



Internet Policy in Africa

Research Methods Workshop For Advocacy
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Faculty 2018



**INTERNET
POLICY
OBSERVATORY**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Christopher Ali is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Media Studies at the University of Virginia. He joined the Department in 2013, after completing his PhD at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on communication policy and regulation, localism, local news/local journalism, and critical theory. Christopher has worked for the Federal Communications Commission, submitted research to the Swiss Office of Communication, consulted with the South Korean Committee on the Impact of Media Concentration, and was part of a consortium of researchers, activists, and practitioners intervening at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission regarding community and local media. His book, *Media Localism: The Policies of Place* (University of Illinois Press, 2017) addresses the difficulties of defining and regulating local media in the 21st century in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada and the implications these difficulties have for the long-term viability of local news. For 2016-2017 Christopher is a Fellow at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University and a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.



Catherine Anite is a pro-bono human rights advocate focusing on the promotion and defense of freedom of expression, media rights, and access to information in Uganda and at a regional level. She is currently head of the legal department at the Human Rights Network for Journalists in Uganda, where her responsibilities include defending and representing journalists, analyzing and publicizing laws and policies that impede on freedom of expression, publishing work on media rights, training journalists on professional standards, and spearheading advocacy campaigns to fight for the rights of journalists and media practitioners in Uganda, most especially the rural areas. She was selected by Avocats Sans Frontiers and the East African Law Society in an EU Human Rights Defenders project to constitute a pool of human rights lawyers to defend rights in East Africa and the Great Lakes Region. Catherine holds a bachelor's (hons) degree in Law from Makerere University and a postgraduate diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre in Kampala. Upon completion of the Washington Fellowship, she plans to continue working towards creating a conducive environment for enjoyment of freedom of expression in Uganda through defending journalists' rights, litigation, advocating for legal and policy reform for media, and training journalists in media law and professional ethics.



Neil Blazevic leads the DefendersTech Program at DefendDefenders, a Uganda-based organisation working to protect and support human rights defenders in East & Horn of Africa. Together with his team he leads efforts to improve digital safety practices of human rights defenders and their organisations, aid activists to have a voice online, and supports electronic documentation of human rights data. Neil is also a blockchain enthusiast, the proprietor of a forest lodge outside of Kampala, the 2017-2018 Vice President Public Relations at Kampala Toastmasters Club, holds a CompTIA Security+ Certification and a MA in International Development Studies. He is an honorary Muganda since 2012. Tweets from @neilblazevic.



Enrico Calandro (Ph.D.) is a research manager at Research ICT Africa, an ICT think tank based in Cape Town. Over the last eight years, Enrico has been exploring the relationship between digital access and development with a focus on digital inequalities. He holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration specialising in telecommunications policy, from the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town, and a Master degree in Communications' sciences from the University of Perugia, Italy. Prior to joining Research ICT Africa, he worked as a technical advisor for the ICT programme of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Namibia, within the UN technical cooperation framework. He also worked for the European Commission, Information Society and Media DG as a trainee after completing his Master's degree. He is a recipient of the Open Technology Fund fellowship on Information controls, the Amy Mahan scholarship award for the advancement of ICT policy in Africa, and the UNDESA fellowship for international cooperation. Since January 2017, he has been leading the Regional Academic Network on IT Policies (RANITP), a network of academic researchers interested in digital transformation research.



Josiah Chavula is a Research Engineer at AFRINIC Ltd where he undertakes Internet measurements research, primarily focusing on Internet performance in Africa, as well as on the impact of ISPs' interconnection, routing strategies and middle-boxes on Internet performance. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Cape Town, where his research was on Internet performance and traffic engineering in Africa, focusing on National Research and Education Networks (NRENs). He obtained his MSc degree in Networking and Internet Systems from Lancaster University, England, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Malawi.



