
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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

JOURNALISM IN THE AGE OF POPULIST FERVOR

OCTOBER 2018

It's been another year of populist unrest and nationalist fervor. Spread of populism continued unabated. Five Star Movement, a party born on the internet, and the Northern League, an anti-European, anti-migrants party, won the Italian elections last March. Companies are battenning down the hatches as Britain is on its way out of the European Union. Chancellor Angela Merkel is fighting growing discontent as the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is garnering increasing support. Led by autocratic leaders, Poland and Hungary roll back democracy. Putin's Russia is enthusiastically followed by an increasing number of European nations.

It's hard to imagine how journalists can do their job freely and independently in this world. Yet, their role is now more important than ever. The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), a donor-funded journalism network, continues to do complex, in-depth investigations. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), another grant-financed journalism outfit, last year released Paradise Papers, a new cross-border investigative report that exposes dubious financial affairs of top officials from all over the globe.

But that valiance comes at a price. In only one year, three journalists were murdered in the European Union, a traditionally safe environment for journalists.

Hence, the study of power is arguably the most relevant contribution that people in knowledge creation can make. In the past two years, we, media researchers, experts and journalists at the Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDs) have been doing just that from Hungary, the cradle of today's illiberalism.

In the last academic year, we expanded Media Influence Matrix, our flagship project that studies the impact that shifts in policy, politics, funding and technology have on news media and journalism. Work on 20+ countries is ongoing. Students enrolled at the Central European University (CEU), our mother institution, are making a considerable contribution to this massive undertaking: student research teams collect data, conduct interviews and write analysis.

In the knowledge sharing area, we further streamlined our workshop and course offering, focusing on practical skills that are most in-demand. Our summer school introduced successful journalism business models to an audience of journalists, media managers and donor organizations. A series of workshops on membership models, advocacy strategies and social media are in the pipeline.

WHAT OUR STRATEGY SAYS

Finally, with the participation of several top legal and policy experts, we established the CMDS Media Policy Hub with a mission to influence policy debates and advocate progressive media policy models. Its founders do that through policy papers, research and interventions in policy conferences and consultations.

But none of this work could be done by us alone. We work with dozens of partners and friends from all over the world: the universities and NGOs that joined our Media & Power Research Consortium, the organizations that host our non-resident fellows, the networks of experts, policymakers, technologists and journalists we are part of, the donor organizations we cooperate with, and the CEU alumni, wherever they are.

This Report gives you a snapshot of all this work in the year that ended in August 2018.

STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH: UNTANGLING THE POWER KNOTS

Our research agenda is 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 drives our knowledge sharing agenda. Many countries are understudied and underserved by researchers. Our work in this area focuses on creating a space for debate and innovative teaching and learning.

STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGY PROGRESS

RESEARCH

- Create a methodology framework for the study of media power in the current context



- With feedback from dozens of experts and participation of 40+ NGOs, academic institutions and journalism associations, we published in early 2017 the methodology that anchors the Media Influence Matrix project.

- Initiate and produce a body of research on media power and journalism, including country reports, comparative studies and policy analysis



- In Q1 2017, CMDS along with the Media & Power Research Consortium launched the Media Influence Matrix project, a comparative study of politics, funding and technology run in over 20 countries globally. On top of that, we launched several lines of research on issues including Net Neutrality and Copyright and News.

- Build a research partnership to create a Media Power Index to measure integrity and independence in the media and journalism



- We expect work on this Index to be launched with a group of CEU students and professors in 2019.

STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGY PROGRESS

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- Repurpose our speaker and lecture series in line with this strategic plan



- We ran the Public Media Speakers Series at CEU in 2017-2018.

- Reform our annual summer school into a practical workshop for mid-career professionals to develop specific policy and journalistic projects



- The 2018 Summer School on Funding Journalism was built to fulfill this objective.

- 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



- We are officially launching this workshop series in autumn 2018.

POLICY

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



- In spring 2018, CMDS launched the Media Policy Hub, an effort to bring policy closer to those affected by it.

Read the CMDS Strategy

OUR RESEARCH

Media and power: this 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.

MEDIA INFLUENCE MATRIX

What's It All About?

Media Influence Matrix is a multi-country comparative research and policy project that is going to be run in a consortium with over 40 partner organizations. In the AY 2017/2018, we have published the first country reports (Slovakia, Czech Republic and Bulgaria).

