

USC CENTER ON PublicDiploacy

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CANADIAN TECH VISIONARY TO JOIN USC CENTER ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR 2006-2007

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Posted by Andy Sternberg

Canadian novelist and technology visionary Cory Doctorow will join the USC Center on Public Diplomacy as a visiting scholar beginning in September, the Canadian Fulbright Commission announced.

Doctorow, who edits the widely read culture and technology blog site Boing Boing [<http://boingboing.net>], will be the first to hold the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Public Diplomacy.

"I'm looking forward to being part of the academic discourse on the ways that technology can either liberate or control us," Doctorow said.

While at the USC Center on Public Diplomacy, the scholar will conduct leading-edge research, collaborate with USC faculty and students, and deliver guest lectures to the wider community.

"Canada is increasingly recognized as being on the forefront of innovation and scholarly thought in the public diplomacy sphere. We are equally pleased that the Commission has selected a visionary like Cory Doctorow to be the first recipient of the chair," said Joshua S. Fouts, Director of the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. "In an era in which technology is changing the dynamic, social fabric and very rules by which people around the world learn about each other, it is critical that Public Diplomacy be current. Cory will bring a valuable perspective to this discussion."

Doctorow's chair is being co-sponsored by USC's Integrated Media Systems Center.

"We are excited by this opportunity to work with such a visionary as Cory Doctorow as we continue our research on experiential media for education, journalism and entertainment, " said Adam Clayton Powell III, director of the Integrated Media Systems Center at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering.

Canada is increasingly recognized as being on the forefront of innovation and scholarly thought in the public diplomacy sphere. The partnership is designed to attract the country's most prominent scholars to USC's Center on Public Diplomacy, a global leader in studying how countries communicate about themselves to citizens of other countries.



A different notable Canadian will come to USC each year.

"The research agenda advanced by this new Fulbright Chair in Public Diplomacy is particularly important in the context of today's increasingly complex international environment," said Michael K. Hawes, executive director of the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program.

Supported by Foreign Affairs Canada and the United States Department of State, the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program promotes a deeper and more nuanced knowledge of Canada-US relations and builds mutual understanding between the two countries through high-level academic exchange. The Canada-US Fulbright Visiting Research Chairs are designed to strengthen binational collaborative research on issues relevant to Canada, the United States and the relationship between the two countries. For more information, visit <http://www.fulbright.ca>.

Created and run jointly by the USC Annenberg School for Communication and the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences' School of International Relations, the USC Center on Public Diplomacy conducts research, helps create academic programs and holds conferences and other events that specifically emphasize the study of public diplomacy as both a theoretical and applied subject area. The center is headquartered on the USC campus in Los Angeles. For more information, visit <http://www.uscpublicdiplomacy.org>.

Located in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, the USC Annenberg School for Communication is among the nation's leading institutions devoted to the study of journalism and communication, and their impact on politics, culture and society. With an enrollment of more than 1,700 graduate and undergraduate students, USC Annenberg offers BA, MA and PhD degrees in journalism, communication and public relations. For more information, visit <http://www.annenberg.usc.edu>.

The USC School of International Relations (SIR), within the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, is the one of the first institutions in the United States and the world devoted to the study of international relations and is a founding member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs. The School offers concentrations in culture, gender, and global society; international political economy; foreign policy analysis; and security & diplomacy. The Center for International Studies, the School's research arm, hosts visiting fellows and public seminars on faculty research throughout the academic year. The SIR offers the following degree programs: a BA in IR, a Progressive BA/MA, three joint Master's degrees in IR and Law, IR & Public Policy, and IR & Policy Planning, the new MA in Public Diplomacy with the Annenberg School and a joint doctoral degree in Politics and International Relations with the Department of Political Science. For more information, visit <http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/ir/>

The Integrated Media Systems Center at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering is the National Science Foundation's exclusive Engineering Research Center for multimedia and Internet research. IMSC pursues cross-disciplinary program of research, education, outreach, industry collaboration and technology transfer. IMSC has developed such unique immersive technologies as 3D face modeling and animation, immersivision panoramic video technology, and immersive audio. Major progress is also being made in haptics (touch-related technologies), data compression and wireless communications. Details at <http://imsc.usc.edu/>

For more information about the USC Center on Public Diplomacy, visit <http://www.uscpublicdiplomacy.com>.