5 May 2022

Webinar: Ground-breaking study maps fight against information disorder in the Global South

6 May 2022 | 15:30-16:30 SAST | Microsoft Teams

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Centre for Film and Media Studies and the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies invite you to a webinar on information disorder on Friday, 6 May 2022.

The webinar is based on a transnational, collaborative study which mapped the ways in which information disorder is being countered by organisations working in the Global South. Information disorder is defined as the large-scale contamination of the public sphere by rumours, hate speech, dangerous conspiracy theories and orchestrated deception campaigns which are causing widespread concern around the world. Featuring representatives from organisations working in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and Asia, this webinar will report on the main findings from this ground-breaking study.

Titled, *Meeting the Challenges of Information Disorder in the Global South*, and funded by the Canadian International Centre for Development Research (IDRC), the study explores the methods organizations across the Global South are using to meet the challenges of information disorder in their region. Special attention is paid to how the COVID-19 pandemic has made the problem worse.

According to Professor Herman Wasserman from UCT who led the study, "Access to quality information is vital to enable citizens to participate in democratic processes. This is especially important in the Global South, where many democracies are fragile, access to digital resources are unevenly distributed and independent media are often under pressure. In these contexts, information disorder can further undermine democratic governance and civic agency. This study helps us understand how civil society organizations in the Global South can help counter information disorder and support reliable and trustworthy information."

The webinar will be chaired by Wasserman and feature speakers from various organisations across the Global South, namely InternetLab Brazil (represented by Francisco Brito Cruz), LirneAsia (represented by Gayashi Jayasinghe), Research ICT Africa (represented by Araba Sey), and Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (represented by Saya Mortada).

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