Country Sample

Today, research work as part of this project is being carried out in the following countries:

- MENA: Jordan
- CIS/Russia: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia
- Central and Eastern Europe: Hungary, Romania
- Asia: Nepal, India
- Africa: Kenya

In a next stage, we plan to open the following country chapters:

- Central and Eastern Europe: Slovenia, Poland
- CIS/Russia: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan
- Southeastern Europe and Turkey: Serbia, Turkey
- Western Europe: Belgium, Finland
- Africa: Zimbabwe, South Africa
- Latin America: Mexico, Argentina
- Asia: Myanmar

Topics

The project focuses on **news media** and covers three main areas: **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).

OUR RESEARCH

Media & Power Research Consortium

We gathered around these topics a raft of 40+ organizations that form the Media & Power Research Consortium, which runs collaboratively the project. The Consortium consists of local organizations as well as regional and international organizations, including academic institutions, NGOs, journalism networks and private foundations.

The Audience

Primary audiences of this project are policymakers and NGOs focused on advocacy in media policy. Other audiences such as journalists, media lawyers, or freedom of expression activists cite and use the research.

THEMATIC RESEARCH

Net Neutrality

A new line of research work focused on examining the existing legal provisions and regulations on net neutrality and their implementation in different countries.

Impact of EU Copyright Law on News

Launched with an introductory paper, **News Aggregation and the Reform of EU Copyright Law** by our expert Giulia Priora.

“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.”



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 tool is available here: <http://mediaownershiptool.ceu.edu/>.

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. More on the project is available here:

<https://cmds.ceu.edu/projects/virtual-center-excellence-research-violent-online-political-extremism-vox-pol>

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. Their 2018 Corporate Accountability Index evaluated 22 of the world's most powerful internet, mobile, and telecommunications companies' disclosed policies and practices affecting users' freedom of expression and privacy. The index is available here: <https://rankingdigitalrights.org/index2018/>.

MPM: HOW PLURAL IS EUROPEAN MEDIA?

The 2017 Media Pluralism Monitor, led by the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF) covers 31 European countries, including Hungary. The findings show either general stagnation or deterioration in all of the four major areas encompassed by the MPM: Basic protection, Market plurality, Political independence and Social inclusiveness. Read the report here: <http://cmpf.eui.eu/media-pluralism-monitor/>.

REUTERS DIGITAL NEWS REPORT

Eva Bognar from CMDS contributed to the seventh Digital News Report from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford. The report focuses on the issues of trust and misinformation, new online business models, the impact of changing Facebook algorithms and the rise of new platforms and messaging apps. It can be read here: <http://www.digitalnewsreport.org/>.

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 2017-18 were in the framework of the Media and Communication concentration in the School of Public Policy on topics ranging from “Geopolitics of the Internet” (taught by Cameran Ashraf) through “CMDS Practicum” (Marius Dragomir) and “Documentary Film for Social Change” (Kate Coyer and Jeremy Braverman) to “Brave New World: Global Challenges to Public Interest Journalism in the Age of Trump” (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 internet regulation and the role of corporations with Rebecca MacKinnon and Andrew Byrne; held public lectures including “Can There Be Professional Journalism Post-Truth, Post-Trump, Post-Twitter?” by Michael Schudson, “Between Market and Human Rights: Media Pluralism and Democracy Under Threat” by Judit Bayer and Petra Bard, and “Media Power and Fake Democracies: An Activist Response” by Des Freedman.

The Center co-organized a series of **workshops** called the “Open Academic: Innovative Ways of Engaging in the Public Sphere” to give the CEU community the skills and tools needed to engage in debates in the public sphere in innovative, unconventional or ‘non-academic’ ways (organized by Ian Cook and Anna Orosz). Kate Coyer organized a workshop at Berkman Klein Centre for Internet and Society at Harvard University called “Is All Extremist Content Online Created Equal? - VOX-Pol Workshop on the Impact of Content Regulation on Civil Liberties”.

CMDS also co-organized numerous **conferences** in partnership with academic institutions, policymakers and civil society organizations: co-organized with the European Journalism Centre and funded by the Google News Lab, the **“News Impact Summit - Methods and Tools for Digital Journalism”**, a one-day event, addressed some of the hottest topics in digital journalism, including but not limited to verification, trust, social media reporting, digital security, doing investigative journalism with open-source data and media entrepreneurship. The Summit brought together leading editors, journalists and experts who are spearheading innovation in digital journalism and storytelling at major international media outlets such as BBC, Spiegel Online, AFP, Denník N, Gazeta Wyborcza and many more.

