GFMD IMPACT EMAIL LIST

Key

When giving instructions

 ♠ or X for a bullet point stating what not to do / what we want ✓ for a bullet point stating what we do want ♠ An FYI - Please note
when asking to subscribe when saying thanks for sharing etc.
when asking for collaboration when highlighting something later in the email see above 1) for when referencing something mentioned in the previous email ?
When highlighting the key call to action.
When sharing resources and opportunities Events & meetings Next to title of a resource that is being shared For indicating where to click. Eg Download the presentation here. Video links when signposting that a section is about resources - literature review or announcement
PLEASE READ
When doing a list:

SDC policy papers

https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/2021/05/media-viability-tackling-big-tech/

Georgia focused email for future

▼ Responding to Russian Disinformation - A Case of Georgia (2019)

East-West Management Institute & the United Nations Association of Georgia
The overall approach to disinformation in Georgia has, to date, been mostly reactive and defensive; however there is a notable trend towards proactivity. Lack of trust and cooperation between the government and civil society is diminishing the effect of efforts carried out by these parties. Therefore, there is a clear need for a more coordinated approach between state and non-state actors. There is also a need for a more comprehensive study of public perceptions and permeability to disinformation and key factors affecting these perceptions.

Sources / Links to be reviewed.

Sources

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this is a fascinating thread on how Google manipulates the global Internet advertising market:

https://nitter.eu/PatrickMcGee /status/1451619916994396164#m

I think it's safe to say it almost certainly has serious effect on media sustainability.

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Innovation Media Consulting Group used to do really good case studies in their reports, but they are not publicly available and it seems that 2021 doesn't have detailed cases, but still very good overview of where business side of news is at the moment. Unfortunately, it's all a bit pricey, but I managed to fish out the pdf version (attached). See here for more: https://innovation.media/publications.

Newsletters to make sure projects email is signed up to: Nieman Lab Daily Digestswww.niemanlab.org.

Resources to add to resource centre if they are not already there:

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Domestic Accountability and Support to Media: From the Why to the How in Effective Cooperation, Paper prepared for OECD DAC GovNet Meeting, 28 January 2014.

A Draft Discussion Paper: International Support to Media Development: Context, Evidence, Challenges and Possible Strategic Principles, Joint WBI/Internews/BBC World Service Trust/OECD-DAC-GOVNET Seminar on Trends in Accountability: Media Assistance Today, June 2011.

European Commission, Mapping EU Media Support 2000-2010, 2012.

González Cauhapé-Cazaux, Eduardo and Shanthi Kalathil. Official Development Assistance for

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International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, Effective Donor Responses to the Challenge of Closing Civic Space, May 2018.

O'Maley, Daniel. Tracking Media Development Donor Support: An Update on 2016 Funding Levels, CIMA, 30 March 2018.

Myers, Mary and Linet Angaya Juma. Defending Independent Media: A Comprehensive Analysis of Aid Flows, CIMA, 19 June 2018.

Myers, Mary, Nicola Harford and Katie Bartholomew. Media Assistance: Review of the Recent Literature and Other Donors' Approaches A Capitalisation Exercise (CapEx) for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, September 2017.

Norwegian Refugee Council, Institutional donor requirements: Report on Sectoral challenges, 2016.

"Principles for Media Assistance," in Accountability and Democratic Governance: Orientations and Principles for Development, OECD-DAC, 2014.

Strengthening Ownership and Accountability: A Synthesis of Key Findings and Messages produced for the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Cluster A – Ownership and Accountability of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, 2011.

Susman-Peña, Tara. Making Media Development More Effective, CIMA, 9 October 2012.

March 15th

DISINFORMATION

Resources that will contribute to the literature review for the GFMD IMPACT meeting on regulatory responses to disinformation in April/May 2022.

Academic studies & papers



Research & reports

▼ https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/29/india-cyber-volunteers-surveillance-censorship-internet-social-media

▼ Covering Conspiracy: Approaches to Reporting the COVID/5G Conspiracy Theory (Sep. 15, 2021) Digital Journalism - AXEL BRUNS, EDWARD HURCOMBE, STEPHEN HARRINGTON

"This article examines how diverse news outlets chose to report on one key COVID-19 conspiracy theory: the (entirely unfounded) claim that 5G telecommunications technology severely worsened or even caused the pandemic. We draw on online article data from the global news database GDELT to examine the coverage of COVID/5G conspiracy theories: we trace the changing nature of conspiracist claims; chart the expansion of coverage from fringe media to respected mainstream outlets; and pay particular attention to key stories that significantly increase the reach of reporting about this conspiracy theory. Arising from this analysis are new questions for journalists: what role does their coverage of such conspiracy theories play in amplifying them? Are there newsbeats that are particularly vulnerable to problematic information? Can they adjust their reporting to avoid aiding the circulation of conspiracist ideas?"

Articles

▼ Ethiopia seeks to restrict media reporting on yearlong war (Nov. 26, 2021) - AP News - CARA ANNA

"Ethiopia's government has issued a new order aiming to restrict media reporting of the country's yearlong war, prohibiting the sharing of non-official information on 'military-related movements, battlefront results and situations."

▼ <u>Digital Services Act: A Media Exemption Would Open a Loophole for Disinformation</u> (Oct. 20, 2021) - Euractiv Media - DIANA WALLIS

"MEPs and those in the Council working on the Digital Services Act need to consider the risks for the fight against disinformation of a media exemption. If we are serious about regulating platforms and reducing the circulation of mis and dis-information, they should make sure any media exemption is rejected."

▼ Brussels, Paris split with press publishers over exemptions in online content rules (Oct, 20, 2021) - Politico - CLOTHILDE GOUJARD

"The spat is coming to a head at a time when traditional media groups are relying more than ever on social media platforms to amplify their content and reach new audiences. That reliance means that media are increasingly subject to the platforms' terms and conditions, leading to disagreements over content moderation decisions."

▼ <u>Mainstream media spreads fake news</u> (Oct. 5, 2021) Iffy.news - BARRET GOLDING "Journalists are quick to blame social media for spreading fake news but slow to examine their own role. They work within the web, a networked environment, but seem not to understand how that network works."

Our selection from the rest of media development research and analysis

Academic studies and papers

▼ <u>Biancardi V. Italy: Written Comments of the Third Party Interveners</u> (Nov. 25, 2021) - European Court of Human Rights

The Case of Biancardi V. Italy concluded with the European Court of Human Rights determining that Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (reputable rights of individuals) takes precedence over Article 10 about the rights of online publishers. A summary on the case and the significance is available here.

▼ Funding Democracy: Public Media and Democratic Health in 33 Countries (Dec. 13, 2021) - SAGE Journals - TIMOTHY NEFF, VICTOR PICKARD "This study examines whether and how public media systems contribute to the health of democracies in 33 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, the Middle East, Latin

Research & reports

America, and South America."

▼ Research Reviews for Media Development Practitioners (Feb. 2022) - Forum Media and Development - VIVIANE SCHONBACHLER, FABÍOLA ORTIZ DOS SANTOS, MICHAEL LEROY, JOHANNA MACK

These reviews include: <u>'Feminist and Gender Perspectives in Literature on Media & Development'</u>, <u>'Peace Journalism: A Tool Within Media Development'</u>, <u>'Sustainability: Going Beyond the Buzzword'</u>, and <u>'Comprehending Media Systems for Media Development'</u>.

They seek to "inform practitioners and researchers about key debates, evidence and emerging issues in international media development."

Articles

▼ Depth and breadth: How news organisations navigate trade-offs around building trust in news (Dec. 2, 2021) - Reuters Institute, University of Oxford - BENJAMIN TOFF, SUMITRA BADRINATHAN, CAMILA MONT'ALVERNE, ARMY ROSS ARGUEDAS, RICHARD FLETCHER, RASMUS KLEIS NIELSEN

Due to the recent crisis concerning building trust from the general population towards news organisations, journalists were invited to a forum to discuss concerns, questions and insights about this topic. "Overall the journalists who participated in these roundtables were generally concerned and pessimistic about the current state of affairs."

- ▼ Why 18 Australian news minnows (and a billionaire's charity) are clubbing together for big tech negotiations (Nov. 26, 2021) PressGazzette WILLIAM TURVILL
- "This week, Q News and 17 other small Australian news publishers clubbed together to form the Public Interest Publishers Alliance, which wants to collectively negotiate licensing deals with Google and Facebook."
- ▼ News organizations are increasing diversity efforts, a Medill survey finds (Feb. 1, 2022) Poynter GREG BURNS
- ▼ <u>Journalists in Latin America navigate increasingly anti-democratic environments</u> (Feb. 2, 2022) IJNet CONNECTAS

This article explains the main threats that journalists face in Latin America discussed in the recent #DiálogoCONNECTAS, where "journalists from Cuba, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela discussed the realities they face."

Feb 15th

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377890?posInSet=2&queryId=N-dbb24f04-bba3-444c-8e40-cfec3733ff28

And add this if not already there;

https://www.icmpd.org/file/download/50559/file/Handbook%2520on%2520Reporting%2520Migration%2520EN.pdf

SUSTAINABILITY & VIABILITY

Resources that will contribute to the literature review ahead of the GFMD IMPACT donor-practitioner-academia meeting at the Global Conference on Media Freedom in Estonia on 9-10 February 2022.

Academic studies and papers

- ▼ <u>Sustainability: Going Beyond the Buzzword</u> (Nov. 4, 2021) MEDAS 21, FOME MICHAEL LEROY
- ▼ How Do Funding Models and Organizational Legacy Shape News Organizations' Social Media Strategies? A Comparison of Public Service and Private Sector News Media in Six Countries (Sept. 27, 2021)
- "This article presents an analysis of how different major news media with different funding models (public service versus private sector media) and different organizational legacies (broadcast versus print) in six different European countries approach the social media platforms that they increasingly rely on for some of their online reach."
- ▼ Calling for Coalitions: A Look at Successful Media and Advocacy Partnerships (May, 2020) School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University This report explores the dynamics of successful collaborations between the media and advocacy groups in order to support effective partnerships in a world in which civil society and public interest journalism may need to increasingly rely on each other and on donors to support their work. The report draws on case study research conducted on collaborative projects in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Peru to provide recommendations for foundations, nonprofit organisations, and media organisations on building partnerships that can maximise their collaborative impact, while respecting their differing roles in society.

Research & reports

- ▼ Media Sustainability Essentials (Feb. 8, 2022) Internews MICHELLE J. FOSTER "The Media Sustainability Essentials guide was developed to help media managers identify and choose the most relevant business models and practices that fit with their missions and operating conditions."
- ▼ World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development (2021) UNESCO

This report presents a "critical analysis of the trends in media freedom, pluralism, independence and the safety of journalists." As well as focusing on gender equality, it also addresses media viability, as it claims that "without urgent action by governments, civil society, and private companies, trustworthy journalism will remain under threat, and information as a public good severely undernourished." It recommends state subsidies to trustworthy news outlets, greater state support for public service media, more media development assistance, as well as a redoubling of philanthropic investments.

▼ Saving Journalism 2: Global Strategies and a Look at Investigative Journalism (Jan. 2022) - Konrad Adenauer Stiftung - ANYA SCHIFFRIN, HANNAH CLIFFORD, THEODORA DAME ADJIN-TETTEY

This report is the continuation of the 'Saving Journalism: A Vision for the Post-Covid World' (2021). This new report looks at global trends with the purpose of finding out "what strategies show promise in turning around the decline of media outlets and the loss of journalism jobs." It focuses specifically in investigative journalism because "despite all challenges to the news media, investigative journalism provided some blockbuster reports that drew worldwide attention during the past year."

▼ Comprehending Media Systems for Media Development (Feb. 2022) - Forum Media and Development - JOHANNA MACK

In this report, "the most important publications on media systems since the Cold War era will be reviewed, tracing the ongoing process of refining concepts and definitions. Alongside a geographical broadening of the research scope, models as well as methodological approaches have been questioned and reinvented."

<u>Articles</u>

▼ Media Censorship in Bosnia Just Got a Lot Scarier (Nov. 30, 2021) - Fair Planet - KATARINA PANIC

"The media community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is no stranger to repression, now faces two brand new forms of censorship imposed mostly by elected officials."

▼ Collective impact models will strengthen and redefine local news (Dec. 2021) - NiemanLab - STEFANIE MURRAY

"Collective impact is a framework used to solve- or attempt to address- large-scale, entrenched and systemic societal problems. It brings together a broad range of stakeholders who work together, intentionally, to create change."

▼ <u>Strengthening media ecosystems</u> (Dec. 17, 2021) - Media Development Investment Fund - TERESA PIPER

Over the last six years, MDIF has worked in strengthening media ecosystems in countries where there are widespread threats to journalism and media, and a decline of press freedom. They have identified programme implementation themes that have made their projects successful: tailored support for diverse media, long-term commitment, communication and flexibility, a more radical approach when media is missing, and firm foundations.

- ▼ Twitter as a Newsgathering Tool: Challenges and Possibilities for Independent Media (Nov. 18, 2021) CIMA NOAH AMIR ARJOMAND, ALI GHAZINEJAD "Social media platforms are having profound impacts on the practice of journalism, which now involves a complex interplay of technologies, journalistic routines, and media economies. Platforms like Twitter are particularly important for news outlets in developing countries and emerging democracies... Despite this potential, the use of Twitter for newsgathering may be replicating the same 'echo chambers' that have always existed."
- ▼ <u>SLAPPS and legal harassment: A scrouge that must be stopped</u> (Dec. 3, 2021) Media Development Investment Fund SNEZANA GREEN

"Yet the moment journalists and activists shed light is the moment they become targets. Our legal systems have not yet evolved to provide them with adequate protections. The last few years have seen the record number of imprisoned journalists worldwide, as today's choice of weapon by many governments that engage in disinformation and corruption is to manipulate laws — and especially criminal laws — and turn them against those who disseminate information of public interest."

- ▼ <u>Do countries with better-funded public media also have healthier democracies? Of course they do</u> (Jan. 24, 2022) NiemanLab JOSH BENTON
- "Public broadcasters are part of a nation's media-political system- but they're also a result of it. More public funding of media would do some wonderful things on the ground to create more informed and engaged communities."
- ▼ <u>EU to Unveil New Media Freedom Act Next Year</u> (Nov. 29, 2021) Reporting Democracy MILICA STOJANOVIC

"The European Commission said officials have begun working on new legislation that will aim to arrest the worrying trends of growing political interference and rise in takeovers by large media groups of smaller rivals."

- ▼ <u>Australian tycoon to help small publishers strike deals with Google, Facebook</u> (Nov. 22, 2021) Reuters BYRON KAYE, RENJU JOSE
- "The Minderoo Foundation, owned by Andrew Forrest, chairman of iron ore miner Fortescue Metals Group (FMG.AK), plans to help 18 small publishers by applying to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on their behalf so they can negotiate together without breaching competition laws."
- ▼ Internationally too, journalists and others are debating government subsidies and how to deal with Big Tech (Jan. 20, 2022) Poynter ANYA SCHIFFRIN
- "The quest for big systemic solutions continues. Journalists and media development experts are making the case that quality information is needed to reduce corruption and fight autocracy, and therefore needs substantial investment in order to grow."
- ▼ <u>Supporting independent media through coalition building- the ultimate stress test</u> (Jan. 4, 2022) BBC Media Action MICHAEL RANDALL

"The experiences of local stakeholders who have been involved in long-running advocacy initiatives suggest," that coalition-building is open to more participation from international organisations. The 'Coalitions for Change' "offered a unique insight into the potential for

balanced partnerships between international and local actors to bring about systemic change."

Podcasts

Janine Warner and Jazmín Acuña on fast-tracking media growth in Latin America (Nov. 2021) Journalism.co.uk - JACOB GRANGER

The media accelerator Velocidad launched in 2019 to help news startups grow and thrive. We look at its impact in a region where press freedom is under constant threat.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Internet Law and Policy Foundry is now accepting <u>applications</u> for its next cohort of fellows. The <u>Internet Law and Policy Foundry</u> is a a professional development organization for individuals working across law, technology, and policy. Foundry Fellows are select early career professionals and students who are passionate about and knowledgeable of internet law and policy issues. Fellows gain a valuable network of internet law and policy professionals and have the opportunity to work together to change the landscape of technology policy on a national and global scale.

If you or anyone you know is interested, <u>here</u> is the application. Applications close on December 14 at 5 pm ET. If you have any questions, please reach out to ilpfoundry@gmail.com.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

A Message from UNESCO and Uruguay, host country of the World Press Freedom Day 2022 Global Conference

The organisers of the World Press Freedom Day 2022, hosted in Uruguay from May 2-5 2022, ask that this survey is completed to develop the meeting agenda.

The Columbia Journalism School is granting a six-month fellowship program. "Fellows are expected to give a public presentation at the school about their work and upon mutual agreement, may also lecture, mentor and advise students."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global eSummit: Journalism and the Climate Crisis (February 22-23, 2022)

Organised by the World Association of News Publishers, the global e-summit will explore the topics of storytelling, the viability of climate change coverage, extreme collaboration, shifting from doom and gloom to hope, training and resources, and keeping climate coverage alive, engaging and on the front page.

Free European Media Conference (March 17-18, 2022)

Organised by several European stakeholders, from the Nordic Journalist Centre to the European Federation of Journalists, among others, the Conference will include speakers from all over Europe in order to discuss everything the launch of the European Media Freedom Act, the self-regulation to empower credibility in the media, media viability, the

situation of media independence in Poland, media literacy, and media freedom and safety as a prerequisite for democracy throughout six sessions.

17 IJ4EU UNCOVERED Conference (March 31st- April 1st, 2022)

The UNCOVERED annual conference is organised by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom in partnership with the International Press Institute and European Journalism Centre. It brings together investigative journalists, funders and policymakers, among other stakeholders, to discuss the opportunities and challenges of cross-border investigative journalism.

EES Conference June 2022 (June 6, 2022)

The EES 2022 Conference will be held on June 6, 2022 with the theme of "Evaluation at a watershed: actions and shifting paradigms for challenging times."

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RECENT EVENTS

- ▼ 21 findings from the Reuters Institute's research in 2021 still relevant in 2022 (Dec. 13, 2022) Reuters Institute, University of Oxford
- ▼ <u>The Global State of Democracy 2021: Building Resilience in a Pandemic Era Launch</u> (Dec. 7, 2021) International IDEA
- ▼ Introduction to stakeholder engagement in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) (Feb. 3, 2022) Action for Sustainable Development
- "The Major Groups and other stakeholders, together with UN DESA hosted a webinar series to share the process of engagement for all interested stakeholders. In this webinar, you can learn more about the VNR process, which provides an annual moment for national reviews of delivery of the (Sustainable Development) Goals by a wide range of countries."
- ▼ MFRR in Focus (Feb. 10, 2022) Media Freedom Rapid Response
 The fourth episode of the MFRR in Focus News Webinar convened a panel discussion,
 where interviews and conversations explore the online harassment journalists are facing.
- As always, please get in touch with research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we are developing.

