

Youth, Media and Culture in the Asia Pacific Region

An international symposium

Monash University, Melbourne 30th November and 1st December 2006

A two-day symposium exploring the practices and expanding field of research around youth and the media

The role of youth cultures is increasingly important in understanding the way the contemporary media sphere functions in many parts of the world. Moreover, the category of 'youth' is a constantly shifting construction, predicated on changing influences, technologies, markets and culturally constructed expectations.

The symposium conveners invite papers that address issues pertaining to youth media and culture in the Asia Pacific region, especially in regards to the following key themes:

1. Youth consumption and production of media.
2. Hybrid cultures, subcultures and issues of globalisation
3. The role of commercial media, public service broadcasting and community media.
4. The impact of new media, especially the manner in which it facilitates new formations of community and identity.

The convenors also welcome papers or panels in the following areas:

Transnational/transcultural media audiences
New Media Practices: mobile phone technology, internet, and gaming.
Diasporic and Indigenous Audiences
Fostering moving image producers
Youth countercultures
Journalism values of new generation
Changing Patterns in Media Use
Impact of Global Media and Globalising subcultures
Gendered youth audiences

This symposium aims to enhance the depth of understanding of the constantly shifting field of youth and media research through creating a space for dialogue between researchers working in Australia and those working in other parts of the Asia Pacific region. Central to this aim is the identification of the key concerns for scholars working in the region across different media, including traditional media such as print, television and radio and new media such as the internet, computer gaming, and mobile phone technology.

The diverse practices that are facilitated by media consumption and production attest to the way that, far from existing as a singular category, youth audiences are heterogeneous and constituted through diverse identities from gender to cultural specificity and geographical location. This contributes to the reality that the way young people use and identify with media is complex and predicated on changing influences, technologies, markets and culturally constructed expectations. From the perspective of industry and policy “youth audiences” are the fastest growing market for media but notoriously difficult to define and to reach. Moreover, there is increasing convergence across traditional mass media and new media, primarily the internet. New media not only exacerbates the tensions between local and global popular culture, which youth are particularly attuned to, it also provides more avenues for young people to participate in the production of media.

Youth, Media and Culture in the Asia Pacific Region aims to:

- Provide a greater depth of understanding across the field of youth and media research through creating a dialogue between researchers working across disciplines and across cultural borders. This dialogue will be enhanced through bringing three international speakers to share their perspectives on youth media research in the Asia Pacific.
- Offer an avenue through which to identify the key concerns for scholars working in the region in the analysis of different media, including traditional media such as print, television and radio and new media such as the internet, computer gaming, and mobile phone technology.
- Foster productive and ongoing collaboration between scholars, industry and community organisations. This will provide not only an opportunity for researchers to gain greater understanding of industry concerns, but also for media practitioners to expand their knowledge in the interests of adopting innovative approaches to catering to youth cultures.

Small travel and accommodation grants available for a limited number of postgraduate researchers. Please contact the symposium convenors for more information about funding.

All enquires to the Symposium convenors:

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