OUR KNOWLEDGE-SHARING WORK

The annual **conference of the Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe** brought together over hundred policy makers, journalists and editors from around the world to discuss topics of high relevance to journalism, such as: fake news, self-regulation, Facebook, privacy, and the situation of the media in Central Eastern Europe.

The **ICA Pre-Conference on “Global Perspectives on Populism and the Media”** with the participation of 134 leading researchers and practitioners of the field to tackle some of the most pressing issues in media (Social Media and Populism; Populism, Journalism and the News; Challenges of Populism for Media in Central and Eastern Europe, just to name a few). Keynote speakers and panelists included Natalia Roudakova, Marwan Kraidy, Katherine Cramer, Bernhard Odehnal among others.

We conducted **trainings** abroad and in Hungary on podcast production (Dumitrita Holdis and Ian Cook) and on the role of mass-media in treating the refugees & migrants topic (Eva Bogнар). We organized and participated in various panel discussions.

We have concluded our **public lecture series on Public Service Media** (co-organized with RIPE@GLOBAL) which contributed to the ongoing discourse featuring experts such as Monroe Price, Marko Milosavljevic, Karen Donders and Des Freedman.

Our annual **summer school** focused on the Holy Grail of journalism: Funding Journalism in the Digital Age. The 19 participants (journalists, media managers, donors and researchers) who came from 16 countries discussed business models, philanthropy and journalism, and participated in hands-on training on subscription and membership models.

Encouraged by the success of the summer school and of the podcasting trainings, we decided to organize a **series of workshops** drawing on our dynamic range of skills and expertise to offer a variety of analytically astute and practically orientated courses to non-academic audiences. We are starting this venture in the academic year 2018/19, including workshops on social media strategies, advocacy and investigative journalism techniques.



MEDIA POLICY HUB

The policy framework governing media fails almost everywhere to accommodate the changes that internet and new technologies have brought about. Much of today's media policy architecture, which was originally built to provide rules for last century's media industries, primarily broadcasting, is now antiquated. Regulation is at least 10 years behind technology, which, some experts opine, is the widest gap in the modern history of media policy.

But more worrying than the poorly designed, inexistent or obsolete rules and regulations is the widening gap between regulation and society, or what the CMDS 2017-2019 strategy identified as the "policy disconnect": a widening disconnect between regulatory authorities, political bodies and society, with policy priorities increasingly decoupled from the real problems that affect media and internet freedom, and independent journalism in particular.

To such an enormous challenge, our modest response as a research center affiliated with a school of public policy is a sustained effort to reframe the debates on issues relevant to media and journalism and to bring policy closer to those affected by it.

Created by a group of leading policy experts and researchers, the **Media Policy Hub** is taking on this role. On a strategic level, the Hub's mission is to use research, done by CMDS and its partners, to initiate solution-driven debates between policymakers, academics and industry players. Its goal is to give civil society and journalists a more meaningful role in these debates.

A trend-checking expert group, the Media Policy Hub is taking a particular interest in researching and creating new methods to tackle the buildup of state and media capture models, especially in illiberal democracies. What distinguishes the Hub from other policy groups is its systemic approach (as opposed to the usual, compartmentalized approach) in tackling the policy disconnect between Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe.

The Media Policy Hub supports CMDS in designing research and advocacy projects. The Hub offers expert feedback to research and studies produced by the center and is the center's main point of contact with policymakers, in charge of drafting policy papers and contributions to policy consultations.

MEMBERS OF MEDIA POLICY HUB

Joan Barata is an international expert in freedom of expression, media freedom and media regulation. He provides regular assistance to different international organizations and entities. He has been the Principal Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Kate Coyer is Director of the Civil Society and Technology Project for CMDs. 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.

Marius Dragomir is the Director of the Center for Media, Data and Society. He previously worked for the Open Society Foundations (OSF) for more than 10 years. He has spent the past decade in the media research field, specializing in media and communication regulation, digital media, governing structures of public service media and broadcasting, spectrum management, and ownership regulation.

Francesca Fanucci is an Italian and British lawyer specialized in freedom of expression and comparative media law. She has consulted, inter alia, for the American Bar Association, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Open Society Foundations Justice Initiative and Media Program, the International Press Institute, Access Info Europe and International Media Support.

