

July 27, 9:00~10:30: Session (I-2) Room 1-103

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“Community cultural development through digital media production in Australia: Case studies of community arts projects with migrants and refugees in Western Sydney”

Key words

community cultural development, digital media, migrants

Abstract

Community arts organizations in Australia engage with migrants and refugees communities and promote community building and inclusion in the mainstream society through use of digital media such as digital story-telling, short filmmaking, theatre production as new models for Community Cultural Development. Despite a long history of community cultural development and community arts in Australia, Community Cultural Development in Australia is a broad term covering an enormous range of activities in the community. In 1987 Community Cultural Development became the official label in Australia for the first time as the former Community Arts Board was transferred to the new Community Cultural Development unit in the Australian Council. In 2006 a new ‘community partnerships’ program replaced CCD board in the Australian Council for the Arts. Community Partnerships program expects artists to collaborate with non-arts organizations such as health, education and housing sectors as Community Cultural Development workers. These Community Cultural Development projects attempt to engage ethnic communities and artists, not only to help migrants to learn digital media skills for literacy learning, but to build their cultural and community capacity and infrastructure, encourage intercultural dialogues between people in multicultural society.

Digital media can play a valuable role as a tool to help migrants and their children adjust to new environments and cultural citizenship. The practice of citizenship has usually been based on a conventional view of the public sphere that emphasizes political/civic rights and social rights. In the current circumstances of the multicultural societies, the concept of cultural citizenship for migrants and refugees has become more important in terms of identity and culture. It is fair to say that the discussion on cultural citizenship shows a shift in emphasis from equality and distributive justice to the topics about recognition of difference. The process through digital media production creates chances for ethnic minorities’ youth to speak up in Australian society and contributes to break stereo-typed images labeled on them by society. Furthermore, showcase events of their digital media production within local community create a space for listening for the mainstream society. The use of ICT and digital media in the everyday life of citizens enables unconventional expressions of participatory culture and promote cultural citizenship in globalized society. The aim of this paper is to investigate the current condition of Community Cultural Development through digital media production in Australia. Firstly, the paper will review the history of Community Cultural Development in Australia in relation to the discourse of multicultural policy. Secondly, based on interviews with artists of

community arts organization in Western Sydney and related government organizations, the paper will examine how digital media can be employed for community engagement between migrants and the local community and how it can help them achieve cultural citizenship through Community Cultural Development.

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