All the best,

Tom, Mira, Ivana, Biba & Salomé - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

November 26th

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

- A Before we get to our usual round-up of the resources that will contribute to the literature reviews for our upcoming meetings, we have a quick housekeeping announcement.
- After listening to feedback from you, we have decided to move this email list to MailChimp to enable us to present that resources and analysis that we feature in a more readable and engaging way. There is nothing to do at your end. We will be moving across to the new platform over the next 2 weeks. If you do not wish to remain on the email list just unsubscribe or email me to let me know. See you on the other side.

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Now on to our round-up of resources for the upcoming meetings...

SUSTAINABILITY & VIABILITY

Resources that will contribute to the literature review ahead of the GFMD IMPACT donor-practitioner-academia meeting at the Global Conference on Media Freedom in Estonia on 9-10 February 2022.

Academic studies and papers

▼ <u>Local Foundations Need Solid Local Journalism if They Hope to Advance Their Missions</u> (Nov. 16, 2021) - The Chronicle of Philanthropy - JOSH STEARNS, TERESA GORDMAN

Research & reports

- ▼ World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development (2021) UNESCO This report presents a "critical analysis of the trends in media freedom, pluralism, independence and the safety of journalists." As well as focusing on gender equality, it also addresses media viability, as it claims that "without urgent action by governments, civil society, and private companies, trustworthy journalism will remain under threat, and information as a public good severely undernourished." It recommends state subsidies to trustworthy news outlets, greater state support for public service media, more media development assistance, as well as a redoubling of philanthropic investments.
- ▼ INFLECTION POINT INTERNATIONAL A study of digital media entrepreneurs in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa SEMBRA MEDIA (9 Nov. 2021)

 "Findings and recommendations on the impact, innovation, threats, business models, and teams of digital native media." Digital native media outlets in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia have been supported by grant funding through the pandemic. Nevertheless, becoming too dependent on this type of financing "can make it difficult for organizations to build sustainable business models." For a summary of the report, see this article by IJNET: Have digital native outlets become too dependent on grants? A new report has recommendations (Nov. 10, 2021)

Articles

▼ Introducing the GNI News Equity Fund (Nov.16, 2021) - Google News Initiative - LATOYA DRAKE

The GNI Global News Equity Fund is a new multi-million dollar commitment to provide rewards of up to \$250,000 to news organizations who serve underrepresented communities worldwide.

▼ Known to work: Designing the paywall and journalistic focus (Nov. 2021) - Baekdal Plus - THOMAS BAEKDAL

This article examines how to design a paywall and journalistic focus, as a part of the Known to Work series, which seeks to present data-backed elements that have been proven to work through real examples and experiences.

DISINFORMATION

Resources that will contribute to the literature review for the GFMD IMPACT meeting on regulatory responses to disinformation in April/May 2022.

Academic studies & papers

▼ <u>Alternative media and media polarization/fragmentation (October 26, 2021)</u> - Journalism Research News - JERE HOKKANEN

"Media fragmentation and polarization, which varies between countries, could affect the extent to which people claim to use alternative news."

Research & reports

▼ Report on strengthening democracy and media freedom and pluralism in the EU: the undue use of actions under civil and criminal law to silence journalists, NGOs and civil society (Oct. 27, 2021) - European Parliament

Key takeaways:

- 1. Media exemption amendments have been proposed to reexamine the way in which the Digital Services Act could potentially censor lawful content.
- 2. SLAPPS (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) can be used by influential individuals, companies and public authorities to prevent certain publications from being published. However, the European Parliament also recognizes the need to protect citizens from media overstepping into their private lives.

Articles

▼ <u>EU Countries Aiming for Common Position on Tech Rules on Nov. 25</u> (Oct. 29, 2021) - Reuters- FOO YUN CHEE

The Digital Services Act (DSA) seeks to hold tech companies accountable for the illegal and potentially dangerous content shared on their platforms. However, while "EU countries have

agreed on most key points for the DSA" they discussed who can regulate very large online platforms on November 8.

▼ Brussels, Paris split with press publishers over exemptions in online content rules (Oct. 20, 2021) - Politico - CLOTHILDE GOUJARD

"The European Commission and France have thrown their weight against press publishers in an ongoing debate over whether media content should be exempt from the EU's upcoming online content rules."

- ▼ How do you fix an "information disorder"? The Aspen Institute has some ideas (Nov. 15, 2021) Nieman Lab JOSHUA BENTON
- "Understanding the root problems of information disorder requires understanding hard-wired human behaviors, economic and political policy, group psychology and ideologies, and the relationship to people's sense of individual and community identity."
- ▼ Mainstream media spreads fake news (Nov. 5, 2021) Iffy News NARRET GOLDING "Journalists are quick to blame social media for spreading fake news but slow to examine their own role. They work within the web, a networked environment, but seem not to understand how that network works." Iffy News was created by Barrett Golding, renowned journalist who has worked in the NPR and the Reynolds Journalism Institute, as a response to the disinformation landscape produced by COVID-19. Its goal is to "give researchers a more complete, current, and accurate dataset of sites that spread mis/disinformation." Its Index of Unreliable Sources was born from a list of U.S. fake-news sites compiled by Golding in 2017, and published by Poynter.
- ▼ <u>Disinformation: A New Type of State-Sponsored Violence (Oct. 12, 2021)</u> The India Forum NEELANJAN SIRCAR

"While attempts by the ruling party to control the media and the messaging are not new in India, what we see now is the use of new technology to 'curate' and exercise 'centralised control' to spread disinformation in order to harass and intimidate critics."

Our selection from the rest of media development research and analysis

Academic studies and papers

▼ <u>Press Freedom Monitor: Detection of Reported Press and Media Freedom Violations in Twitter and News Articles</u> - Institute for Applied Informatics, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, Leipzig University- TARIQ YOUSEF, ANJE SCHALF, JANOS BORST, ANDREAS NIEKLER, GERHARD HEYER (Nov. 2021)

This paper introduces the Press Freedom Monitor, a tool that seeks to detect reported press and media freedom violations in news articles and tweets. This tool is aimed towards the press and the media freedom organisations "to support their daily monitoring and to trigger rapid response actions."

Research & reports

▼ What's Next? Public Service Journalism in the Age of Distraction, Opinion and Information Abundance (Nov. 22, 2021) - European Broadcasting Union - DR. ALEXANDRA BORCHARDT, FELIX M. SIMON

This report responds to the questions as to what is the best strategy to foster necessary innovation and responsiveness within newsrooms, as well as how public service media can cope with the political and financial pressures that put their existence at risk.

Articles

▼ <u>Tipping Point: Democratic Erosion and the Assault on Press Freedom</u> (Oct. 27, 2021)-CIMA - KATE MUSGRAVE

"Time and time again, would-be-autocrats seek to methodically dismantle press freedom and independence as an early step towards power. Analysis of this trend bolsters a growing international effort to support and safeguard independent media as a strategy for revitalizing democratic progress."

Podcasts

The Role of Radio in Transitions to Democracy - The Graduate Institute Geneva and the Central European University

CALLS FOR PAPERS

© Global South Researchers on Internet Governance in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America-Caribbean (Deadline: 1 Dec. 2021)

The School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg is looking for three researchers in the Global South to join their research project, 'Digital Self-Determination for the South? Legitimacy in the Regional Internet Registries.'

Call for applications to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a
Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and
Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes 17 to 28 January 2022 (Deadline to apply: Midnight on 30 November 2021)

Application form at: https://indico.un.org/event/1000342/

<u>ECOSOC Partnership Forum- Global Online Stakeholder Consultation (Deadline:</u> December 3, 2021)

The 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be held on February 2, 2022 with the theme of "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". In preparation, ECOSOC is holding a global online stakeholder consultation to review experiences, views and proposals from all stakeholders. From this consultation, ECOSOC hopes to not only make their findings widely accessible, but also compile potential speakers for the Partnership Forum.

Application form here.

MFIA Clinical Fellowship Opening (Deadline: January 17, 2022).

The Yale Information Society Project is accepting applications for a fellowship position with the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic (MFIA), starting in July 2022. MFIA is a law student clinic that supports robust investigative journalism, promotes the public's right of access to information, and protects freedom of expression. Application materials can be sent to heather.branch@yale.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FP Virtual Dialogue: Independent Media and the Advancement of Democracy - Online November 30, 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RECENT EVENTS

▼ A Twitter thread on the alleged Google and Facebook collusion (October 22, 2021) - Nitter - PATRICK MCGEE

As always, please get in touch with research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we are developing.

All the best.

Tom, Mira, Ivana, Biba & Salomé - the GFMD IMPACT team. tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

TO ADD TO GITBOOK (older than October):

- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1461444820928059
- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1464884920985728
- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1527476420982230
- https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/governance/docs/Domestic%20A ccountability_media.pdf
- https://www.comminit.com/media-development/content/global-media-philanthropy-wh-at-funders-need-know-about-data-trends-and-pressing-issues-f
- https://www.comminit.com/media-development/content/global-media-philanthropy-wh at-funders-need-know-about-data-trends-and-pressing-issues-f
- https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1461670X.2021.1944277?af=R&journal Code=rios20
- https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21670811.2021.1968921?af=R&journal Code=rdii20
- https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/23743670.2021.1972530?af=R&journal Code=recg21
- https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/14648849211044559
- https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21670811.2021.1939747
- https://conseilsdejournalistes.com/en/journalism-environment/
- https://hateaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/HateAid-Report-2021 EN.pdf
- https://www.freepressunlimited.org/sites/default/files/documents/Independent%20journalism%20in%20contexts%20of%20shrinking%20civic%20space.pdf

November 12th

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

We haven't reached out to the group for some time as we were rearranging some of the GFMD IMPACT activities and priorities for the upcoming period.

We have a few announcements:

GFMD IMPACT meetings and timetable

Next GFMD IMPACT donor, practitioner and academia meeting on media sustainability will coincide with the Media Freedom Coalition Conference in Estonia on 9-10 February 2022.

The meeting on regulatory aspects of disinformation has been postponed to April/May 2022. Due to recent development in regulatory and policy fields, we expect to have more relevant learning materials to share and discuss at that time.

GFMD IMPACT regional coordinators

You can see who our regional coordinators for <u>GFMD IMPACT are here</u>. The newest member of the team is Faisal Halimi, Founder and Executive Director of Afghanistan Institute for Research and Media Studies.

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Now on to our round-up of resources for the upcoming meetings...

SUSTAINABILITY & VIABILITY

Academic studies & papers

▼ Going beyond the buzzword "Sustainability" - MEDAS 21 FOME - MICHEL LEROY (4 Nov. 2021)

The latest publication from the "Research Reviews for Media Development Practitioners" series had three main findings:

- Since gaining mainstream appeal in the 1990s, sustainability has become a key concept in the field of media action. Its proponents would like to make it an unquestionable imperative, while its objectors question its catch-all nature. There is no widely accepted definition of sustainability but the OECD proposed a criterion that has since been used as a benchmark: "the extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue". Some donors (e.g. Japan and the United Nations Development Programme) also focus on the related notion of "human security".
- Overquoted but still often neglected, **sustainability is more of a process than an externally driven goal to be achieved**. Whether an activity, outcome or principle is sustainable can only be known afterwards and what is assessed is a likelihood or probability, along with the capacity to mitigate risks, learn from mistakes and adapt along the way.
- Unsustainability is rarely questioned in humanitarian media projects, but it becomes critical when the emergency project becomes a long-term endeavour. The role of donors and their coordination play a key role, especially since not all of them have a formal policy on media sustainability, and there are even fewer cases with a concerted strategy. This is

concerning because over the past three decades studies have shown that scattered, unrelated interventions have no effect or are even counterproductive.

Research & reports

▼ INFLECTION POINT INTERNATIONAL - A study of digital media entrepreneurs in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa - SEMBRA MEDIA (9 Nov. 2021)

"Findings and recommendations on the impact, innovation, threats, business models, and teams of digital native media."

Articles

- ▼ <u>Measuring impact: lessons learned from investing in media</u> Media Development Investment Fund MAGDALENA SKRZPEK (4 Nov. 2021)
- ▼ How Membership Saved Chile's Investigative Newsroom CIPER GIJN LAURA OLIVER (5 Nov. 2021)
- ▼ Canada: Explainer: What is Aid to Publishers? Why should you apply? News Media Canada (11 Nov. 2021)
- ▼ Chris Elliott: 'Journalism is under enormous pressure as we look to create a new commercial model to replace the old one' Vox Europe GIAN PAOLO ACCARDO (9 Nov. 2021)

Former readers' editor at the Guardian Chris Elliott shares the main findings from the Ethical Journalism Network's 'Building Trust in Journalism initiative' which aims to address the challenges that the media are facing in Central Eastern Europe.

Our selection from the rest of media development research and analysis

Articles

▼ <u>State of investigative journalism in Ethiopia</u> - International Media Support - MAYA MISIKIR (28 Oct. 2021)

"Investigative journalism is critical in developing countries, where maladministration and corruption are commonplace. But, as panelists at a recent discussion on investigative journalism in Ethiopia shared, this is still a developing practice in these countries and skill levels are working to catch up with needs. Journalist Maya Misikir takes a hard look at the current state of investigative journalism in her country."

Community newspapers in Rio de Janeiro's favelas fill information gaps, fight stereotypes to produce truly local journalism - LatAm Journalism Review - LEONARDO COELHO (6 Nov. 2021)

Podcasts

Disinformation in Times of Crisis - RNTC

CALLS FOR PAPERS

© Global South Researchers on Internet Governance in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America-Caribbean (Deadline: 1 Dec. 2021)

The School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg is looking for three researchers in the Global South to join their research project, 'Digital Self-Determination for the South? Legitimacy in the Regional Internet Registries.'

Call for applications to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a
Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and
Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes 17 to 28 January 2022 (Deadline to apply: Midnight on 30 November 2021)

Application form at: https://indico.un.org/event/1000342/

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Seminario: El periodismo independiente amenazado por la creciente industria del malware espía Fundamedios USA (Ecuador) & CIMA Webinar 16 Nov. 2021
- Thomson Reuters Foundation Trust Conference Thomson Reuters Online <u>17-18</u>
 Nov. 2021
- Disinformation, Civil Society & NGOs: How Do We Solve Humanity's Greatest Challenges Without A Shared Reality? Interaction Webinar 18 Nov. 2021
- Believe it or Not! Enquiries about TRUST in media FOME21 Symposium live in Berlin or online 18-19 Nov. 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RECENT EVENTS

- ▼ 10 takeaways from the Lenfest News Philanthropy Summit Local Media Association FRANK MUGEAM (9 Nov. 2021)
- As always, please get in touch with research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we are developing.

All the best.

Tom, Mira, Ivana and Biba - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Oct 15th

Subject:

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

We're back after a slightly longer than advertised hiatus after GFMD's General Assembly, which took place in Tirana and online. For those interested, you can catch up on the highlights from the GFMD General Assembly in our meeting report.

Until the end of the year, this digest will focus on sharing on resources related to the themes of our upcoming meetings:

- Nov. 2021 Regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation (Nov. 2021)
 Dec 2021 or Jan 2021 Support for the sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media (Dec.)
- + but we will have a round up of the best of rest from the media development and media support sector.

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1 REGULATORY RESPONSES TO DISINFORMATION

Academic studies & papers

- ▼ Social media, fake news and fake COVID-19 cures in Nigeria (1 Sept. 2021)

 Journal of African Media Studies TEMPLE UWALAKA, BIGMAN NWALA, AMADI

 CONFIDENCE CHINEDU
- "...social media was overwhelmingly the most used type of media for news consumption generally, and the most important source of news about the pandemic. [...] recalling and believing fake news headlines and using social media as the main source of news, significantly decreases the likelihood of believing credible and real news stories."
- ▼ Curating Quality? How Twitter's Timeline Algorithm Treats Different Types of News (6 Sept. 2021)

Social Media + Society (Sage) - JACK BANDY & NICHOLAS DIAKOPOULOS

"This article explores how Twitter's algorithmic timeline influences exposure to different types of external media."

▼ Facebook News Sharing, Hostile Perceptions of News Content, and Political Participation (8 Sept. 2021)

Social Media + Society (Sage) - MINEE KIM

"This study explored Facebook users' hostile perceptions of shared news content and its relationship with their political participation."

▼ Can Filter Bubbles Protect Information Freedom? Discussions of Algorithmic News Recommenders in Eastern Europe (15 Sept. 2021)

Digital Journalism (Routledge) - MYKOLA MAKHORTYKH & MARIËLLE WIJERMARS "...current assessments of the effects of news personalization are predominantly based on observations from Western democracies. This Western-centric approach raises concerns about these assessments' applicability to other contexts, in particular non-democratic ones." To address this gap this article scrutinizes "discussions of the promises and threats of news personalization in countries characterized by limited press freedom: Belarus, Russia and Ukraine."

▼ Is Sensationalist Disinformation More Effective? Three Facilitating Factors at the National, Individual, and Situational Level (16 Sept. 2021)

Digital Journalism (Routledge) - ANNA STAENDER, EDDA HUMPRECHT, FRANK ESSER, SOPHIE MOROSOLI, PETER VAN AELST

"Because sensationalist elements are prevalent in disinformation, this study examines the role of sensationalism in supporting disinformation. [...] Our results show a weak influence of tabloidized cultures, but people who frequently use tabloid or alternative media are more likely to agree with disinformation. Users who are uncertain about what is true and what is false are also more likely to agree with disinformation, especially when it is presented sensationally. The average user, however, is more likely to agree with disinformation that is presented neutrally. This finding is concerning, as disinformation presented in a sober manner is much harder to detect by those who want to fight the "infodemic."

▼ Perceptions of Responsibilities and Responses in Six Sub-Saharan African Countries (24 Sept. 2021)

MELISSA TULLY, DANI MADRID-MORALES, HERMAN WASSERMAN, GREGORY GONDWE & KIOKO IRERI

"While research on misinformation in Africa has increased in recent years, and despite a growing body of theoretical and empirical work that considers the role of governments, platforms, and users in stopping misinformation globally, there is still a lack of empirical research addressing ways to curb its spread on the continent. Research has coalesced around the idea that no single approach will work in all contexts, and effective strategies need to include media literacy, fact-checking, changes in how news is produced and circulated, government oversight, and regulations as well as responses that take local contexts into account. [...] Findings suggest that participants perceive misinformation as a problem if it has real or potential negative consequences and express a sense of shared responsibility among individuals and institutions for stopping the spread of misinformation."

Research & reports

▼ The truth behind filter bubbles: Bursting some myths

Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism - DR RICHARD FLETCHER

"Many voices warn that social media may be filtering out news that we dislike. Here's what the research says about it."

Articles

▼ Why the Nobel Peace Prize award is a huge blow to Facebook (9 Oct. 2021)

Washington Post - NINA JANKOWICZ

▼ Revealed: Facebook's Secret Blacklist of "Dangerous Individuals and Organizations" (12 Oct. 2021)

The Intercept - SAM BIDDLE

2 SUSTAINABILITY & VIABILITY

Academic studies & papers

▼ How Do Funding Models and Organizational Legacy Shape News Organizations' Social Media Strategies? A Comparison of Public Service and Private Sector News Media in Six Countries (27 Sept. 2021)

Digital Journalism (Routledge) - ANNIKA SEHL, ALESSIO CORNIA, & RASMUS KLEIS NIELSEN

"This article presents an analysis of how different major news media with different funding models (public service versus private sector media) and different organizational legacies (broadcast versus print) in six different European countries approach the social media platforms that they increasingly rely on for some of their online reach."

