community and cultural development work for almost 30 years. She has had a specific focus on contemporary Arab cultural and heritage work since 1991. She worked at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, 1998 to 2004, where she initiated a diversity of programmes, community partnerships and exhibitions through the '*wattan*' project.

Until recently she worked on cultural projects in Western Sydney with Auburn Community Development Network (ACDN). Alissar developed ACDN's major regional women's cultural project in 2005 / 2006, which culminated in a multimedia exhibition and public programmes: '*Inside Out - Muslim women exploring identities and creative expressions*'. In 2006 Alissar co-curated '*T'fouh... raw responses from Arab artists*' at the Mori Gallery in Sydney.

Currently Alissar is working on her Australia Council for the Arts Fellowship: '*3arabi - mapping contemporary Arab Australian cultural production*'. Working partners in this community interactive project include UTS Shopfront and Information and Cultural Exchange. Alissar is also now facilitating /artistically directing Auburn Poets and Writers Group's third multilingual performance for Sydney Writers Festival (2006-2008).

In some of her former lives she was a community theatre facilitator and performer (streets, festivals, cabarets, schools, theatres, fundraisers and burned-out cathedrals). She is much quieter these days and the bio-conspiracy that effectively stole half of her voice is still under investigation.

Tanja Dreher

Tanja Dreher (with Justine Lloyd and Penny O'Donnell) is coordinator of The Listening Project and convener (with Gay Hawkins) of the *Media, Multiculturalism and the Politics of Listening* workshop. Tanja is an ARC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Transforming Cultures Research Centre at UTS. Tanja's APD project explores news media and community conflict resolution with a particular interest in debates around whiteness, multiculturalism and listening, and around media, gender and violence. Tanja is also part of a research team on an ARC Linkage project with Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE), a dynamic community, cultural, information technology and arts organisation working across the Greater Western Sydney area.

Tanja has researched and taught in Media Studies, Journalism Studies and Cultural Studies for more than ten years. Her previous research has focused on news and cultural diversity, community media interventions in western Sydney, experiences of racism and the development of community antiracism strategies after September 11, 2001. Having both researched and participated in community media interventions designed to 'speak up and talk back' to racialised reporting in mainstream media, Tanja has become increasingly interested in the dynamics of 'listening' across differences through media. She is keen to pursue the themes of listening, media and multiculturalism in order to move beyond the limitations of the critique of representations, on the one hand, and the difficulties of being heard for those who 'speak up', on the other. Her research aims to shift the focus of attention and the onus of responsibility for change from marginalised voices and on to the conventions and privileges which regulate listening.

Mark Gibson

Dr Mark Gibson is chair of the Graduate Communications and Media Studies Program in the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University. He is also Editor of *Continuum - Journal of Media and Cultural Studies* and Convenor of the Cultural Literacies Node of the ARC Cultural Research Network.

Mark is particularly interested in the relation between the themes of listening and power, a question which is a significant thread in his recent book *Culture and Power* (Berg/UNSW Press, 2007). The history cultural studies, traced in the book, has been one in which listening has been displaced - at time quite explicitly - by power and conflict. Is this displacement necessary?

Mark is coordinating the fourth of the Listening workshops for 2008, on 'Conflict, Democracy and Listening' in September at Monash University.

Jing Han

Jing was born and grew up in China. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English language and literature from Lanzhou University and Master's degree in English and American Literatures from Beijing Foreign Studies University. She also taught English at universities in China.

Jing came to Australia in 1988 to study for her PhD at Sydney University. She received her doctoral degree in English and Australian Literatures in 1994.

Jing started her career in the NSW public service and had worked as Compensation Manager in Victims Compensation Tribunal from 1996-2006. Jing also joined SBS TV in 1996, working as a Mandarin subtitler on a part time basis. In 2006 Jing took up the full time position as the Chief Subtitler at Subtitling and Program Preparation Unit of SBS. Over the past 12 years, Jing has subtitled over 200 Mandarin programs for the Australian audience including major Chinese films such as *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *Hero*, *Not One Less*, *Kekexili*, *Blind Shaft*, *Beijing Bicycle*, *Springtime in A Small Town* etc. Jing will present her paper entitled "Cultural and Linguistic Challenges in Subtitling Chinese Films" at the World Congress of International Federation of Translators to be held in Shanghai in August 2008.

