International Conference on Citizen and Community Media
Call for Papers & Presentations

Thursday 6 June to Friday 7 June 2019
at Deakin Downtown, Melbourne, Australia

Hosted by Deakin University, Australia
Supported by Australia India Council Grant & Community Broadcasting Association of Australia

Australian media partners – Geelong FM 94.7 (the Pulse) & Gippsland FM 104.7
International media partners – Ideosync Media Combine, CoMedialab.in,
Radio Active CR 90.4 MHZ (Jain University)

Deadline for individual and panel abstracts: 15 February 2019

Main Theme: Enhancing Community Media Enterprise

New media has provided citizens and communities with new opportunities to share information and news. Similar to traditional news media, community media enterprises have needed to adapt to utilise new technologies, such as streaming services, social media and mobile apps. The growth of citizen journalism also provides a new perspective on how information may be obtained and shared by individuals and in local communities. In recent years, there has been a renewed engagement with citizen and community media enterprises to provide a platform to local voices, including those of youth, women, seniors, culturally and linguistically diverse groups and other marginalised groups in society. New media technologies have been a blessing in disguise, imposing a cost on traditional community broadcasting enterprises, and yet removing entry barriers for citizens/individuals to become part of the community media landscape.

This conference explores how citizen and community media enterprises can be enhanced and their capabilities improved through new technologies, policies, infrastructures and collaborations, and tackling any hinderances to such innovation. The conference also provides a space for sharing of experiences and knowledge in citizen and community media enterprises across national borders.

We invite panels and papers that consider questions about capacity-building and knowledge-sharing in citizen and community media enterprises. For instance: Why community media? What hinders community media enterprises fully utilising new media technologies? What collaborations are facilitated by new media technologies to contribute towards sustaining community media enterprises? How can government policies and supported infrastructures help community media? What efforts are needed to enhance technological skills among participants to further broaden the entry of new voices as community media makers and broadcasters? What kind of innovation and collaborations do new technologies enable? The conference welcomes submissions from a broad range of fields, including journalism, media, culture, communication, sociology, politics and government policy, gender studies, religion, and more.

We invite abstracts for individual papers, or pre-constituted panels of four papers on any topic related to the conference theme. We are particularly interested in contributions from community media practitioners and scholars. The accepted abstracts will be published on the website and with the conference schedule.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:
- The role of community media
- The rise of citizen journalism
- Community news content and audiences
- Digital broadcasting
- Changing media technologies' impact on the community media sector
- Social media as a community information source
- Citizen media training and collaborations
- Citizen media and mainstream media
- Community media innovations
- Community media governance and funding
- Media representation and capabilities of minority communities

Individual and panel abstracts submissions due by: 15 February 2019

Submit to: *Conference Convener, Dr Usha M. Rodrigues, usha.rodrigues@deakin.edu.au*

Individual extended abstracts: Between 400-and-500 words, plus a 40-word biography of each author. Each accepted presentation will be for 15 minutes (equivalent of a 3000-word article)

Panel abstracts: Maximum 300-word overview, with 4 x 400-word extended abstract for each contribution plus 4 x 40-word biography, and contact details.

Notification of acceptance: 4 March 2019.

Please note that the conference registration website and social media accounts will be available from late-February 2019 onwards.