Research & reports

Articles

▼ Supporting independent media in Myanmar amid Covid-19 and a coup (30 Sept. 2021)

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT FUND - Tessa Piper

▼ How Creative Ownership Structures Can Help Local News Publishers Stay Local (6 Oct. 2021)

Knight Foundation - MARK GLASER

Podcasts

Where is the money? Financing African media (8 Oct. 2021)

World Association of News Publishers - ANDREW HESLOP

The latest episode of WAN-IFRA's The Backstory Media Freedom podcast explores "how African media companies are finding innovative ways of coping – and thriving – in the midst of huge economic uncertainty."

3 Our selection from the rest of media development research and analysis

Academic studies & papers

▼ "The truth of what's happening" How Tibetan exile media develop and maintain journalistic authority (8 Sept. 2021)

Journalism (Sage) - MASASHI CRETE-NISHIHATA & LOKMAN TSUI

Articles

▼ Western Balkans: Russia's Sputnik skews public opinion (29 Sept. 2021)

DW Akademie - THOMAS BREY

"Though Serbia has strong ties with Western Europe, most Serbs consider Russia to be their closest partner. That's because of the narrative peddled by Kremlin-funded outlets like Sputnik, which dominate the airwaves."

▼ Turning the Tide on Autocrats Starts with Supporting a Free Press (14 Oct. 2021) Centre for International Media Assistance - DAMON WILSON & NICHOLAS

BENEQUISTA

"At a moment of existential threat to independent media in many countries, the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to two of the world's bravest and most committed journalists—Maria Ressa of Rappler, and Dmitry Muratov of Novaya Gazeta—sends an important message. For the sake of democratic societies, a free press and access to trustworthy information must remain sacred."

▼ Radio: a key humanitarian response tool (Sept. 2021)

ELRHA - Dr Emma Heywood (Sheffield University) and Dr Lassané Yameogo (CNRST-Ouagadougou) in partnership with Fondation Hirondelle/Studio Yafa in Burkina Faso.

During the email list's hiatus, Fondation Hirondelle's Sacha Meuter shared a <u>research snapshot</u> of the main findings and recommendations of a research on radio as a public health messaging tool for vulnerable crisis-affected communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key finding: Humanitarian practitioners and policy makers should not simply use the radio to bombard top-down messages produced by outsiders. Involving the target listening community in the production and dissemination of messages, for example through interactive programmes, will improve the uptake and implementation of public health recommendations.

Sacha adds that: "In addition to the research findings, I think that its set-up was particularly interesting as we used whatsapp broadcasting lists to collect inputs from IDPs on the information needs. The research team then produced synthesis of those inputs that were provided to our local editorial team to feed their radio programmes."

CALLS FOR PAPERS

© Global South Researchers on Internet Governance in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America-Caribbean (Deadline: 1 Dec. 2021)

The School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg is looking for three researchers in the Global South to join their research project, 'Digital Self-Determination for the South? Legitimacy in the Regional Internet Registries.'

UPCOMING EVENTS

- East Festival 2021 "media viability and media innovation in East Africa" AKU and others (15-16 Oct. 2021)
- Confronting Disinformation in Asia Panel Discussion
 US Agency for Global Media / IREX (October 19 Online)
- Digital Repression: Confronting the Evolving Challenge
 NED (19 Oct. 2021 Online)
- "The Media and Information Landscape in Lebanon" Internews (20 Oct. 2021 Online)
- EU DisinfoLab's Annual Conference #Disinfo2021
 EU DisinfoLab (27 October Brussels)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RECENT EVENTS

- ▼ <u>Albanian media roundtable</u>: Read about the discussion and recommendations that came out of a session on "Albanian perspectives on media development and journalism support" at the GFMD <u>General Assembly</u>.
- ▼ <u>Afghanistan media assistance</u>: GFMD issued a statement calling for the international community to take urgent steps to support journalism in Afghanistan <u>GFMD Calls for Urgent Support for Afghanistan Journalists</u> after three exiled Afghan journalists addressed the GFMD <u>General Assembly</u>.
- As always, please get in touch with research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we are developing.

All the best.

Tom, Mira, Ivana and Biba - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Email to non-GFMD members taking part in the MFC

Parker, Natasha (TR Foundation) < Natasha.Parker@thomsonreuters.com > Lucas, Philippe (TR Foundation) < Philippe.Lucas@thomsonreuters.com > Church, William M. (TR Foundation) < will.church@thomsonreuters.com > Glicher, Nicholas D. (TR Foundation) < nicholas.glicher@thomsonreuters.com > Paul, Kamini (TR Foundation) < Kamini.Paul@thomsonreuters.com >

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Clare Dance < clare.dance@aib.org.uk >

- 1. Association for International Broadcasting
- 2. Committee to Protect Journalists
- 3. FLIP
- 4. Frontline Freelance Register
- 5. IFEX
- 6. International Federation of Journalists
- 7. International Press Institute
- 8. Public Media Alliance
- 9. Reporters without Borders
- 10. The Guardian
- + Media4Democracy

Email to GFMD members taking part in the MFC

- **11. ARTICLE 19**
- 12. DW Akademie
- 13. International Media Support
- 14. Internews
- 15. Pakistan Press Foundation
- 16. Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms
- 17. WAN-IFRA

Dear GFMD member,

We are writing to you in regard to the Media Freedom Coalition's (MFC) call for proposals for the creation of a Secretariat to facilitate the work of the MFC.

The deadline for proposals is October 15th.

GFMD does not want to apply or take a leading role in the Secretariat. However, we do want to ensure that the new MFC Secretariat is responsive to the needs of our community and that there are no barriers to information exchange about the workings of the MFC moving forward.

For that reason GFMD would like to propose that if you or a consortium that you are involved with is planning on making an application that you consider adding GFMD as a technical partner or that we agree to sign a MoU about how we intend to cooperate in this area should your bid be successful.

Please note, that as well as our members on the Consultative Network we are also reaching out to all other organisations that we think may be applying to ensure that whatever the outcome, GFMD can continue to effectively represent the interests of our members and facilitate information exchange between our members, the consultative network and the co-chairs of the MFC.

If you would like to discuss any of this please reach out to me as soon as possible so we can discuss the details. If there is interest, GFMD would be happy to convene a meeting on Wednesday, Oct 13th or Thursday, Oct 14th this week to discuss this in more detail.

We will obviously need to move quickly. Please accept our apologies for reaching out at this late stage.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Mira.

Sept 24th

Subject: Barriers to collaboration & challenges facing the sector - highlights from a network analysis of GFMD membership

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

The next GFMD IMPACT will be on 8 October as next week is the GFMD General Assembly. Our last one was in 2016 I hope you will excuse me for taking a week off!

As promised in this email are some of the highlights from an Engagement Survey & Network Analysis we conducted of our members this year. It compares the results with a network analysis that was conducted in 2014 and 2015.

This first analysis, which was presented at the 2016 World Forum for Media Development in Jakarta, found that members of GFMD were quite selective with their communicative relationships to other members and many of those relationships were among members in the Global North.

- You can read the full analysis here.
- And a summary including a note on the methodology <u>here.</u>

Network analysis

Overall, the connectedness of the GFMD network has improved since the previous network analysis. It appears that members are forging connections with each other and in such a way that the connections are distributed somewhat equally rather than concentrating around a select few organisations.

Yet, when looking at the Global North/South divide, we see that the connections are still dominated by the North.

Issues facing the media development and journalism support sector

The three most challenging issues identified include:

- issues with securing funding
- working in environments hostile to independent journalism
- and having an inability to diversify revenue

In terms of categories of issues, sustainability was by far the most challenging issue that respondents believe the sector faces.

Other notable challenges facing the sector include

⚠ inadequate support and funding for the Global South and developing economies

top-down approaches to setting the sector's agenda

⚠ and insufficient resources and time to dedicate to organisational management and business management skills development.

On a positive note, respondents indicated that the least challenging issues of those listed were "difficulties with producing evidence of success and effectiveness."

The top three barriers to collaboration:

⚠ "Lack of resources, financial backing, and staff needed to maintain collaborative projects and relationships"

1 "Lack of felt need to collaborate"

"Perceived competition for current or future funding were.

How to begin addressing these issues?

The findings from the network analysis will inform the strategy sessions of our General Assembly next week. To find out more visit.

UPCOMING GFMD IMPACT MEETINGS

In the meantime please continue to share your resources related to the themes of our upcoming meetings

- 1 Regulation, legislation, and policy responses to disinformation (Oct.)
- 2 Support for the sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media (Dec.)

Apologies in advance if I am slower than normal in acknowledging your contributions and suggestions.

As always, please get in touch with research, evaluation reports, and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we are developing.

All the best,

Tom, Mira, and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.qfmd.info

Sept 17th

Subject:

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

For the next few weeks, this email will be a little different as I and the whole GFMD team are busy preparing for our <u>General Assembly</u> which takes place at the end of the month.

One of the items on the <u>agenda</u> is to approve a new GFMD Constitution creating a new **GFMD Policy and Learning committee** which will, among other things:

- 1 Act as an advisory board for GFMD IMPACT
- ②Be constituted of both members of the <u>GFMD Steering Committee</u> as well as other GFMD IMPACT partners

We will announce details on how the Policy and Learning committee will be constructed and function in early October.

Sustainable financing of media: How can philanthropy help?

Yesterday, GFMD's Executive Director, Mira Milosevic, participated in a roundtable discussion at the <u>Congress of the International Press Institute</u>. IPI will be publishing a write-up from the meeting, which I will share in a future email, but I thought I would share a short summary of Mira's presentation which compared the findings from three recent studies:

- 1 Foundation Approaches to Journalism Funding. A JFF Survey by Eric Karstens, 2020 (for EJC)
- 2 GFMD Study: Recipient Perceptions of Media Development Assistance, by Cara Stern 2019
- 3 Lessons learned in providing emergency relief funding during the pandemic, Federica Cherubini 2021 (RISJ)

At the micro-level, these reports show that **core**, **operational support**, is the most common funding awarded by foundations. This is immediately followed by **project support**.

- This is a good sign as one of the most frequently mentioned demands by journalism outlets for core rather than project funding, flexibility, ease of access and a plurality of approaches.
- This is in contrast with international development donors who largely provide short term, programmatic funding. When asked what kind of operational improvements they would like to see in the provision of assistance, 94% of GFMD survey respondents expressed the desire for more institutional/core funding and 92% for longer-term funding.
- if you are interested in the intricacies of media development and journalism support funding sign up for our <u>Bottom Line newsletter</u>. Next week it will be going into more detail on this issue, as well as highlighting relevant sections of the <u>GFMD MediaDev Fundraising</u> <u>Guide</u> launched in June 2021.

At the macro level - there is a clear absence of scalable systems that would provide systemic support to journalism (especially local, community, investigative and accountability journalism) which often struggle to sustain themselves through solely commercial models.

Journalism remains a niche topic among philanthropies:

- ▼ In Europe, out of almost 150 000 foundations spending over €60 billion Euro per year there are currently at least 19 journalism funding programmes run by philanthropies (2020 JFF survey).
- These 19 funding programmes spend around €20 million Euro annually (0.03% of overall philanthropic donations).

▼ For comparison, Google's '<u>Digital News Innovation Fund'</u> alone spent an average of €37.5 million per year from 2016-20).

International assistance to the media remains a small fraction of total aid: just 0.3%¹ of total official development assistance. An average in recent years of around 500 million Euro) and the case for journalism is being made increasingly at the moment with what success remains to be seen.

The <u>2019 survey of GFMD members</u> had many interesting findings. Here are just three:

- ▼ The sector's needs and donor priorities are too often <u>not aligned</u>. There is a lack of collective and shared clarity about which strategies are proving effective. Donors have expressed a need to create ongoing mechanisms for effective collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
- ▼ More <u>data</u>, evidence, literature reviews, diagnostics, and M&E are required for donors, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to truly understand the issues at hand and to find appropriate solutions.
- ▼ Donors want data and in-depth information on media landscapes and markets, existing media funding (financial and thematic) and impacts according to an agreed standard, which currently does not exist.

These three reports (and others) show:

- 1 A clear need to put greater focus on research and learning in order to enhance understanding of the sector and to provide easy access into evidence of "what worked, what didn't, and what shows promise".
- 2 That donors, funders, and implementing agencies all agree that they would benefit greatly from access to these insights as well as from independent advice and guidance when devising journalism support and media development strategies and programmes.

Indeed, it was based on the above that <u>GFMD IMPACT</u> was developed as a learning, knowledge-sharing, and analysis destination for the international journalism support and media development community.

? If there is interest, next week I will share a blog going into more detail about the findings Mira presented at the meeting. Please get in touch if this would be interesting or useful. Next week, I will be sharing some of the findings from an "Engagement & Network Analysis Survey" of GFMD members by Adam Saffer which has been conducted to inform discussion at our General Assembly.

In the meantime please continue to share your resources related to the themes of our upcoming meetings

- 1 Regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation (Oct.)
 2 Support for the sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media (Dec.)
- Apologies in advance if I am slower than normal in acknowledging your contributions and suggestions.

¹ Source:

CALLS

Assessing and responding to threats in cyberspace

<u>Call for papers</u> for the 2022 Terrorism and Social Media Conference at Swansea University, UK.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Future of Media in Afghanistan

Internews (22 Sept. 2021 - Online)

2021 Annual Journalism Funders Gathering

Media Impact Funders (<u>13-14 October - Online</u>)

EU DisinfoLab's Annual Conference #Disinfo2021

EU DisinfoLab (27 October - Brussels)

As always, please get in touch with research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we are developing.

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Sept 10th

Subject:

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

This week's digest is split into three sections. First we will look at new resources related to the themes of our upcoming meetings

- 1 Regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation (Oct.)
- 2 Support for the sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media (Dec.)

Before giving you our usual round up of the best media development news, resources and events.

1 POLICY RESPONSES TO DISINFORMATION

⚠ South Korea has joined many countries proposing law changes designed to curb disinformation which risk silencing critical journalism. WAN-IFRA and its member the Korean Newspapers Association have <u>called for the law to be retracted</u>. RSF have also called <u>"on legislators to reject anti-disinformation amendment which poses a threat to journalism</u>".

The Wire (India) has written about a sweeping plan to require government licensing of journalistic activity in Pakistan: Pakistan: Censoring Journalism in the Name of 'Media
Development (Sept. 2021)

- For those advocating against similar laws around the world, what reference papers or examples can be drawn upon? Here are some examples from our literature review:
- ▼ In May, the Centre for Law and Democracy prepared analyses of **Mauritia**'s ICT Act and proposed amendments to it.
- ▼ CLD also released an analysis of amendments to **Myanmar**'s Penal Code, which <u>includes some commentary on the new provisions on false news</u>. Both analyses referred to the problem of banning "false news" and referenced international standards in this area.
- ▼ The CLD, DW Akadmie and IMS submissions on disinformation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression earlier this year have been <u>collated here</u>. Please let us know if there are others that you think it would be useful to include.
- Another useful resource is "<u>Disinformation during the pandemic and Latin America's</u> regulatory response" authored by Marina Pita for Unesco.
- For more on regulatory responses to disinformation see our literature review which can be browsed by <u>academic studies & papers</u>, <u>policy briefs & working papers</u>, <u>research & reports</u>, and <u>articles</u>.

2 SUSTAINABILITY & VIABILITY

- Sticking with Latin America, for those interested in the impact of the pandemic on media viability in Latin America, this report by Agustín Espada for UNESCO is essential reading -- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on media sustainability in Latin America: changes and transformations in the production models, sources of income, and products of Latin American media.
- For more on Sustainability & viability, you can browse our literature review by: <u>academic studies & papers</u>, <u>case studies</u>, <u>research & reports</u>, <u>policy briefs & working papers</u>, <u>and articles</u>.

3 NEW RESOURCES ON MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH & REPORTS

▼ Peace Journalism: A Tool Within Media Development? (Sept. 2021)
MEDAS 21 - FABIOLA ORTIZ DOS SANTOS

The entire research review including **conclusions for practitioners** is available here: www.medas21.net/resources. The publication series has been initiated by the German "Forum for Media and Development" fome and the graduate program MEDAS-21 with the aim to inform practitioners and researchers about key debates, evidence and emerging issues in international media development.

<u>ARTICLES</u> - <u>Effectiveness of MediaDev</u>

▼ <u>Decolonising journalism: what does it mean, why does it matter and where do you start?</u> (Sept. 2021)

Journalism.co.uk - JACOB GRANGER

"The New Humanitarian is rethinking coverage of conflict and crises to be more inclusive and empowering for the communities at the centre of the story."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sustainable financing of media: How can philanthropy help?

International Press Institute (16 Sept. 2021 - Vienna)

A special round table of European donors and beneficiaries on philanthropic funding of media and journalism.

The Future of Media in Afghanistan

Internews (22 Sept. 2021 - Online)

2021 Annual Journalism Funders Gathering

Media Impact Funders (13-14 October - Online)

EU DisinfoLab's Annual Conference #Disinfo2021

EU DisinfoLab (27 October - Online)

As always, please get in touch with research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we are developing.

All the best,

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Sept 3rd

Subject:

Welcome back (after our brief summer break) to this weekly email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

While I was away my colleague, Anne Marie Hammer, sent the latest version of GFMD's <u>Bottom Line newsletter</u> focusing on emergency funding in relation to Afghanistan and Haiti. <u>Read and subscribe here.</u>

- Thank you to everyone who has shared suggested resources for our upcoming meetings:
- Regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation (Oct.)
- Support for the sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media (Dec.)

Please get in touch with:

- 1 Research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we will be developing.
- 2 Suggestions for what you would like to see discussed and who you would like to hear from.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

▼ Spyware: An Unregulated and Escalating Threat to Independent Media (Aug. 2021) CIMA - SAMUEL WOODHAMS

"The unchecked growth of the commercial spyware industry is providing repressive governments with new tools to surveil, harass, and attack independent journalists and their sources in a new battlefront against the free flow of information. The chilling effect of this is strongest in countries with a history of restricting free expression and weak legal and policy environments for safeguarding independent journalism."

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS

▼ International Development Strategy: call for evidence

UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is inviting submissions to inform the UK government's International Development Strategy. Closing date: <u>Tuesday 6th September</u>.

ARTICLES - Disinformation - Al, regulation, legislation, & design-of-platforms

▼ The Trouble With South Korea's 'Fake News' Law (Aug. 2021) The Diplomat "South Korea may be the only liberal democracy using a "fake news" law to target large traditional media companies."

▼ Kyrgyz parliament sneaks through "fake news" law with president's blessing (July 2021) Eurasianet - BERMET TALANT

A local watchdog says the bill "introduces censorship."