Dr Jing Han is also a part time lecturer at University of Western Sydney, teaching Interpreting and Translation courses to postgraduate students.

Gay Hawkins

Gay Hawkins (with Tanja Dreher) is convener of the *Media, Multiculturalism and the Politics of Listening* workshop. She is Professor in the School of English, Media and Performing Arts at the University of NSW. Gay's research is in the areas of media and cultural studies, poststructuralism and political theory, and biopolitics and nature culture relations. She is currently completing an ARC Linkage project on 'The Special Broadcasting Service and Australian Cultural Democracy.' In 2006 she published 'The Ethics of Waste: how we relate to rubbish.' Current research projects include an investigation into the relations between publics and communities.

Rick Iedema

Rick Iedema is Professor in Organisational Communication, Associate Dean (Research) at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Executive Director of the Centre for Health Communication, University of Technology Sydney. His research focuses on communication in hospitals among clinicians and between clinicians and patients. He has (had) Principal Chief Investigator roles on three 3-year Australian Research Council Discovery grants, and is co-Chief Investigator on a range of other ARC and National Health & Medical Research Council grants. He recently ran a federally-funded national evaluation of 'Open Disclosure' (clinicians acknowledging and apologising for errors to patients), and an Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care study that will produce a video-footage-based package for improving hospital information-exchange processes. He publishes his work in journals such as the Medical Journal of Australia, British Medical Journal, Organization Studies, Social Science and Medicine and Communication and Medicine. He has (co)authored over 120 research articles and book chapters, including three edited volumes (Palgrave-Macmillan 2007, 2008; Elsevier 2008), a single-authored book (Benjamins 2003), and a research monograph for Routledge (co-authored with Carl Rhodes, David Grant and Hermine Scheeres).

My interest in listening is based on clinicians being taught to listen as part of their disclosures of medical errors.

Olivia Khoo (appologies)

Dr Olivia Khoo is a Lecturer in Film and Media at the University of New South Wales. She has published widely on Asian film and media, including her recent book *The Chinese Exotic: Modern Diasporic Femininity* (Hong Kong University Press, 2007). Olivia is an Executive member of the Asian Australian Studies Research Network where she is cluster convenor of literature, film and performance. She has also worked on a number of national and international film festivals: she was curator of the Asian Female Directors Film Festival at the Taipei Artist Village, Taiwan in 2005; former programmer with the Melbourne Queer Film Festival, and is currently on the Film Advisory Panel of the Sydney Film Festival. She also organised the Future of Chinese Cinema conference at UNSW in 2006. Olivia is currently working on Asian Australian cinema and is interested in the relationship between multiculturalism and film.

Winnie Lai

Winnie Lai is currently manager of subtitling and program preparation at SBS. She has previously worked as the national income development manager at Mission Australia. Winnie arrived from Hongkong 11 years ago, where she worked as fundraising director at Greenpeace Greater China as well as publisher and general manager at Miller Freeman.

Justine Lloyd

Together with Tanja Dreher and Penny O'Donnell I am co-ordinator of The Listening Project and convenor (with Kate Crawford) of the Technologies of Listening workshop. I am currently a lecturer in Sociology of Media and Culture at Macquarie University, Sydney, and am an associate of TFC.

I was most recently an Australian Research Council (ARC) Postdoctoral Fellow at UTS, working on a history of women's radio programming in Australia and Canada which has developed into an interest in media technologies and the governance of the intimate sphere. I have taught cultural and media studies in Australia and Poland.

I am particularly interested in pinning down the ongoing significance of the mediation of everyday life in the sense that Roger Silverstone's later work invokes: a "dialectical process in which institutionalized media of communication (the press, broadcast radio and television, and increasingly the World Wide Web) are involved in the general circulation of symbols in social life in social relationships" (761). I take the historical formation of practices of listening around cultural forms such as radio to be exemplary of this mediated sociality, and to point to a need for a new approach to understanding its unpredictable power dynamics.

