**Exploring remoteness and social capital through community Media in Kyrgyzstan**

This presentation is based on research that maps the communicative ecology of mountainous communities with the aim of exploring the role remoteness plays in shaping communicative environments. In this presentation we are exploring remoteness through the lenses of social capital and social cohesion, communicative sociality, conviviality, communicative rhizomes and storytelling networks created by community members, community agents and local media. The research draws on our observations and interviews in remote mountainous communities in Kyrgyzstan and data from the Life in Kyrgyzstan research database’s Social Capital and Social Cohesion component. These mountainous communities share common characteristics and they are also experiencing a community radio trend that is reshaping, and in turn shaped by, their communicative ecologies, redefining the way they experience their communicative sociality. We see communicative practices of remote communities as part of a more fluid interconnected network system that embraces both individual and collective agents, reflecting strong reciprocal relationships that are necessary for living in remote areas. The communicative ecology of the examined communities contains several elements of what makes remote communities resilient. These elements include a localised information landscape and dynamics of production, movement, access, use and impact based on local information needs, social trust and agents of change/cultural enablers. Resilience is seen here as a culturally mediated response to some of the challenges remote communities often face, including heavy weather patterns, aging population and depopulation. This presentation explores aspects of resilience within the context of remoteness through the mapping of their communicative ecology and discusses the role of community radio in building social capital.

* Distinguish between isolation and remoteness