
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

CENTER FOR MEDIA, DATA AND SOCIETY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

OFF TO A FRESH START

Following three months of consultations with leading players in media policy and research, which focused on the contemporary challenges facing media freedom and independent journalism, in February 2017 we published the Center's new strategy that covers the period 2017-2019.

Media policies have to be more progressive. Funders and owners of media should have less room for abuse and pressures. The public communications system should be freer and more plural. Good policy work helps achieve all that.

Along these lines, an overarching goal of our strategic plan is to initiate, conduct and disseminate research and to spread knowledge to inform and influence the ongoing policy debates.

STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH: UNTANGLING THE POWER KNOTS

Our research agenda will be driven by the study of power in media and journalism segmented into three categories: regulation, financing and public sphere. We strongly believe in the importance of comparative research.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING: MAKING RESEARCH AND POLICY ACCESSIBLE

Making research and media policy accessible will drive our knowledge sharing agenda. Many countries are understudied and underserved by researchers. Our work in this area will focus on creating a space for debate and innovative teaching and learning.

STRATEGIC GOALS

RESEARCH

- Create a methodology framework for the study of media power in the current context
- Initiate and produce a body of research on media power and journalism, including country reports, comparative studies and policy analysis
- Build a research partnership to create a Media Influence Matrix to measure integrity and independence in the media and journalism

READ THE CMDS STRATEGY

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- Repurpose our speaker and lecture series in line with this strategic plan
- Reform our annual summer school into a practical workshop for mid-career professionals to develop specific policy and journalistic projects
- Develop and hold courses and practical workshops at CEU and elsewhere, including executive training, to foster collaborative and innovative ways of knowledge production and knowledge sharing

POLICY

- Create within CMDS a clearing house of policy analysis and information

“MUCH OF HOW INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM AND MEDIA PERFORM THEIR FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN INFORMING AND ENRICHING THE DEMOCRATIC DISCOURSE IS SHAPED BY POLICY DECISIONS, FUNDERS AND OWNERS, AND THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC SPHERE. (...) NOW, MORE THAN EVER, GRASPING THE KEY SHIFTS IN THESE RELATIONSHIPS IS CENTRAL TO UNDERSTANDING AND INFLUENCING THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS, EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY AND IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH JOURNALISTS WORK.”

OUR RESEARCH

Media and power: that is the Center's research focus in the ongoing strategy period. Study of the key shifts in the power relations between governments, technology companies and media is going to drive our research agenda for the next three years.

We have restructured our research work into two blocks.

The first, **Media and Power Project** is a multi-country comparative research and policy project that is going to be run in a consortium with over 40 partner organizations.

The second is a cluster of research projects on themes relevant to the current developments in the media.

Media & Power Research Consortium

During the first half of 2017, we developed our research agenda that is going to be the basis for our flagship research project over the period of two years (2018-2019).

The **primary audiences** of this project are **policy-makers** and **NGOs** focused on **advocacy in media policy**. We expect this project to also attract other audiences such as journalists, media lawyers, or freedom of expression activists.

The project is going to focus on **news media** and cover three main areas: the **government space** (changes in the policy and regulatory environment affecting the media); **funding** (key funding sources of journalism, particularly public funding, and the impact that new financial arrangements in the media have on journalism); and **technology**, public sphere and journalism (the role technology companies, with new forms of content production and distribution, including automation and algorithm-based content distribution, play in reshaping news media and journalism).

We gathered around these topics a raft of 40+ organizations that form the **Media & Power Research Consortium**, which will run collaboratively this research project. The Consortium consists of local organizations as well as regional and international organizations, including academic institutions, NGOs, journalism networks and private foundations. A full list of partners will be made public in January 2018.