Roger Silverstone, 'Complicity and Collusion in the Mediation of Everyday Life', *New Literary History*, 33.4 (2002), 761-780.

Jake Lynch

Associate Professor Jake Lynch, PhD (City University, London) is Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney.

Jake has spent the past decade developing and campaigning for Peace Journalism - and practising it, as an experienced international reporter in television and newspapers. He was a presenter (anchor) for BBC World News; the Sydney Correspondent for the London *Independent* newspaper, and a Political Correspondent for Sky News.

He has led professional peace journalism training workshops for editors and reporters in countries including Indonesia, The Philippines, Nepal, Armenia, Georgia, Cyprus, Israel and Palestine, for clients including the British Council, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government and the Council of Europe.

Jake was Director of the London-based journalism think-tank, Reporting the World, set up with a major grant from the Department for International Development of the UK Government, and author of all its reports.

His publications include the landmark *Peace Journalism* (Hawthorn Press, Stroud, UK, 2005) and refereed chapters in books including the Routledge *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies* (Oxford, 2007) and *Democratising Global Media* (Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham, 2005).

He has contributed scholarly articles to journals including *Peace and Policy*, the *Global Media Journal* and *Conflict and Communication Online*. He is convener of the Peace Journalism commission of the International Peace Research Association, a member of the Advisory Board of the Sydney Peace Foundation and of the International Advisory Council of the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research.

Fiona Martin

Fiona Martin teaches online journalism and online media at Sydney University. She began her career in community radio, working with a range of cultural groups. Between 1989 and 1996 she was a journalist and producer with ABC Radio networks, including Radio National and Sydney 702. For the past decade she has been a journalism educator, with an interest in community media, convergent and new media publishing. Her cross-media documentary series *Re-imagining Utopia* (2003), produced for ABC Radio and ABC Online, looked at the changing nature of Australia's rural intentional communities: [http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ utopias](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/utopias). Fiona has just completed her doctoral studies with Southern Cross University, studying the ABC's adaption to an informational society. Her current research interests include public service media online, the impact of user generated content on journalism practice, and the effect of cross-media ownership regulations on media diversity.

Andrew McCormick

Andrew McCormick joined the Subtitling Department at SBS Television soon after its inception in the early 1980s, working initially as a subtitle script editor and occasional Italian subtitler.

For the last ten years he has held the position of Chief Subtitler. In this role, his primary focus is on maintaining and promoting the quality of the subtitling produced at SBS.

From its very beginnings, SBS adopted subtitling as a key means of providing access for Australian viewers to linguistically diverse programming. Unlike dubbing, subtitling allows a program's original voices to be heard and to continue to speak for themselves. These voices are made accessible via written subtitles, without being obliterated in the process. Viewers who lack knowledge of a program's original language are thus able to step into the role of listeners, with their comprehension of spoken dialogue mediated by the subtitles.

Since 2001, SBS has also provided English-language closed captioning for deaf and hearing-impaired viewers. This adds another layer to the mediation of spoken dialogue, but the boundaries between open (inter-lingual) subtitling and closed (intra-lingual) captioning are not necessarily clear-cut. Given the great diversity of spoken English encountered in the media, subtitlers are often required to gauge whether viewers can be expected to engage actively and directly with less familiar 'Englishes' or whether adequate comprehension calls for the support provided by subtitles. Naturally, the choices made here may carry with them wider cultural, sociolinguistic and political implications.

Lena Nahlous

Lena nahlous is a cultural activist, worker and writer. She has worked for over a decade in non-government organisations, where she has managed and collaborated on initiatives that have engaged thousands of people, particularly women, refugees, migrants and young people. She established Artfiles: the arts directory for Western Sydney, and ICE's SWITCH Multimedia and Digital Arts Access Centre. Under Lena's strategic direction ICE has grown ten-fold, winning the 2003 and 2004 Western Sydney Industry Awards, in 2004 for the Most Sustainable and Successful Arts Enterprise. Lena is a recipient of an Asialink Fellowship, and undertook a four-month arts management residency in Hong Kong in 2006. She is also a published writer and has produced work for radio, anthologies and performance. Lena attended the University of Sydney, acquiring a BA (Hons) in Government and a BA in English, with a minor in Fine Arts.