<u>ARTICLES</u> - <u>Effectiveness of MediaDev</u>

▼ Regional Collaboration in Southern Africa: Solidarity in the Age of Fragmentation (Sept. 2021) CIMA/Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)

ARTICLES - Sustainability & viability

- ▼ Readers' Clubs and Friends: The state of membership models in Ukrainian media (July 2021) Membership Puzzle ANDRII IANITSKYI
- ▼ How Mission-Driven News Sites Are Betting on Reader Revenue in Latin America (Aug. 2021) Global Investigative Journalism Network LAURA OLIVER
- ▼ Most Brazilian media use WhatsApp in a limited way and miss opportunities to generate revenue from the app, says researcher (Aug. 2021) LatAm Journalism Review MARINA ESTARQUE
- ▼ Lessons from Gazeta Wyborcza's 250K strong subscription business (Aug. 2021) Wan-ifra - NEHA GUPTA

"In a country where news is mostly consumed free and online, with no use of home delivery of newspapers, Poland's Gazeta Wyborcza has set an example with its 250,000 strong digital-only subscription business."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sustainable financing of media: How can philanthropy help? International Press Institute (16 Sept. 2021 - Vienna)

A special round table of European donors and beneficiaries on philanthropic funding of media and journalism.

2021 Annual Journalism Funders Gathering Media Impact Funders (13-14 October - Online)

All the best,

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

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<u>ARTICLES</u> - <u>Disinformation</u>

▼ "Credible reporting helps reduce hate speech" - interview with Lina Chawaf (Aug. 2021)

Fondation Hirondelle

August 13th

Subject:

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

★ ▼ The next email will be on Friday 3rd September, as I will be taking some time off over the next few weeks. ★ ▼

Upon my return, it would be lovely to find an inbox full of emails with suggested resources for autumn events our upcoming events:

A Regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation (Oct.)

<u>A</u> Support to sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media (Dec.) For more details see last week's email.

Some resources for the Autumn events have already started to come in!

Wendy Via, Co-founder//President of Global Project Against Hate and Extremism emails with their most recent report, <u>Democracies Under Threat: How Loopholes for Trump's Social Media Enabled The Global Rise of Far-Right Extremism</u>, which covers seven countries and the Balkans.

Wendy adds that GRAPHE have "made it a priority to get the major tech/social media companies to treat political figures and the politically powerful like any other user. It's critical that these actors not be afforded loopholes and exceptions on hate and disinformation content that negatively impacts the electorate, and that the companies are transparent about enforcement and cultural and language competency."

Would you like this to be on the agenda for the October meeting on regulation? What would you like to see on the agenda for both meetings?

Please get in touch with:

- 1 Research, evaluation reports and policy papers that can contribute to the literature reviews and briefings that we will be developing.
- 2 Suggestions for what you would like to see discussed and how you would like to hear from.
- Requests for information/collaboration:

New this week

▼ Miriam Berretta [mberretta@3ieimpact.org] of International Initiative for Impact Evaluation is looking for impact evaluations/systematic reviews for their mapping of interventions to support independent media. You can find the draft here.

Deadline for submissions is TODAY - 13th of August!

From last week

▼ **GFMD's good friend** Anya Schiffrin [anyaschiffrin@gmail.com] is looking for examples of governments that have used copyright violations as an excuse to make Google and/or Facebook take down investigative reporting.

ACADEMIC STUDIES & PAPERS - Disinformation

▼ Autopsy of a metaphor: The origins, use and blind spots of the 'infodemic' (July 2021)

University of Oxford - Felix M Simon, Chico Q Camargo

The paper argues that

1 "information does not spread like a virus" & "the 'infodemic' metaphor can be misleading"

the "tension between the usefulness of the widespread use of the term 'infodemic' and its uncritical adoption [...] can do more harm than good, potentially diluting the quality of academic work, public discourse and contributing to state overreach in policymaking."

RESEARCH & REPORTS - Effectiveness of media development

▼ <u>Mapping evidence gaps on human rights, civil society, and independent media</u>
(<u>July 2021</u>)

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

"To better inform decision-making in these areas, 3ie is developing <u>Evidence Gap Maps</u> (EGMs) on each of these three topics."

RESEARCH & REPORTS - Sustainability & viability

▼ Nearly 80% of local digital and regional media in Mexico want to include paid content or reader contributions, report says (Aug. 2021)

LatAm Journalism Review - Marina Estarque

"Nearly 80% of local digital and regional media in Mexico are working for or plan, within three years, to incorporate a reader revenue model, meaning a paywall system, subscriptions, contributions or membership program.

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS

▼ International Development Strategy: call for evidence

UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is inviting submissions to inform the UK government's International Development Strategy. Closing date: <u>Tuesday 6th September</u>.

ARTICLES

▼ The media in Lebanon: One year after the Beirut blast (Aug. 2021)

IJNET - Fatima Bahja

"Lebanon's media scene is witnessing its own revolution as it contends with a changing reality on the ground and the evolving needs of its audiences. IJNet interviewed journalists, media advocates and civil society actors in the country to see how, one year after the blast,

journalists have been impacted by the ongoing crises, what the future of Lebanese media looks like, and what hope is left for the country."

[i] (For more on journalism support in Lebanon see GFMD's <u>literature review</u>, <u>snapshot research</u> and <u>coordination meetings</u> around the <u>Lebanon Recovery Fund</u>.

▼ The West's Best Allies for 20 Years Are in Grave Danger (Aug. 2021)

New York Times - Jeanne Bourgault and Ahmed Rashid

This op-ed in the New York Times co-authored by the president of Internews highlights the urgent need to defend journalists in Afghanistan. "As the Taliban surround <u>major cities</u>, spreading violence and destruction, the prospects for independent media are dire. Yet all is not lost. In the next weeks and months, there's a chance to protect one of Afghanistan's greatest achievements in the past two decades: a thriving, dynamic press. It must not be missed."

UPCOMING EVENTS

▼ Sustainable financing of media: How can philanthropy help? International Press Institute (16 Sept. 2021 - Vienna)

A special round table of European donors and beneficiaries on philanthropic funding of media and journalism.

Wishing you a peaceful and healthy rest of the summer.

All the best,

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

COVID-19 and the Information Space Update: August 9, 2021

Three Trends: The role of PR firms in spreading disinformation online is drawing renewed attention; researchers consider how more creative uses of content warnings and user prompts could help platforms to stem the flow of harmful content while respecting free expression; new revelations about the use of the elite spyware known as Pegasus are leading politicians and experts to ask how they can check illiberal abuses of commercial surveillance tools.

Disinformation & Influence Operations

PR FIRMS ENTER THE DISINFORMATION MARKET: Revelations this May about an effort to tarnish Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine have called attention to what Graham Brookie, director of the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, describes as the "boom industry" of disinformation-for-hire services. While social media influencers are typically hired to advertise products to their subscribers, French and German YouTubers revealed that one PR agency—part of a marketing company registered in both Russia and the UK—instead offered payment for spreading disinformation about the shot. Although these efforts drew particular notice, they are part of a broader trend: An Oxford University study found evidence of for-hire disinformation by PR firms in at least 48 countries last year, nearly double the number of countries where such operations were identified in 2019. Recently, analysts have pointed to traces of companies' involvement in political disinformation in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Turkey, and Pakistan. Other PR firms have promoted narratives favorable to their clients by taking on the guise of fact checkers.

CAN CONTENT WARNINGS BE MORE EFFECTIVE? In a recent Lawfare essay, Ben Kaiser, Jonathan Mayer, and J. Nathan Matias argue that using the <u>right kinds of warnings on social media platforms</u> may curb the spread of misinformation. Currently, platforms use contextual warnings like small icons (flags, exclamation points, and so forth) that show up alongside content to alert users about the quality of the information being shared. The authors' research finds that readers are more likely to move away from unreliable sources if they instead encounter interstitial warnings, which, rather than simply accompanying content, stop users and notify them of risk before they can view the content. Such warnings are currently used by web browsers and operating systems to flag security issues. The study found that interstitial warnings dramatically increased the likelihood that viewers would either steer clear of labeled content or seek verification from other sources, and that users understood the risk the warnings indicated. Kaiser, Mayer, and Matias note that interstitial warnings could offer platforms a moderation tool that is simultaneously less severe than deplatforming and more serious than ineffective contextual labelling.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? From major media outlets to fact-checking groups to the World Health Organization, commentators since February 2020 have reflected on how to combat the "infodemic," typically defined as an oversupply of frequently false information that has led to confusion around the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent article by Felix Simon and Chico Camargo of the University of Oxford challenges this popular metaphor. The authors argue that the idea of an "infodemic" obscures key distinctions between viral contagion and information's spread, including the role of human agency in the sharing, selection, and uptake of information. In addition to the problems this lack of clarity could pose for devising an effective response, Simon and Camargo argue that emergency metaphors of this kind

can provide cover for opportunistic governments eager to adopt authoritarian measures (such as increasingly popular laws against "fake news").

Social Media & the Public Square:

USING AI TO BOOST SELF-MODERATION: RAND's Christopher Paul and Hilary Reininger argue that <u>social media platforms should rely more on prompts</u> that encourage users to self-moderate or fact-check their own draft content before it is posted. While such prompts have obvious benefits as tools for reducing harmful content while preserving users' freedom of expression (posters can ignore the prompts and proceed with posting if they choose), they have only been deployed in limited contexts, such as when users attempt to share older content or content previously flagged as problematic. Paul and Reininger propose platforms train AI algorithms to identify a larger set of posts that potentially violate community standards.

TIKTOK ONLY NEEDS ONE TYPE OF DATA TO TARGET USERS: A study conducted by the Wall Street Journal highlights how <u>TikTok's recommendation algorithm</u> targets users based on the amount of time they linger on particular videos. Using bots with designated interests, like cooking or relationships, the WSJ shows how TikTok's algorithm sends users down content rabbit holes to maximize engagement. As users are directed toward specialized niches where videos are less thoroughly moderated, however, they are also more likely to come across harmful content. Guillaume Chaslot, an engineer who worked on YouTube's algorithm, explains that TikTok's algorithm is "pushing people towards more and more extreme content, so it can push them toward more and more watch time." A recent investigation by triple j Hack and Four Corners in Australia similarly found that TikTok's algorithm can steer users toward potentially dangerous content, such as <u>videos about eating disorders</u>. TikTok has also recently come under fire for suppressing videos related to protest and other content by creators from marginalized groups, such as people of color, the economically disadvantaged, and those with disabilities.

WHAT NEW INTERNET RULES MEAN FOR ENCRYPTION: The tradeoffs that encryption presents between law enforcement and privacy needs remain a contested topic globally, including at a June roundtable held by the Internet Society. Recent legislation in India has thrown this issue into sharp relief, as digital rights advocates warn that the end-to-end encryption used by messaging services such as WhatsApp and Signal is incompatible with new requirements for internet intermediaries to review messages for prohibited content and trace information back to its original source. The measures—part of a broader set of rules that also require tech companies to appoint local representatives who could be held legally responsible for noncompliance—have contributed to rising tensions between the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and global tech giants. In May, WhatsApp sued the Indian government over the traceability requirement on the grounds that it undermines the Indian constitution's privacy guarantees. In a recent interview with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), WhatsApp CEO Will Cathcart reaffirmed the platform's commitment to encrypted messaging, stressing its importance for democracy, and suggested that democratic governments should consider ways to "commandeer tech companies in the fight to spread liberal values."

Technological Governance

THE PEGASUS LEAKS: Spyware is in the spotlight following a 17-outlet media consortium's groundbreaking investigation into use of the NSO Group's Pegasus malware against political figures, activists, and journalists. The investigation centered on a leaked list of more than 50,000 phone numbers flagged for NSO Group as being of interest; at least ten governments are believed to be among the clients that supplied these numbers. Through forensic investigations, Amnesty International's Security Lab found evidence of the malware's presence on several dozen devices identified through the list. Pegasus allows remote access to cameras, microphones, messages, location data, and other information stored on targets' cell phones, and it can be installed through both malicious links and sophisticated "zero-click" attacks that require no action on the part of the victim. The targeting of high-profile figures with this costly spyware has touched off public controversies in Mexico, India, Hungary, and elsewhere.

PRIVATE SURVEILLANCE IN THE PUBLIC EYE: While governments deal with the political fallout of the Pegasus revelations, experts and advocates have been weighing measures to address the nexus between illiberal state practices and the private surveillance industry. Former UN Special Rapporteur David Kaye discussed the prospects for a global moratorium or ban on spyware sales, while the Global Investigative Journalism Network offered tips on where journalists can look for sources on governments' purchase and deployment of surveillance systems. Finally, a roundup from Privacy International explored the roles that surveillance and procurement laws, export controls, international norm setting, and cybersecurity approaches have to play in a multi-sectoral response to the human rights risks posed by surveillance sales.

EXPORTING CYBERSOVEREIGNTY? From fiber optic cables to e-commerce solutions, technologies produced by People's Republic of China (PRC) vendors are a growing presence in Africa. While PRC companies have long played a major role in Africa's telecoms infrastructure, 5G rollouts as well as the marketing of drones, smart city systems, and other high-tech surveillance products as COVID-19 response tools are providing new opportunities for these firms to further embed themselves in Africa's technology sector. Most recently, plans in Senegal to host all government data in a PRC-funded data center that will use Huawei equipment have captured analysts' attention. As reported by RFI, Eric Olander of the China Africa Project described the plan as "the first time that a country is fully replicating the Chinese data governance model that requires all servers to be located within a country's borders, providing the state with full access to the information." Analysts have long suggested that the PRC's comprehensive model of digital authoritarianism, with state control built into internet infrastructure from the outset, will be difficult to replicate elsewhere. Yet as PRC companies win contracts to build next-generation systems, broader questions are arising about whether authoritarian visions of cyber sovereignty may travel with them.

Related Resources from the Forum

The International Forum recently released a <u>Spanish-language translation</u> of Sarah Cook's report "<u>China's Global Media Footprint: Democratic Responses to Expanding Authoritarian Influence</u>," which describes the Chinese Communist Party's sharp power efforts to shape

media content around the world using propaganda, disinformation, and other forms of influence. The report is part of the Sharp Power and Democratic Resilience series.

Following our first GFMD IMPACT meetings on <u>theories of change/impact measurement</u> and <u>effective responses to disinformation</u>, we are now looking forward to our Autumn programme and would like to invite you to get involved.

Regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation

In October we will follow-up on June's event by bringing together donors, academics and practitioners to discuss the role of media development actors in internet governance and the regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation.

In particular we are looking for country case studies of where national (CSOs/journalism associations) and international actors (mediadev, press freedom and human rights groups, embassies, aid agencies) are attempting to influence policies, regulation, legislation on hate speech disinformation.

- How can international actors best increase the capacity of national actors to make effective interventions?
- What strategies and tactics work in different circumstances?

If you have any ideas or thoughts, please reply to this email to get in touch!

Sustainability

In December we will be focusing on how media development actors can best support sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media. Please send us your research, evaluation reports and other resources that can contribute to the literature and briefing that we will be developing.

August 6th

Subject:

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

2 down. 7 17 2 to go.

Following our first GFMD IMPACT meetings on <u>theories of change/impact measurement</u> and <u>effective responses to disinformation</u>, we are now looking forward to our Autumn programme and would like to invite you to get involved.

Regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation

In October we will follow-up on June's event by bringing together donors, academics and practitioners to discuss the role of media development actors in internet governance and the regulation, legislation and policy responses to disinformation.

In particular we are looking for country case studies of where national (CSOs/journalism associations) and international actors (mediadev, press freedom and human rights groups, embassies, aid agencies) are attempting to influence policies, regulation, legislation on hate speech disinformation.

- How can international actors best increase the capacity of national actors to make effective interventions?
- What strategies and tactics work in different circumstances?

If you have any ideas or thoughts, please reply to this email to get in touch!

Sustainability

In December we will be focusing on how media development actors can best support sustainability and viability of independent journalism and media. Please send us your research, evaluation reports and other resources that can contribute to the literature and briefing that we will be developing.

Requests for information/collaboration:

- ▼ GFMD's good friends Anya Schiffrin wrote to email list. Thank you Anya! Anya is looking for examples of governments that have used copyright violations as an excuse to make Google and/or Facebook take down investigative reporting for some pieces of research. Please contact Anya at anyaschiffrin@gmail.com if you are able to share any examples.
- ▼ SDG16 Data Initiative (DI) Report: The Centre for Law and Democracy, assisted by GFMD, is helping to prepare both chapters of the SDG16 Data Initiative's annual report. If you have specific information on how misinformation- and disinformation works or impacts society, how it impacts the targets under Goal 16 (a list is available here), how it impacts target 16.10 and the other targets as well, please contact: Ivana Bjelic Vucinic at ivbjelic@gfmd.info or Toby Mendel at toby@law-democracy.org.

▼ Reactions to the European Commission's Rule of Law Report

The European Partnership for Democracy, Civil Society Europe, Amnesty International, and the EU Media Advocacy Working Group is developing a joint civil society paper to be issued in September. The paper will focus on the content and process behind the European Commission's recently published Rule of Law Report. You can submit your reactions to and thoughts on the report, informing the upcoming statement.

- The 2021 Rule of law report methodology is available here.
- The EU's rule of law toolbox factsheet is available here.
- The European rule of law mechanism factsheet is available here.

RESEARCH & REPORTS - Effectiveness of media development

▼ The power of data for media development: Panelists discuss the Vibrant Information Barometer (August 2021)

IREX - Ben Brewer, Stephanie Hess, and Linda Trail

Summary of an event discussing how VIBE can be used as a tool to increase impact in development. The 2021 VIBE study covers 13 countries across Europe and Eurasia (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine).

▼ <u>USAID - Democracy, Human Rights and Governance: Learning, Evidence, and Analysis Platform</u>

USAID have updated their Learning, Evidence, and Analysis Platform - a curated set of DRG-specific, user-friendly resources in three areas: 1) programmatic approaches, 2) metrics, and 3) - with numerous resources over the past eight months.

RESEARCH & REPORTS - AI, regulation, legislation & design of platforms

▼ Double Standards in Social Media Content Moderation (Aug. 2021)

Brennan Center - Ángel Díaz & Laura Hecht-Felella

The report makes a number of legislative and platform recommendations to increase transparency, facilitate public interest research, and protect marginalised communities.

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS

▼ International Development Strategy: call for evidence

UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is inviting submissions to inform the UK government's International Development Strategy. Closing date: <u>Tuesday 6th September</u>.

ARTICLES

<u>"The puzzle turned out to be more complicated than we thought": After four years, the Membership Puzzle Project is winding down (Aug. 2021)</u>

Nieman Labs - Sarah Scire

"The public research project analyzed membership projects worldwide. They found successful communities were fixated on learning what their members value."

▼ Exit News Leads the Way in International Media Trust and Independence Initiative (July 2021)

Exit News writes about <u>becoming</u> the first media platform in the Western Balkans to submit to the <u>Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI)</u> which involved a full internal and external audit and the publication of the results.

ARTICLES - Disinformation

▼ <u>"Fake news" laws are failing to stem Covid-19 misinformation in Southeast Asia</u>
(July 2021)

Rest of World - Peter Guest, Febriana Firdaus and Tammy Danan

Singapore's conspiracists thrive on Telegram, while a punk rocker and a former health official drive rumors in Indonesia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

▼ Sustainable financing of media: How can philanthropy help? International Press Institute (16 Sept. 2021 - Vienna)

A special round table of European donors and beneficiaries on philanthropic funding of media and journalism.

