

Call for Participation

3-Day Workshop on “Current Challenges in Media Development” for (Junior) Researchers and PhD Students in Nairobi, Kenya

23 – 25 March 2022

The School of Communication at Daystar University in Nairobi (Kenya) and the Post Graduate Programme “MEDAS 21” at the Erich Brost Institute for International Journalism in Dortmund (Germany) have organized a 3-day workshop that deals with current challenges in media development. The workshop will take place in Nairobi 23 – 25 March 2022.

Scope of the Workshop

Like many areas of development cooperation, media development assistance is being criticized for power imbalances between the so-called “Global North” and the “Global South”. To explore this criticism, we want to bring together scholars from African and European countries to discuss current challenges of media development and possible solutions.

The workshop will allow up to 40 graduate students and (junior) researchers as well as media practitioners to share scientific and practical knowledge in the field of media development and discuss how academics can contribute to its improvement.

The main theme “Current Challenges in Media Development” is concerned with possibilities for rethinking media development with a special focus on equality, sustainability and country-specific solutions. The following sub-themes have been identified:

- critical reflections on media development theory and praxis
- business models for media outlets and sustainability
- mass media during elections
- media development in fragile and (post-) conflict settings
- local(ized) and community-media
- journalism education, training and capacity-building
- media ethics
- digital technologies, social media and internet governance
- disinformation, fake news and hate speech

Further topics may be adapted in accordance with the participants’ research focusses.

The workshop program includes keynote speeches by international media scholars and policymakers, panels on current research topics, a visit to a Kenyan media outlet and informal activities.

Date and venue

The workshop will take place at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya, 23 – 25 March 2022. The Covid-19 situation will be monitored closely, and the workshop will be shifted into a hybrid or digital form, if it won't be possible to meet on-site.

Participants

The workshop addresses (junior) researchers and PhD students in the fields of media, communication and development from African and European universities, who will present their research in a panel or poster presentation. Female participants are specifically encouraged to apply for the workshop.

A limited number of scholarships, which cover travel and accommodation, may be provided for successful international applicants. Please check the travelling conditions to Kenya from your home base before applying (Covid-19 vaccinations and PCR test might be required).

How to apply

All participants are encouraged to contribute to the workshop by presenting a research topic connected to the workshop-themes (preferably as a 15-minutes oral/PowerPoint presentation, though a poster presentation is also possible). Please apply by sending an abstract of your presentation proposal (350 words) and a short biography (150 words) to roja.zaitoonie@ruhr-uni-bochum.de and emwangale@daystar.ac.ke. Please also indicate from where you will be travelling to Nairobi. Early application is encouraged. The final application deadline is 27 February 2022. The selection process will take place on a rolling basis and will be completed by 2 March 2022.

For any questions, please contact: Roja Zaitoonie (roja.zaitoonie@ruhr-uni-bochum.de) and Evonne Kiptinness (emwangale@daystar.ac.ke).

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