NEW VENTURES

CMDS has always been the home of an incredible set of skills and knowledge in fields such as media policy and development, data and digital rights, journalism, and research methodology. We have consolidated our **areas of expertise** and we are making our services available in the form of consultancy services. This is a new venture at CMDS, one that is looking to build our ever expanding network through cooperation with external partners, but one that is capitalizing on pool of experts, which includes over 50 resident and non-resident fellows.

With a similar goal in mind, we have been engaging with organizations outside academia for years. For them, we created a portfolio of **courses** on topics such as data analysis and visualization, media advocacy, techniques of investigative journalism, and trainings on podcasting. Both initiatives are part of the CMDS knowledge-sharing goals laid down in the CMDS Strategy for 2017-2019.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

STRATEGIC EVALUATION

- Organizational Evaluation
- Advocacy: Strategizing, Planning and Measuring Impact

REPORTING

- Trend analysis
- Country profiles & comparative reports
- Datasets

ADVISORY

- Research methodology and outreach
- Data

COURSES

ADVOCACY

TECHNIQUES OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

DATA ANALYSIS & VISUALIZATION FOR JOURNALISTS

PODCASTING

JOURNALISM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Find out more about our services at
cmds.ceu.edu/cmds-consultants

Read more about our courses at
cmds.ceu.edu/courses-outside-ceu

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

GOOGLE DNI GRANT TO DEVELOP OWNERSHIP VISUALIZATION TOOL

In 2017 CMDS won a grant from Google to develop a visualization tool for tracking and analyzing media ownership in Hungary according to political ties, ideology and interest groups. The free-to-use, publicly available tool is designed for research and policy making purposes.

VOX-POL: HOW INTERNET INTERMEDIARIES RESPOND TO POLITICAL EXTREMISM ONLINE

A five-year project supported by the European Commission, led at CMDS by Kate Coyer, the Virtual Center of Excellence for Research in Violent Online Political Extremism or VOX-POL is assessing the role of internet intermediaries in responding to violent online political extremism. The project is led by Dublin City University.

RDR: DO TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES RESPECT FREE EXPRESSION AND PRIVACY?

The Ranking Digital Rights (RDR) project is led by Rebecca MacKinnon of the New America Foundation. The project brings together a group of international researchers and advocates to develop a methodology to evaluate and rank the world's major technology companies on policies and practices related to free expression and privacy.

MPM: HOW PLURAL IS EUROPEAN MEDIA?

CMDS provided another round of analysis on Hungarian media for the Media Pluralism Monitor 2016 (MPM 2016), a European Commission funded project, led by the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF). This is the first European-wide monitor of risks for media pluralism.

REUTERS DIGITAL NEWS REPORT

Eva Bogнар from CMDS contributed to the sixth Digital News Report from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford. The report is based on a YouGov online survey conducted with 70,000 people in 36 countries.

OUR KNOWLEDGE-SHARING WORK

CMDS strongly believes in sharing the knowledge generated in academia with students, policymakers, practitioners and the general public. To that end, CMDS members teach courses, publish in academic and non-academic forums, organize events (workshops, conferences, public lectures and summer schools) and trainings for academic as well as non-academic audiences. The courses taught in the academic year 2016-17 were in the framework of the Media and Communication concentration in the School of Public Policy on topics ranging from “Social Media, Journalism and Democracy” (taught by Sahana Udupa) through “Introduction to Cyberconflict” (Cameran Ashraf) to “Global Challenges to Public Interest Journalism” (Dean Starkman). Find out more about our courses at CEU at [this link](#).

In order to respond to some of the most pressing issues in the field of media, and to assure these topics are brought to various, different audiences, we organized events in numerous formats for a wide range of audiences.

We discussed the state of Hungarian journalism with experienced journalists and editors from Népszabadság and the Budapest Business Journal on the wake of Népszabadság’s closure; held public lectures including “The Political Economy of American News Media in the Age of Trump” by Victor Pickard and Stories Without Borders: The Berlin Wall and the Making of a Global Iconic Event by Julia Sonnevend; Data Justice by Lina Dencik. We organized and participated in various panel discussions both in Budapest and abroad. Most importantly, we have launched a [new public lecture series](#) on Public Service Media to contribute to the ongoing discourse.

