



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Centre of African Studies

Beyond the Hashtag: Social Media in Africa

A symposium organised by Dr Thomas Molony and Dr Maggie Dwyer
([SMS:Africa](#))

26-27 April 2017

Venue: 2.14 [Appleton Tower](#), 11 Crichton Street, Edinburgh, UK

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Wednesday 26 April

13:00-14:45

Theme: **Security**

Chair: **Maggie Dwyer**

Charlotte Cross (Open University)

'Policing Social Media: Cybercrime in urban Tanzania'

Silvia Masiero (Loughborough University)

'Reducing Information Poverty under Crisis: A study of Ushahidi'

Alisha Patel (University of Oxford)

'The Contested Narrative of Conflict: Inside the 'Operation Usalama Watch' echo chamber'

Jean-Benoît Falisse (University of Edinburgh) and Hugues Nkengurutse
(Université du Lac Tanganyika)

'Social Media Wars and Real Life Casualties: Information in authoritarian Burundi'

14:45-15:00: *Tea and Coffee Break*

15:00-16:45

Theme: **Representation and Methods**

Chair: **Ola Uduku**

Ruth Cookman (University of Oxford)

'Social Media and the Representation of Africa; Nairobi on Snapchat'

Birgit Englert (University of Vienna)

'Working with YouTube as an Archive in an African Studies Context'

Inge Ligvoet (Leiden University) and Mirjam de Bruijn (Leiden University)

'Information Biographies: A proposal/method to discover the world beyond the hashtag'

Toussaint Nothias (Stanford University) via Skype and David Cheruiyot (Karlstad University)

'A "Hotbed" of Digital Empowerment? Media criticism in Kenya between playful engagement and co-option'

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Thursday 27 April

9:00-10:30

Theme: **Democracy**

Chair: **Sara Rich Dorman**

Wendy Willems (London School of Economics and Political Science)

'On the Politics of Things: Mobile social media, urban space and political communication in Zambia's 2011 and 2016 elections'

Stephanie Diepeveen (University of Cambridge)

'Democratisation through Facebook? The effects of the changing nature of uncertainty on everyday Kenyan politics'

Payal Arora and Sadrag Panduleni Shihomeka (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

'Mobile Social Media and Digital Literacy in Namibia's Regional Politics'

10:30-10:45: *Tea and Coffee Break*

10:45-12:15

Theme: **Protests and Contestations**

Chair: **Kate Wright**

Pete Chonka (University of Edinburgh)

'New' Media, Counter-Terrorism, and State Contestation in Mogadishu

George Karekwaivanane (University of Edinburgh)

'#ThisFlag and the Emerging of 'Digital Spaces of Contention' in Zimbabwe'

Jacob Geuder (University of Basel)

'Digital apartheid or digital democracy? The presence of "#FeesMustFall" and "Service Delivery Protests" in the streets and on the net of Cape Town'

12:15-13:15: *Lunch Break*

13:15-14:45

Theme: **Connections and Disruptions**

Chair: **Thomas Molony**

Tom Fisher (Privacy International)

'Social Media and Surveillance in Africa: Challenges to privacy, democracy and research'

Elsbeth Robson (University of Hull)

'Social Media, Children and Young People in Africa: A study from Malawi'

Angelantonio Grossi (Utrecht University)

'Users, Followers, Spirits: Digital lives in contemporary Ghana'

14:45-15:00: *Tea and Coffee Break*

15:00-16:30

Theme: **Human Rights**

Chair: **George Karekwaivanane**

Kaylan Schwarz and Lisa Richey (Roskilde University)

'Social Media Scripts for Humanitarianism in Africa'

Floencia Enghel (Stockholm University)

'Can Online Attention in the West Save Lives in Kenya? Social media as moral fix in digitally-driven human rights intervention at a distance'

Brian Ekdale (University of Iowa) via Skype

'Banned, But Not Out: A gay rights music video, a government ratings board, and playful engagement on Kenyan social media'

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