**NCMR Evaluations**

Summary:

PLUS:

* Demographics: good mix re: age
* Demographics: good mix of community activists, media reform activists, and outlets

MINUS:

* Demographics: too focused on English language outlets
* Demographics: too focused on white/ dominant culture outlets (vs. ethnic media)
* Great sounding workshops didn’t deliver on promise (poor moderation, inadequate coverage of content)
* Hard to meet people outside your own sphere (i.e. to take advantage of conference pluses)

Full transcript of responses:

I think it would be great to have meet and greets (during lunch or happy hour?) organized by interest. I had difficulty meeting people who weren't somehow connected to [my outlet]. I felt pressure to network, but didn't know who would be best to network with.

I was also disappointed in the livestreaming workshop. It didn't cover what makes good content, or any of the ethical/legal issues and it barely touched on safety issues. It focused almost entirely on the equipment, and felt like they were just trying to get us to buy a bunch of fancy gadgets! I got to ask 1 question but it wasn't adequately answered. I think livestreaming is an important field/issue for the conference and I wish it was handled better.

Another great NCMR conference.  Good venue. Good age mix so it's not a bunch of 20-something college students banging on their bongos. I kinda liked the octogenarians busting political rhymes set to Christmas carols.

The conference was overly focused on English language media outlets.  While there were some great panels that didn't focus on this (for example "Native American Sovereignty and Media Rights"), there was no translation into other languages at events I attended and very little representation from media in other languages (for example Spanish language media).

We would ask that ethnic media be given a more significant platform for the event. This means they must be invited to speak, not just attend. Ethnic media's role in covering and informing our nation is critical and critically neglected by media on left and right -- to our loss. Please consider when devising panels inviting speakers with more of a multiplicity of views so that discussions are richer and more conducive toward generating real and substantive ideas regarding media reform and the future of the the media landscape.

It was good to have a mixture of community activists and media reform activists and see how they overlapped and sometimes contrasted in their approaches to solving problems. This mix also challenged each other to some degree and I think that led to healthy discussions.

A lot of the panel descriptions sounded much more interesting than they actually turned out to be. Moderators didn't really do a great job of asking interesting questions or leading interesting discussions. Too much of the panelists talks were not new stuff. I thought our media policy discussion was very good, however.

a) no focus on non-english souces (spanish media is huge! and also faces consolidation problems)

b) very US centered, may have been interesting to know how international media compares. There was one panel i attended which was very interested. For example, i'm very curious to know what Israeli media is like, who owns it, how its consolidated and how small locally based media is challenging propaganda there.

c) many of the discussions were difficult to follow for those of us who are not hackers or policy wonks. they required a good deal of translation. It would be good to remind speakers that they're trying to explain technology and policy with the assumption that we dont know anything about them.  OR, we could level the workshops so that we know whether we're going to a beginner workshop on policy or an intermediate workshop on coding for journalists.

I loved it. I was torn about the number and length of panels; I appreciated that allowing 90 minutes instead of 60, say, let us go more in-depth on some of these things, and I appreciated the breaks because it helped stem conference-glut. But I also might have liked to go to a few more panels on a few more topics, even if I spent less time in each. I panel-hopped a few times, but that gets frustrating to come into the middle of a conversation somewhere without context. I also really wanted to try the hands-on stations, but I always felt like I couldn't because there was a really important or interesting panel going on at the same time, so I wish those had been available during off-peak times.