



Programme changes and errata

Wednesday 6 July

10:00-11:30

Panel 3: Women, Radio and Community Voices

Sandra Komuhiimbo's title and abstract have been updated from the abstract book:

Finding the women's voice

"There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women," Kofi Annan. Feminist scholars and women's rights activists argue that women owned media sites play a focal role in elevating the status of women in society, bringing more vibrancy to issues affecting women in the public sphere. In

Uganda, like many parts of Africa, radio remains a very crucial tool in everyday life yet surrounded by many tacit social, cultural and economic limitations, dominance and power. Mama FM, a women owned community radio set up in 1997 became the first women's radio station in Africa and only the third in the whole world. 19 years later questions arise, what has been the significance of this kind of initiative?

What have we learned from women owned radio in the fast changing media landscape? Do we still subscribe to the school of thought that women's radio can eliminate cultural and socio-economic barriers to women's access to information?

In my research on this topic, using Mama FM as a case study, I explored the representation and production of women's voices in civic media discussions and the construction of gender in radio content. In a nutshell, the results of this research re-echo the need for women's media spaces dedicated to nurturing and amplifying the women's voice.

This paper will discuss and highlight some of the key challenges faced by women's radio and its development in the contemporary media landscape. Additionally it documents the strengths and the need for sustainability of women's radio. One of the highlights of this paper is that even though women owned media sites such as Mama FM are groundbreaking, making undisputable progress in advancing women's issues, the promotion and centralization of women's voices and their participation in the media discussions remains low.

Thursday 7 July

14:00-15:30 **Panel 13: Narratives of Radio (JKH 2-3 1.10)** *Evan Spritzer will not be attending*

Len Kuffert's paper "Us and them: North American radio and the ease of listening" from panel 21 (Friday 10:00-11:30) has been moved to that slot.