Greg Noble

Dr Greg Noble is Associate Professor in Cultural Studies at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney.

Greg has been involved in engaged research in the broad area of multiculturalism for over twenty years. He has published widely on the relations between youth, ethnicity and inequality: see, for example, *Cultures of Schooling* (1990), *Kebabs, Kids, Cops and Crime* (2000) and *Bin Laden in the Suburbs* (2004), as well as many journal articles. He has also been involved in two key reports for the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) - *Living Diversity* (2002) and *Connecting Diversity* (2006) - as well as an important study of racism amongst Arab and Muslim Australians for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission. Dr Noble's recent ARC Linkage with the NSW Dept of Education, 'Discipline and Diversity: Cultural Difference and the Dispositions of Learning' looks at issues of cultural difference in schools and the relative opportunities created for and by children and young people of diverse backgrounds. His current research plans involve ethnographies of intercultural co-habitation, social civility and the complexities of recognition.

His many interests connect in various ways with the politics of 'listening' in multicultural societies. An initial motivation of his research was the desire to provide adequate opportunities for the voices of marginalised communities to be heard. Another interest has been to examine the forms of intercultural dialogue that currently happen but are rarely captured in public debate or media coverage of cultural diversity. A third and more recent concern has been to move away from a reductive politics of ethnic representation and a naive progressivist celebration of the marginalised voice to a sustained interrogation of the embodied capacities and cultural capital of listening, the dispositions of everyday cosmopolitanism.

Penny O'Donnell

Penny O'Donnell is Senior Lecturer in International Media and Journalism at the University of Sydney.

Penny has been involved in research and teaching about improving Australian journalism standards for some fifteen years. She has published several book chapters and various articles on questions of change in journalism, including in the areas of reporting of Indigenous and cross-cultural issues, general news and current affairs, and global conflict. Penny's recent research focuses on community media in the local government area of Marrickville. Funded through the inaugural 2007 UTS Shopfront Community Engagement Fellowship, it looks beyond the national multicultural broadcaster, SBS, for community-based media practices that promote inter-cultural recognition, respect and exchange. The Marrickville research opened up various questions about media cultures, particularly in relation to the ways individuals and communities use media to listen as well as speak to each other. Penny's current research plans involve experiential and theoretical exploration of media listening practices that aim to develop social capacity for more open forms of communication, particularly amongst those involved in struggles for justice in the global political context. Key themes include the place of silence in media cultures, media listening skills and practices, and listening and media/journalism reform.

Penny coordinates *The Listening Project* with Tanja Dreher and Justine Lloyd. This research grew from our awareness that in a world of abundant digital media, it is no longer enough to train, support and investigate new media voices and new ways of speaking in the media. Not only do we face the problems of cacophony and information overload but also there are real doubts about the Internet's capacity to engender collective, respectful and culturally diverse forms of sociality. Inspired by some of the leading theorists of alternative and radical media practices (John Downing, Clemencia Rodriguez and Nick Couldry), we decided to turn our attention to the neglected dynamics of media listening, to demands for the 'right to be heard', and to media practices that refer to 'listening' rather than 'speaking/voice' as a metaphor for democratic media participation and change. Penny will convene a workshop on 'Listening Practices' in October 2008.

Aneta Podkalicka

Aneta Podkalicka has recently completed her PhD degree in Media and Communication at Creative Industries, Queensland University of Technology, funded by the Australian government's International Postgraduate Research Scholarship. Her current research interests include multicultural broadcasting policy, translation and inter-cultural communication. Her PhD thesis *Lost in Translation? Language policy, media and community in the EU and Australia: some lessons from SBS* draws on Aneta's extensive fieldwork into multilingual broadcasting and media translation practices in Europe and Australia (e.g. BBC WS, Deutsche Welle, ARTE, and SBS). She holds master degrees in European Culture and Economics, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany and Linguistics, University of Wroclaw, Poland.