Jessica Dheere is a co-founder and executive director of the Beirut, Lebanon-based non-governmental organization SMEX (smex.org), the Middle East and North Africa's only organization devoted exclusively to digital rights research and policy advocacy. In addition to managing day-to-day operations at SMEX, Jessica also leads research initiatives with a regional scope, including both a recent mapping of Arab-region mobile telecom operators and their public disclosures of terms of service and privacy policies and the Arab Digital Rights Dataset, an open, interoperable database of law and caselaw related to digital rights in Arab states. The database is currently expanding to cover other countries and regions in the global south, including in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Also a journalist, Jessica has written the only definitive non-governmental history of the Arab IGF for the 2017 edition of GISWatch on national and regional internet governance initiatives. Between 2015 and 2017, she was a member of the Digital Development and Openness working group of the Freedom Online Coalition and in 2014 she was a Kathryn Davis Fellow for Peace. She has a master's degree in media studies from the New School in New York City and a bachelor's degree from Princeton University.



Arturo Filastò is the founder and lead engineer of the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) project, where he develops free software designed to measure various forms of network interference. He previously created GlobalLeaks (the first open source whistle-blowing platform), co-founded the Hermes Centre for Digital Human Rights and served as its Vice President for five years. He also worked on a number of other software projects, including Tor2Web and Atlas. Arturo studied Computer Science and Mathematics at Sapienza University of Rome.



Neema Iyer is the founder and director of [Pollicy](http://Pollicy.org), a civic technology organization based in Kampala, Uganda. Pollicy uses data, design and technology to improve how citizens and government engage around public service delivery. She is also the Project Lead at DefendDefenders for **DOC-it**, a flagship documentation project, **Usable**, focused on improving digital security tools and the recently ended **DATA4CHAN.GE** program. She has a Masters in Public Health (Epidemiology) from Emory University and has worked on large-scale mobile and digital projects across Africa as part of TTC Mobile (previously Text to

Change) and Viamo (previously VOTO Mobile). She currently leads the design of a number of projects focused on building data skills, on fostering conversations on data privacy and digital security, and on innovating around policy. Social media handles: @pollicyorg @neemaiyer



Ashnah Kalemera works as a Programme Manager at CIPESA. She coordinates multi-country projects promoting the use of ICT in democratic processes and for citizen participation, including training for citizen journalists, mainstream media and government officials. She holds an MSc in Informatics with a major in Electronic Government (Örebro University, Sweden) and a BSc in Computer and Management Sciences (University of Warwick, United Kingdom), and has work experience from Spain, UK, and various African countries.



Moses Karanja is a PhD student at The University of Toronto, Department of Political Science. He is also a researcher at The Citizen Lab, an interdisciplinary laboratory based at the Munk School of Global Affairs, focusing on research, development, and high-level strategic policy and legal engagement at the intersection of information and communication technologies, human rights, and global security. Moses has researched on information controls in the Eastern and Southern African region focusing on Internet censorship and surveillance using approaches that combine legal, political, and technical methodologies. He has also worked on Intentional Internet connectivity disruptions in the African region and how such incidences relate to political moments like protests and elections. He previously worked at the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT), based at Strathmore Law School in Nairobi, Kenya. While there, he led numerous projects, including one to organize easy access to ICT related legal documents (ictpolicy.org) and a public participation platform (jadili.ictpolicy.org) to improve how citizens get involved in policy making in Kenya. Moses has an interest in how technology mediates security and human rights. He published on, developed platforms for, and advocated for a human-centred information society.

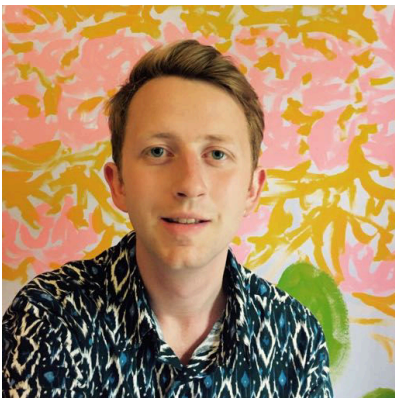


Ghislaine L. Lewis is an assistant professor in communication studies at Lynchburg College where she also serves as advisor for the campus newspaper, The Critograph. She completed her Ph.D. in Media and Communication at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand (2014). The title of her dissertation was “Evolving Newspapers & the Shaping of an Extradition- Jamaica on the Cusp of Change”. It focused on the political economy of the media and the role of civil society within the framework of online newspapers in the Caribbean and the United States.

Dr. Lewis offers a background in media planning, journalism, institutional research and academics. Her journalistic and academic experiences in Asia, New Zealand, Australia, the Caribbean and the United States have provided valuable insight into the linkages between new media, global politics and policy. Her current research interests are focused on the role of the media in fostering an active and engaged public sphere. Her most recent project was the OECS Public Education Forum, Vini Koze’.