Our annual summer school (this year on media capture) was aimed at a diverse target group as well: we had the chance to discuss media capture and the relationship between media freedom, power and advocacy with researchers, students, journalists and practitioners from seventeen countries. Read more about our summer school [here](#).

Find out more about our publications at cmds.ceu.edu/Publications

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

CMDS staff, affiliated faculty, fellows and board members published extensively in a range of peer-reviewed journals, public circulation papers, but also in collective book volumes. In order to cater to a wider range of audience, they have also engaged heavily with media outlets including internationally renowned publications such as the WIRED, the Financial Times or The Washington Post or regionally leading news media such as Digi24 or Al Jazeera.

In addition, CMDS organized and participated in a number of conferences, panel discussions and workshops all across the world, that all dealt with the most pressing issues in media regulation, policy, press freedom and internet and telecommunication companies' corporate accountability.

TOP FEATURES INCLUDE

Dean Starkman mapped the growth of global media giants in an amazing data visualization article for Traffic

Miklos Haraszti published an op-ed on the rise of populist leaders in The Washington Post

Marius Dragomir quoted in Financial Times' article on Macedonia's flourishing fake news industry

Dean Starkman interviewed by Digi24 on the Rise of Fake News

Attila Bátorfy was interviewed by RTL Klub's Magyarul Balóval on the role of social media in influencing elections

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCE ENGAGEMENTS

Sejal Parmar at OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Tolerance and Diversity in Berlin

Marius Dragomir spoke at the second EU Annual Colloquium of Fundamental Rights

CMDS took part in a panel of the Broadcast Education Association, in 23 April 2017 in Las Vegas

Attila Bátorfy spoke at the Telekom Sustainability Day on information flow

Benjamin de Cleen was keynote speaker at the workshop 'Populism and the nation-state: Tensions or/and possibilities?' at King's College, London

Cameran Ashraf participated at the Venice Biennale in the Hungarian National Pavilion with an essay on the psycho-social history of technology

Find out more about our public engagements at cmds.ceu.edu/news

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CMDS SUMMER SCHOOL ON MEDIA CAPTURE

23 participants from 17 countries all across the world gathered for this intensive two-week course to discuss the various, intertwining models of media capture. CMDS invited a broad array of experts from Human Rights Watch to Open Society Foundations and the Center for International Media Assistance to examine challenges to independent media, all related to the “pillars of media capture”: regulation, funding, ownership, public media and technology.

MUZZLING THE WATCHDOG - THE STATE OF JOURNALISM IN HUNGARY

CMDS organized a discussion with Márton Gergely, deputy editor in chief of Népszabadság and Tom Popper, former editor in chief of Budapest Business Journal, moderated by Eva Bogner, senior program officer of CMDS to discuss alarming events affecting Hungarian media outlets in the broader context of the state of media freedom and journalism in Hungary.

JOURNALISM AND POLITICS IN THE AGE OF MISINFORMATION - WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY AT CEU

To mark the World Press Freedom Day in Budapest, CMDS and the CEU's Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) organized a conference, where scholars and practitioners from a variety of fields and disciplines discussed and tried to find solutions to the major problems that independent journalism and political communication are grappling with today.

THE LAUNCH OF THE RANKING DIGITAL RIGHTS 2017 CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX

CMDS hosted the launch of the Ranking Digital Rights (RDR) Corporate Accountability Index, which ranks 22 of the world's most powerful telecommunications, internet, and mobile companies on their commitments and disclosed policies affecting users' freedom of expression and privacy.

PLURALISM AND PUBLIC SERVICE MEDIA

In his public talk, Monroe Price, who is a member of the CMDS advisory board and director of the Center for Global Communication Studies at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, explored challenges to ideas of pluralism and their relationship to future visions of public service media.