Aneta is interested in the practices of listening to radio, specifically the logic of multicultural radio in dealing with the hybrid cultural realities of Europe and Australia. Her interviews with broadcasters and media policy makers highlighted the need to demystify and critically engage with a celebratory and often too abstract notion of 'intercultural dialogue' espoused by many multicultural radio or TV broadcasters. It has been argued that a 'well-meaning' multicultural radio can be often 'too multicultural' (Marenbach, 2005); in other words, too demanding for the listener. That debate prompts a set of questions that I would like to explore: - how are modes of listening developed and learned? What are the creative possibilities of mediated 'heteroglossia' and 'dialogue' (Bakhtin, 1981)? What are the material differences in the outlook, or cosmopolitan disposition of participants (e.g. between the endemic and immigrant populations)? What are the differences in consumption patterns between a so-called 'background, accompaniment radio' and a radio that one seeks out for particular programmes (noting that multicultural and international broadcasting is usually in the latter category)? What are the possibilities of elaborating a functional media policy and media model of 'cultural Esperanto' (Morley, 2000), especially in the face of international conflicts and domestic tensions?

These considerations are inherent in my work on translation (or interpretation) - a key metaphor for the bridging of differences and establishing connections across difference in a globalising world. As Michael Cronin argues: 'Translation on a planet which currently has more than 6,000 language communities is increasingly complex and challenging. The last thing we want in the Echoland that is our planet is to be condemned to the sounds of our own voices' (Cronin, 2003: 7).

Julie Posetti

Julie Posetti is an award winning former ABC journalist with experience in both television and radio at the national level - in news, current affairs and documentaries. Her career highlights include winning the 1996 Australian Human Rights Award for Radio; being a Walkley finalist in the Investigative Journalism category; a posting to the Canberra Press Gallery as a political correspondent for the influential ABC Radio Current Affairs program AM and the production of an ABC radio documentary about returning to the Italian village from which her ancestors emigrated to Australia.

Her professional practice is focussed on listening: to interviewees; sources and the sounds that enliven broadcast reports. As a lecturer, she teaches her students that the most important skill they possess as interviewers is the capacity to listen. This is also a position that informs her academic research.

While she continues to freelance for the ABC and online publications, with a focus on politics and social justice issues, she is now a journalism lecturer at the University of Canberra where she teaches radio and television reporting. She was awarded the 2005 Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and in 2007 she won a national Carrick Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning in journalism education.

Ms Posetti is currently researching a PhD on the Australian broadcast media's coverage of Muslim women and she is the University of Canberra's Chief Investigator on the national research project, Reporting Diversity (www.reportingdiversity.org.au). In this capacity, she has undertaken a case study on radio reportage of Muslim women; overseen the development of a research database on reporting and multiculturalism; and she is working on a sub-project examining the role of Talkback radio in multicultural Australia. Ms Posetti's research interests also extend to public broadcasting, reporting and racism, and political journalism. She has published her research within Australian and international academic journals.

She is also a blogger (www.j-scribe.com) who enjoys listening to and interacting with her readers.

Cate Thill

Dr Cate Thill is a lecture in Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Project Officer for the Listening Project and member of the Cultural Research Network.

Cate has an on-going research interest in the topic of 'listening'. One of the questions that arose from her PhD research concerns the politics of voice and the practice of listening in the context of Welfare to Work policy. In particular, she is working on a new project that considers the possibility of cultivating an ethos of critical responsiveness (Connolly, 2002) towards the voices of marginalised people and groups.

Additionally, Cate is working on a project on Indigenous welfare reform, which examines the practice of selective listening to Indigenous voices. Her research in this area has been recognized by the receipt of an ARC Cultural Research Network Award in 2007.

Amanda Wise

Dr Amanda Wise is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion at Macquarie University. Amanda is an interdisciplinary researcher working at the intersection of sociology, cultural studies and urban anthropology. Her research into issues surrounding multiculturalism and migration draws primarily on ethnographic and qualitative cultural research methodologies. Her research interests include multiculturalism; racism and interethnic relations; diasporic, transnational and migrant communities; ethnicities; national and cultural identities; the senses, affect, and embodiment; forms of hope and belonging in urban Australia; cultural attachments and formations of place, hope and belonging in suburban Australia especially in relation to multicultural neighbourhoods; and developing theoretically and ethnographically informed anti-racism and 'social cohesion' interventions.