Miklós Haraszti is a Hungarian author, professor, and human rights promoter. He was a founder of Hungary's democracy and free press movement in the 1970s. As a member of Hungary's parliament in the 1990s, he authored the country's first laws on press freedom. From 2004 to 2010, he directed the media freedom watchdog institution of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Oreste Pollicino is a full professor of constitutional law at Bocconi University in Milan, where he also teaches information and internet law, public law and transnational constitutional law, and visiting Professor at Oxford University, Haifa University, NUS, Singapore. He is one of the most authoritative voices in the field of internet and media, in particular with respect to issues at the crossroads between internet and media and constitutional rights.

Krisztina Rozgonyi is a senior media, telecommunication and IP regulatory and legal/policy consultant. She has worked for the governments of Serbia, Rwanda, Thailand, United Arab Emirates as well as for international organizations in Ukraine, Macedonia, Israel, Poland, and Egypt. Between 2004-2010 she served as the Chairperson (Deputy Chairperson) of the Telecoms Authority in Hungary.

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 Politico, The Times, El Tiempo, CNN and France24.

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. You can read more about the highlights of our events calendar in the 2017/18 academic year on the following page or here: <https://cmds.ceu.edu/events>

TOP FEATURES INCLUDE

Parmar Publishes Article on Freedom of Expression Narratives after the Charlie Hebdo Attacks

Dragomir Writes About the Dangers of State Financing of the Media for El Tiempo

Starkman Writes About Media Capture in Hungary for ICIJ

Bognar Interviewed in Austria's Kurier About Media Capture in Hungary

Ashraf Writes About the Chinese AI Initiative for The Asia Dialogue

Schiffrin and Hume Author Bridging the Gap: Rebuilding Citizen Trust in Media

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONFERENCE ENGAGEMENTS

Dragomir and Tófalvy Spoke at the 11th Central and Eastern European Communication and Media Conference

Coyer Presented at Media Democracy Under Pressure Conference in Vienna

Eva Bognar and Miklos Haraszti Took Part in a Panel at the European Press Prize Award Ceremony

Starkman Starts with the Bad News at the News Impact Summit in Budapest

Dragomir Spoke at Council of Europe's Conference on "The Role of National Parliaments in Improving Independence and Pluralism of the Media"

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



CMDS SUMMER SCHOOL ON FUNDING JOURNALISM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The course's 19 participants came from a variety of fields including journalism, philanthropy, and policy-making, mirroring the diversity of stakeholders currently engaged in finding new business models for independent journalism. CMDS invited experts from philanthropic organizations such as OSF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss how their grant-making strategies have evolved to tackle the issue of media sustainability. Hands-on trainings were provided for participants to learn in detail about subscription and membership models from representatives of successful ventures in the field.



ICA PRE-CONFERENCE: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON POPULISM AND THE MEDIA

CMDS hosted an ICA pre-conference, which focused on populism and the media. The study of populism has never been more important than today in light of recent social, political and economic tumult, and developments in transnational media cultures. Across the world there have been numerous populist backlashes against elected governments and their policies.



CAN THERE BE PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM POST-TRUTH, POST-TRUMP, POST-TWITTER?

Michael Schudson's talk was the inaugural session for a new university-wide course under the Intellectual Themes Initiative called "Journalism and Social Change in Historical Perspective," jointly offered by the School of Public Policy and the Department of History and co-taught by Dean Starkman and Constantin Iordachi.



FIXING THE INTERNET: IS REGULATION THE ANSWER?

CMDS presented a discussion with Rebecca MacKinnon, director of Ranking Digital Rights, about approaches holding internet companies accountable to the public interest and the need for greater transparency from companies about the policies and practices affecting users' human rights. The discussion was moderated by Andrew Byrne, Financial Times correspondent for Hungary, Romania and the Western Balkans.



MEDIA POWER AND FAKE DEMOCRACIES: AN ACTIVIST RESPONSE

In his public talk, Des Freedman, Professor of Media and Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London argued that prospects for democratic media have long been undermined by forces of concentration, collusion and capture and the task today is not to return the media to a liberal 'golden age' but to reimagine democracy as a set of practices in which truth-telling and communicative capacity emerge from the bottom up and not through paternalistic diktat or market exchange.

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.

Click on the icons below to connect with CMDS on social media.



