

Preface

Beyond the Impasse: Exploring new thinking in communication for social change is the title of this Special Issue of *Nordicom Review* edited by Pradip Ninan Thomas, Associate Professor at the School of Communication and Arts, University of Queensland, Australia.

This publication should be seen as an extension of the *Nordicom Review Special Issue* published in 2012, entitled *Communication, Media and Development. Problems and Perspectives*, edited by Florencia Enghel and Karin Wilkins. The core of these two special issues of *Nordicom Review* is the universal right to communicate, and the importance of expressing many voices to promote more democratic and equitable social development – in brief, the importance of communication for social change (CSC).

These two publications complement each other very well, as Pradip Thomas notes in his foreword:

We think that these two issues of the *Nordicom Review*, both as stand alone issues and together, offer students and researchers, an up to date introduction to CSC as a field that is both contested and that, at the very same time, offers many resources of hope.

The scientific community must come to realize that – in the current context of digitization and globalization – its accumulation of knowledge, formulation of concepts and models of thought should address the need for a new understanding of crises regarding society and social life. The challenge is not only to explore the problems, but also to explain and propose some solutions. Research on communication for social change is no exception, and it is more important than ever. There is a need for a renewed focus on communication rights that can promote the “belief that CSC practice should serve people’s right to have their voices heard and their own goals articulated and pursued”.

From that perspective it is my hope that these two special issues of *Nordicom Review* on communication for social change will be of value all around the world. In a time when increasing inequalities in both developing and developed countries are a reality, there is a need to stimulate new research and especially collaboration across many different borders.

Last but not least, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the editor of the publication, Dr Pradip Ninan Thomas, and to all of the authors who contributed to it.

Göteborg in March 2015

Ulla Carlsson