

Beyond the Hashtag: Social Media in Africa

26-27 April 2017

University of Edinburgh

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 26 April

13:00-14:45

Theme: Security

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

Ruth Cookman (University of Oxford)

'Social Media and the Representation of Africa: Nairobi and Lagos 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) and David Cheruiyot (Karlstad University)

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

Thursday 27 April

9:00-10:45

Theme: Democracy

Nabila Abdulmelik (African Union Commission)
'Social Media Erodes Democracy'

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 (Columbia University) and Sadrag Shihomeka (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
'Mobile Social Media and Digital Literacy in Namibia's Regional Politics'

10:45-11:00

Tea and Coffee Break

11:00-12:45

Theme: Protests and Contestations

Pete Chonka (University of Edinburgh)
'News Media and Political Contestation in the Somali Territories: Exploring the parameters of a transnational digital public'

Admire Mare (University of Johannesburg)
'Beyond Hashtags and WhatsApp Messages: Social media and citizen movements in crisis ridden Zimbabwe'

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'

12:45-13:45

Lunch Break

13:45-15:15

Theme: Connections and Disruptions

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'

15:15-15:30

Tea and Coffee Break

15:30-17:00

Theme: Human Rights

Kaylan Schwarz and Lisa Richey (Roskilde University)

'Social Media Scripts for Humanitarianism in Africa'

Florencia 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)

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