

Recommendation of "*How to turn voices into community change*"

The online training course on "*How to turn voices into community change*" was to me a very valuable introduction to the real, practical world of community radio. The trainer, Birgitte Jallov, has a lifetime of experience working with community radios in many parts of the world, and the rich examples from the chapters of her book "*EMPOWERMENT RADIO - voices building a community*", her inspired audio lectures and additional cases shared in the modules made 'community radio' live to me, with a clear development and empowerment perspective.

As a master student I have studied Journalism and International Development for three years and international social science for two years, and I feel quite well equipped theoretically. But this 7-week training course gave me a very different perspective at the theories, and things that I believed through my books and discussions at the university, I now understand in a very different way.

For me this online course was perfect. It was made up by 7 modules of one week duration. Every week we got a couple of chapters from Birgitte's book, some audio presentations, models and figures, and examples to turn the ideas practical to download and work with. At the same time, three questions were shared in our debate forum, dealing with the issues of the course. Each question were answered and discussed by the participants in the course until the next module brought new issues on the table. The online discussions were really interesting, with participants from 20 different countries. A lot of additional issues, experiences and challenges were discussed among us, the participants - and with the trainer regularly following up, leaving no questions unanswered.

I warmly recommend this course to students interested in Communication for Development, community media or development studies in general. With the insights and understanding that this course brought, I know that I will be much better equipped to perform my master's thesis' field study at a radio in Tanzania next month. I know a lot more about what issues to expect, and I know from the course and from my fellow participants how issues are being tackled in so many ways - for empowerment and sustainability.

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Camilla Simonsen
Master Student
Journalism and International Development
Roskilde University
Denmark