

Deutsche Welle : Global Media Forum 2023

As at 24/05/2023

sef: Session

Building Bridges – Journalistic Initiatives (Re)establishing Trust between World Regions

20 June 2023; 14:30-15:30 hrs

World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), Germany

Language: English

BACKGROUND

News reporting in any given country tends to focus on the host country and its neighbours. In Germany, the Global South is dramatically underrepresented in mainstream programmes. Entire world regions, especially Africa and South Asia, are mostly featured in German news as scenes of war or victims of disasters.

However, reporting on the Global North in countries of the Global South can also be simplistic. This leads to a situation where distorted images of the respective “other” are prevalent in all world regions. In a time of increasing geopolitical tensions, this contributes to a dramatic loss of trust, aggravated by an increasing level of disinformation spreading online.

Around the world, innovative journalistic initiatives are trying to (re)establish trust between different world regions, by delivering a more nuanced representation of reality. How successful have they been and what are their major challenges? In short: How can quality journalism help to build bridges between world regions?

WELCOME

Dr Marcus Kaplan

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn, Germany

PANELLISTS

Mercy Abang

Managing Director, Hostwriter; award-winning journalist from Nigeria

Dina Aboughazala (tbc)

Founder, of Egab, Egypt; former journalist at BBC

CHAIR

Frank Hofmann

Senior Correspondent
Deutsche Welle, Berlin

SPEAKERS



Mercy Abang

Mercy is the co-Managing Director of Hostwriter, a global network of journalists and the publishing platform Unbias the News.

Currently, Mercy leads the team in the Hostwriters' discretionary grant-seeking and procuring of the overall organization, along with Julia Vernesson. She understands the composition of large foundations and other organizations responsible for organized media philanthropy.

At various times, she has been responsible. She continues to advise international corporate organizations in the global north in assisting and helping foundations allocate their funding to public interest media organizations and initiatives. These roles can be incredibly impactful when given responsibility over large sums of money in impactful cause areas. She sits on boards and performs advisory as a panel judge on multiple journalism awards.



Frank Hofmann

Frank Hofmann is a Berlin-based, roving Senior Correspondent for Deutsche Welle and an author focused on Transatlantic Relations, European Integration, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans. He moved to Berlin following the fall of the Berlin Wall, and has spent most of his subsequent career investigating post- Cold War issues. As DW's correspondent and bureau chief in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, Hofman established the first permanent representation of a German TV organization there. He was one of DW's European correspondents in Brussels for five years. After that, he was posted to Ukraine to cover the post-Maidan period and the war in Eastern Ukraine's Donbas region.

PUBLICATIONS



GLOBAL TRENDS. ANALYSIS 02|2022

COVID-19 and digital authoritarianism:
Identifying risks and countermeasures
Ahmed Maati
December 2022, 28 pages

The advances in digital technologies have positive effects on various aspects of life but can also pose a threat to privacy and freedom and can foster repression and authoritarian tendencies. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed the danger of a “digital authoritarianism”, not only in already authoritarian regimes but also in established democracies. Ahmed Maati highlights three characteristics of digital technologies that render them susceptible to authoritarianism: the far-reaching capabilities of these technologies, their entrenchment in a reinforcing ecosystem, and the general lack of literacy regarding digital technologies. He emphasizes that this development grants democracies an opportunity to raise awareness of digital technologies’ dangerous capabilities and their authoritarian-friendly ecosystem.



GLOBAL TRENDS. ANALYSIS 01|2022

Climate Change, Violent Conflict and Environmental Peacebuilding:
Understanding the Interlinkages
Tobias Ide
August 2022, 32 pages

In many parts of the world, climate change has severe impacts not only on human security but also on economic and political stability. It increases resource competition, recruitment opportunities for armed groups, and migration.

Environmental peacebuilding as a comprehensive approach can address climate-related conflict risks by focussing on how the joint management of natural resources and environmental problems can support peace. Tobias Ide describes the core mechanisms of environmental peacebuilding to facilitate climate-resilient peace. At the same time, the author also looks at the limitations of the approach. Concluding, the paper gives recommendations for political actors, donors, and civil society how they can support environmental peacebuilding processes on the local level.



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