Adam Lynn is the Research Director at the Open Technology Fund. He has spent nearly a decade involved in policy debates surrounding democracy, technology and free speech. His previous position was as a Legislative Assistant with former Congressman Jay Inslee, where he focused on legislative issues including telecommunication, technology and civil rights. Prior to Congressional work, Adam was the Research Manager at Free Press, where he performed technical and policy research on content discrimination occurring on numerous communication mediums including the Internet. He has co-authored numerous articles that were presented at the International Communications Association and the Telecommunications Policy Research Conferences. Adam graduated magna cum laude from Washington State University, focusing his studies on the relationship between media and democracy.



James Marchant is the Research Manager at [Small Media](#), a London-based non-profit working to support freedom of expression online. Since 2013, James has worked to produce data-driven, impact-minded research spanning a range of internet freedom challenges in closed societies around the world. His past work has focused on issues ranging from the digital security threats facing East African civil society organisations, to the online lives of LGBT people in closed societies, to the development of Iran’s ‘National Internet’. In his spare time, he works on curating his extensive database of animal .gifs.



Jonathan McCully is the Senior Legal Officer at the Media Legal Defence Initiative, an international non-governmental organisation that provides legal support and helps defend the rights of journalists, bloggers and independent media across the world. He has worked on free speech cases before the European Court of Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice, and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. He has also worked on cases before domestic courts in several jurisdictions, including Uganda, Colombia, Singapore and Canada. He has trained lawyers from East and Southern Africa on freedom of expression and media law, and is a supervisor at the University of Edinburgh Freedom of Expression Law Clinic. Jonathan has a Bachelor of Laws from Trinity College Dublin, and a Masters of Laws in Information Technology, Media and Communications Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has a particular interest in media law matters; and has published widely on freedom of expression, privacy, open justice, human rights and intellectual property. His articles have been published by the International Forum for Responsible Media (Inform's) Blog, the Media Law Resource Centre, and the Harvard Cyberlaw Clinic Blog. He is also an Editor at Columbia Global Freedom of Expression.



Richard Ngamita is a Senior Tech Lead at Medic working closely with the Analytics and Support team. Prior to that, he worked for Google in Dublin, Ireland as a data engineer on the spam team. He is the founder of the Kampala R usergroup and holds a degree in Computer science from Makerere University.



James Nkuubi is a social justice activist at heart (*but had to go through law school to appear sophisticated and attain a 'legal profession'*). He previously worked at the pioneer human rights scholarship entity in Uganda, the Human Rights and 'Peace' Center, Law School, Makerere University as Associate Researcher (*even if at the time the university was not entirely 'peaceful' because of the students' strikes*). He is currently serving at Human Rights Network-Uganda as a Coordinator of Regional and International Human Rights and Justice programme where he leads a team that crafts, directs and executes CSO human rights advocacy initiatives at the African Union, East African Court and United Nations human rights mechanisms. He also coordinates the over 300 NGOs membership Forum on Universal Peer Review Mechanism of Human Rights in Uganda which monitors state implementation of UPR Human Rights Council recommendations on human rights protection. Through-out his 8 years in human rights work so far (*he not so old by the way*), James has prioritized and advocated for the values of social justice and exaltation of the dignity, inherent free will and sacredness of humanity at both national and international human rights forums. It is for this reason that he joined in the formation of the Network for Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL), a Forum dedicated to upholding the rule of law and constitutionalism, where he sits on the Civil and Political Rights Working Group.). In addition to his extensive experience in human rights, rule of law and constitutionalism advocacy work, James also guest lectures at the Public Interest Law Clinic, School of Law, Makerere University (*not to irritate his 'hosts' he talks for strictly 4 hours and not more*). James has previously been hosted as a visiting expert on UN human rights mechanisms-specially the UPR processes at the same University for the Master in Human Rights Class (*the invite him had the word 'expert' so he adopted it. Why not!*). James holds a Masters' Degree in human rights and democratization in Africa from the high towering Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. He holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree (*he still wonders why it's called LLB and not BLD*) from Makerere University.



