

Radio-Audio-Sound – research and practice:

ANZCA09: Communication, Creativity and Global Citizenship conference stream

QUT Creative Industries Precinct, Brisbane, Australia, July 8-10, 2009
www.anzca09.org <http://www.anzca09.org>

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As a broadcast media Radio is renowned for its protean nature. In community media it has a pre-eminent place as a form of popular expression. But online radio stations can broadcast from bedrooms. Pirates are privatised in web streaming. In the newsrooms 'convergence' raises questions of quality for production values and content. In the commercial world generally the long-delayed 'digital radio' again indicates the impasse of policy and vested interests that haunts Australian media in times of technological modernisation. Overseas digital radio is also in difficulties: to what extent are international experiences also the result of vested interests – Nokia (Finland), the BBC (England), the satellite industry (America)? In the larger networked world online, radio is once again being reinvented – as 'audio'. It is integrated into web design and in public broadcasting Radio National podcasts of former radio programs has become programming's *raison d'être*. While audio is still the primary function of most mobile phone use, debates on 'texting' and the use of screens are changing the way this audio technology is perceived. At the same time the broader concept of 'sound' is integrated into museums and public space. A groundbreaking exhibition of sound art was curated for this year's Melbourne International Arts Festival. And there is an increased emphasis on the role of listening in social and political contexts, as evidenced by the ARC funded Cultural Research Network's *Listening Project* workshops.

This stream aims to gauge current work taking place in radio-audio-sound research in Australian and overseas. It looks to explore the personal and production implications of radio and audio practices in an era of mobile media, social networking and the internet. Some questions to be discussed could include:

- how has the turn to 'listening' impacted on research and practice in relation to audio?
- What new histories of audio are required to trace the way in which the mobile phones, home-based mixing, podcasting and webcasting have developed?
- what is the relationship between screen and audio in personal mobile devices?
- how is radio broadcasting adapting to new technologies? What is the future for digital radio?
- What are the futures for Community media? Public broadcasting? Commercial radio?
- what is the impact of podcasting on the industry and audiences.

Abstracts and papers are due by Friday 5 February, 2009, and should be submitted directly to the ANZCA09 web site at www.anzca09.org

<http://www.anzca09.org>.

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