CALL FOR PAPERS

▼ The <u>Truth and Trust Online Conference</u> is happening virtually this year on October 7 and 8, and the <u>call for papers</u> is open. Deadline: August 13th.

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

July 30th

Subject: Journalism support and media development in the context of mis/disinformation

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

This week we are taking a deeper look at the insights from last month's meeting of media development donors, practitioners and academics to discuss effective responses to disinformation, which was co-convened by GFMD, <u>USAID</u>, and the <u>Media Sector Development Working Group of IAMCR</u>.

Support to journalism

There was general agreement that media development responses should focus on building resilience in societies by fostering a wider understanding of the nature of disinformation, what it is, and how it is spread.

⚠ Participants emphasised that an obstacle to this can be newsrooms and journalists themselves.

Participants recommended that media development programmes aim to:

- Improve comprehension of disinformation especially within the media sector.
- Support journalistic <u>investigations</u> about disinformation and its producers.
- Ensure that media reform processes and attempts to build a healthy legal and policy environment for independent journalism are integrated with <u>fact-checking</u> or other responses to disinformation.

Prioritising support to journalism

⚠ In areas that are badly catered for in terms of quality public service journalism, such as in countries with authoritarian governments, supporting journalism should be prioritised, with fact-checking projects increased once those basic information needs are met. (MediaDev practitioner)

Incorporating fact-checking into programmes that provide financial and other support to news media is essential in order to raise editorial standards. (**MediaDev practitioner**)

RESEARCH - "Disorder in the newsroom - The media's perceptions and response to the infodemic" - MMfD

Addressing polarization within journalism

↑ "From a media development perspective, one thing that I've observed over the years is that in environments that are ripe for misinformation, you often have the field of journalism itself, polarised and divided and unable to find the solidarity to respond. [...] Real ideological differences [between community, digital and more traditional media] keep them from

defending a truthful space against those with bad intentions and politicians with untruthful statements." (Academic)

Interest was expressed in finding examples of where progress is being made to heal the divisions within the field of journalism itself, between new and old, bloggers and traditional journalists, and other groups.

Funding modalities: separating journalism from strategic communications & campaigning

"We must insist on avoiding mixing or confusing news production journalism with messaging and campaigning. These are two different things, both have their legitimacy of course. But you should not mix them [...] Please, as donors avoid confusion in programmes, avoid confusing communication efforts, messaging campaigns, which are totally legitimate, of course, with support to news media support to news production and to journalism." - Nicolas Boissez's presentation of Fondation Hirondelle's (May 2021) policy paper "Sticking to the Facts, Building Trust: our Cure for Disinformation.

COVID-19 specific responses

Sonia Whitehead presented an analysis of BBC Media Action's COVID-19 disinformation responses. "Effectiveness was also seen in terms of engagement and production value: Information that was emotionally engaging was found to be more effective, for example, if a radio show countering disinformation had a familiar character or storyline that resonated with the audiences, it was more likely that people would respond to the messages positively."

Fact checking and journalism

"I would reiterate the need to not just do fact-checking if you're operating in an authoritarian context, but also really trying to address the problem of [the lack of] independent media." (MediaDev practitioner)

Among the insights shared by DW Akademie when kicking off a fact-checking project in <u>Ethiopia</u> was a suggestion to secure the buy-in from media houses by offering support that takes into account the interests of the media organisations.

- *"For example, in our case, we offered media viability consultancies as an additional activity alongside the fact-checking project".
- Read the full case study here.
- Watch a video giving background about the project <u>here</u>.

Fact checking and media literacy

Many participants emphasised the need for fact-checking services to use a media literacy approach to target the most vulnerable and polarised communities on a micro-scale using trusted local leaders.

"Oftentimes the persons who you're going to reach with your fact-checking efforts are going to be people who are interested in the facts anyway, and who are pretty well informed and who will go to the trouble of if they've heard about a news item to check whether it's true or

not. I think that [seeing misinformed as a target audience is] a very interesting, exciting thing that we're going to explore." (MediaDev practitioner)

Media literacy

Dennis Reineck, when presenting DW Akademie's (Oct 2020) <u>Index of Media and Information Literacy in six African countries</u> noted that their "strongest recommendation is to focus on critical attitudes and critical reflection particularly political disinformation and also look at the motivation and agenda behind this information".

LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature review of resources related to how media development and wider policy initiatives can address disinformation is available here.

If you would like to contribute resources, please be in touch.

This report is a living resource. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on how it can be improved.

All the best,

Ivana, Mira and Tom - the GFMD IMPACT team.

ivbjelic@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

July 23rd

Subject: Journalism support and media development in the context of mis/disinformation

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

A week later than scheduled, (as I was unwell/fully-recovered/negative test), we are very pleased to share the meeting report from our 17th June meeting of 54 media development donors, practitioners and academics to discuss effective responses to disinformation.

The meeting was co-convened by GFMD, <u>USAID</u>, and <u>Media Sector Development Working</u> <u>Group of IAMCR</u>.

THREE KEY QUOTES

"I live with a lot of uncertainty about what we do or what we're funding and whether or not it works. Because of donor implementer dynamics, it's not always possible to have spaces like this, to be frank, and honest with each other about failure or negligible impact of the different kinds of interventions that people are doing." (MediaDev Donor)

"I feel that we [in media development], continue to think that we can keep doing little projects here and there and address these big divisions in our world. I really think we waste a lot of money doing that because we don't take the approach of integrating with the broader things that are going on." (MediaDev practitioner/researcher)

"The emphasis (of media development) is often on the supply side, but doesn't look at the problems in the broader enabling environments for high-quality independent journalism - the legal and policy environments, the incentives systems that drive disinformation, media consolidation and media capture." (Academic)

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING

<u>Introduction</u>: Suggestions on how to improve the overall effectiveness of the media development responses to disinformation included:

- The need for coordination and coalition building
- Emphasizing the "do no harm" principle
- Reframing the discussion on disinformation to focus resources on support for journalism
- How to effectively make the case for journalism support

1 Identification responses

<u>Language barriers</u> and <u>sustainability</u> were identified as challenges for fact-checking programmes.

Fact-checking services adopting <u>critical media literacy</u> approaches was among many suggestions on how to more effectively engage vulnerable/polarised communities.

2 Responses aimed at producers and distributors

Support to journalism must address:

- The fact that newsrooms and journalists themselves can be <u>obstacles to building</u> <u>resilience</u> in societies.
- **8** Polarization within journalism
- 3 Impacting production and distribution mechanisms (Curatorial responses; technical/algorithmic responses; and demonetisation responses will be discussed at future GFMD IMPACT meetings.)

5 Evaluating counter-disinformation programmes

A working paper on <u>measuring and evaluating disinformation programmes</u> identified <u>five key challenges</u> for evaluators and <u>argues for</u> building a community of practice around countering disinformation; carrying out a comparative, impact study; creating a diagnostic tool for program design.

6 Research on disinformation

- Research and researchers need to be broader and more diverse.
- Creative solutions were proposed for improving data & information sharing.
- More research is needed on the "production" disinformation.

TYPOLOGY OF RESPONSES (& structure of the report)

▼ Due to the cross-cutting nature of the discussions, the report presents that findings and insights from the meeting using the typology of responses to disinformation identified in Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation While Respecting Freedom of Expression (Bontcheva & Posetti, 2020) as a guide.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- A literature review of resources related to how media development and wider policy initiatives can address disinformation is available here.
- If you would like to contribute resources, please be in touch.

This report is a living resource. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on how it can be improved.

All the best,

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

July 18th - DRAFT

https://www.journalism.co.uk/podcast/heba-aly-ceo-of-the-new-humanitarian-on-reshaping-coverage-of-the-global-south/s399/a838184/

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/17/covid-misinformation-conspiracy-theories-ccdh-report

Practical **Autumn School "Disrupted Ethnography** - Building Trust, Telling Stories, Unpacking Concepts and Reporting from Within"

October 21/22, 2021, in Bochum, Germany & online (hybrid)

Application deadline: August 1, 2021

https://disrupted-ethnography.org/

with Jignesh Patel, Ramyata Limbu, Mariam Barghouti & Mosa'ab Elshamy

Keynote by Dominic Boyer

###

Dear list members.

we are pleased to announce and invite you to our practical **Autumn School** titled "**Disrupted Ethnography** - Building Trust, Telling Stories, Unpacking Concepts and Reporting from Within", taking place on **October 20/21**, **2021**, both at the **Ruhr-University Bochum**, **Germany** and **online**.

Check out our website (https://disrupted-ethnography.org/) to find more information about the four workshops and the application process.

We invite advanced **Master students**, **doctoral and postdoctoral researchers** as well as **media practitioners**, **journalists**, **and activists** to apply, **deadline is August 1, 2021** (anywhere on earth).

Together, we want to **dismantle challenges of ethnographic fieldwork** related to **disruption** such as travel restrictions, gaining and maintaining field access, finding contacts and forging cooperation, as well as ethical questions of representation of social life and scenes of conflict and injustice.

Participation is free of charge.

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

Next week we will be publishing our report from June's **GFMD IMPACT meeting on** <u>disinformation</u> which brought together 50+ donors, practitioners and researchers/academics.

The <u>literature review</u> is ongoing so please be in touch if you have a resource or case study that you think should be included.

July 9th - DRAFT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

Next week we will be publishing our report from June's **GFMD IMPACT meeting on** disinformation which brought together 50+ donors, practitioners and researchers/academics.

The <u>literature review</u> is ongoing so please be in touch if you have a resource or case study that you think should be included.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

▼ First ever media viability assessment of Lebanon (June 2021)

DW Akademie

In the first study of its kind, DW Akademie applied its Media Viability Indicators (MVIs) in Lebanon. "Media Viability in Lebanon" assesses the financial sustainability as well as the quality of journalistic content and production in Lebanon.

▼ Community Foundations & Media: Funding Data from 2009-2021 (July 2021)

Media Impact Funders

This report shows that while the bulk of giving across many media types is concentrated to just a handful of community foundations, the scope of giving is "an encouraging sign that community foundations are recognizing the importance of supporting media as part of a larger strategy to build and sustain healthy communities."

▼ Building Trust in Journalism – Slovakia (June 2021)

Ethical Journalism Network - AIDA KAISY

The Ethical Journalism Network, with the <u>Evens Foundation</u> and <u>Fritt Ord Foundation</u>, have produced their latest in a series of reports on Poland, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine and Georgia. It includes recommendations for the media and policy communities based on a number of interviews with key Slovak media stakeholders.

▼ Media capture I: The first steps – Capturing the regulator and public service broadcaster (June 2021)

Media Development Investment Fund - SNEZANA GREEN

"The first and second steps start in parliament. In most cases, soon after a nationalistic, authoritarian-leaning political party comes into majority power, it introduces laws taking control of the body that is charged with supervising and regulating the media sector. Next, the public service broadcaster becomes a target. Laws are drafted to undermine the building blocks of the independence of these institutions, primarily their legal and governance structure, appointment of key staff and financing. Once these institutions are weakened, the actions progress to a third stage: the widespread abuse of state financing as a control tool to reward pro-government voices and silence critique. This is so called 'soft' economic pressure, or 'soft censorship'. Finally, if any critical voices remain, the focus turns to taking control of the editorial line of these media outlets via ownership."

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS

▼ Countering disinformation and protecting democratic communication on encrypted messaging applications (June 2021)

Brookings Institute - JACOB GURSKY & SAMUEL WOOLEY

ARTICLES

▼ Media Capture Under Cover of COVID (8 July 2021)

Project Syndicate - NICOLE POPE & ANYA SCHIFFRIN

"While media capture occurs in the best of times, a crisis creates opportunities to act even more brazenly to assert control over the information to which people are exposed. During the coronavirus pandemic, both repressive governments and Big Tech behemoths have seized these opportunities."

▼ Nigeria's Twitter Ban & the Political Violence on Citizens' Freedom of Speech (1 July 2021)

Open Internet for Democracy

▼ Paywall: A challenging but promising business model for Kenya's news media (6 June 2021)

Media Innovation Network - ISAAC SWILA

- ▼ A Network of Fake Media Outlets Paid Actors and Journalists to Spread Political Narratives Supporting Pakistan's Government and Military (June 2021)

 Graphika
- ▼ Media Viability: Tackling Big Tech (May 2021)

Free Press Unlimited - MICHAEL PAVIČIĆ

RECENT EVENTS

▼ Beyond Science and the Environment: Trustworthy Media for a Healthy Democracy (16 June)

Media Impact Funders

This event explored the critical role that trustworthy news and information can play in support of a healthy democracy. "Philanthropy can play a significant role in the health of our democracy by supporting the flow of evidence-based media and communications."

UPCOMING EVENTS

▼ Impact Of The Pandemic On Measuring Progress Oh SDG16+: Looking Forward, Tackling Obstacles (12 July)

This High Level Political Forum side event will highlight the importance of data collection from official and unofficial sources to achieve SDG16+ in the post-pandemic world, as well as the need to overcome limitations in the access to information.

Global media monitoring report on gender (14 July)

World Association for Christian Communication (WACC)

The sixth and largest study on the portrayal and representation of women in the world's news media includes data from 116 country teams and covers 30,172 stories published in newspapers, broadcast on radio and television, and disseminated on news websites and via news media tweets. It presents a gender analysis on what, if any, has changed in the presence, representation and voice of the subjects and sources in the news since the first GMMP was conducted in 1995. Register for the press briefing here.

▼ The Power of Data: A New Way to Measure International Media Development (15 July)

Center for International Media Assistance

A presentation of the key findings from IREX's new 2021 Vibrant Information Barometer Index. "IREX's new 2021 Vibrant Information Barometer (VIBE) offers a fresh way to measure and diagnose the challenges and opportunities of today's complex information systems. Building off lessons learned from nearly two decades of producing the Media Sustainability Index, VIBE tracks how information is produced, spread, consumed, and used in 13 countries in Europe and Eurasia."

STATEMENTS

▼ GFMD statement for the ECOSOC high-level statement

As part of GFMD's participation in various UN processes, ahead of the 2021 <u>UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)</u>, GFMD submitted a written statement for the <u>2021 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level Segment</u>. The statement highlights the mass deterioration of democracy around the world and the role media and the right of access to information can play in halting its decline. Understanding that public access to information and the free exchange of ideas are prerequisites for building "peaceful, accountable and inclusive societies", the statement makes a series of recommendations to UN Member States and Governments to sustain independent media, safeguard democracy, and support the right of access to information.

And finally...

The International Fund for Public Interest Media (IFPM) are starting to share their vision on Twitter and LinkedIn.

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Do you have an evaluation, impact report or other resource that you would like to be included in a future edition? Just reply to this email to get in touch.

July 2nd - DRAFT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

This week we are sharing a small sample of the excellent resources being collated in the GFMD IMPACT resource centre by our regional coordinators. We will be introducing them and sharing more of their analysis, insights and suggested resources over the coming weeks.

W GFMD IMPACT HELP DESK

As well as helping the GFMD IMPACT team to collect relevant resources and literature on media development and journalism support, the regional coordinators are helping the GFMD IMPACT team develop a Help Desk, which will use a network of experts to respond in a timely fashion to requests from donors and funders.

Email helpdesk-impact@gfmd.info for more information and to submit a request.

ACADEMIC STUDIES & PAPERS - DISINFORMATION

▼ <u>A digital media literacy intervention increases discernment between mainstream</u> and false news in the United States and India (2020)

PNAS

The authors recommend that simple and scalable media literacy interventions can help decrease the perceived accuracy of false news, but these interventions will have to be conducted on a recurring basis because the study showed that the effects decayed over time.

▼ Combating misinformation in Bangladesh: Roles and responsibilities as perceived by iournalists, fact-checkers, and users (2020)

Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact., Vol. 4, No. CSCW2, Article 130.

This exploratory study examined how journalists, fact-checkers, and Internet users in Bangladesh experience and confront online misinformation. Among its findings, it notes that most Bangladeshi news organizations do not have dedicated fact-checking units and do not actively debunk viral misinformation and hoaxes; the three notable Bangladeshi fact-checking organizations are under-resourced, often work voluntarily, and face political pressure, and there is a disconnect between the mainstream media organizations and the independent fact-checkers. The research paper recommends collaboration between the two.

▼ FactWatch: Towards a sustainable model for fact-checking in Bangladesh (2020)
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh - DIN MOHAMMAD

This conference paper uses the example of a fact-checking initiative launched at a Bangladeshi university with funding from the American Center in Dhaka to propose a co-curricular academic model for sustainable fact-checking initiatives in Bangladesh. It also provides a brief comparative analysis to examine the fate of two other fact-checking projects.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

▼ <u>Information dystopia and Philippine democracy: Protecting the public sphere from disinformation (2021)</u>

Internews

While the report focuses on the question of what might Internews and other stakeholders - NGOs, civil society organizations, media, digital platforms, legislators, government, academia, and private sector - do better or differently to help address the issue of disinformation in the Philippines, the study's recommendations are wide-ranging and might apply to donors and practitioners in many other Asian countries. The research, for example, suggests that donors need to set up sustainable funding infrastructures that guarantee the independence from specific political agendas; It recommends improving dynamic interfaces between researchers, fact-checkers, and journalists, with the approach followed by Harvard's Shorenstein Center given as a model.

▼ Sifting truth from lies in the age of fake news (2020)

Digital Rights Foundation - Pakistan

This baseline research study used an online survey of 150 journalists and in-depth interviews with 10 journalists to evaluate the impact of disinformation and viral 'fake news' on the practice of journalism in Pakistan as well as the extent to which local newsrooms were carrying out formal fact-checking before publishing.

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS - Disinformation

▼ Media Policy in a Pandemic: Lessons from Moldova, Ukraine and Latvia (2020) Freedom House

Argues that the approach to media policy, including adherence to fundamental media freedoms, is a key factor in determining the overall effectiveness of the country's pandemic response. The brief compares government policies relating to media during the pandemic, considers how these policies impacted media and the effectiveness of the country's coronavirus response, and presents actionable recommendations for Moldova and other countries in the region to develop more effective media policy in times of crisis.

CASE STUDIES - **Disinformation**

▼ CekFakta: A groundbreaking Indonesian project to counter false information (2019) IFEX

An Indonesian journalist shares the lessons they learned through building a collaborative fact-checking platform called CekFekta.

▼ Information disorder and mainstream media in Sri Lanka: A case study (2021)

Verité Research

Provides crucial contextual information about the situation of media vulnerability to disinformation in Sri Lanka, and highlights the challenges journalism support against disinformation might face in countries where the mainstream media is co-opted by the State or has internalized racist, xenophobic, or hateful attitudes.

EVALUATION & IMPACT REPORTS

▼ USAID's access to information program (A2I) in Central Asia, implemented by Internews - Final report: October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2019

The five-year program was implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. See pages 76 to 82 for details of the cost extension period from 2017 to 2019 when one objective was modified to include efforts to strengthen media and digital literacy. The interventions included a media literacy manual that has been deployed at universities, and fact-checking training that led to formation of a 384-strong journalist group on Facebook for fact-checking. The document includes a section on challenges and lessons learned at the regional level and in the three implementation countries.

