

Nisar Keshvani – Detailed Career Highlights

“Singaporean Nisar Keshvani is a consultant, Internet journalist, web developer, educator and new media specialist. In the last two decades, he has worked across five continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and Australia/Oceania).

Since 1993, he has worked for various international magazines and newspapers. He was editor-in-chief of the *Leonardo Electronic Almanac* (MIT Press) and International Co-Editor of *fineArt forum* - one of the Internet's longest running arts publications from 1999 to date.

In 2011, he moved to the Kyrgyz Republic to establish the University of Central Asia's corporate communications office, strategizing and implementing its public relations, strategic marketing, internal and external communications to all its stakeholders across its three campuses in Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan, and in Afghanistan. As the University spokesperson, he also provides guidance and counsel to senior management on communications policy.

Nisar has published papers in refereed journals, presented at 11 conferences (Japan, Manila, Myanmar, Singapore, Australia) in the areas of new media technologies, newsroom trends, education, art, science and technology. He has also received six grants totally \$125,000 for various art and technology community service projects.

From 2007 – 9, Keshvani was a senior academic at Republic Polytechnic's Centre for Culture and Communication. He was part of the pioneering team to develop their Diploma in Information and Communication Design. He was Module Chair for Media Writing – responsible for curriculum and managing tutoring staff, Co-Module developer for Visual Communications and facilitated G104 Contemporary Issues in Culture & Aesthetics.

He was Director of *Leonardo* (Asia Pacific), editor-in-chief of the *Leonardo Electronic Almanac* (<http://leoalmanac.org>) and International Co-Editor of *fineArt forum* (<http://www.fineartforum.org>) - one of the Internet's longest running arts publications from 1999 to date.

In 2003 - 2004, Keshvani was on consultancy with the *Aga Khan Development Network* (a group of international development agencies working in health, education, culture and rural and economic development, primarily in Asia and Africa) as Website Manager to strategise and develop the international aid agency's hospital and school services in East Africa, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tajikistan and the Krygyz Republic.

From 2001 – 2003, Keshvani was Digital Media Lecturer with *Ngee Ann Polytechnic's* film & media school. As Module leader for Web Design Applications, he taught information architecture, Internet-based research, use of communication media, navigation basics, graphical user interface, & online publication design. <<http://www.np.edu.sg/~knh>>. In August 2002, Keshvani was Visiting Lecturer at *Queensland University of Technology*, Australia. Sent by Ngee Ann Polytechnic on a staff exchange program, whilst at the Creative Industries Journalism discipline, he re-established and enhanced their flagship online paper – *Communique Online*. He also researched innovative online teaching techniques & strategies for implementation for units he taught.

In 2001, Nisar was publicist for the 14th *Singapore International Film Festival* handling press liaison, promotions, co-ordination, website development and information architecture. He was also exposed to film traffic, acquisitions and programming.

In 1999, he took over the editorship of *fineArt forum*, an 18-year-old art & technology international online news service. He steers the creative identity of the publication and plans to form strategic alliances with arts and



Internet organisations internationally and in the Asia Pacific. He was Editor-in-Chief from January 2001 – 2003 and is currently International Co-Editor.

Nisar chaired the fineArt forum Management Committee, and sits on the *Art, Science, Technology Network, Leonardo/International Society Art, Science & Technology Board* <<http://www.leonardo.info>>, *SIGGRAPH Singapore Chapter Management Committee* <<http://www.siggraph.org.sg>>. He was Program Advisor (Asia Pacific), for the Brisbane *Multimedia Art Asia Pacific (MAAP) Festival* <<http://www.maap.org.au>>, focused on fostering ties between Australian and Asia Pacific multimedia industries.

His web experience includes maintaining Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) *School of Media & Journalism* website, as developer of the *Centre for Media Policy & Practice*, and QUT's *Digital Media Programme* sites. He writes for various online publications including *worldroom.com*, *movies-online*, *smallplaces.com*, *monster.com* and is a *Leonardo Reviews* panellist.

Besides web weaving, Nisar lectured in online journalism at QUT and was Managing Editor of *Communique Online*. He established the in-house student online paper, as a formalised unit and taught online production techniques. He developed hardware/software support and introduced students to important Computer-Assisted Reporting concepts, web design and essential Internet skills. Nisar also tutored 1st – 3rd QUT journalism students in *Journalism Information Systems*, ethics and *News Production (Online)*. During this time, he researched QUT Journalism's Internationalisation project to develop a set of protocols journalists use to deal with traumatic situations.

Throughout Nisar Keshvani's journalism career at QUT, awards were cited for projects he has worked on. Nisar developed the QUT *Public Journalism Project* website, a prestigious project funded by the Australian Research Council in alliance with QUT, The Courier-Mail, Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland. During this period Public Journalism was awarded the Print Media Peace prize by the United Nations Association of Australia in 1998 and 1999. As part of his final-year undergraduate Journalism degree project, he coordinated *Communique Online*, winning the 1998 Journalism Educators Association "Best Student Publication" award and the inaugural Dr Charles Stuart Ossie award for "Best Publication".

In 1999, he completed a research Masters thesis exploring the World Wide Web's impact on journalists, their work practices and management policy in news organisations. His twin case studies looked specifically at operational aspects of the *Age Online* (Melbourne) and the *Straits Times Interactive* (Singapore). He presented elements of his research at the *Computers and Writing Online 2000* (USA), the *Asian Studies of Australia Inc. (ASAA)*, *Australia and New Zealand Communication Association (ANZCA)*, *Journalism Educators Association (JEA)* and the *International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)* conferences. His research was published in the *Australian Journalism Review*, *Asia Pacific Media Educator & Journalism Australia Studies*.

He kept a finger on the pulse of Singapore's trade and export scene for the *Asian Sources Media Group* based in the Philippines from 1993 - 2000. In his scant spare time, Nisar pursues his passion, film-making. Two films he co-directed were awarded the Special Jury Prize in the 1993 and 1994 Singapore Film Festivals, and in 1995 he worked as production coordinator on Singapore's first locally-made feature film, *Mee Pok Man*, which screened at the Venice, Moscow, Japan and Berlin festival circuits. In 2001/2, Nisar curated a 1-hour travelling screening program <<http://www.fineartforum.org/screen>> as part of fAf's 15th Anniversary celebrations. It has travelled to Manila, Australia, Thailand, USA, UK, South Africa, and other countries.

His research interests include; instructional science, information and communication technologies for development, curriculum development, new media technologies, web usability, technology in education."

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