Recent and current projects:

Her recent research project 'Contact Zones' explored the quotidian dimensions of 'inhabiting diversity' in suburban Australia. She has also undertaken commissioned research to develop community based anti-racism and social cohesion strategies, most recently involving interventions to improve relations between Muslim and non-Muslim Australians. She is also researching (with Dr Velayutham) short term migrant workers in a project entitled '*Transnational Affect and the Moral Economies of Temporary Skilled Migration of South Indians to Australia*'.

Selected Relevant publications:

Forthcoming. (eds.) with Selvaraj Velayutham. *Everyday Multiculturalism*. Houndsmills, England: Palgrave Macmillan.

Forthcoming. 'Sensuous Multiculturalism: Emotional Landscapes of Interethnic Living in Australian Suburbia', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Wise, Amanda. Inhabiting Multiculturalism. Manuscript in progress.

Wise, Amanda (2007) "*Its just an attitude that you feel*": *Inter-ethnic Habitus before the Cronulla Riots*, in Lines the Sand, G. Noble (ed). Institute of Criminology Press

Wise, Amanda (2006) Exile & Return Among the East Timorese University of Pennsylvania Press.

Wise, Amanda (2005) *Hope and Belonging in a Multicultural Suburb*. Journal of Intercultural Studies. Issue 1/2.

2005 '*Moral Economies of a Translocal Village: Obligation and Shame among South Indian Transnational Migrants*', in *Global Networks: Journal of Transnational Affairs*, Volume 5(1) January 2005 (with Selvaraj Velayutham)

Cristina Wulforth

Cristina Wulforth is presently a PhD scholarship candidate at the University of Western Sydney Centre for Cultural Research. Her research is on hybridization processes through cultural manifestations, emphasizing on the relations among Brazilians and Australians in Sydney. She has a Bachelor degree of Psychology from the UNISINOS (Brazil) and a specialization on Intercultural Communication and Cooperantion from the Munich University of Applied Sciences. She has worked in a Research Fellowship funded by the Work and Social Subject Ministry at MIGRACOM (Observatory and Research group about Migration and Communication) at the Universidad Autónoma of Barcelona and is filiated to the Bi-lateral Project of academic cooperation Brazil-Spain(CAPES-MECD) *Media and Interculturality: study of media strategies of the contemporary migration on the Brazilian and Spanish contexts and its repercussion on the media construction of European Union and Mercosul*, Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS) and Universidade Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB). Recently she assisted the production of a documentary concerning the transnationalism of capoeira , entitled "Capoeira(a)cross the seas" (Sydney, November 2007). She also was producer assistant and interviewer of two other documentaries in Brazil and Spain concerning media and migration, having as topic "how immigrants voice and are 'voiced'". Both of them were presented at the Forum of Cultures in Barcelona (2004) and World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (2005). In Barcelona and Porto Alegre she worked as volunteer of NGOs with immigrants.

Cristina has been concerned about the role of media (mainstream and participative) on immigrants subjectification processes since she was a Psychology graduate student in Brazil. From 2002 to 2005 she worked as a research assistant at the Media and Multiculturalism research group, working in the Department of Social Communication Sciences. Her interest in listening lies on how immigrants are given voice and express themselves through the many means of communication, verbal and non-verbal, written or by images.

Research interests

The role and relevance of media regarding the migration experience; virtual communities as a device to develop diasporas and hibridisation processes; pattern media discourse regarding particular immigrants groups (ex: exoticism about capoeira and Brazil)

Plans:

- Finishing the PhD thesis on August 2009
- writing a book based on the research entitled "Blurring Boundaries: reconfiguring Brazilian identities in Sydney" ;
- mediating research corporations among Brazilian and Australian research groups about Latin American immigration and participative media.

Workshop Readings

Bickford, Susan. 1996. "The Genuine Conditions of Our Lives": Feminist Theorizing and Political Action. In *The Dissonance of Democracy: Listening, Conflict, and Citizenship*, 95-139. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

Husband, Charles. 2000. Media and the Public Sphere in Multi-Ethnic Societies. In *Ethnic Minorities and the Media*, ed Simon Cottle, 199-214. Buckingham and Philadelphia: Open University Press.