EVENTS

▼ <u>Disinformation and its Implications for Media Development: From Research to Action</u> - Wed, July 7, 2021 - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM BST

IAMCR Media Sector Development Working Group & Communication and Media Research Institute

"The event will cover trends in research related to media monitoring, social network analysis, media literacy research, and mapping of disinformation from a comparative perspective, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of programs designed to counter and prevent disinformation. Speakers will highlight emerging best practices in the field of disinformation research and reflect on the implications of their work for media development."

▼ Building Resilience: Disinformation and Literacy in an Age of Digital <u>Transformation</u> - July 8 16:00 CET

Speakers: MEP Sandra Kalniete and OECD Education and Skills Director Andreas Schleicher.

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Do you have an evaluation, impact report or other resource that you would like to be included in a future edition? Just reply to this email to get in touch.

-- ENDS --

June 25th - SENT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

We are busily working on the report from last week's **GFMD IMPACT meeting on** <u>disinformation</u> which brought together 50+ donors, practitioners and researchers/academics.

The <u>literature review</u> is ongoing so please be in touch if you have a resource or case study that you think should be included.

See the emails below for the case studies and research presented at the meeting.

This week was full of big research and policy publications and some less prominent but equally interesting ones. As always, let us know what we missed and give us your recommendations for future digests.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

▼ Digital News Report 2021 (June 2021)

Reuters Institute for Journalism

This year's report includes India, Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria, Colombia and Peru for the first time.

▼ <u>The Chilling: Global Trends in Online Violence Against Women Journalists (June 2021)</u>

UNESCO/ICFJ

A disturbing trend of online violence - from doxxing to death threats - is often tied to larger disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining public trust in fact-based journalism.

▼ <u>United by Challenge: Regional Opportunities to Drive Media Reform in Southeast Europe (June 2021)</u>

CIMA

"The support of international donors and multilateral institutions is critical to advancing media reform agendas in Southeast Europe. However, more needs to be done to broaden and deepen support, and to tap into the collective capacities and assets of local media organizations and regional media coalitions."

▼ Mapping media and migration activities 2010-2020) (June 2021)

Media and migration expert **Charles Autheman** has mapped <u>583 activities</u> aimed at improving the media coverage of migration issues over the last decade carried out by international organizations, CSOs, journalist unions, universities and journalism schools. The mapping tells some familiar stories about duplication of efforts and a lack of coordination and long-term thinking.

- A summary of the findings is available here.
- You can access the map with the data.
- To contribute to his research use this form: English, Français, Español

- X A similar map is being developed for 2021.
- Contact Charles for more information: charles.autheman@gmail.com

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS

▼ A new deal for journalism (June 2021)

Steering Committee of the Forum on Information & Democracy

Proposals include a plan to guarantee up to 0.1% of GDP a year into journalism to safeguard its social function for the future. The Forum has requested reactions and thoughts from the MediaDev/journalism support community.

- Rasmus Kleis Nielsen has given his perspective on Twitter here.
- ⚠ While welcoming many aspects of the report, the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) have criticized it for <u>neglecting the working conditions of journalists</u>.

▼ Regulation, self-regulation and co-regulation in media and gender equality (June 2021)

International Media Support

"Across the globe, media industries suffer from a significant gender pay gap and gender-based discrimination and harassment. Women are underrepresented in media professions in some contexts, a challenge particularly evident at the decision-making level. This is aggravated by inequalities – in newsrooms and society – that are increasingly mirrored in media content wherein women and men are often framed in stereotypical ways."

▼ Position Paper - German Funding Framework

A group of German NGOs are pushing for reform of the legal framework for funding projects abroad and for more effective cooperation between government and civil society.

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS - Disinformation

▼ The Challenges of Evaluating Countering Disinformation Programs

This draft working paper on the evaluation of media development responses to disinformation was presented at last week's GFMD IMPACT meeting. The authors -- **Susan Abbott** and **Katerina Tsetsura**, Ph.D. -- and GFMD would like to invite you to leave comments and suggestions on the paper.

- Read and comment on the draft paper in this shared document.
- ▼ <u>Alternate Facts, Alternate Realities Gender, politics and U.S. readers' views of risky news sites (June 2021)</u>

Global Disinformation Index (GDI)

[...] survey study of informed online readers in the US and their perceptions of disinformation risk for +60 news sites in the US.

ARTICLES & PODCASTS

▼ <u>Strategies for public interest media confronting the Covid-19 pandemic: Building business around content (June 2021)</u>

MDIF/BBC Media Action

- [...] practical recommendations to public interest media responding to the business challenges presented by Covid-19 addressed to media leaders and senior editors [which] draw on the experiences of media in countries where <u>PRIMED consortium partners</u> work and set out practical steps that public interest media have found helpful as they navigate the crisis management phase of the pandemic and prepare themselves for the new reality that will follow.
- **▼** Media Development Investment Fund Deputy CEO Mohamed Nanabhay on investing in sustainable media businesses (June 2021)

Media Voices

Mohamed Nanabhay, Deputy CEO of the Media Development Investment Fund talks about "how the MDIF decides which businesses to invest in, and why he thinks the pandemic has provided an opportunity for independent media to thrive."

SEMINAR SERIES - "Teaching Media Development"

This July, MEDAS 21 and the IAMCR Media Sector Development Working Group are putting on a <u>free</u> series of seminars.

And finally... some GFMD news.

This week we launched our <u>MediaDev Fundraising Guide</u> - a tool for organisations applying for media development & journalism support funding.

- You can access the guide's 11 modules and much much more here: fundraising-guide.gfmd.info
- If you are a MediaDev donor, please check out the <u>donor profiles</u> section and let us know how yours can be improved.
- The Guide is complemented by a new fundraising-focused newsletter -- Bottom Line. Read the first issue (AND SUBSCRIBE) here.

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Do you have an evaluation, impact report or other resource that you would like to be included in a future edition? Just reply to this email to get in touch.

-- ENDS --

Resource from IMPACT coordinators added to next week's newsletter - as not enough space

RESEARCH - TL to check these are all added to the resource centre.

United by Challenge: Regional Opportunities to Drive Media Reform in Southeast Europe (Center for International Media Assistance, 6/16/2021) Link

A New Deal For Journalism

(Forum of Information & Democracy, 6/2021) Link

Media Economy in the Pandemic: A European Perspective

(Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, 11/2020) Link

Covid-19 and the media: A pandemic of paradoxes

(International Media Support, 4/2021) Link

The Untapped Potential of Regional Cooperation for Media Reform in Southern Africa

(Center for International Media Assistance, 3/2021) Link

Building Trust in Journalism - Czech Republic

(Ethical Journalism Network, 3/2021) Link

Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege

(Freedom House, 3/2021) Link

Youth and the News in Five Charts: What do young people's habits in developing countries tell us about the future of news?

(Center for International Media Assistance, 2/2021) Link

Mapping Civil Society Responses to Disinformation: An International Forum Working Paper

(International Forum for Democratic Studies, 1/2021) Link

Who Owns the Media in Bangladesh?

(Centre for Governance Studies, 1/2021) Link

Saving Journalism: A Vision for the Post-Covid World

(Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 1/2021) Link

Public Trust in the Media during the Coronavirus Pandemic

(Media Matters for Democracy, 12/2020) Link

Reporting Facts: Free from Fear or Favour

(UNESCO, 12/2020) Link

Dear Colleagues,

While we won't have the chance to convene as a community in person this year, the DFRLab is excited to be hosting our fourth annual flagship 360/Open Summit (360/OS) from today through Friday. This year's 360/OS: The World in Motion is our largest ever summit, with over 80 speakers and 1,000 participants joining from across the globe.

You can register for the summit <u>here</u> and watch live on the Atlantic Council's <u>website</u>. You can also find the agenda and speakers list <u>here</u>. Lastly, below is an overview of today's programming. We hope to see you (virtually) there!

Best.

Nick

*Chair:*Mira Keßler (MEDAS 21/Ruhr University Bochum)

*Confirmed speakers: *Linje Manyozo (School of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia), Saleh Masharqeh (Media Development Center, Birzeit University, Palestine), Martin Scott (School of International Development, University of East Anglia, England)and more

*Outline: *The training of media development experts must be ahead of its time to meet future challenges. This is not only about technical innovation, big data, and new ways of storytelling. It is also about a creative approach to educational content and teaching methods. Here it is important to note that media development is on the one hand based at a university level; on the other hand, it is based on practical trainings. For this reason, it is our aim to connect scholars with practitioners, if both hearts are not already in one chest. For both realms, creativity means innovation by using imagination and critical thinking. Breaking free from repetition and simple reproduction clears the way for new development and implementation approaches. It is important to us to bring different experts together, different in the sense of different living and working environments, different institutions, and different experiences with their own best practices. Our guiding questions for this multi-disciplinary panel on "creative teaching techniques" are: When and why do we need to be creative for teaching media development? How could this creativity look like?

https://human-rights-tackles-disinformation.eu/

How to tackle disinformation?

I would like to invite you to the 28 & 29 June online event "<u>Human rights tackles</u> disinformation".

From provoking hate to pushing racism, sexism and discrimination, the disinformation machine has human rights in its crosshairs. That's why this year's Human Rights Communicators Network Meeting is designed to share strategies, tools, and tactics we can use to tackle the scourge of disinformation head-on.

The <u>agenda</u> is packed with an informative keynote address, an engaging panel discussion and interactive break-out workshops.

Notice that **two of the workshops are on migration narratives**. Find them highlighted in yellow.

28 JUNE at 16 CET – public event

Follow live the presentation and interactive Q & As with:

- Anat Shenker-Osorio (Host of Words to Win by podcast)
- Peter Pomerantsev (Author of This is not Propaganda)
- Chloe Colliver (Head of Digital Policy at the Institute of Strategic Dialogue)
- Gabrielle Guillemin (Senior Policy Officer from Article 19.org)
- <u>Paul Nemitz</u> (Principal Adviser on Justice Policy at the European Commission, Member of German Data Ethics Commission)

Moderated by Corinna Milborn (Head of News for Autrian TV Plus4), and illustrated with humour by political cartoonist Nicolas Vadot.

29 JUNE at 10 CET - Workshops for communicators

WHO: Managing the Infodemic

Polish NGO Dzieci Dworca and the UN Human Rights Office: the migration narrative and disinformation

29 JUNE at 14 CET – Workshops for communicators

Italian Labour Ministry: Tackling disinformation on migrants

Spanish Media Maldita.es: Media debunking disinformation

To block your calendar, please register at https://human-rights-tackles-disinformation.eu

In the Internet age, information travels further and faster than ever before, and so does disinformation – news based on rumours, prejudices, stereotypes, and fear. Amplified online by algorithms and echo chambers, disinformation undermines people's trust in institutions and harms our democracies. It hampers people's ability to recognise facts from fiction or, bluntly said, their ability to differentiate between truth and lies.

28 and 29 June, the Human Rights Communicators Network gathers online for their Annual Meeting to tackle disinformation on human rights head-on.

We will address the following:

In a world where disinformation is routinely presented as facts, how can human rights communicators effectively address disinformation? And how can they ensure that evidence-based, factual information shapes human rights narratives?

From provoking hate to pushing racism, sexism, and discrimination, the disinformation machine has human rights in its crosshairs. As a result, human rights communicators must learn how to respond effectively.

To help, this year's **Human Rights Communicators Network Meeting** has been designed to provide you with the strategies, tools and tactics you need to tackle the scourge of disinformation head-on.

This virtual event brings together thought leaders <u>from human rights organisations</u>, <u>government bodies</u>, <u>civil society and the media</u>. Together, they will provide insight on how disinformation impairs their ability to communicate about human rights and discuss practical tips for reframing the disinformation debate.

The <u>agenda</u> is packed with an informative keynote address, an engaging panel debate, and interactive break-out workshops. At the end, you will leave with a list of best practices for ensuring that the human rights narrative is driven not through conspiracies – but by evidence and facts.

Ready to become part of the solution?

Our goal is to create the **Do's and Don'ts of addressing disinformation for Human Rights Communicators**. This will be a free-to-all, practical document for dealing with disinformation, noting down good practice examples and strategies.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/towards-a-paris-agreement-for-disinformation-tickets-1584085 03097?aff=AvaazMembers



Dear GFMD colleagues,

We are pleased to announce a seminar series called "Teaching Media Development" which focuses on innovative curricula, creative teaching techniques and networking opportunities for emerging scholars in the field of media development. University teaching is a crucial aspect when it comes to establishing media development as an academic field. Students

from BA to PhD level constitute the upcoming generation of journalists, communication researchers or media policy advisers who will shape debates on how to develop media sectors all over the world – be it in media outlets, NGOs, ministries, law offices, research centers, or think tanks. Therefore, it is hugely important to spark students' interest in questions of media and development and to qualify them to be able to conduct sound analyses thereof. The seminar series attempts to start a conversation about best practices of teaching media development at university level this July. In the long run, it is supposed to contribute to improved academic training of media development experts as professionals who are skilled at thoroughly considering and analyzing local circumstances and developing localized solutions.

Convenors: Ines Drefs, Mira Keßler, Michel Leroy

Location: Zoom. Free and open to all.

This series is organized by <u>MEDAS 21</u> and the <u>IAMCR Media Sector Development Working</u> <u>Group</u>.

SEMINAR 1 "Media development curricula from around the world"

Friday, July 2, 20201, 1.00-2.30 pm CEST (7.00-8.30 am New York; 7.00-8.30 pm Manila)

Registration:

https://tu-dortmund.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN 4vmngzIDTDSKfDWEvTjW6Q

Chair: Ines Drefs (MEDAS 21/Erich Brost Institute)

Confirmed speakers: Joya Chakraborty (Tezpur University), Christoph Dietz (Catholic Media Council), Winston Mano (University of Westminster), viola milton (University of South Africa)

Outline: Efforts aimed at developing the media sector are being discussed in university classrooms all around the world. The related courses are sometimes offered by departments of journalism studies, sometimes by departments of communication and sometimes as part of development studies, oftentimes they are interdisciplinary. What are the implications of where media sector development sits within university structures? What skills do teachers of these courses need to impart to the students and how to make sure these can be localized?

Is there a canon of essential literature for students learning about media sector development? If so, what is and what should be in there? These are the guiding questions of this session in which course leaders, university teachers and curators of literature collections

present and discuss their approaches.

SEMINAR 2 "Creating opportunities for the next generation: speed date with media

development PhD students!"

Friday, July 9, 20201, 1.00-2.30 pm CEST (7.00-8.30 am New York; 7.00-8.30 pm Manila)

How to apply: Applicants interested in networking with peers should submit a short

description (1,000 characters max.) of their research project to michel.leroy@tu-dortmund.de

Deadline for submission: June 21st, 11:59 pm CEST

Chair: Michel Leroy (MEDAS 21/Erich Brost Institute)

Outline: Within the relatively new IAMCR working group focusing on efforts of shaping and

developing media systems, early-career scholars sometimes feel isolated or that

communication links with professionals in the sector are difficult to establish. The aim of this

session is therefore to provide a framework for networking among peers. We invite PhD

students working on media development issues to an online "speed-dating session". It is an

opportunity for junior scholars from the "Global North" and "South" to network and to meet

with practitioners and senior researchers to voice their concerns and challenges such as (but

not limited to) choosing a relevant topic, grants and funding issues, access to data and

literature. More information on the session: https://www.medas21.net/news/#PhDspeeddate

SEMINAR 3 "Creative techniques in classroom and applied training"

Friday, July 23, 20201, 1.00-2.30 pm CEST (7.00-8.30 am New York; 7.00-8.30 pm Manila)

Registration:

https://tu-dortmund.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN bWxky1Q7QZqYSUWx1CqfLw

Chair: Mira Keßler (MEDAS 21/Ruhr University Bochum)

Confirmed speakers: Linje Manyozo (School of Media and Communication, RMIT

University, Melbourne, Australia), Saleh Masharqeh (Media Development Center, Birzeit

University, Palestine), Martin Scott (School of International Development, University of East

Anglia, England) and more

Outline: The training of media development experts must be ahead of its time to meet future

challenges. This is not only about technical innovation, big data, and new ways of

storytelling. It is also about a creative approach to educational content and teaching

methods. Here it is important to note that media development is on the one hand based at a

university level; on the other hand, it is based on practical trainings. For this reason, it is our

aim to connect scholars with practitioners, if both hearts are not already in one chest. For

both realms, creativity means innovation by using imagination and critical thinking. Breaking

free from repetition and simple reproduction clears the way for new development and

implementation approaches. It is important to us to bring different experts together, different

in the sense of different living and working environments, different institutions, and different

experiences with their own best practices. Our guiding questions for this multi-disciplinary

panel on "creative teaching techniques" are: When and why do we need to be creative for

teaching media development? How could this creativity look like?

--

Dr. Ines Drefs

Program Director MEDAS 21

Erich Brost Institute for International Journalism

Otto-Hahn-Str. 2

44227 Dortmund

Germany

Fri, 18 Jun, 09:00 (5 days

ago)

Ines Drefs via

groups.io

to gfmd-members

Thanks!

Craig

PRIMED Updates the blog by FPU and the MDIF article or that does not fit?

https://projects-primed.gfmd.info/policy-learning/updates#article-strategies-for-public-interest -media-confronting-the-covid-19-pandemic-building-business-around-content BLOG - Media Viability: Tackling Big Tech

https://voices.media/media-development-investment-fund-deputy-ceo-mohamed-nanabhay-investing-sustainable-media-businesses/

Content for next week
Towards a Paris Agreement for Disinformation?

What the EU needs from the new Code of Practice and the Digital Services Act to turn the tide against disinformation

An online webinar from Avaaz. To register via Eventbrite click here

On June 24th at 14h30 CET, join us, and keynote speaker EU Vice President Commissioner Věra Jourová, with leading voices from industry and civil society for an online conference exploring:

- Whether this is the moment when the EU can lead a global reduction in online disinformation, whilst protecting freedom of speech, and produce what could become the most advanced regulatory framework ever tabled - a "Paris Agreement" for disinformation.
- With up to date research on Covid 19 disinformation on social media, one year on, from the Centre for Countering Digital Hate and Avaaz and a platform by platform evaluation of their efforts to combat disinformation and the transparency they provide over their algorithmic black box.
- Between the Commission's Guidance for a new Code of Practice on Disinformation just released, and the Digital Services Act that is coming, what do we need to deliver an effective framework against disinformation?

Speakers will include:

- EU Vice President Commissioner Věra Jourová
- Twitter Vice President for Public Policy EMEA Sinead McSweeney
- European Parliament DSA Rapporteur Christel Schaldemose
- Centre for Countering Digital Hate CEO Imran Ahmed
- Avaaz

To register your interest in this online webinar please follow this link to Eventbrite: click here

If you have any questions or comments please email camille.mijola@avaaz.org

June 18th - SENT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

We will be sending a report on yesterday's event on <u>disinformation</u> which brought together 50+ donors, practitioners and researchers/academics in a couple of weeks.

il If you have not done so already, please let us know what meetings you would be interested in participating in by filling out our expression of interest form.

