

Community Media Review 25:2 (Summer 2002): 33.

Selected Resources for the Access Practitioner/Philosopher

ORGANIZATIONS

Our Media, Not Theirs

A one day gathering of scholars and practitioners of alternative media from around the world to discuss practical and theoretical issues within “alternative,” “radical,” “community,” “citizens” media. The focus is primarily on the Americas and Europe. The 2001 conference was in Washington, D.C.; the 2002 gathering is scheduled for July 20 in Barcelona. Information and papers from the conferences are available on the Our Media website:

<http://faculty.menlo.edu/~jhiggins/ourmedia>

Union for Democratic Communication (UDC)

This organization brings together activists in academics and community-based media to explore issues within alternative media.

www.udc.org

BOOKS

The Daily Planet: A Critic on the Capitalist Culture Beat, by Patricia Aufderheide. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

This collection of essays by cultural critic and public intellectual Pat Aufderheide explores a range of issues related to the practice and culture of media in the U.S. and around the world. Topics include film, broadcasting, the Internet, media literacy, public policy, as well as access cable television's contribution to the public sphere. International concerns concentrate on cinema and grassroots video in Latin America.

Fissures in the Mediascape: An International Study of Citizens' Media, by Clemencia Rodriguez. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton, 2001.

Rodriguez presents four international case studies in grassroots electronic media, framing the discussion within the context of the democratization of communication and the survival of cultural identities. She explores numerous instances of “citizen's media” around the world, and focuses on instances in revolutionary Nicaragua in the 1980s; Catalonia, Spain; Colombia; and Latino radio in the U.S. Rodriguez provides a context for understanding the manner in which “citizen's media” contribute to social change.

Hand-held Visions: The Uses of Community Media, by DeeDee Halleck. New York: Fordham University Press, 2002.

Media activist and film/video maker DeeDee Halleck shares stories and thoughts from her three decades of experience with community-based media in the U.S. and around the world. The essays that make up this book are drawn from diary entries, articles, conference keynote addresses and presentations. Halleck thoughtfully combines people's stories, case studies, personal experiences, and theoretical frameworks to make the case for grassroots-oriented media and national/international policies that encourage community media. Topics touch on the origins of Paper Tiger TV, Deep Dish Network, and Gulf Crisis TV Project; public access cable television as an international model of community-based media; women and media; international examples of alternative media; and the Indy Media Center movement. The book includes a timeline of technology and alternative media -- a helpful tool for anyone exploring the history of media industries and media activism in the U.S.

Jamming the Media: A Citizen's Guide: Reclaiming the Tools of Communication, by Gareth Branwyn. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1997.

Branwyn explains how to use public access television, the internet, film, radio, 'zines, and other media -- from conception, through production, to distribution.

Radical Media: Rebellious Communication and Social Movements, by John Downing, with Tamara Villareal Ford, Genève Gil, and Laura Stein. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2001.

Downing, et. al., present a theoretical framework in which to consider "radical," "alternative" media, including notions of audience, power, hegemony, community, and the public sphere. Organizational models of radical media are discussed. Various media in Europe and the U.S. are explored, including print, radio, video, the Internet, community radio, and public access television.

The Video Activist Handbook. 2nd ed., by Thomas Harding. London: Pluto Press, 1997.

Harding provides examples of video activism around the world, as well as skills and strategies for pursuing social change using video as a tool.

PUBLICATIONS

Community Media Review -- 25th Anniversary Issue (24.2: Summer 2001).

This issue of the *CMR*, a publication of the Alliance for Community Media, highlights the 25th anniversary of the Alliance (formerly the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers). Historical and philosophically-oriented articles trace the roots of access in the U.S. and the continuing use of grassroots-based, democratic media in the struggle for a more equitable society. A must for everyone interested in the roots and current state of affairs of the community access video movement in the U.S.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS:

Alternative Media (Culture, Representation, and Identity), by Chris Atton. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage, 2002.

The Place of Media Power: Pilgrims and Witnesses of the Media Age, by Nick Couldry. London: Routledge, 2000.

Public Access Television: America's Electronic Soapbox, by Laura R. Linder. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 1999.

Rising Up: Class Warfare in America from the Streets to the Airwaves, by Richard Edmondson. San Francisco: Librad Press, 2000.

Subject to Change: Guerrilla Television Revisited, by Deidre Boyle. New York: Oxford UP, 1997.

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