



**SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JULY 13-14, 2009**

Getting Past The Barbed Wireless: Protecting Speech In An Increasingly Censored Web

Monday, July 13, 2009, 3:45 – 5:15pm

Facilitator :

Gene Kimmelman, Consumer/Telecommunications Policy Expert

Panelists:

Beatriz Garcia Buitrago, President, Consumidores Argentinos (Consumers of Argentina); Andrew Puddephatt, Founding Director, Global Partners and Associates; Xiao Qiang, Director, China Internet Project & Founder of Human Rights in China

Session Organizer:

Jenny Toomey, Program Officer (Media Rights and Access), Ford Foundation

Sponsor:

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Freedom of expression (FoE) is essential to human life and human self-realization. Digital networked communications are transforming and disrupting platforms for FoE, in traditional media and government. We are witnessing a truly democratic media and communications environment controlled neither by governments nor private interests.

Increasingly, the reaction of many policy makers, particularly in traditionally closed societies, is to stifle this new environment. This session explored specific legal and organizing opportunities to unleash the global potential of digital communications to enhance democracy and human rights and what action was needed to ensure that its positive potential is harnessed for the public good.