Read more about our events at
cmds.ceu.edu/events

OUR COMMUNITY

Over the years, CMDS has built up an extensive international network of researchers, media activists, policy experts and academics who research media policies, regulations and the impact of technology on civil society from various perspectives. We have a firm and active basis of followers on our Facebook and Twitter accounts, where we continue to be the most active.

We are committed to reaching out to a wider audience and to make our activities more accessible, and to that end we launched a new Media & Change podcast series where we interview members of the CMDS network about their research and current pressing issues broadly related to the field of media. We also moved our blog to the Medium platform where we publish easily digestible, highly topical stories on a range of media related issues such as net neutrality, the personalization of politics, the business of fake news or advertisers' impatience with social media companies' dubious data analytics.

Follow us on our social media channels by clicking on the logos below.



Our key partners include internationally renowned research institutes, and media and advocacy organizations.

WORKING WITH STUDENTS

Our staff and affiliated faculty offer courses in media related topics in departments across CEU. Other opportunities such as the CMDS lecture series offer the possibility for students to meet and discuss issues of interest in the area of media and communication with our fellows, policy-makers and local and international experts. In the past, CMDS created short-term employment opportunities for various CEU and SPP students.

We are planning to engage with students on a more regular basis in the next academic year. One opportunity will be the CMDS Practicum, a course that will be offered to the students of the School of Public Policy in the 2017/2018 winter term. The course is designed to be heavily practice-oriented to involve students in our regular activities, including research and knowledge sharing. We are also designing internship opportunities for the next academic years for students interested in working with our experts and partners.

TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

SAHANA UDUPA

DIGITAL MEDIA ACTIVISM

A critical introduction to digital media activism expanding across the world, offering students the opportunity to analyze the highly contested terrain of digital activism, and recognize that digital activism is not a uniform movement but a plurality of tactics and agendas. Rather than celebrating digital technologies as tools for activism applicable anywhere and anytime, the course challenges the students to interrogate the various conditions that shape contention and claims to social justice.

DEAN STARKMAN

GLOBAL CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC- INTEREST JOURNALISM

The course explores obstacles to journalism's function of providing information to the public sphere and holding power to account, also paying attention to its less well-documented successes in practice, both in the West and the Global South. It gives an overview of public-interest journalism and its development across time and various social contexts, and it explores in-depth the challenges to public interest journalism across contexts, particularly in relation to the Global South and the impact of digital disruption on public interest journalism and news-gathering in general.

MARIUS DRAGOMIR

ADVOCACY: STRATEGY, PLANNING AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT

This course provides students the basis for planning fact-based advocacy work in the policy field, drawing on examples of advocacy campaigns limited to the media policy area, but the set of rules on how to strategize and plan advocacy campaigns emerging from these experiences has applicability in a broad array of policy areas. Through analysis of experiences in designing and leading advocacy work, students learn how to strategize and plan advocacy campaigns that achieve the highest impact possible in certain political and economic contexts.

OUR PEOPLE

In line with our new strategic goals, we have embarked on enriching the Center's expertise by expanding our cohort of fellows as well as our advisory board. We are planning to continue to sign up more fellows in the following year. At the same time, we plan to invite more experts from regions and fields not represented in the Center to join our advisory board, a process that is slated to be completed in the next academic year.

OUR NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Clara-Luz Álvarez is a researcher, professor and civil society activist on information and communication technologies related to human rights at Mexico City's Universidad Panamericana.

Floriana Fossato is an independent observer of the post-Soviet media landscape in Russia and other FSU countries who has extensively written about the impact that media have on Russian society since 1996, first as a journalist, then as an analyst.

OUR NEW FELLOWS

Benjamin De Cleen is assistant professor at the Department of Communication Studies of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where he coordinates the English-language master on 'Journalism and Media in Europe'.

Silvia Chocarro Marcesse is a consultant on freedom of expression and media development issues for international organizations and NGOs. She is currently global advocacy strategist for IFEX.