WORKING PAPER:

The Challenges of Evaluating Countering Disinformation Programs

We are very pleased to share with you a draft working paper on the evaluation of media development responses to disinformation which was presented at yesterday's meeting. The authors -- Susan Abbott and Katerina Tsetsura, Ph.D. -- and GFMD would like to invite you to leave comments and suggestions in the paper.

Read and comment on the draft paper here.

PRESENTATION:

"Typology of Disinformation Responses"

We are also pleased to share this presentation prepared by Kalina Bontcheva, the co-author of <u>Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation While Respecting Freedom of Expression</u>, a report from the Broadband Commission in 2020.

Download the presentation here.

CASE STUDIES, POLICY PAPERS & RESEARCH

In addition to the video presentations of case studies, research and policy papers shared last week by <u>ARIJ</u>, <u>Fondation Hirondelle</u>, <u>Center for Media</u>, <u>Data & Society</u>, DW Akademie (<u>on fact checking</u> & <u>Media and Information Literacy</u>), we are pleased to be able to share 3 new presentations with you:

DIGITAL BOOK: "Journalism in the face of misinformation"

Fundación Gabo

Jaime Abello Banfi presents the highlights from Fundación Gabo's (May 2021) digital book: <u>"Journalism in the face of misinformation"</u>.

RESEARCH - "Disorder in the newsroom - The media's perceptions and response to the infodemic"

Media Matters for Democracy - Pakistan

This research by MMDF -- "Disorder in the newsroom - The media's perceptions and response to the infodemic" -- includes a survey of 546 journalists along with in-depth interviews of 10 senior reporters and editors in national and international newsrooms based in Pakistan.

CASE STUDY - Analysis of COVID-19 disinformation responses

BBC Media Action

Sonia Whitehead presents an analysis of BBC Media Action's work responding to disinformation around COVID-19. You can find a presentation of this work here.

► All the GFMD IMPACT video presentations are <u>available here</u>.

A Please subscribe to make sure you don't miss on future.

We will continue to add resources to our <u>literature review on disinformation</u> over the coming weeks.

Huge thanks to everyone who has shared resources and made video presentations to support the work of GFMD IMPACT so far.

If you have resources that you would like to recommend or present on disinformation or on a future topic, just reply to this email to get in touch - tlaw@gfmd.info

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

-- ENDS --

June 17th - Reminder to participants

Subject: GFMD IMPACT meeting today - Important information - "Journalism support and media development in the context of mis/disinformation"

Dear colleagues and partners,

We are looking forward to welcoming you to today's meeting on responses to <u>disinformation</u> and <u>misinformation</u> on <u>June 17th</u>.

This email includes important details about the meeting so please read this in advance.

AGENDA: https://impact.gfmd.info/meetings/june-2021

TIME: 15:00-17:00 CET / 09:00-11:00 ET

ZOOM LINK: When you registered for the event you will have been sent a Zoom link to use

to attend the meeting. If you have any issues, finding it please get in touch.

PLEASE READ - the draft working paper on the evaluation of media development responses to disinformation

We are very pleased to share with you this draft working paper prepared by:

Susan Abbott, consultant, co-chair of the Media Sector Development Working Group of The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)

► Katerina Tsetsura, Ph.D., Gaylord Family Professor of Strategic Communication, University of Oklahoma, Independent Consultant, Research, Measurement, Monitoring, and Evaluation

You can view it and add comments to the **draft working paper here:**https://impact.gfmd.info/meetings/june-2021#the-challenges-of-evaluating-countering-disinformation-programs-a-working-paper

Susan and Katerina will present their findings in the meeting. There will be an opportunity for questions and comments following their presentation.

PLEASE WATCH the video presentations of case studies, research and policy papers have been prepared. These have been submitted in advance to enable more time for discussion in the meeting itself. All of the videos have been <u>uploaded to the agenda here</u>. Please watch as many as you can before the meeting, especially the ones directly related to the breakout group that you will be attending. (Links to all video presentations are included at the end of this email)

We are looking forward to seeing (on zoom) later.

All the best.

Ivana, Mira and Tom - the GFMD IMPACT team

CASE STUDIES, POLICY PAPERS & RESEARCH

These 5-6 minute video presentations of case studies, research and policy papers have been prepared for for the meeting to A) allow for more discussion in the meeting itself and B) make these insights available to those unable to attend.

POLICY PAPER - "Combating Disinformation in the Arab World - The COVID-19 pandemic" - ARIJ

Investigative & data journalist, **Saja Mortada**, who is the project manager for the "Arab Fact-checkers Network" run by Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ), presents the highlights from ARIJ's policy paper from December 2020.

RESEARCH - "Disorder in the newsroom - The media's perceptions and response to the infodemic" - MMfD

This research by Media Matters for Democracy - Pakistan includes a survey of 546 journalists along with in-depth interviews of 10 senior reporters and editors in national and international newsrooms based in Pakistan.

BREAKOUT GROUP 1 - Content - Supporting journalism, counter-narratives, reporting on misinformation.

POLICY PAPER: "Sticking to the Facts, Building Trust: our Cure for Disinformation" - Fondation Hirondelle

Nicolas Boissez presents the main findings from Fondation Hirondelle's May 2021 policy paper, which focuses on the fragile contexts.

DIGITAL BOOK: "Journalism in the face of misinformation" - Fundación Gabo

Jaime Abello Banfi presents the highlights from Fundación Gabo's (May 2021) digital book:
"Journalism in the face of misinformation".

BREAKOUT GROUP 2 - Production processes - Newsroom and production processes to address disinformation - Fact-checking, moderation, content curation, ethical standards.

RESEARCH - "What Keeps Fact-Checking Organizations up at Night" - Center for Media, Data & Society

Marius Dragomir, Director of the Center for Media, Data and Society at CEU Democracy Institute and Visiting Professor at School of Public Policy (SPP), presents the highlights from the CMDS research published in March 2021.

CASE STUDY: Using human-centred design in fact-checking projects - DW Akademie

Karolina Luczak-Santana and **Mikias Sebsibe** talk about how DW Akademie used human-centred design to kick off a fact-checking project in Ethiopia.

BREAKOUT GROUP 3 - Audiences - *Media and information literacy and newsroom literacy.*

RESEARCH - "Index of Media and Information Literacy in six African countries" - DW Akademie

Dennis Reineck talks about DW Akademie's (Oct 2020) <u>Index of Media and Information</u> <u>Literacy in six African countries</u>. For background on the methodology, approach and guiding principles of the research see: <u>Introducing the MIL INDEX Study</u>

Many excellent resources have been added to our literature review on disinformation this week! Go to impact.gfmd.info/meetings/june-2021/literature-review to find our must reads and links where you can browse by resource type.

-- ENDS --

Professor **Kalina Bontcheva** - senior researcher in the Natural Language Processing Group at the University of Sheffield - will give a presentation on the **typology of disinformation responses** identified in <u>Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation</u> While Respecting Freedom of Expression (ITU - 2020).

June 11th - SENT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

- With less than a week to go to our meeting on responses to <u>disinformation and</u> <u>misinformation on June 17th</u>, this week we are sharing the **video presentations of case studies, research and policy papers** that have been submitted by our members. Scroll down to watch them U
- Next week, this email digest will be sent on Wednesday...
- when we will be very pleased to share with you a working paper on the evaluation of media development responses to disinformation prepared for the June 17th GFMD IMPACT meeting by:
- Susan Abbott, consultant, co-chair of the Media Sector Development Working Group of The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)
- Katerina Tsetsura, Ph.D., Gaylord Family Professor of Strategic Communication, University of Oklahoma, Independent Consultant, Research, Measurement, Monitoring, and Evaluation
- We are also very pleased to announce that **Julie Posetti** (ICFJ Global Director of Research) will give a presentation on the **typology of disinformation responses** identified in <u>Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation While Respecting Freedom of Expression (ITU 2020).</u>
- To ensure that GFMD IMPACT meetings facilitate meaningful conversations, spaces are limited. If you have not received an invitation to next week's meeting, either you did not select disinformation as your first choice in our <u>expression of interest form</u>, or you have not answered it yet...

CASE STUDIES, POLICY PAPERS & RESEARCH

These 5-6 minute video presentations of case studies, research and policy papers have been prepared for for the meeting to A) allow for more discussion in the meeting itself and B) make these insights available to those unable to attend.

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- Many excellent resources have been added to our literature review on disinformation this week! Go to impact.gfmd.info/meetings/june-2021/literature-review to find our must reads and links where you can browse by resource type.
- Huge thanks to everyone who has shared resources, especially **Anya Schiffrin** who has shared the reading list from the course she teaches at Columbia University with Emliy Bell "Understanding Mis/Disinformation Online and Policies to Fix the Problem". I will be using it to update the literature review over the coming weeks.

If you have resources that you would like to recommend or present on disinformation or on a future topic, just reply to this email to get in touch - tlaw@gfmd.info

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

- -- ENDS --
- ▼ <u>Academic studies & papers on disinformation</u> <u>Support to journalism</u> / <u>media literacy</u> & <u>fact-checking</u> / <u>Regulation</u>, <u>legislation</u>, <u>platforms</u> & Al
- ▼ Research & reports on disinformation Support to journalism / media literacy & fact-checking / Regulation, legislation, platforms & AI
- **▼** Case studies of response to disinformation
- **▼** Policy briefs on disinformation
- ▼ Evaluation reports Media literacy
- ▼ <u>Articles on disinformation</u> <u>Support to journalism</u> / <u>Media literacy & fact-checking</u> / Gendered disinformation

And

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS - Disinformation

In addition to the <u>IMS</u> and <u>Centre for Law and Democracy's</u> submissions to the OHCRC - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan - <u>Disinformation and freedom of opinion and expression</u> (<u>April 2021</u>) - featured last week:

▼ UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression Submission to the report on disinformation (Feb 2021) DW Akademie

Did you make a submission? Be sure to let us know so we can include it.

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REPORTS - Disinformation - Media & information literacy and fact-checking

REPORTS - Disinformation - Al, regulation, legislation & design of platforms

V

ACADEMIC STUDIES & PAPERS - DISINFORMATION

ARTICLES - DISINFORMATION

▼ Strengthen Media Literacy to Win the Fight Against Misinformation (March 2021)

Stanford Social Innovation Review - KRISTIN M. LORD & KATYA VOGT

"If the world is going to stop deliberate or unintentional misinformation and its insidious effects, we need to radically expand and accelerate our counterattacks, particularly human-centered solutions focused on improving people's media and information literacy."

V

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS & EVENTS ON DISINFORMATION

▼ <u>Gender Justice and the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression</u> - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Deadline: 14 June 2021

<u>Issued by:</u> Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of freedom of opinion and expression

<u>Purpose:</u> To inform the thematic report on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and gender justice for the 76th session of the General Assembly

▼ Gender and disinformation: towards a gender-based approach for researchers, activists, and allies - RightsCon - June 10th - 1700 CEST / 1100 EST.

This literature review is a work in progress!

June 4th - SENT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development. **Especially to the 50+people who signed up in the last week!**

- This week, we are again focusing on **disinformation and misinformation** ahead of our **June 17th** meeting of donors, academics and media development practitioners.
- Huge thanks to everyone who has already answered our call for contributions. There is always room for more. Just hit reply to send us your resources on the effectiveness and impact of programmes/projects that address **disinformation and misinformation**.
- For the first draft of the literature review, just scroll down to last week's email U or view everything on our dedicated resource space.
- If you are interested in participating in this, or future meetings, please fill out our expression of interest form.

Disinformation literature review (part 2) for June 17th GFMD IMPACT meeting

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS - Disinformation

- ▼ <u>Disinformation and freedom of opinion and expression (April 2021)</u> OHCRC Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan
- "[...] the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression examines the threats posed by disinformation to human rights, democratic institutions and development processes. [...] the Special Rapporteur finds that the responses by States and companies have been problematic, inadequate and detrimental to human rights. She calls for multidimensional and multi-stakeholder responses that are well grounded in the international human rights framework and urges companies to review their business model and States to recalibrate their responses to disinformation, enhancing the role of free, independent and diverse media, investing in media and digital literacy, empowering individuals and rebuilding public trust."
- ▼ IMS submits input to UN Special Rapporteur for report on disinformation (Feb. 2021) International Media Support's submission to the OHCRC report (see above 1)
- ▼ <u>Submission on an Annual Thematic Report on Disinformation (March 2021)</u> Centre for Law and Democracy's submission to the OHCRC report (see above 1)

Did you make a submission? Be sure to let us know so we can include it.

▼ <u>Mapping civil society responses to disinformation (Jan. 2021)</u> - National Endowment for Democracy's International Forum for Democratic Studies - SAMANTHA BRADSHAW & LISA-MARIA NEUDERT

"How has civil society grown in its understanding and response to the digital disinformation challenge and what should be done to further empower this work? [...] This research yielded several clear observations about the state of CSO responses to disinformation and, in turn, suggests several recommendations for paths forward."

▼ Combating Disinformation in the Arab World - The COVID-19 pandemic as a case study (Dec. 2020) - Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ)

Based on polls involving 229 Arab journalists and dialogue with 17 experts from the press, representatives of local and international institutions concerned with training and supporting journalists, as well as representatives of Facebook, Twitter and Google. "The paper comprises three chapters. First, it discusses what fake news is, distinguishing it from other variations of misinformation and refuting common assumptions surrounding it; second, it unpacks the state of fake news in the Arab world during the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically until August 2020; third, it names the most important methods used in the region to confront this news, discussing their effectiveness and shortcomings. Finally, the paper puts forward recommendations to prevent and combat the regional spread of misleading news."

REPORTS - Disinformation - Media & information literacy and fact-checking

▼ Spotting hoaxes: How young people in Africa use cues to spot misinformation online (June 2021) Nieman Labs

"Some college students surveyed showed substantial media literacy — but being able to recognize a fake story didn't always deter them from sharing it. [...] Researchers know a fair deal about "fake news" in the global North, but much less about what is happening in the global South — particularly in Africa."

REPORTS - Disinformation - Al, regulation, legislation & design of platforms

▼ Engagement with Deceptive Sites on Facebook and Twitter Dropped in the First Months of 2021(May 2021) GMF Digital

"On Twitter, the drop was dramatic: a 60 percent quarterly decline in shares of content from deceptive sites by "verified accounts." On Facebook, interactions with content from deceptive sites dipped by 15 percent in the first quarter of 2021, reflecting a comparable decline in interactions with all U.S.-based sites on the platform." (There is also a useful Twitter thread by @KarenKornbluh.)

<u>ACADEMIC STUDIES & PAPERS - DISINFORMATION</u>

▼ The State of Media Literacy in Sub-Saharan Africa 2020 and a Theory of Misinformation Literacy (June 2021) Chapter from the book: Cunliffe-Jones, P et al. 2021. Misinformation Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Laws and Regulations to Media Literacy.

"[...] examines the teaching of 'media literacy' in state-run schools in seven Sub-Saharan African countries as of mid-2020, as relates to misinformation. It explains the limited elements of media and information literacy (MIL) that are included in the curricula in the seven countries studied and the elements of media literacy related to misinformation taught in schools in one province of South Africa since January 2020. The authors propose six fields of knowledge and skills specific to misinformation that are required in order to reduce students' susceptibility to false and misleading claims. Identifying obstacles to the introduction and effective teaching of misinformation literacy, the authors make five recommendations for the promotion of misinformation literacy in schools, to reduce the harm misinformation causes."

ARTICLES - DISINFORMATION

▼ Gendered disinformation and what can be done to counter it (May 2021) - International Media Support - EMMA LYGNERUD BOBERG

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS & EVENTS ON DISINFORMATION

▼ <u>Gender Justice and the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression</u> - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Deadline: 14 June 2021

<u>Issued by:</u> Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of freedom of opinion and expression

<u>Purpose:</u> To inform the thematic report on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and gender justice for the 76th session of the General Assembly

▼ Gender and disinformation: towards a gender-based approach for researchers, activists, and allies - RightsCon - June 10th - 1700 CEST / 1100 EST.

This literature review is a work in progress!

If you have resources that you would like to recommend, just reply to this email to get in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

All the best.

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

June 1st - Email to Members, DC and EU advocacy lists - SENT

Dear colleagues,

We would like to invite you to join the email list of the **International Media Policy and Advisory Centre** (GFMD IMPACT) [https://groups.io/g/gfmdIMPACT], which we are using to promote and coordinate GFMD IMPACT's activities.

<u>Background:</u> GFMD IMPACT brings together key media development and journalism support stakeholders (implementers, donors and funding organisations, researchers and academics, technology, governance and media experts) to ensure a more effective and impactful support for the sector. See <u>impact.gfmd.info</u> (please also follow us on Twitter_<u>@gfmdIMPACT</u>)

You'll get access to:

- Announcements of future events and opportunities
- Insights from previous GFMD IMPACT meetings and activities
- Digests of the <u>case studies</u>, <u>academic studies</u>, <u>research</u>, <u>indicators and data sources</u>, <u>evaluation and impact reports</u>, and <u>guides</u> that have been published on our resource centre.
- Literature reviews on the subjects of future GFMD IMPACT meetings.
- We send a maximum of one email a week on Thursday or Friday.

To get an idea about what is shared on the list, scroll past end of this email ...

In the last two emails, you will find details of:

How you can get involved with and contribute to our June 17th meeting of donors, academics and media development practitioners, which will focus on the effective design, implementation and evaluation of programmes that address **disinformation and misinformation**.

The first draft our literature review on that we are preparing for the meeting.

SUBSCRIBE: If you would like to add to join the list please just reply to this email.

SHARE: If you know a colleague who might want to be on the GFMD IMPACT email list please forward this email to them.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

All the best,

Tom

ADD previous emails here

May 28th - SENT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

On **June 17th** we are convening a meeting of donors, academics and media development practitioners to discuss the effective design, implementation and evaluation of programmes that address **disinformation and misinformation**.

Between now and then we will be sharing the literature review that we are preparing - with your help.

Huge thanks to everyone who has already shared resources. Especially to DW Akademie and Fondation Hirondelle who will be recording video presentations about the resources they have contributed.

(To find more details about how you can get involved and what we are looking for, see last week's email ...

If you are interested in participating in this, or future meetings, please fill out our expression of interest form.

Literature review for GFMD IMPACT meeting on disinformation - June 17th

POLICY BRIEFS, WORKING PAPERS & PRIMERS

▼ <u>Disinformation Primer (Feb 2021)</u> - USAID

"[...] an overview of disinformation culture to give readers a sense of key concepts, terminology, select case studies, and programmatic design options. [...] This primer presents several programmatic ideas to consider for standalone or integrative approaches as part of democracy and governance-related programming."

▼ Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policymaking (2017) - Council of Europe - CLAIRE WARDLE & HOSSEIN DERAKHSHAN

A framework for policy-makers, legislators, researchers, technologists and practitioners working on the theoretical and practical challenges related to mis-, dis- and mal-information — the three elements of information disorder.

REPORTS - **Disinformation** - **Support** to journalism

▼ 'Journalism in the face of misinformation' / 'El periodismo ante la desinformación' (May 2021) - Fundación Gabo

Reflections, analysis and proposals of experts and teachers on the roots and functioning of misinformation, as well as the paths that journalism can follow to contribute to better informed and more democratic societies.