The Media Influence Matrix Project is run collaboratively by the **Media & Power Research Consortium**, which has been formed during the past two years. The Consortium consists of local as well as a regional and international organizations. The consortium members are academic institutions (universities and research centers), NGOs, journalism networks and private foundations:

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
The Columbia Institute for Tele-Information Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) at NED
Article XIX
Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) Riga
Maharat Foundation
Analitika
Panos Institute of West Africa
Observacom
Goldsmiths, University of London
Media Reform Coalition
Centre for Research in Communication and Culture, Loughborough University
Centre for the Study of Media, Communication and Power, King's College London
HMRG (University of Helsinki-University of Tampere)
Albanian Media Institute (AMI)

Bulgaria's Media Center
The Media Research Foundation, Hungary
Metamorphosis
EurActiv
Memo '98
Peace Institute
OSF Armenia
OSF Georgia
OSF Moldova, Independent Journalism Center (IJC)
University of Sydney
India Open Data Association
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
Center for Media Research-Nepal (CMR Nepal)
Media Matters for Democracy
International Press Center, IFAnet, Institute for Media and Society
University of Cape Town
Voluntary Media Council, Zimbabwe
Observatorio de comunicación y derechos: gestión, políticas, estrategias y desarrollos profesionales (DERCOM-UBA)
Zocalo Foundation



Global PSM Experts Network



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.

As planned, we started to engage with students on a regular basis in the AY 2017/2018. CMDS Practicum, a course offered at the CEU School of Public Policy, has led to the creation of a student research team that works with CMDS in the Media Influence Matrix. The first Media Influence Matrix country chapter co-authored by a CEU student, Mariia Altergot, was Bulgaria: Technology, Public Sphere and Journalism, was published in August 2018.

TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

MARIUS DRAGOMIR

CMDS PRACTICUM

This course is an introduction to the systems and processes that shape the media. It consists of an introductory part: a short overview of how the media works, and the key players in the field of media: their competences, power and influence and the impact they have on media systems in general, and media organizations in particular with input from various members of the CMDS. The course also aims to describe and problematize the tensions and conflicts that shape the media, and the impact of media-related policies on media organizations, on journalism, and ultimately, on society.

DEAN STARKMAN

GLOBAL CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC- INTEREST JOURNALISM

Few doubt that the global march toward illiberalism punctuated by the election of Donald Trump is – in some way – tied to the collapse of legacy journalism and the concurrent rise of disaggregated, unverified fake news sluicing its way through social media platforms. Walter Lippmann's words of 1920 are even more true today: "For in an exact sense," he said, "the present crisis in western democracy is a crisis of journalism." This course explores the place of public interest journalism in a democratic society and seeks to enlist students in creating positive policy solutions to support it.

CAMERAN ASHRAF

THE INTERNET AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Internet has had a substantial impact on the ability of individuals to receive and impart information, but it has also empowered state and non-state actors to deny that right in pursuit of political or social goals. This course examines the history and evolution of the Internet as a contested space for human expression from activist and state perspectives. Case studies of Internet human rights abuse, including detention, harassment, and torture as well as activist resistance and evasion are examined. Special attention is given to state technical, political, and legal adaptation to the changing technological environment and the efforts and impact of NGOs working to further human rights online.

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 FELLOWS

Andrei Richter is Senior Adviser at the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. Richter holds university degrees in law, journalism and foreign languages, a doctorate in Russia and a professorship in media studies from Slovakia.

Giulia Priora holds a double degree in law from the University of Turin and the University of Münster, as well as a LL.M. degree in Comparative Law, Economics and Finance from the International University College of Turin. She is currently enrolled as SJD Candidate in International Business Law at CEU and serves as IP legal counsel for private and non-profit projects across Europe.

Tamas Tofalvy, PhD is a researcher and consultant, specializing in cultural aspects of and policies related to the transforming digital media ecosystem, in the fields of journalism and popular music. Currently he is assistant professor at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Sociology and Communications, head of the Communications and Media Studies major's Digital Media program.

Tobias Thomas is director of EcoAustria – Institute for Economic Research in Vienna (Austria) and lecturer at Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics DICE (Germany). In addition, he is chairman and founding member of ECONWATCH – Society for Policy Analysis, an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organization based in Berlin (Germany) dedicated to providing science-based information on economic policies and reform opportunities.

Vivian S. Walker is a faculty fellow at the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. She has served as Professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College in Washington, DC. She has also served as a professor of strategic and security studies at the National Defense College of the United Arab Emirates and a visiting professor at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University.

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 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.

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. Attila is contributing to the Mediaownership Tool project, funded by Google DNI.

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: urbanization, 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 labor 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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'.

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.

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.

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.

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 (IVIIR) at the University of Amsterdam and Postdoctoral Researcher to the project Personalised Communication.

CMDS FELLOWS

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.

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.

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.

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. SPP is a global institution committed to creating a community of purpose beyond power.

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.



