



2ND GERMAN-CANADIAN PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE The Global Village: Calamity or Chance?



Start: 27 May 2011, 12:00
End: 29 May 2011, 17:00
Venue: Embassy of Canada

As a prelude to the Centennial Weekend, The [2nd German-Canadian Professionals Conference](#), organised by the Deutsche-Kanadische Gesellschaft e.V. (DKG) and hosted by the Embassy of Canada in Germany, will take place on May 27, 2011.

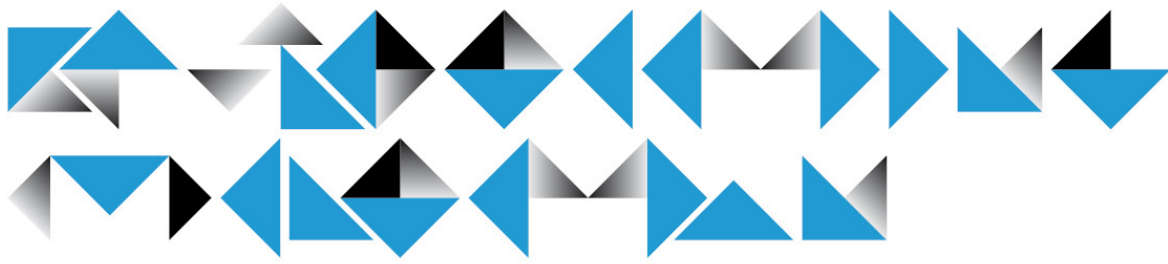
A McLuhan-inspired panorama will be offered which comes in four parts. It is entitled *Global Village – Calamity or Chance?* This overall theme is meant to cover contributions in three distinct fields of interest. The conference will assess the term 'global village' as (a.) de facto synonym for economic globalisation, (b.) prophecy regarding the emergence of a world wide web, and (c.) context for the development of contemporary cinema in a digitalised world.

The conference will be moderated by [Ariane de Hoog](#), Deutsche Welle TV, and keynotes will be [Brian Lee Crowley](#), founding Director, Macdonald-Laurier Institute (MLI) in Ottawa, [Linus Neumann](#), expert on the digital society, Berlin, and [Gundolf S. Freyermuth](#), Professor of Comparative Media Studies at the ifs international film school, Cologne, and Director of the Cologne Game Lab at the Cologne University of Applied Science.

A panel will round our interdisciplinary approach by bringing in additional perspectives and participants featuring [Klaus Haasis](#), CEO of MFG Public Innovation Agency for ICT, Creative Industries, Media and Film, Stuttgart, [Nandita Biswas Mellamphy](#), Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, UWO, London, ON, and [Mass Abedi](#), CEO, Abco Film Corp., Vancouver and Hamburg. The McLuhan expert [Derrick de Kerckhove](#) will lead the panel discussion.

For more information: <http://www.gcp-conference.de/2011/>





Participant Biographies



Brian Lee Crowley

Biography: Brian Lee Crowley has headed the Macdonald-Laurier Institute (MLI) in Ottawa since it opened its doors in March of 2010. He has a long and distinguished record in the think tank world. He was the founder of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) in Halifax, one of the country's leading regional think tanks. Crowley has published numerous books, including in 2009, *Fearful Symmetry: the fall and rise of Canada's founding values*, which quickly found its way onto the Canadian best seller lists. Crowley is a frequent commentator on political and economic issues across all media. He holds degrees from McGill and the London School of Economics, including a doctorate in political economy from the latter.

Linus Neumann

Biography: Linus Neumann, Dipl.-Psych. focussed his studies on personality and relationship psychology and minored in political sciences, where his interest in poststructuralist theories was awakened. He is co-founder of the children's book series "Mumpelmonster" and was engaged in various political areas and networks. Currently, his interests lay in information processing and decision making in grass-roots democratic structures and networks. He writes for the German blog netzpolitik.org and is a member of the recently founded NGO "Digitale Gesellschaft" which fights for digital civil rights. Without experiencing symptoms of cognitive dissonance, Linus Neumann is a strong advocate for both transparency and privacy.





Gundolf Freyermuth

Biography: Gundolf S. Freyermuth, Ph.D., is Professor of Comparative Media Studies at the ifs international film school, Cologne, and Director of the Cologne Game Lab at the Cologne University of Applied Science. Prior to his academic career, Freyermuth was an editor, reporter, and freelance writer covering film and digital media in Germany and the US. He has published 13 books of non-fiction and fiction and and appr. 500 essays, features and articles. His research focuses on digital audio-visibility, cross-mediality and network culture. Freyermuth holds dual German-American citizenship and lives in Cologne and Berlin.



