



Digital Media in Repressive Regimes

Public sphere, civic engagement and political mobilization

Public Research Seminar, Copenhagen, 10-11 November 2008

The Danish Institute for Human Rights

Strandgade 71, Main Auditorium, ground floor

1401 Copenhagen K

*Free admission. Registration is necessary and must be made no later than 4 November 2008
at copenhagenseminar@gmail.com*

DRAFT PROGRAM

Monday, 10 November

9.15 – 9.45 Registration

9.45 – 10.00 Welcome

9.45 Opening by Birgitte Kofod Olsen (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)

9.50 Seminar introduction by Ole Bruun (The Institute for Society and Globalization, Roskilde University) and Caroline Nellemann (Independent Consultant)

10.00 – 12.00 Session 1: Reshaping the Public Sphere
How digital media challenges conventional wisdom

10.00 **Andrew Puddephatt** (Global Partners, London)
Shaping Digital Media for Human Rights

10.25 **Robert Guerra** (Freedom House)
Internet Freedom – Online Activism and Emerging Threats

10.50 **Patrick Meier** (The Fletcher School, Tufts University)
Networked Protests and the New iRevolution

11.15 **Panel debate and discussion**

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 15.00 Session 2: Media Tactics of Regimes and Opponents
Online struggles for voice and representation

13.00 **Xiao Qiang** (China Internet Project, UC Berkeley School of Journalism)
Chinese Digital Media Controls and Access to Public Expression

13.25 **Rebecca MacKinnon** (Journalism and Media Studies Centre, University of Hong Kong and co-founder of Global Voices)
China's Censorship 2.0: how companies censor bloggers

13.50 **Mahmood Enayat** (Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford University)
Resistance 2.0: Power & Counter-Power in Persian Websphere

14.15 **Panel debate and discussion**

15.00 - 15.20 Coffee break

15.20 – 17.00 Session 3: Frontline Activism
Political mobilization through digital media

15.20 **Sami Ben Gharbia** (Advocacy Program, Global Voices)
The Battle for Online Free Speech in Tunisia

15.45 **Walid Al-Saqaf** (Founder of the Yemen Portal)
Confronting Censorship of Online News and Opinion Content in the Arab World

16.10 **Sara Kalantari** (University of Oslo)
Information Superhighway in Iran: Liberator or Panoptikon?

16.35 **Panel debate and discussion**

Tuesday, 11 November

9.30 – 12.00 Session 4: Analyzing Digital Activism
The role of digital media for freedom of expression and democratization

9.30 **Brief thematic introduction**

9.45 **Bruce Etling** (The Berkman Center, Harvard University)
The Internet & Democracy

10.10 **Karin Karlekar** (Freedom House)
The Global Internet Freedom Index

10.35 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 **Mariam Memarsadeghi** (Independent Consultant)
The Internet and the Struggle for Voice in Repressive Regime Contexts

11.25 **Panel debate and discussion**

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 15.00 Session 5: Online Free Speech
How digital media facilitates civic engagement

13.00 **Charlotte Flindt Petersen** (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)
Digital Media in the Post-Soviet Countries

13.25 **Kristen Taylor** (The Knight Foundation, Media Program)
Aggregating Commentary on Information Needs

13.50 **Ravinder Kaur** (Roskilde University)
Using Humor in Iranian Politics in Digital Media

14.15 **Panel debate and discussion**

15.00 – 15.30 Conference Conclusions