New ALAIC Working Group on CFSC

The Communication for Social Change Working Group of the Latin American Association of Communication Research (ALAIC) met for the first time at the 8th ALAIC Congress, in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil, from 19 to 22 July 2006. The new Working Group was created in 2006 and is coordinated by Alfonso Gumucio-Dagron. This is the only existing group of the kind in any of the large associations of communication researchers, and in spite of being brand new, it has received already 14 affiliations from five countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Perú. Erick Torrico, the President of ALAIC, opened the first session saying that “ALAIC needed a working group that would focus on communication and society, and would at the same time fly high, with rigour and serious work”. The WG-CFSC organised three sessions this year, including experiences, methodological and theoretical contributions from colleagues from the above mentioned countries.

One of the sessions focused on a network of community radio in Colombia that struggles to bring peace to a region that has been long victim of internal war. A documentary, titled *Voices of Magdalena*, was shown for the first time at the event. The video documentary is a co-production of the Communication for Social Change Consortium and Universidad Javeriana de Bogota.

The ALAIC WG-CFSC has it's own website where all members are listed, and their presentations at the Congress have been stored: http://alaic.gt.ccs.googlepages.com/

The Anthology is out (in English)

*The Communication for Social Change Anthology: Historical and Contemporary Readings* is finally out. The thick book of 1,068 pages is the result of more than three years of work by Alfonso Gumucio-Dagron and Thomas Tufte, the editors, with support from staff at the Communication for Social Change Consortium. The *Anthology* gathers 200 texts and excerpts from 150 authors that have been influential in the evolution of communication for development and social change since the 1960s. For the first time, seminal texts by authors from Latin America, Africa and Asia have been included. The English version is sold at the Consortium website and will be officially launched at the World Congress of Communication for Development, in Rome, next October. The Spanish version is on the works and will be available early in 2007.

There is no development without communication

Communication specialists of the Latin American region met in preparation of the World Congress of Communication for Development (WCCD), in Rome, next October. Calandria, a leading Peruvian NGO specialised in communication convened a seminar in Lima, which gathered some of the most important organisations dealing with communication for development and social change in the region, such as: AMARC, FAO, Demus, Onda Rural, The Communication for Social Change Consortium, Iniciativa de Comunicación, FELAFACS, CECIP, WACC, CAMECO, Oxfam, OCLACC, AVINA and ALER. The seminar, titled There is no development without Communication, analysed the current approaches of communication for development and social change that are currently in use by large development agencies, and criticized the absence or participatory approaches.

More information: www.calandria.org.pe

XII FELAFACS congress in Bogota

No other region in the world has so many universities with studies in information, communication and mass media than Latin America. More than 300, out of the +600 hundred departments are currently affiliated to the Latin American Federation of Social Communication Faculties (FELAFACS), which this year celebrates 25 years of existence and will gather in Bogota (Colombia) for its XII Congress, on September 25-28. The event has been organised with the support from Universidad Javeriana de Bogota. Around one thousand participants are expected.

More: http://www.javeriana.edu.co/felafacs2006/inicio.html

First Latin American Forum on Community Radio

The First Latin American Forum on Community Radio organised by the Ibero-American University of Mexico will take place in Mexico City next September 5-6. The Forum will focus on the role of community radio in development from the perspective of culture and participation. The idea is to initiate a dialogue on new studies and experiences in Latin America, and the theoretical-methodological difficulties to build the subject of study. Five researchers have been invited to lead the forum and will intervene in this order: Alfonso Gumucio Dagron (Communication for Social Change Consortium), José Manuel Ramos y Antoni Castells (Universidad de Las Américas, Puebla), Eugenio Bermejillo (Organización de Comunicadores Populares “Boca de Polen”), e Inés Cornejo Portugal, who organised the event (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico).

Information: Inés Cornejo Portugal <icportugal@hotmail.com>
FISEC meets in Granada

The 4th Iberoamerican Forum of Communication Strategies (IV Foro Iberoamericano sobre Estrategias de Comunicación – FISEC) will meet again in Granada, Spain, from September 20 to 22, 2006. The meeting aims to “present and debate experiences, methods, models and approaches (both theoretical and applied) that represent advancement and effective progress in the construction of new forms of designing strategies, closer to the challenges and opportunities of our world today”. More than 200 experts from 16 countries and 60 universities of Latin America and Spain will discuss communication for development with representatives from leading development organisations, private sector companies and government agencies.


Canalé

The little monkey on the left is number zero, year one, of a new Latin American communication journal. We are talking here of communication for development and social change, not journalism or mass media. A wealth of articles and interviews contribute to further the reflection on communication for development: “We aim to cover the main themes of or approach to this specialised field, which uses theories, methodological tools and and field activities to get us closer to the indispensable utopia that development is, its idea and its realisation.” Canalé is published under the direction of Hugo Aguirre, at the Faculty of Arts Sciences and Communication of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru, where our colleague Luis Peirano, a member of this network, is the Dean. Very soon, Canalé will be available on the web.

Contact: Hugo Aguirre <haguirre@pucp.edu.pe>

We would like to receive more information on the activities that other universities in the network are conducting: events, publications, agreements, etc. Please send it to: Gumucio@cfsc.org