THEME: MEDIA IN CRISIS - RECONFIGURING POSSIBLE WORLD IMAGINARIES?
Hosted by the DFG Research Training Group "Cultures of Critique" Leuphana University in collaboration with Leuphana Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture and Society (LIAS), Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3 and Daystar University.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Workshop’s Central Topic:
The media is facing numerous challenges as it serves as a platform for social construction. News and information are continuously produced at a high rate, which raises questions about the trajectories of media production, information dissemination, knowledge production, and ideologies of inclusivity, freedom, and democracy. Traditional media is in crisis, as their agency, credibility, and relationship with power are being challenged. Therefore, it is necessary to adapt to technological shifts and revisit ethical frameworks and principles that guide media practices in print, electronic within physical and digital spaces. To achieve this, a renewed commitment to fostering inclusivity, preserving freedom of expression, and upholding democratic values in media content creation is required. This includes exploring the role of medial frames in various interdisciplinary spaces, such as newspaper studies, television/radio, sociology, museums, and related fields, which enable the construction of social relations and the emergence of heterogeneous voices in media discourses.

This workshop emphasizes the use of an interdisciplinary approach to address media crises and world imaginaries practically. When considering world imaginaries, it is important to view them not only as a means of escaping the present or the past as mere aspirations for collective perceptions, beliefs, values, and ideas. Instead, we propose to approach world imaginaries as a strategic tool for conceptualizing and transforming attitudes, behaviors, and actions critically in shaping the future of human experiences and societies in the media world.

Can interdisciplinary approaches provide effective strategies for addressing fractures in media narratives? How might these approaches contribute to a more nuanced understanding of historical and contemporary media challenges? To what extent does the changing global space of media practice influence the conceptualization and representation of possible world imaginaries? How can these be reconfigured to address emerging challenges? In this context, a global media reconfiguration must be deployed through ethical, democratic, and technological scopes.

To navigate this crisis and re-establish the traditional media’s role as a constructive force in society, a thoughtful and intentional re-configuration is imperative. Our workshop will explore the media in crisis through the following focal areas, aiming to reconfigure possible world imaginaries by thinking beyond normative social terms and boxes.

- Ethical frameworks and principles that guide media knowledge production
- Inclusion, preservation of memory and democratic values in medial frames
- Media adaptation to technological shifts
Submission Guidelines

Submit an abstract of not more than 250 words including keywords highlighting any of the themes within the scope of the call. The abstract should highlight the purpose, design/methodology/approach, key findings, and expected conclusions. The submitted abstracts will go through a peer review process and the author(s) will be notified via email.

Author Information: Include a brief biography of (150 words) for each contributing author.

Submission Deadline: 31st July 2024. The complete documentation should be submitted by the set deadline as a single PDF file to the following email address: kdk@leuphana.de. The email subject line should indicate the following: Media in Crisis - Call for Abstracts 2024.

Notification of Acceptance: 15th August 2024.

Paper Submission: 05th October 2024. The workshop is pre-read, the papers should not be longer than 5 standard pages (1800 words).

Workshop Dates: 21st – 22nd November 2024. The workshop format is 5-7 minutes of presentation and 20 minutes of discussion.

Additional notes:

There are no registration charges. This conference will be hybrid, in person at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany, and online via Zoom. Details of the links will be shared with all accepted participants before the conference. Full workshop papers will be peer-reviewed and we are aiming to publish the contributions as part of a book with the working title: Media in Crisis: Reconfiguring Possible World Imaginaries? edited by Dyoniz Emilian Kindata, David Cabrera Rueda and Lydia Ouma Radoli.

Key participants

Media experts, writers, journalists, digital content creators, AI enthusiasts, media philosophers, media researchers, media trainers, and interested individuals.

Keynote Speakers

The keynote speakers will be drawn from a rich background of media studies with interdisciplinarity in print cultures, museology, journalism practice, and academia, bringing diverse national and global experiences from three continents: Africa, Europe, and South America.
Dr. Lydia Ouma Radoli:

Lydia Radoli is a Kenyan journalist, social researcher, and media lecturer. Currently, she is the Head of Department in Media and Film Studies at Daystar University, Nairobi. Dr. Radoli’s research focuses on the visual and narrative mechanisms inherent in media coverage that inevitably entail journalists’ experiences of violence. She was a fellow member at the Leuphana Institute for Advanced Studies (2023-2024), where she worked on the project, “The Visual Witnessing of Trauma Phenomena Among Journalists: An Analysis of Various Media Images from East Africa.”

Dr. Cristina Lleras:

Christina Lleras is an independent curator and university professor. PhD in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester (Leicester, UK - 2011). Her work has focused on museology and curatorship in human rights. Cristina collaborated with the National Commission for Reparation and Reconciliation in curatorial consultancy and coordinated the Museology Area of the Colombian Memory Museum (2016-2018). She has carried out interdisciplinary co-curatorial projects such as the Museo efímero del olvido and the Mercado clandestino de conocimiento y no-conocimiento útil, a project of the Colombian Truth Commission.

Prof. Levi Obonyo:

Levi Obonyo is a Professor of Media and Communication and Dean of the School of Communication at Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya. He comes from a print media journalism background and worked with various publications before joining academia. His research interests include media policy, the history of media, and cartooning. He is a media critic, a newspaper columnist, and co-authored Journalists and the Rule of Law among other notable media publications. He is an Associate Editor of the Annals of International Communication.

Cultures of Critique Research Training Group

Cultures of Critique is a Research Training Group funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) at Leuphana University, featuring 14 doctoral candidates from various academic fields and backgrounds. This interdisciplinary approach integrates research from social sciences and humanities, including cultural studies, philosophy, history, migration studies, and more. The research seeks to redefine the significance of critique in modern and contemporary culture by exploring critical practices, their forms, media, effects, and the cultural conditions that shape the validity of critique.
Committee Members

Dyoniz Emilian Kindata (Paris, Lüneburg)
David Cabrera Rueda (Lüneburg)
Dr. Lydia Ouma Radoli (Nairobi, Lüneburg)