PROGRAMME POINT SUD 2025
**FURTHERING DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY
AND RIGHTS IN AFRICA**
8-11 JULY 2025
WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND

POINT SUD
Centre for Research
on Local Knowledge

University of Cape Town · iYunivesithi yaseKapa · Universiteit van Kaapstad
SPES BONA

Funded by
DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

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STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING

PROGRAMME POINT SUD 2025
WORKSHOP: FURTHERING DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY
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ORGANIZED BY:

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G I G A
German Institute for Global and Area Studies
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien

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SPES BONA

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

HOSTED BY:

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PROGRAMME

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 8 JULY		
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome addresses by STIAS & Point Sud	
9:15 - 9:40	Convener plenary	
9:40 - 10:00	Participants' round of introduction	
10:00 - 10:15	Coffee Break	
10:15 - 11:45	**PANEL A:** **AI, Connectivity, and Development**	**Chair: Tevin Tafese**
	A. Digital Inclusion and Sovereignty in Digital Public Infrastructures in Africa: Examining the Socio-Material Basis of Claim-Making in Practice	Bidisha Chaudhuri
	B. Preserving African Linguistic Diversity in AI: Addressing Digital Exclusion, Bias, and Regulatory Gaps	Tsosheletso Chidi
	C. Smarter justice: Rethinking Equitable and Sustainable Smart Cities in the age of Urban AI	Mennatullah Hendawy
11:45 - 12:45	**PANEL B:** **Geopolitical Aspects of Digital Sovereignty**	**Chair: Alena Thiel**
	A. Multipolar Digital Cooperation: Assessing Africa's Strategy in an Increasingly Fragmented Digital Sphere	Raymond Onuoha
	B. A Comparative Analysis of Ethiopia's AI Regulatory Framework: Gaps, Challenges, and Global Insights	Habtamu Woldeyohanis (Virtual presentation)
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 - 15:30	**PANEL C:** **Human Rights and Digital Freedoms**	**Chair: Maxine Rubin**
	A. Guaranteeing digital freedoms in West Africa : challenges in the context of the fight against violent extremism	Ayite Sewa-Nyo
	B. Le code du numérique au Bénin : un instrument efficace de lutte contre la criminalité en ligne ou un outil de restriction des libertés ?	Hougnon Wilfried Serge Ouitona
	C. Online participation and Crowdsourced Monitoring of Elections in Africa	Nobert Kersting
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 - 17:30	**PANEL D:** **Digital Colonialism: Big Tech, Algorithmic Bias and Cultural Preservation**	**Chair: Georges Macaire Eyenga**
	A. The Perceived Digital Divide Constraints Towards Access to Digital African Indigenous Knowledge	Glen Maimela
	B. Digital Colonialism and Algorithmic Bias in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Critical Analysis of Dominant Digital Platforms.	Gaudencia Mudada
19:00	Welcome Dinner at Decameron Restaurant Stellenbosch	

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY		
09:00 - 10:30	**PANEL E:** **Labor Markets and Digital Impacts**	**Chair: Achim Kemmerling**
	A. The Digital Continent: Placing Africa in Planetary Networks of Work	Amir Anwar
	B. The Algorithmic Plantation: Digital Colonialism and Kenya's AI Labor Force	Adio Dinika
	C. Exploited and Unseen: Digital Colonialism, Outsourcing, and the Fight for Fair Tech Labor in Kenya	Kauna Ibrahim Malgwi
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 - 12:30	**PANEL F:** **Digital Skills and Education**	**Chair: Gift Mwonzora**
	A. Digital Revolution and the Knowledge Economy: Prospects and Challenges of Educational Applications of ICTs in Africa	Nnabugwu Oscar Uluocha
	B. Critique of high technological modernism in education in Cameroon: The Paul Biya Higher Education Vision (PB HEV) Project	Durix Esronne Njiha Kouatchou
	C. Artificial Intelligence and Copyright — Assessing the Opportunities and Challenges for Universities in Zambia	Chanda Nkholoma
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 17:30	**VISIT A:** **Data Centre Brackenfell**	
18:00	Joint Dinner	

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 10 JULY		
09:00- 10:30	**PANEL G:** **Current Data and AI Regulation in Africa**	**Chair: Andrew Crawford**
	A. How entrenched are we in Digital Entrapment?: A Critique of "Terms of Use" of most popular Digital Platforms.	Guidance Mthwazi
	B. Digitalization of Land Administration Service Delivery in Ghana: Implications for Accessibility, Inclusivity, and the Exclusion of Marginalized Groups	Zaid Abubakari
	C. The pacing problem in South Africa's mHealth regulation: Advancing adaptive mHealth regulation—from the "intended use" rule to a functionality-based framework	Johannes Machinya
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 - 12:30	**PANEL H:** **Harmonisation of Digital Regulation in Africa: Desirable, Necessary or Neither?**	
	A. Harmonised Digital Policies and Higher Education: Implications for African Universities and Research Institutions	Catherine Kiprop
	B. Harmonised AI Regulation in Africa: A critique of the Continental AI Strategy	Martin Munyoto
	C. Harmonizing the Regulation of Digital Labour Platforms (DLPs) in Africa: Lessons from the European Union	Bashman Mohammed
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 18:00	**VISIT B:** **Fibre-Optic Cable Landing Station or Undersea Data Cable Repair Ship (circumstances permitting) & Waterfront Visit**	
19:30	Return to Stellenbosch and Free Evening	

DAY 4: FRIDAY, 11 JULY		
9:30 - 13:30	**VISIT C:** **Philippi Village (Converted cement factory that is home to a diverse community of entrepreneurs and small business owners)**	
	World Cafe: Small group conversations at Philippi Village with a mix of conference participants and digital entrepreneurs/digital rights activists	
	Return to STIAS	
14:30 - 17:30	Ethnocharette: Reflection and ideas sharing to cross-fertilise ideas with a view to the special issue & Closing of the conference	
	Free Evening	

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GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH TOPICS