



## Disability, Democracy, Media & Listening

Workshop presented as part of The Listening Project

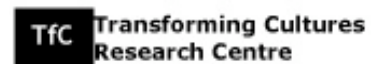
Friday 10 October 2008, 10 am - 4 pm

University of New South Wales

Conveners: Prof. Gerard Goggin & Rosemary Kayess (UNSW)

Followed by tribute to Professor Christopher Newell, AM

Sponsored by the ARC Cultural Research Network & the Transforming Cultures Research Centre, University of Technology, Sydney; in conjunction with the Journalism & Media Research Centre (JMRC) & Disability Studies & Research Centre, UNSW



## **Workshop Program**

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**10.00am-10.15am: Welcome** and opening by Mr Graeme Innes, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner

**10.15am-10.30am: Introduction** to 'Listening' project, and idea of 'Disability, Democracy, Media and Listening' workshop

Speakers: Tanja Dreher (UTS); Gerard Goggin (UNSW)

**10.30am-11.30am: SESSION ONE: 'Disability and Listening'**: what does disability suggest about listening?

Facilitator: Rosemary Kayess (UNSW)

Speakers: Fiona Kumari Campbell (Griffith); Leanne Dowse (UNSW); Michael Bleasdale (PWD); Neil Marcus (Berkeley, CA); Petra Koppers (Michigan)

**11.30am-11.45am: Morning tea**

**11.45am-12.45pm: SESSION TWO: 'Laws and Listening'**: The experience and implications of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Facilitator: Karen Fisher (UNSW)

Speakers: Rosemary Kayess (UNSW); Alistair McEwin (Combined Community Legal Services NSW); Heidi Forrest (PWD)

**12.45-1.30pm: Lunch**

**1.30-2.30pm: SESSION THREE: 'Media and Technology'**

Chair: Helen Meekosha (UNSW)

Speakers: Katie Ellis (UWA); Kath Duncan (Griffith); Gerard Goggin (UNSW)

**2.30pm-3.30pm: SESSION FOUR: 'Democracy and Disability'**

Chair: Gerard Goggin (UNSW)

Speakers: Robbie Lloyd (Centre for Remote Health); Anna Hickey-Moody (Monash); Helen Meekosha (UNSW)

**3.30pm-3.45pm: Reflections, summing up & close**

Speakers: Gerard Goggin (UNSW) & Rosemary Kayess (UNSW)

**4pm-5pm: Tribute for Professor Christopher Newell, AM; refreshments served**

## **The Listening Project: Background**

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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:

#### **Listening Practices**

31 October 2008, USyd

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

#### **Publications Workshop**

14 November 2008, UTS

## **Workshop Rationale**

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In rich and suggestive senses, listening has emerged as a pivotal theme in contemporary, critical understandings of disability. Accordingly this workshop seeks to explore the practices, ethics and politics of listening from the perspective of critical disability studies, new social forms and relations of disability, the reshaping of disability institutions, and the movements around disability. Thinking about disability and listening has much potential to open up fertile new ways to conceive democracy and media -- and to challenge, and cross-fertilize, discussions of recognition, inclusion, social change, power, citizenship, culture, and indeed the nature of what is to be human.

## **Framing Questions**

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### **SESSION ONE: 'Disability and Listening'**

What models of listening are suggested by the experiences and concepts generated by disability communities and critical thinking about disability?

What does thinking listening through disability add to other discussions of listening, representation and democracy?

What might an ethics of disability and listening appear like?

How can ideas about disability and listening be brought into contact with wider conversations and accounts of listening?

### **SESSION TWO: 'Laws and Listening': The experience and implications of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

What is the role of law in setting frameworks for who has rights to be listened to, or who speaks, and who is compelled to listen?

What did the experience of fashioning the UN convention add to our understanding of how listening can operate in new, more effective and fairer ways in international law making and human rights?

What does the UN convention imply for how nation-states enact structures of listening for their citizens? What are the obligations of the convention regarding how people with disabilities now need to be listened to and participate in society? In media? With respect to technology?

### **SESSION THREE: 'Media and Technology'**

What kinds of listening technologies are associated with disability? What of the new media technologies -- blogs, Second Life, mobiles -- that are being used by people with disabilities to devise new ways of mediated listening? And of the new forms of disability that are being created through these? What are the structures of listening in media when it comes to people with disability?

### **SESSION FOUR: 'Democracy and Disability'**

What are the techniques and methods that governments and societies use for listening to their citizens -- and where do citizens with disabilities fit in? Or challenge these norms of political and public communication, consultation, and decision-making?

What does consideration of disability and listening suggest for reconfiguring democracy?

How do we move beyond disability-as-other to enacting various kinds of listening at a large societal and political level? How do we connect this larger project to everyday acts and ethics of listening?

## Participants

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<b>Gerard Goggin</b>	Workshop Convenor, University of New South Wales
<b>Rosemary Kayess</b>	Workshop Convenor, University of New South Wales
<b>Tanja Dreher</b>	Project Convenor, University of Technology, Sydney
<b>Penny O'Donnell</b>	Project convenor, University of Sydney
<b>Cate Thill</b>	Project Officer, University of Technology, Sydney
<b>Kath Albury</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>Vicki Bamford</b>	University of Technology, Sydney
<b>Michael Bleasdale</b>	People with Disability
<b>Jessica Cadwallader</b>	Macquarie University
<b>Fiona Kumari Campbell</b>	Griffith University
<b>Alissar Chidiac</b>	University of Technology, Sydney
<b>Jeffrey Cohen</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>Leanne Dowse</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>Kath Duncan</b>	Griffith
<b>Katie Ellis</b>	University of Western Australia
<b>Karen Fisher</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>Heidi Forrest</b>	People with Disability
<b>Bradley Foxlewin</b>	University of Western Sydney
<b>Caroline Hamilton</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>Anna Hickey- Moody</b>	Monash University
<b>Graeme Innes</b>	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
<b>Mike Kent</b>	University of Brighton
<b>Petra Koppers</b>	University of Michigan
<b>Robbie Lloyd</b>	Centre for Remote Health
<b>Lyn Maciver</b>	
<b>Neil Marcus</b>	University of Berkeley, CA
<b>Nicole Matthews</b>	Macquarie University
<b>Alastair McEwin</b>	Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW)
<b>Alison McLaren</b>	Accessible Arts
<b>Helen Meekosha</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>Robert Morsillo</b>	Telstra
<b>Baden Offord</b>	Southern Cross University
<b>Janet Owens</b>	Deakin University
<b>Glenn Redmayne</b>	Marrickville Council
<b>Russell Shuttleworth</b>	University of Sydney
<b>Joyce Tang</b>	Macquarie University
<b>John Tebbutt</b>	La Trobe University
<b>Joanne Travaglia</b>	University of New South Wales

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