Primavera Téllez Girón García has dedicated much of her professional life to support the development of public policies, as well as promoting the reform of the laws that regulate the right to information; media, broadcasting, telecommunications and internet in Mexico, to achieve a more democratic society.

Francesca Fanucci is an Italian and British lawyer specialized in freedom of expression and comparative media law, a member of Internews' Internet Freedom Expert Register who has consulted, inter alia, for the American Bar Association and ARTICLE 19.

Davor Marko is non-resident research fellow at the Analitika Center for Social Research and a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, in the domain of culture and communications.

Binod Bhattarai is a media development and communication consultant from Nepal who wrote, edited and produced content for newspapers, radio and television from the mid-1980s till 2009.

CMDS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

CMDS has an advisory board, led by the director, consisting of internationally prominent media and communication scholars and practitioners.

Clara-Luz Álvarez is a researcher, professor and civil society activist on information and communication technologies related to human rights at Mexico City's Universidad Panamericana. She received the National Journalism Award for spreading democratic culture (2014), has been acknowledged as one of the key women in telecommunications in Mexico (El Universal, 2010), and as one of the 10 most influential persons in the public sector (Expansión, 2007).

Floriana Fossato is an independent observer of the post-Soviet media landscape in Russia and other FSU countries. Floriana has lived and worked in the region for over 20 years, most recently as associate director of the Center for the Study of New Media and Society at the New Economic School in Moscow. Previously she worked as senior expert and EU policy advisor for a number of projects implemented by the Internews Network in Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Ellen Hume is a Boston-based journalist, teacher and civil society activist who works on the frontlines of democracy around the world. In her years in Budapest (2009-2016), she mentored journalists and founded a project on Roma integration. Previously she was research director of the Center for Civic Media at MIT (2008-9). She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the advisory board of the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), and DIREKT36, a Hungarian investigative reporting group.

Monroe Price is co-founder of the center. He is an adjunct full professor at the Annenberg School for Communication and the Joseph and Sadie Danciger Professor of Law and director of the Howard M. Squadron Program in Law, Media and Society at the Cardozo School of Law. He also directs the Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research in London.

Anya Schiffrin is the director of the International Media, Advocacy and Communications (IMAC) Specialization of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, New York. She spent 10 years working as a journalist in Europe and Asia, and was 24 bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires in Amsterdam and Hanoi.

Stefaan G. Verhulst is co-founder and chief research and development officer of the Governance Laboratory @NYU (GovLab). Previously, he spent more than a decade as chief of research for the Markle Foundation, where he continues to serve as senior advisor. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of Culture and Communications at New York University.

CMDS STAFF

MARIUS DRAGOMIR

Director

Marius Dragomir previously worked for the Open Society Foundations (OSF) for over a decade. Since 2007, he has managed the research and policy portfolio of the Program on Independent Journalism (PIJ), formerly the Network Media Program (NMP), in London.

ÉVA BOGNÁR

*Senior Program Officer
and Researcher*

Éva Bognár has been with the Center since 2006. She has been managing projects and events (public lectures, workshops, conferences and the annual summer school) for CMDS. Recently she has been studying Hungarian minorities and their use of online space; and media representation of migration. Her background is in sociology.

MIHAELA GROZA

Program Coordinator

Mihaela works as the program coordinator for the CMDS. She has a strong background in academic research but has also been involved in doing community work here in Budapest. Her interests lie in project management, Jewish cultural heritage, fundraising and international development.

ANNA OROSZ

Outreach Coordinator

Anna Orosz is an experienced PR and communications expert with a strong background in journalism, marketing communication and CSR, and a passion for copywriting, culture and digital media. She studied English and comparative literature at Eötvös Loránd University.