Tope Ogunidipe is Director of Programs, Africa at Paradigm Initiative; a social enterprise that runs digital inclusion and digital rights programs in order to improve livelihoods. Apart from supporting the development and implementation of strategy for Paradigm Initiative's growth, design and implementation of programs, she also works with the World Wide Web Foundation to advocate women's rights online in Nigeria through a research and policy advocacy project aimed at mainstreaming gender in national ICT policies. She has held consultations with policy makers on gender responsive ICT policy, and as well as with women's rights groups and women from local communities to get their inputs on national ICT/broadband strategies. She also has experience working with think-tanks on internet policy advisory. Tope always looks forward to working with relevant stakeholders to provide direction and engage policy activities that can lead to concrete policy change in internet and technology for empowering people and communities in Africa.



Tom Ormson is a researcher at Small Media, a London-based non-profit. Since joining in 2017 he has focused on a number of data-driven topics ranging from social media use during the Iranian Presidential elections, to the digital security landscape of CSOs in East Africa, and open data projects shining a light on the environment in Iran. He has a Masters in Global Security from Sheffield University, and alongside talking about how amazing dogs are, Tom likes to be in the outdoors, where he has a true knack for falling down mountains with the pretence of being able to ski.



Mr. Barrack Otieno is a Trustee of the Kenya ICT Action Network. He is a Management Information Systems graduate of the Multi Media University of Kenya. Mr. Otieno served at the United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum in Geneva, Switzerland as a Fellow as well as a consultant between the years 2010 and 2011 and was involved in the preparation of the fifth and sixth Internet governance fora in Vilnius Lithuania and Nairobi Kenya respectively. He was also a Commonwealth Fellow to the fourth Internet Governance Forum in Sharm El Sheikh Egypt in 2009. In addition he has also been part of the organizing teams of the Kenya, East African and Africa Internet governance fora for the last ten years. Mr. Otieno serves as the General Manager of Africa Top Level Domains Organization www.aftld.org, the regional association of Country Code Top Level Domain Registries. He was the founding president of the Internet Society Kenya Chapter, former secretariat of Africa Regional At Large Organization (www.afralo.org) the voice of Internet users from the African continent within the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. He is involved in local, regional and international standards development for the International Standards Organization (ISO 27000 series on Information Security Management) through the Kenya Bureau of Standards Technical Committee on IT Security which he chairs as a representative of the Computer Society of Kenya.



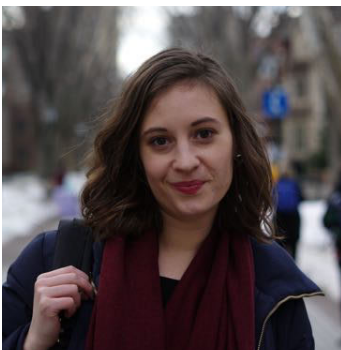
Bronwen Robertson is the Director of Research and Innovation at Small Media, a non-profit based in London. She is the co-founder of DATA4CHAN.GE, which supports civil society organisations and human rights activists to develop and launch data driven advocacy campaigns. Technology is a core component of both her research and storytelling work and she loves building web scrapers, scouring the internet for data, and experimenting with creative ways of displaying the results. Bronwen is a classically trained violinist, who speaks fluent Persian and loves playing board games in her free time.



John Remensperger is a Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania Annenberg School for Communication. He researches how political organizations, including political parties, interest groups, and advocacy organizations, use technology to organize their members, foster citizen engagement, and educate citizens to achieve policy change. In particular, he looks at how intra-organizational dynamics impact, and are impacted by, the adoption of new technologies. Most recently, John conducted research on the use of technology by Bernie Sanders delegates at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Previously, John worked in organizing and data management for political campaigns and administered municipal programs. He served as a field data manager for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and as a field organizer for Senator Al Franken's 2014 campaign.



Julianne Sansa-Otim is currently based at Makerere University College of Computing and Information Sciences and is working on research projects with colleagues and students from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Rwanda, South Africa, Sweden and Norway. She has undertaken some multi-disciplinary studies with colleagues from the Health, Meteorology, Agriculture and Electrical Engineering disciplines. Her research team has won research grants from both the Norwegian and Swedish Development agencies. She has published widely in international peer reviewed journals and conferences. Julianne received a PhD in Communications Networks from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, after studying "Internet High-speed Data Transport Protocols". Prior to that she had completed a MSc. in Computer Science and a BSc. in Computer Science and Mathematics from Makerere University. Her current research interests are ICT4Development, Internet-of-things for developing regions, Communications Network Protocol Design, telecommunication policies analysis, Quality of Service, Quality of Experience, Wireless Networks and Systems Security.



