



### Session Details:

**Title:** Digital Rights and threats: Imagining new futures

**Date:** 17 October 2023

**Time:** 14:00 - 17:00

**Format:** Plenary Roundtable

**Venue:** iClub

**Host:** Paradigm Initiative

**Facilitator:** Bridgette Ndlovu

### Speakers:

1. Dr. Barabra Glover, AUDA-NEPAD
2. Phillip Ayazika, Policy
3. Kristen Abrahams, Legal Resources Centre (LRC)
4. Kristophina Shilongo, Tech Fellow, Mozilla Foundation

### About CTIF & Jamfest 2023: #AfricaFlows

Our 2023 #Flow theme is inspired by Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a powerful stream of technology and data that is acting as a driving force that can enhance the flow of various processes in our lives. But “Flow” is also about understanding that we are never solely driven by technology. And that we are never alone; that there are others like us who are ready to collaborate and create solutions with us to generate greater possibilities for humanity. Flow illustrates the confidence we have in our people’s resilience and their ability to adapt to change. Flow addresses experiences, conversations, and practices that facilitate even more flow. Flow might of course also present new risks. We believe that our community of civic tech and media innovators are a symbol of our ability to flow positively, and we are ready to explore this under the powerful theme #AfricaFlows.

## **Session Overview**

This session will bring civic tech and media innovators together to discuss current and emerging digital rights trends and threats in the African tech ecosystem. Issues such as the closing down of civic space will be addressed, as well as new ideas and approaches to mitigate the effects of these attempts, often by state actors or external parties, and plan to overcome the knock-on effects for community organisations that are working to improve civic engagement, participation and freedom of the press. Other topics that will be covered are ethical data generation, protection and privacy of personal information, as well as an evaluation of the role of tech in African elections.

## **Session Objectives**

- To discuss the current digital rights landscape
- To unpack existing and future threats in digital rights and civic activism spaces
- To learn from practitioners working in the field of defending digital rights and preparing for existing and future threats
- To reflect on lessons to carry forward
- To draw threads and identify potential collaborations and shared interests between actors in the civic tech and media ecosystems.

## **Session Audience**

- Researchers
- Policymakers
- local government officials
- Civic Tech innovators and organisations
- Media innovators and organisations
- Community based organisations

## **Holding Room**

Accelerator ground floor room will be used as a holding room for all speakers/press interviews. Upon arrival, each person will be ushered to the room by a conference representative.

## **Presentation and added information**

All speakers should be at the venue for briefing 1 hour prior to their session going live for dry-run setup, including any download requirements. All presentations must be shared with [Thunyiswa.Mateza@wits.ac.za](mailto:Thunyiswa.Mateza@wits.ac.za) for loading as no speaker will be allowed to use their own screens. All speakers will need to submit presentations in advance by no later than **Wednesday, 12 October 2023**.

## **Connection Platforms**

Opening and closing plenaries will be live streamed on Meta (Facebook) but all introductions and moderations will be live, as will the Q&A during, and at the end of each session.

## **Audio Visual**



The following audio-visual equipment will be in the main conference room:

- Projection screen and data projector
- On-stage lectern with presentation computer
- A lapel mic for each speaker
- Internet connection

The conference organisers can be contacted for any additional requirements. A technician will be available to handle any problems that may arise during the conference.

### **Time Allocation**

The length of each presentation is outlined in the program; it is very important that one keeps to the time allocated for presentations, in order to allow maximum time for discussions and open conversations afterwards.

### **Programme**

### **Post-session**

Speakers and facilitators can expect a follow-up email within a week of the conference and afterwards, the CTIF/Jamfest 2023 session report session with a way forward. For any content or session format-related questions you might have, please reach out to your session lead.

Thank You,

#### **Session Lead**

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CTIN Programme Lead: Research  
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#### **Event Contact Person**

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