Find out more about our staff and
team at cmds.ceu.edu/team

CMDS TEAM

Cameran Ashraf is an assistant professor of new media and global communications, human rights activist, and social entrepreneur. His research is focused on the current and historical relationship between space, technology, and the state as well as the broader psycho-political and psycho-social impacts of technology.

Attila Bátorfy is a CMDS fellow and a journalist, who works for the investigative journalism site Átlátszó.hu. He is also the founder of Databánya, a blog and community on data journalism and visualization. As the editor of Kreatív, Attila investigated and analyzed media ownership, the state capture of the media market, state advertising and governmental influence on the sector.

Ian M. Cook is a CMDS fellow within the project 'Academic Podcasting: Digital Scholarship, Communities of Knowledge Production and the Elusive Search for the Public'. With a doctorate in sociology and social anthropology and with an interest in time and space, South Asian studies, visual anthropology and urban studies, he has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Mangaluru (India) and Budapest (Hungary) with research interests including: urbanisation, morality, rhythm, informal economies, modes of learning and intercommunity relationships.

Kate Coyer is director of the Center's Civil Society and Technology Project. Her research examines the complexities of media practice and policy; digital rights advocacy and the social uses of technologies; media development and communication for social change; the opportunities and challenges of emerging technologies as well as the resilience of 'old' mediums like radio.

Sejal Parmar is currently on leave from CEU while serving as senior adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Her main field of expertise and research is international and European human rights law, particularly on freedom of expression.

Dumitrita Holdis was the Center's program coordinator but as of January 2018, she works on the Center's "Sound Relations" project, managing the project, teaching courses and conducting research on academic podcasting. She has previously done research on media representation, migration, and labour integration.

Tom Popper is an editor for CMDS and a journalist with 30 years of experience, including close to 10 years editing for daily newspapers in the United States and extensive work for business, policy and travel publications in Europe.

Dean Starkman is a CMDS fellow and a visiting lecturer at the School of Public Policy at Central European University, Budapest. He is the author of *The Watchdog That Didn't Bark: The Financial Crisis and the Disappearance of Investigative Journalism*. A longtime journalist, media critic and scholar, Starkman has won many awards for his writing on finance, media, and the business of news in an age of digital disruption.

Joost van Beek is a researcher. Previously, he worked at the EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program (EUMAP) of the Open Society Institute, and Mira Media, a Dutch NGO that promotes the representation of minorities in the media.

CMDS FELLOWS

Susan Abbott has more than 15 years of experience in the media development and digital rights sector and she is the director of Cross-Pollinate Consulting.

Joan Barata is an international expert in freedom of expression, media freedom and media regulation and consultant for the Council of Europe, OSCE and UNESCO among others.

Amy Brouillette is the senior research and editorial manager of the Ranking Digital Rights (RDR) project.

Paolo Cavaliere is a lecturer in Digital Media & IT Law at the University of Edinburgh Law School. His main interests in research include the discipline of pluralism and diversity in the media.

Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick is a writer and professor at the Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. His latest book *Protest Tech: How Social Movements Use Disruptive Technology*, explores the ways movements use tools and technologies to bring social change.

Lina Dencik is senior lecturer at Cardiff's School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies and serves as director for the MA Journalism, Media and Communications and the newly established Data Justice Lab.

Amer Džihana is director for Media Policy and Research at Internews in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Miklós Haraszti is a Hungarian author, professor, human rights promoter and former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Eszter Hargittai is professor in the Institute of Mass Communication and Media Research at the University of Zurich where she heads the Media Use and Society division.

Arne Hintz is a lecturer and director of the MA Digital Media and Society at the Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies.

Philip N. Howard is a professor at Oxford University and the University of Washington and former director of CMDS.

Kristina Irion is assistant professor at the Institute for Information Law (IViR) at the University of Amsterdam and Postdoctoral Researcher to the project Personalised Communication.

Tarik Jusic is executive director and head of the public communication program at the Center for Social Research Analitika.