Ariane de Hoog

Biography: Ariane de Hoog, completed her Masters and PhD at Cambridge University. She is an anchor in Berlin for the international TV station Deutsche Welle, providing business news around the globe. She works with academics, CEOs and CFOs of international businesses as well as research institute-directors, every day, to write the latest news stories and to anchor the Journal. Ariane moderates and presents at international conferences and events and also runs a media and speaker training business in Berlin. She was born in Nairobi, Kenya to a Canadian diplomatic father and German mother and grew up trilingual.





Klaus Haasis

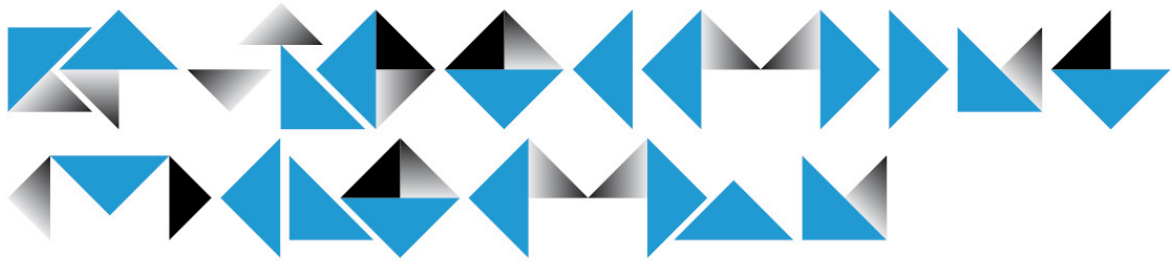
Biography: Klaus Haasis is the founding CEO of MFG Public Innovation Agency for ICT, Creative Industries, Media and Film in Stuttgart. As a media pioneer Haasis was part of the first wave of digitalization in the printing industry in the seventies, he designed the first business applications for the German online service Bildschirmtext and introduced computer animation to German industrial film in the eighties. He developed new formats and production methods for regional TV in the nineties. In the early 2000s he was a counsellor to policy makers regarding the founding of the University for Popular Music and Music Business in Mannheim and the merge of the Universities for Media and Library Science in Stuttgart.



Nandita Biswas Mellamphy

Biography: Dr. Nandita Biswas Mellamphy is Assistant Professor of Political Theory, and Core Faculty member in the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at The University of Western Ontario (London, Canada). Her research interests are situated at the intersection of Political Theory, Post-Humanist Theories of Technology, and Continental Philosophy. She is author of *The Three Stigmata of Friedrich Nietzsche: Political Physiology in the Age of Nihilism* (Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2011) and her work can be found in journals such as *Foucault Studies*, *Janus Head*, *Symposium*, *Paideusis*, *PhaenEx* and *Collapse*. She is co-translator of Gilbert Simondon's *The Mode of Existence of Technical Objects* (Semiotexte Series/MIT Press, forthcoming). Her current research focuses on 'larval terror,' the militarization of the contemporary political subject, and networkcentric theories of





war. Dr. Biswas Mellamphy is also a professional exponent of the classical Indian dance style of Bharatanatyam, and has also been training extensively in Spanish Classical Ballet and Flamenco.



Mass Abedi

Biography: Mass Abedi has been trained in Munich, Vancouver, and Calgary. He worked for Berlusconi's TELE 5 Network, the Kirch Group's German SportsNetwork DSF and the Plaza Media Broadcast Center. He held jobs as Production Manager and Supervising Producer. He brought his skills, expertise and contacts to various committees & organizations in British Columbia, focusing on the Winter Olympics 2010 in Vancouver & Whistler and various World Cups since 2007. Mass heads the Abco Film Corp. and recently launched his new weekly German language infotainment show AhornTV on OMNI TELEVISION, Canada's no one network for multicultural programming.



Derrick de Kerckhove

Biography: Derrick de Kerckhove, author of *The Skin of Culture* and *Connected Intelligence*, worked with Marshall McLuhan as translator and co-author and was Director of the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology from 1983 to 2008. Beside his interest in questions concerning communication, he supports new artistic developments that combine art, technology and emerged media communication. He is currently researching the effects of technology on the human consciousness. De Kerckhove is also the father of Angel_F, an Autonomous Non Generative E-volitive Life_Form. *Photo: Frieda A. Luk*