▼ <u>Sticking to the Facts, Building Trust: our Cure for Disinformation (May 2021)</u> - Fondation Hirondelle

This report outlines Fondation Hirondelle's approach to disinformation, which "centres on the fundamental principles of journalism and on the lessons learned from over 25 years of applying these principles in highly fragile contexts, where access to reliable information for the majority is not a given, and where rumours, hate speech and propaganda undermine peace building and development."

▼ What works - Addressing COVID-19 Misinformation: Lessons From The Frontlines In 100 Countries (April 2021) Internews - RACHEAL JOLLEY

A global COVID-19 vaccine rollout must be coupled with funding and strategies to support trusted local media worldwide. The report demonstrates an urgent need to support groups at the local level if misinformation and mistrust are to be tackled effectively.

REPORTS - Disinformation - Media & information literacy and fact-checking

▼ What Keeps Fact-Checking Organizations up at Night (March 2021) - Center for Media Data and Society - ROBERT NEMETH & MARIUS DRAGOMIR

A survey among 30 fact-checking groups worldwide found that the most important impact-related challenges to their work are "reaching their audience, using social media effectively, gaining credibility, and achieving an impact".

▼ MIL INDEX Study - Africa (Oct. 2020) - DW Akademie

"[...] digital transformation is taking hold on the African continent, especially in urban settings — and yet it is a two-tiered transformation. While roughly two thirds of 15-to-25-year-olds in countries like Ghana and Kenya access the Internet on a weekly basis, this only holds true for around one third of Burkina Faso's youth. Africa's youth is challenged by this new media and information environment. Many experience disinformation, cyberbullying or hate speech on a daily basis. [...] "These findings hold important implications for MIL activities as well as policy considerations when it comes to youth and media."

The study covers six countries: Ghana (active but uncritical), Burkina Faso (critical but disconnected, Kenya (critical but less creative), Namibia (yearning for digital but not always media literate), Côte d'Ivoire (digital natives with limited reflection, Uganda (digital, but reserved).

REPORTS - Disinformation - Al, regulation, legislation & design of platforms

▼ <u>250 recommendations on how to stop "infodemics" (Nov. 2020)</u> - Forum on Information and Democracy

In June 2020, the Forum on Information and Democracy asked experts, academics and jurists all over the world to define a policy framework (set of recommendations) to respond to the infodemics through four structural challenges; meta regulation of content moderation; platforms' design and reliability of information; mixed private and public spaces on private messaging systems; transparency of digital platforms.

▼ <u>Do You See What I See? Capabilities and Limits of Automated Multimedia Content</u> <u>Analysis (May 2021)</u> - Center for Democracy and Technology - DHANARAJ THAKUR & EMMA LLANSÓ

"This paper explains the capabilities and limitations of tools for analyzing online multimedia content and highlights the potential risks of using these tools at scale without accounting for their limitations. It focuses on two main categories of tools: matching models and computer prediction models." Five key limitations of automated content analysis that policymakers, companies, and advocates need to consider are summarized in this infographic. One of the authors explores some of the public policy debates, and why it's so important that these discussions be informed by a deeper understanding of the underlying technology in this blog post.

ACADEMIC STUDIES & PAPERS - DISINFORMATION

▼ Causes and consequences of mainstream media dissemination of fake news: <u>literature review and synthesis (May 2020)</u> - Annals of the International Communication Association

This research implies the "possibility that most people hear about fake news stories not from fake news websites but through their coverage in mainstream news outlets" and "synthesizes the literature pertaining to understand the role mainstream media play in the dissemination of fake news, the reasons for such coverage and its influences on the audience".

▼ <u>Democracy Without Journalism?: Confronting the Misinformation Society (2019)</u> Oxford University Press, USA - VICTOR PICKARD

"[...] Pickard presents a counter-narrative that shows how the modern journalism crisis stems from media's historical over-reliance on advertising revenue, the ascendance of media monopolies, and a lack of public oversight. He draws attention to the perils of monopoly control over digital infrastructures and the rise of platform monopolies, especially the "Facebook problem." He looks to experiments from the Progressive and New Deal Eras--as well as public media models around the world--to imagine a more reliable and democratic information system."

<u>CASE STUDIES</u> that demonstrate interesting, effective or innovative approaches to the design, measurement, evaluation, and learning, from media development and journalism support initiatives that address <u>disinformation</u>.

CASE STUDIES - FACT-CHECKING

▼ DW Akademie / EthioCheck Lab (February 2021)

"This case study shows the process of gaining insights into the "context of use" for fact-checkers and the main results of the ideation on fact-checking initiatives within the very diverse Ethiopian context." A Human Centred design approach was used "to find an accepted and feasible way to launch a fact-checking initiative in Ethiopia". Download the full case study here: DW Akademie Fact Checking Case Study Ethiopia 2021.

CASE STUDIES - MEDIA LITERACY

▼ IREX - Randomized control trial finds IREX's media literacy messages to be effective in reducing engagement with disinformation (October 2020)

"[...] the RAND Corporation, in partnership with IREX, conducted the first study to use a randomized control trial to understand the effect media literacy messaging could have on social media users. With short, social media—sized media literacy content, RAND tested how using various interventions and revealing the source of the content changed audience reactions."

This literature review is a work in progress!

If you have resources that you would like to recommend, just reply to this email to get in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Tom, Mira and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

May 21st - SENT

Welcome to this week's email from <u>GFMD IMPACT</u>, the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre run by the Global Forum for Media Development.

There is no digest of resources this week (it will be back on May 27th) as we wanted to focus on how you can get involved with our upcoming meeting which is focusing on disinformation and misinformation.

(If you are new to the list, last week's email digest at the end of this email .)

- On **June 17th** we are convening a meeting of donors, academics and media development practitioners to discuss the effective design, implementation and evaluation of programmes that address **disinformation and misinformation**.
- If you are interested in participating please fill out the <u>expression of interest form on our website</u>. (If you have already responded, don't worry, we have noted your preferences). To ensure that we are not oversubscribed we will invite participants based on your preferences, expertise and whether or not you have evidence to contribute to the meeting.

If you can not make it, we will be sharing a detailed report of the meeting and all of the accompanying resources. Just as we did for our March meeting on <u>Theories of change and impact measurement</u>.

- This is where you come in! If you have recently (with the last year or so) produced or worked on...
- Monitoring and evaluation reports of donor/philanthropy funded media development programmes & projects related to mis/disinformation
- Documents that include learning and self-reflection about programmes and projects of journalism, media, and civil society organisations related to mis/disinformation
- Academic studies/research papers/analysis that investigate journalism, and media/ journalism support and media development misinformation and disinformation interventions
- Developed policy or strategy papers for donor funded programmes that address mis/disinformation.
- ... we want to hear from you!

If you have any of the above, please

- **▼ Hit reply to this email and send us a link.** *Please note that we are also happy to accept summaries or highlights if you are unable to share the full document for security, privacy or confidentiality reasons.
- ▶ Let us know if you would be willing to record a short 3-5 minute video explaining the key insights from the resource that you are recommending. *We are happy to schedule a call with you on Zoom to record it but equally happy for you to send it to us directly. Just please follow the criteria that we send you before you do!

One last thing... Please note that GFMD IMPACT is focused on building the evidence base for works in media support. For that reason we are not interested in:

X PR or promotional material about projects

X Anecdotes

If you have any questions or want to share ideas or resources please just hit reply* or email me at tlaw@gfmd.info. *All emails to the list are monitored and pre-screened by myself, and the reset of the GFMD IMPACT team. So don't worry. Your email will just go to us not the whole group.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

All the best, Tom

tlaw@gfmd.info | @gfmdIMPACT | impact.gfmd.info

Would you like to propose a topic, speak or present research at a future event? To get in touch, just reply to this email. We would love to hear from you.

Mira, Tom and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

NOTE TO SELF - ADD May 13th email here.

May 13th - SENT

Welcome to this week's summary of the resources that have been added to the <u>GFMD</u> <u>IMPACT online resource</u>. Scroll or read to the end for details of the next GFMD IMPACT meeting.

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Do you have an evaluation, impact report or other resource that you would like to be included in a future edition? Just reply to this email to get in touch.

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EVALUATION & IMPACT REPORTS - Emergency and crisis funding

▼ European Journalism COVID-19 Support Fund: Impact and learnings (2021)
European Journalism Centre (p7-8) "Takeaways and recommendations for running a crisis fund"

RESEARCH - Effectiveness of MediaDev

- ▼ The Untapped Potential of Regional Cooperation for Media Reform in Southern

 Africa (2021) Centre for International Media Assistance HERMAN WASSERMAN.

 (Benon Oluka of GIJN Africa, interviewed the author for the Reuters Institute of Journalism to mark 30 years of the Windhoek Declaration.)
- ► How development actors can help, not hurt, information ecosystems (2021) Prue Clarke argues in this article for DW Akademie that "development actors tend to pay media to publish content that often is just their PR material in disguise. It's time to rethink a practice that undermines both independent journalism and the aid sector's credibility."

REPORTS - Sustainability & Viability

▼ Covid-19 and the media: A pandemic of paradoxes (2021) - IMS

This IMS report covers responses to the infringement of the right to freedom of information, misinformation on social media and the impact on public interest media caused by COVID-19 with a human rights-based approach and gender-sensitive lens. It draws from international studies, in-depth interviews with journalists in Colombia, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, and Ukraine and reports and experiences from over 33 IMS partners.

Two of the five recommendations in the report relate to sustainability viability:

- States must recognise public interest media as crucial to fulfilling human rights and must ensure its survival through financial subsidies, which can be paid for by proper taxation of multinational technology companies.
- International actors partnering with public interest media should leverage audience demand for reliable information amid the infodemic into a post-

COVID-19 business model that improves media literacy, monetises truth, and diversifies newsrooms.

▼ Media Economy in the Pandemic: A European Perspective (2021) European University Institute - ROBERTA CARLINI & KONRAD BLEYER-SIMON

This technical report published by the European University Institute's Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF) looks at the media landscapes of a set of EU member states to understand what happened to their media markets during the first wave of the pandemic. (Full report here.)

The report assesses how the pandemic and its side effects are reshaping the news media environment in the European Union in the context of

- a deep, pre-existing crisis of the traditional news media business model
- an ongoing search for responses to the challenges of digitalisation
- a tradition of public intervention in news media regulation and financial support

POLICY BRIEFS & WORKING PAPERS

▼ <u>Safe. Strong. Viable. - The symbiosis between Media Viability and Media Safety</u> (<u>May 2021</u>) **DW** Akademie

This paper concludes that investing in safety and security measures not only saves lives but also strengthens the business models of media outlets.

Media managers and editors such as Maria Ressa of Rappler (Philippines), Jade Ramírez from Periodistas de a Pie (Mexico), Roula Mikhael from the Maharat Foundation (Lebanon) and Jean-Baptiste Sawadogo from the Community Radio Radio Vénégré (Burkina Faso) share how investing in safety and security measures not only saves lives but also strengthens the business models of media outlets.

They see clear links between media viability aspects such as quality journalism, audience engagement, collaborations, and capacity building on the one hand and physical, psychological and digital security as well as secure working conditions on the other.

To put their experiences into a wider context, the publication also contains articles from the ACOS Alliance, IWMF and digital security expert Daniel Moßbrucker.

▼ Pathways to media sustainability in a broken market - Is independent media a public good and is public subsidy to support it realistic? (April 2021) BBC Media Action - JAMES DEANE

The report, the first in series as part of the PRIMED project considers:

- Information as a public good in an age of infodemics and democratic recession
- Why is the media market broken?
- Public subsidy: different lessons from history

- The pros and cons of different public subsidy models
- Evolving concepts of public subsidy
- Incentives for government subsidy to independent media

DECLARATIONS (& EVENTS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS)

▼ The big news from last week was the Windhoek+30 Declaration which called for <u>urgent</u> <u>steps to address independent media viability</u>. The full declaration, which is available <u>here</u>.

CALL FOR PAPERS

- ▼ <u>De Europa Special Issue Media and the EU Governance. Democracy, participation, and innovation</u> (Submission of abstracts: 1 July 2021)
- ▼ What's next for media development?' Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies (Special Issue) (Full paper submission due: 15 September 2021)

What did we miss?

Do you have an evaluation, impact report or other resource that you would like to be included in a future GFMD IMPACT email edition?

Just reply to this email to get in touch.

GFMD IMPACT MEETINGS 2021

DISINFORMATION - JUNE 16th

Topic: How media development activities, projects, programmes and policy can address the disinformation crisi.

Express your interest: If you are interested in participating in this event, please fill out this short form.

Submit resources: Ahead of each event we conduct a literature review. If you would like to suggest papers, studies, evaluation reports, or other resources to be added *please* share them by replying to this email.

THEORIES OF CHANGE AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT - MARCH 15th

As well reading the full report <u>here</u>, you can also go directly to the summaries of the three case studies and breakout groups:

- ▼ Theories of change in media and governance programmes
- ▼ PRIMED Protecting Independent Media for Effective Development
- Measuring the impact of investigative reporting

Would you like to propose a topic, speak or present research at a future event? To get in touch, just reply to this email. We would love to hear from you.

Mira, Tom and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

Resource to be sorted

- ▼ Bad Law Legal and Regulatory Responses to Misinformation in Sub-Saharan

 Africa 2016–2020 (June 2020) Chapter from the book: Cunliffe-Jones, P et al. 2021.

 Misinformation Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Laws and Regulations to Media

 Literacy
- "[...] examines changes made to laws and regulations related to 'false information' in eleven countries across Sub-Saharan Africa 2016-2020 from Ethiopia to South Africa. By examining the terms of such laws against what is known of misinformation types, drivers and effects, it assesses the likely effects of punitive policies and those of more positive approaches that provide accountability in political debate by promoting access to accurate information and corrective speech. In contrast to the effects described for most recent regulations relating to misinformation, the report identifies ways in which legal and regulatory frameworks can be used to promote a healthier information environment."
- ▼ COVID-19 : Accelerating community radio broadcasting through challenging time in Bangladesh (May 2021) Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)

https://www.ned.org/mapping-civil-society-responses-to-disinformation-international-forum/

RESEARCH - Effectiveness of MediaDev

Regional cooperation and a post-covid world: the view from West Africa and South East Asia (May 2021) - Centre for International Media Assistance - ALEKSEJ DEMJANSKI
The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges confronting independent media and forced the media development community—journalists, donors, media practitioners—to rethink how to support for sustainable media ecosystems. Among the wealth of ideas put forward is the need for greater regional cooperation among media advocates to advance local demands. CIMA reached out to two media experts actively thinking about this approach—Melinda Quintos de Jesus, executive director of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) in the Philippines and Sulemana Braimah, executive director of the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) in Ghana—in two regions, West Africa and Southeast Asia, with a history of endeavoring to form cross-border coalitions for media sector development and reform.

REPORTS - Sustainability & Viability POLICY BRIEFS & WORKING PAPERS

▼ Media Trends in Time of Change - Maharat Foundation ()

This study seeks to know the trends of means of information and communication in Lebanon in this transition phase, about a year after the start of the October 17 protests, to know the extent of its follow-up of the demands of the revolution, especially the pursuit of the desired change, the fight against corruption, education on public affairs, including democratic change through elections. It includes specific time periods and specific milestones extending from October 17, 2019 until November 2020.

The study revolves around 7 topics:

- First: The media's concerns regarding the parliamentary elections
- Second: The demands of the October 17 Movement in television coverage
- **Third:** Monitoring women's representations in the media and their political participation
- Fourth: Monitoring the priorities of traditional and alternative media
- **Fifth:** The media's interest in corruption issues
- Sixth: The union and student elections covered by traditional and alternative media
- Seventh: New influencers and media figures through social platforms

Here are the links:

http://maharatfoundation.org/mediatrendsstudy2021

Executive Summary in English:

http://maharatfoundation.info/media/1892/study-2021-summary-en.pdf

Fact Sheet in English:

http://maharatfoundation.info/media/1896/media-trends-sheet-2021.pdf

TRAINING & TEACHING RESOURCES

▼ Journalism, 'Fake News' and Disinformation: A Handbook for Journalism Education and Training (2018) - Unesco - CHERILYN IRETON & JULIE POSETTI Written by experts in the fight against disinformation, this is an essential resource for journalism educators, as well as practising journalists and editors who are interested in information, how we share it and how we use it. Download the full handbook in 24 languages here.

ARTICLES - DISINFORMATION

▼ Claire Wardle on disinformation and today's journalistic conventions (June 2020) Berkman Klein Center - The Breakdown

Claire Wardle, co-founder and director of First Draft, and a member of the <u>Assembly Forum</u>, shares insights into how disinformation and conspiracy theories move from online spheres to gain coverage in mainstream media, advice for journalists on engaging in debunking and fact-checking work, and the challenge of reporting on disinformation.

▼ <u>Delivering value through planning and budgeting (14 May 2021)</u> Media Development Investment Fund - KEVIN BROCKLAND

CALL FOR PAPERS

- ▼ <u>De Europa Special Issue Media and the EU Governance. Democracy, participation, and innovation</u> (Submission of abstracts: 1 July 2021)
- ▼ What's next for media development?' Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies (Special Issue) (Full paper submission due: 15 September 2021)

⚠ Disinformation is a huge topic for a two hour meeting, so this is how we are going to proceed:

- 1 Conduct a literature review of the best resources. *More details below.
- 2 We would like to pre-record videos with researchers, academics and representatives of organisations who have produced interesting and relevant material on the subject. These will be available before the meeting and a short summary will be played at the meeting as well as being shared publicly.
- The meeting itself will break out into four groups Media & Information Literacy, Fact Checking, Counter Narratives, Journalism Support against Mis/Disinformation* to discuss the case studies, learning and evaluation reports presented in the videos. *Legislation and regulation related to disinformation will be included in a future event.
- 4 The meeting report, as well as summarising the discussion, will identify areas for future collaborative research and knowledge sharing within the media support community (donors, researchers and MediaDev practitioners). This will form the basis of GFMD IMPACT's planning and initiatives moving forward.

THEORIES OF CHANGE AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT - MARCH 15th

As well reading the full report <u>here</u>, you can also go directly to the summaries of the three case studies and breakout groups:

- ▼ Theories of change in media and governance programmes
- ▼ PRIMED Protecting Independent Media for Effective Development
- Measuring the impact of investigative reporting

Would you like to propose a topic, speak or present research at a future event? To get in touch, just reply to this email. We would love to hear from you.

Mira, Tom and Ivana - the GFMD IMPACT team.

Come and join our Colab Medios Project session at #RightsCon on June 9 17:30 CET / 9:30 CST to know more about the project.

Colab Medios (as part of Free Press Unlimited) is a platform for exchange to broaden your horizons on the topics of media viability, interactions with the audience, media formats, business models, security and quality journalism. Colab Medios is the first platform for the exchange of knowledge between media (small and medium) in Eastern Europe and Central America, and is provided in Spanish and Russian . I invite you to visit the website https://colabmedios.org/es/ if you feel like you would like to acquire some insight on media viability and journalism.

Please spread the word!

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