Markos Kounalakis is president and publisher emeritus of the Washington Monthly and is currently a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

CMDS FELLOWS

Jessie Labov is a resident fellow at CMDS, and formerly associate professor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at Ohio State University.

Becky Lentz is an associate professor of communication in the Department of Art History/ Communication Studies at McGill University, specializing in media policy studies from a civil society perspective.

Timothy Libert is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. His research focuses on privacy-compromising information flows on the web.

Stefania Milan is associate professor of new media and digital culture at the University of Amsterdam. Her research explores the interplay between digital technology and participation.

Amir Mosavi has been assistant professor at the Budapest Business School, University of Debrecen, and Óbuda University. He works on data privacy and data marketplaces.

Gina Neff is a media and communication scholar whose work centers on the social and organizational impact of new communication technologies.

Gill Phillips is a media law specialist. She currently works in-house as the director of editorial legal services for Guardian News & Media Limited.

Roxana Radu is programme manager at the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP) and Internet Governance Associate at DiploFoundation.

Courtney C. Radsch is the advocacy director at the Committee to Protect Journalists. She writes and speaks frequently about the nexus of media, technology, and human rights.

Sandra Ristovska is assistant professor in media studies at the College of Media, Communication and Information at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Lidija Sabados' research focuses on community media practices and policies in the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

Julia Sonnevend is assistant professor of sociology and communications at the New School for Social Research in New York.

Rian Wanstreet is special projects manager for Access Now, a digital rights organization that defends and extends the rights of users online. She also runs the RightsCon Summit.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR MEDIA, DATA AND SOCIETY (CMDS)

CMDS was founded in 2004 as the Center for Media and Communication Studies, an independent research center of Central European University. In January 2014, the Center joined CEU's new School of Public Policy (SPP). In September 2014, it was chartered by the Rector. The same month, the Center adopted its current name to reflect the interests and expertise of the faculty and staff, particularly in technology policy.

Marking CEU's commitment to play a role in media and communication policy, the Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDS) seeks to improve the quality of media policy-making through research and debate.

While operating as an independent research center – in terms of our research agenda, outputs and activities – CMDS also benefits from our immersion within SPP through our growing collaborations with the School's staff, faculty and students. Members of the CMDS Advisory Board actively serve as stewards and consultants for the Center's projects, as well as in helping the Center secure new funding opportunities.

CMDS operates with a budget derived from the main CEU operating budget and external research funds awarded to the Center in accordance with CEU policies and procedures. Additional external funds from project grants (from various organizations, including the Open Society Foundations (OSF), European Commission, Google and others) are used to cover salaries of staff and contracted researchers, as well as project activities (research, publications, workshops and conferences), overhead, and administration.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY (SPP)

The School of Public Policy at Central European University is, in the words of its founder, George Soros, a “new kind of global institution dealing with global problems” through multi-disciplinary study of public policy, innovative teaching and research, as well as meaningful engagement with policy practice. We are a global institution committed to creating a community of purpose beyond power.

www.spp.ceu.edu

Find out more at
www.cmds.ceu.edu

ABOUT CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY (CEU)

Central European University is a graduate-level “crossroads” university, where faculty and students from more than 100 countries come to engage in interdisciplinary education, pursue advanced scholarship, and address some of society’s most vexing problems. It is accredited in both the United States and Hungary, and offers English-language Master's and doctoral programs in the social sciences, the humanities, law, management and public policy.

Located in the heart of Central Europe, in Budapest, Hungary, CEU has developed a distinct academic and intellectual focus, combining the comparative study of the region's historical, cultural, and social diversity with a global perspective on good governance, sustainable development and social transformation.

With approximately 1,400 students and 370 faculty members from more than 130 countries, CEU is one of the most densely international universities in the world. CEU is known for excellence in teaching and research – with purpose. At the core of its mission lies a set of principles: the pursuit of truth wherever it leads, respect for the diversity of cultures and peoples, and commitment to resolve differences through debate not denial.

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