Laura Schwartz-Henderson manages the Internet Policy Observatory at the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania. Through the IPO, she works with a diverse group of researchers, activists, lawyers, and policymakers to produce innovative and impactful internet policy research and create trainings and in-person events meant to build research capacities and facilitate collaboration between academics and activists. Her research interests are related to the mechanisms through which technology mediates civic engagement and activism in diverse political systems. She received her Master's degree in public administration from the University of Pennsylvania and her Bachelor's degree in International Development and Culture from McGill University.



Haley Slafer is the Program Manager of Global Technology Programs at Internews, and based in Washington, DC. Haley works across Internews' Global Technology diverse portfolio, building and managing programs that focus on building the capacity of local internet policy advocates; supporting women and girls to train their communities on digital hygiene; and creating opportunities to help technologists and advocates to collaborate and engage with each other, among others. Haley has worked on internet freedom and technology programming for 5+ years, and has worked in international media and development for 10+ years, specializing in media and freedom of expression in MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa. She received her B.A. in International Communication from the American University's School of International Service.



Dhanaraj Thakur is Senior Research Manager at the Alliance for Affordable Internet, an initiative of the World Wide Web Foundation. He has been designing and leading research projects on telecommunications policy and regulation, gender and ICTs, and the socio-economic impacts of ICTs in low and middle income countries for the last ten years. He has also published over 30 journal articles, book chapters, and reports including 16 peer reviewed papers on these topics. Dhanaraj previously held faculty positions at Tennessee State University (Nashville, USA) and the University of the West Indies (Mona, Jamaica). Prior to that he worked in the area of community development with the government of Jamaica. He has also completed consultancy assignments for the the World Bank, IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and several governments and NGOs. He holds a PhD in Public Policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology (USA), and is a graduate of the London School of Economics and the University of West Indies (Mona, Jamaica). He was previously a Fulbright Scholar and a Junior Research Fellow in the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (UWI, Jamaica).



Dr. Wakabi Wairagala is the Executive Director of CIPESA and has extensive experience in integrating ICT in communications and development work. Wakabi holds a PhD in Informatics with a specialization in e-Government from Örebro University, Sweden, an MSc in Informatics (Örebro University, Sweden) and an M.A in Media Studies (Rhodes University, South Africa). He has worked with CIPESA since 2006 and has also been involved in various collaborative researches with African, Asian and North American think tanks and NGOs



Mr. Wokulira Geoffrey Ssebagala (Uganda) is a journalist by profession. He has co-founded and served in different entities served as a leader namely; in January 2009 to July 2013, he served as national coordinator for the Human Rights Network for Journalists in Uganda (HRNJ-Uganda), a network that promotes and defends press freedom; before, Mr. Ssebagala worked as a radio journalist for eight years, but lost his radio job in 2008 under duress and pressure from government. He fled Uganda in September, 2008 after escaping attempted kidnappings. Upon his return to Uganda in 2009, he joined HRNJ-Uganda. Before his retirement at Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda, Mr. Ssebagala was awarded the European Union Human Rights Defender of the Year, in May 2013. In August 2013 to May 2017, he co-founded the Unwanted Witness and served as a Chief Executive Officer. The Unwanted Witness promotes and defends digital rights and internet freedom in Uganda. The organization has spear-headed different campaigns including the campaign to enact the Data Protection and Privacy Bill. In July 2017 to date, Mr. Ssebagala co-founded and leads Witnessradio.org a non-governmental organization that uses research and investigations to promote and protect universal human rights of the poor and marginalized groups in Uganda.



Maria Xynou works with the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) where she manages partnerships and community research on internet censorship around the world. Previously, she worked with the Tactical Technology Collective where she investigated the data industry, created digital security resources, and facilitated digital security workshops for human rights defenders. She also worked with India's Centre for Internet and Society where she investigated surveillance schemes and technologies, and interned with Privacy International. Maria holds a MSc in Security Studies from the University College London (UCL)

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES