Shifting powers
The new world (dis)order
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“Our history will be what we make it.” This quote by the great American journalist Edward R. Murrow is a reminder to all journalists to avoid “escapism and insulation from the realities of the world in which we live,” as Murrow went on to say. What history will have to say about how we did our jobs remains to be seen, yet it will be determined by the actions we take today.

Once again, we are at a crossroads in world history and journalism has to meet its challenge. While Germany is celebrating 30 years of its people living unified as one and we are gratefully remembering the founding fathers of a post-war Germany which has seen 70 years of peace and prosperity in a democracy guarded by a strong basic law, this is no reason to be complacent.

At this year’s Global Media Forum we are going to discuss the effects of shifting powers around the world. Populists from all ends of the spectrum are threatening the integrity of Europe. Autocrats around the world are forging their positions with or without the ballot box. Controlling access to information has become a tool of power. Freedom of expression is on the decline.

This should be a call to journalists to do more than simply recount what they observe. Those in power who are restricting the free flow of information are, at the same time, broadcasting their own message, be it by monopolizing the airwaves of state-controlled media systems or by spreading disinformation on social media.

DW is at the forefront of enabling journalists around the world to do their jobs by supporting freedom of speech and by being an advocate for those colleagues who to inform objectively and even to admonish. Sometimes this involves a very real personal risk, journalists are being intimidated, imprisoned and even murdered for doing their job.

Collectively, we have to hold those in power accountable and make the concerns of those heard, who without us would not have a voice.

Cordially yours,

Peter Limbourg
Director General

twitter.com/DW_Limbourg
The right fit for the team: Doaa Soliman

Since March, Doaa Soliman (32) has been the head of DW’s Arabic editorial team, which is responsible for online content. She’s just the right fit for the culturally diverse team in Bonn as it aims to produce more web videos and enhance the division’s social media presence with the goal of reaching an even larger audience. “In particular, we want to tell more exclusive stories from the region and in doing so, set the tone,” Soliman said.

Born in Egypt, Doaa Soliman studied journalism in Cairo and wrote for The Egyptian Gazette, the oldest English-language newspaper in the Middle East. In 2011 she came to Germany for the first time on a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for her Master’s studies. She had already learned a lot about media usage in her home country while working with the BBC. She joined the German foreign broadcaster in 2017 and was based in Berlin until March this year.

“Thanks to its reliable reporting, DW enjoys a high reputation in the Arab countries,” she said. As a journalist, she particularly appreciates the freedom that DW offers her. “This enables me to develop ideas and tell stories that I would otherwise not be able to tell.”
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Deutsche Welle 5
An African changing of the guard

The DW office in Lagos, Nigeria has a new face as Fanny Facsar has recently taken up the role as West Africa correspondent. She has taken the baton from Adrian Kriesch who has moved on from Nigeria to Cape Town, South Africa.

Fascar has traveled across Europe as a news reporter for DW’s English-language TV channel and has reported from India, Russia, Turkey and the U.S.. Her toughest assignment so far was Saudi Arabia, she said.

For Facsar, life is lived on the move. Born in Hungary, she grew up in Germany and did volunteer work in the U.S.. “I’ve always been able to live elsewhere and my job is connected to my willingness to do so,” she said.

With the addition of News Africa and Business Africa to DW’s TV programming in February, the broadcaster has been devoting even more attention and airtime to the continent. As a result, reporting from Africa’s most populous country Nigeria is gaining in importance and presence.

The same is true for DW’s presence even further south. Adrian Kriesch recently moved from Nigeria to Cape Town in order to establish an office in South Africa. He is well-prepared for the role as he already spent several months in the city while studying for his Master’s degree. The 31-year-old served as West Africa correspondent for DW for five years and set up the DW office in Lagos together with his colleague Jan-Philipp Scholz.

For Kriesch, the move to Cape Town is “the right sign at the right time. This year, there will be important elections in several countries in southern Africa.” Kriesch can build on his experience covering the turbulent elections in Nigeria in February.

alexandra von nahmen

Alexandra von Nahmen, head of the DW office in Washington D.C., has been named the new president of the White House Foreign Press Group. The group, part of the White House Correspondents’ Association (WHCA), is committed to the rights of foreign correspondents.

In recent years, members of the group have secured a permanent place in the White House briefing room. They also have access to the president’s strictly regulated press briefings in the Oval Office and other parts of the West Wing. Nevertheless, access to information has been made more difficult for them than for their U.S. counterparts. Changing that is one of von Nahmen’s goals.

As president of the group, she serves as the contact person for the president’s press team and the WHCA board of directors. In 2017, DW presented the White House Correspondents’ Association with the Freedom of Speech Award.

Forty-seven-year-old von Nahmen has been reporting for DW from the White House since early 2017. She accompanied President Trump on his first trips abroad to the Middle East and Europe and at his summit meetings with North Korea’s leader Kim Jong-un. Since late 2017, she has been a full member of the WHCA and a regularly appointed pool reporter. The reports from the Oval Office are made available to all colleagues of the White House Press Corps.

Alexandra von Nahmen joined DW in 1999, first in Berlin and later as studio head in Moscow. After five years she returned to Berlin, where she hosted, among other things, the TV format Interview.
Euromaxxx meets Bollywood

Euromaxx, DW’s weekly broadcast focusing on culture and lifestyle topics, got a new look in February as German TV host Collien Ulmen-Fernandes and German-Indian actress Evelyn Sharma joined the team of presenters.

Collien Ulmen-Fernandes has many years of experience on-camera and worked for many of Germany’s biggest broadcasters. “Euromaxx is a great program with exciting and surprising topics from Europe for the whole world,” says the 37-year-old German with Indian and Hungarian roots who can be seen on the German and the English TV channels. “For me it is a new challenge to present in two languages.” In addition, she sees a very personal advantage in her new task: “My English-speaking family lives all over the globe. Now they can watch and even understand my show.”

As an actress, blogger and Bollywood star, 32-year-old Evelyn Sharma has made a name for herself in India through her public appearances and dedication to social causes. Born and raised in Germany, she now divides her time between India and Germany. “As a new host I would love to be a cultural ambassador and promote European culture for an Asian audience,” Sharma said. “I like to consider myself a global citizen. I grew up in Germany and my mother made certain that I learn about both European and Indian cultures and I have had their values deeply inculcated in me. I love to continuously explore the nuances of these cultures.” Fluent in eight languages, Sharma will also host the Euromaxx broadcasts in English and German.

Euromaxx, the first program to focus exclusively on lifestyle and culture in Germany and Europe for a global audience, is broadcast on weekends on all of DW’s TV channels in German, English, Spanish and Arabic. In addition, there are twelve other language versions of Euromaxx, which are produced in cooperation with partner broadcasters. The broadcast has been creating a positive image of Europe and “joie de vivre” since 2003.

Facing prison

At a meeting with DW Director General Peter Limbourg in Berlin, Turkish journalist Pelin Ünker talked about her recent trial and the working conditions for journalists in Turkey.

In 2018, Ünker had to give up her job at the daily Cumhuriyet. Since then she has been reporting for DW from Turkey.

The 35-year-old was involved in the “Paradise Papers” research project, which included suspicions of tax evasion by a former Turkish minister. The publication of the research led to Ünker’s prosecution. In January 2019, a court in Istanbul imposed a prison sentence and a fine. The journalist appealed and was acquitted at the end of March this year.

Facing the Dragon

In March, the international film festival Movies that Matter awarded Shakila Ebrahimkhail of DW’s editorial team for Afghanistan the Activist Human Rights Award. The prize is supported by Amnesty International.

“I dedicate this award to all colleagues in Afghanistan who have lost their lives in their efforts for freedom of expression and human rights,” said Ebrahimkhail at the award ceremony in The Hague.

Ebrahimkhail became known for her reporting about the victims of terrorist attacks for Afghanistan’s largest television station, Tolo TV. Targeted by the Taliban for her work as a field reporter who has reported critically on both the government and the Taliban, Ebrahimkhail fled the country with her three children after a 2016 suicide bombing killed seven of her Tolo TV colleagues.

The journalist is one of two prominent women who are the focus of the prize-winning documentary “Facing the Dragon,” directed by Sedika Mojadidi. The film portrays Ebrahimkhail alongside Nilofar Ibrahimi, a member of the Afghan parliament who tried to enforce a law punishing violence against women.
Mexican investigative journalist and author Anabel Hernández is this year’s laureate of the DW Freedom of Speech Award. Awarded for the fifth consecutive year, the prize was created to honor a person or initiative for outstanding promotion of human rights and freedom of expression.

“With gratitude and hope I accept the award on behalf of all the brave journalists who are doing their job every day,” Hernández said.

DW Director General Peter Limbourg announced the winner during his visit to Mexico in February. “Anabel Hernández investigates thoroughly and always very close to the story. She follows cases of corruption, collecting legal evidence for years. Her fight against hush-ups and impunity is an impressive example of courageous journalism,” he said.

Forty-seven-year-old Hernández gained international attention in 2010 with her bestselling book “Los Señores del Narco”.

In 2016 her book “La verdadera noche de Iguala: La historia que el gobierno quiso ocultar” was published.

Following death threats and attacks on her personal environment, Hernández reluctantly left Mexico for the U.S., where she was a fellow at the University of Berkeley for two years. She now lives in Europe in exile. She has said that she feels relatively secure at the moment but trips to her home country remain risky.

Investigative journalism is a dangerous business in many countries, especially when it targets governments, powerful individuals or enterprises. Sometimes journalists have no other choice but to leave their country in order to protect their families and themselves. But even if they decide to stay, they often face financial ruin. They may be interesting people to interview but they are having a hard time finding a publisher who will pay them a salary. This isolation makes many journalists give up their work eventually. And truth and justice suffer as a result of their silence.

DW Director General Peter Limbourg

Anabel Hernández: ‘On behalf of all the brave journalists’

I think this is my job. It’s more important than my own safety.
DW Freedom of Speech Award

has honored persons or initiatives for their outstanding promotion of human rights and freedom of expression since 2015. Saudi blogger Raif Badawi was the political and societal grievances in Saudi Arabia. In 2012, he was arrested and accused of insulting Islam, religious leaders and politicians. Saudi authorities sentenced him to 1,000 lashes and ten years in prison, where he remains.

Sedat Ergin, former editor-in-chief of the Turkish daily Hürriyet, received DW’s Freedom of Speech Award in 2016 while being tried for allegedly insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In 2017, Director General Peter Limbourg presented the Award to Jeff Mason, then president of the White House Correspondents’ Association (WHCA), “as a sign of solidarity and encouragement for those colleagues who have the exciting task of reporting about the U.S. president and his policies,” Limbourg said.

The 2018 laureate was Iranian political scientist Sadegh Zibakalam. He is famous for his intense debates with hardliners and criticism of the government.

Anabel Hernández began her career in journalism in Mexico in 1993, working for the newspaper Reforma while still a university student. Hernández has made a name for herself as one of Mexico’s leading investigative journalists, publishing stories of government corruption, sexual exploitation and drug trafficking.

Hernández has intimate knowledge of the dangers that citizens in Mexico face as a result of the country’s criminality. Her father was kidnapped and murdered in 2000. His killing went unsolved after her family refused to pay officials to investigate. His murder, Hernández has said, is what drives her work.

After publishing her first major investigative piece under then-President Vicente Fox in 2001, Hernández was awarded the 2002 Mexico National Journalism Award. Despite having her publications at national newspaper Milenio frozen shortly afterwards, Hernández continued reporting. In 2003, she was recognized by UNICEF for her work on slave labor and the sexual exploitation of Mexican girls in San Diego, California.

After years of research, Hernández published the book “Los Señores del Narco” in 2010 (released in English in 2013 as “Narco-land: The Mexican Drug Lords and Their Godfathers”). It reveals how intertwined the “narco system” has become in everyday life in Mexico and shows the relationships between the drug cartels, businessmen, politicians and the military. “Between them all, they have turned Mexico into a graveyard,” Hernández wrote. The book’s success resulted in death threats for Hernández but that did not stop her. Using her sources in the drug trade, Hernández researched the disappearance and presumed murder of 43 students from a teacher-training school in the city of Iguala. The resulting book, “La verdadera noche de Iguala,” was released in Spanish in 2016 (“A Massacre in Mexico: The True Story Behind the Missing Forty-Three Students” came out in English in 2018). Hernández said she wanted to lend a voice to the victims and their families.

In the book, the author provides a forensic accounting of a mass murder, piecing together witness accounts and contrasting them with official reports of the night the students went missing after commandeering two buses to attend a protest in Mexico City. The buses they took, she revealed, contained two million dollars worth of heroin. Hernández linked the murders to corrupt public and police officials, members of the Mexican military and drug gangs.

“I received threats immediately,” she told American journalist Lulu Garcia-Navarro in October 2018. “In the middle of my investigation, one of my sources was murdered in the streets. But I think that this is my job. And I’m convinced that if I put some light in this darkness, it’s more important than my own safety.”

Anabel Hernández's fight against cover-ups and impunity is an impressive example of courageous journalism,” DW Director General Peter Limbourg said.
Partnering for multilateralism

For centuries, Germany and Mexico have been friends and important partners in many areas. Peter Tempel, German ambassador to Mexico, tells us why in this guest commentary.

Alexander von Humboldt would have been 250 years old this year. Under the patronage of the German Federal President, we remember this exceptional scholar not only in Germany. In Latin America, too, we are celebrating the “first German Ambassador” on this continent with a season of events.

Today, Humboldt is still well-known in Mexico, where he travelled in 1803 and 1804. His name adorns houses, streets and the renowned German school, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary in Mexico this year. Through his unique descriptions, Humboldt presented this fascinating country to an enthusiastic readership in Europe and all over the world. Germany’s fascination with Mexico was lasting and today we can look back on a close and long friendship between our countries.

Mexico has much to offer the world. Even in Humboldt’s time it was rich in raw materials and it still is today: gold and silver, fruit and vegetables, oil. Likewise, there is one of the world’s largest diversity of species. It is not surprising that Mexico was the cradle of pre-Hispanic advanced civilizations such as the Aztecs and Maya.

Mexico has experienced many developments since Humboldt. According to the counting method of the new president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, after independence (1810/21), the reform under Benito Juárez (1858/61) and the revolution (1910/19), Mexico today is facing its fourth transformation. The government has identified important issues, above all the fight against corruption and the improvement of the security situation in the country. A positive development in these areas is also important for Mexico as a business location.

Mexico, like Germany, is one of the few remaining industrial nations in the world. Today, approximately 2,000 German companies have offices in Mexico and have transformed the country into one of the most important production locations of the German economy. Almost all German DAX-30 industrial companies have their own production facilities in the country. Mexico is Germany’s most important trading partner in Latin America and as important for the German economy as Brazil and Argentina put together.

At the political level, Mexico has also become an important partner for Germany on global issues. This partnership is based on a solid foundation, which we are constantly deepening. One example is the German-Mexican Binational Commission, which has been meeting at government level every two years since 2015 on the topics of politics,
For journalists working in Mexico, 2018 was a record-breaking year and not in a positive way. According to the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ), at least 53 journalists and seven media workers died, of which at least 34 were murdered.

Among those killed were reporters who covered stories related to government corruption and organized crime, including drug cartels. The violence against journalists remains unpunished. “In Mexico, we have essentially a 100 percent impunity rate. The state is not investigating itself,” said Ana Cristina Ruelas, regional director of Mexico and Central America for Article 19, an organization documenting media freedom. “This has been the reality for some years now, since the beginning of the war against the drug cartels that reaches the public.”

The silence of journalists

Impunity is part of a vicious circle of violence that has seen many journalists leave their line of work due to threats. Media outlets are increasingly self-censoring, freezing reporters out and killing stories before they are published.

Investigative reporter Anabel Hernández was one of those whose stories were frozen after she revealed corruption at the highest levels. Like many of her colleagues, Hernández has fled Mexico. For those who have remained in the country, the outlook is grim. “Every year we have documented an increase in violence against journalists,” Ruelas said.

The aggressions documented by Article 19 range from threats and intimidation to espionage or the use of defamation laws at the federal level. In 2018, it recorded 544 incidents, with at least half coming from state actors, according to Ruelas.

Spying on journalists

The Committee for the Protection of Journalists noted that technology has increased the danger for journalists operating in Mexico. The organization has warned that the Pegasus spyware used to collect data and monitor mobile phone usage was being used against investigative journalists in the country.

Ruelas said that while the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of the Interior in Mexico has recognized the dangers that journalists face, the new government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who assumed the presidency in December 2018, has not yet laid out their approach to combating threats against the media.
Our world order has become unstable. We are increasingly witnessing the rejection of global norms and values designed to safeguard lasting peace. The principle of multilateralism is slowly being eroded, as people in many countries have lost their trust in international institutions and democratic systems. How do the media, politics, civil society, culture, science and business interact in this age of shifting powers? The DW Global Media Forum 2019 will explore the impact of shifting power structures on the international media landscape and evaluate opportunities and challenges arising from digitalization.

³ dw.com/gmf
The new world (dis)order

Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, said that the world has fallen into a “great strategic puzzle.” It is currently unclear who could pick up the pieces and reassemble them.

Text Christian F. Trippe, DW’s security expert

> Maybe we’re living in an age of perplexity. Everything had started so well. The fall of the Berlin Wall ended the Cold War. The collapse of the communist world of states in 1989/90 marked a turning point of epochal significance. But what has happened since then can hardly be analytically explained. The words are literally missing to describe the new world (dis)order. Too much has started to shift, including certainties, alliances and power structures.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain, the constitutional, democratic state model seemed to have triumphed. The West assumed the role of asserting itself wherever anti-liberal systems had previously suppressed their citizens. To visualize this through the lens of cybernetics: The power that had slipped from the old rulers’ hands was now in need of new holders. Power seemed to attach itself to the victors of history. History itself was a thing of the past. The American political scientist Francis Fukuyama postulated, both smugly and prematurely, the “end of history.”

However, this thesis failed. In retrospect, the violent crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in China was a signal that the world was not developing as the Western handbooks on the craft of political statehood described. China, which so brutally ended the triumphal advance of democracy, has shown the world that economic success, prosperity and development do not necessarily go hand in hand with the existence of political freedoms. Today, China is the world leader in many technologies of the future.

As it builds up economic power and accumulates gigantic currency reserves, China is also steadily gaining more and more political might. Beijing is increasingly using this power, challenging the United States. These two great powers are engaged in a veritable power struggle over the geopolitical supremacy of the Pacific. It is a rivalry that will necessitate a significant shift in the world’s existing power structures.

Russia can be added as the third player in this league of new, old rivals. “Russia is proving that declining powers can be at least as disruptive as rising ones, punching above its weight as it exploits divisions within the West,” said former U.S. diplomat William S. Burns. The people of Ukraine and Georgia likely share this view.

Power in foreign policy can shape and create new things but it can also be used for the sole purpose of self-preservation. As military-backed power re-aligns, it can easily become destructive. This reality does not improve if the “big three”—U.S., China, Russia—are joined by a number of moderately large, politically over-motivated states like India, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran, among others. It is not just the new, ambitious players who like to orient themselves and their foreign policy to 19th century figures of thought, to zero-sum games and geopolitics, to zones of influence and to the choreography of power play.

In Europe especially, many are living through this return of traditional concepts like a journey through time full of discordant notes. This can be seen in the rise of right-wing and left-wing populist leaders coming to power in more and more countries. The triumphs of the Orbans and the Erdogans, the Dutertes and the Bolsonaros are a betrayal of the ideas and ideals of 1989/90 that distinguished the Western liberal order.

Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, said that the world has fallen into a “great strategic puzzle.” It is currently unclear who could pick up the pieces and reassemble them. Under its current president, the United States, the longstanding leader of the West, is obviously unavailable. Donald Trump has turned his back on Europe, questioned NATO and denounced allies while simultaneously courting dictators and authoritarian populists. This is another consequential shift in the global power structure, one that has been especially painful for Europeans.

Despite its ambitions to politically integrate the old continent both economically and socially, the EU currently isn’t in great shape. Brexit has weakened it, populists in the East are working to hollow it out and Putin’s Russia remains a threat. In reality, the 20th century as an age of wars and ideological rivalries only lasted from 1914 to 1989. Historians call this period a “short century.” For the quarter century that has passed since, no one has yet found a suitable label. Through all this perplexity, it remains clear that this is an era of dramatic redistribution of global power.
The joint EU-Arab League summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in February was the first of its kind. Cited as “historic” by several observers, European heads of state and top EU functionaries met with Arab autocrats with the aim of “strengthening the desire for closer cooperation and coordination,” as the summit’s final declaration puts it.

In the end, however, the only historic thing about the summit was that it took place at all. Its resolutions were so non-binding that they were consigned to oblivion almost as soon as they had been announced, their significance largely symbolic.

Moreover, despite all the harmony that was on display, the closing press conference witnessed a head-on confrontation on the topic of human rights. President of the EU Commission Jean-Claude Juncker felt compelled to vigorously challenge the assertion by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi that no one had questioned the human rights situation in his country.

To this unconditional meeting with incorrigible, corrupt autocrats and ruthless tyrants, none of whom could care less about democratic values and the rule of law, had little to do with the realization of a need to improve cooperation with its immediate neighbors. This intensive and at times fraught exercise in realpolitik had more to do with the EU’s own shortcomings and with the weakness of the West as a whole.

Unarguably, the first European-Arab summit revealed just how the balance of power has shifted in relations between Europe and its Arab neighbors in recent years. These days, regional players such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia bristle with self-confidence when negotiating with western countries and lectures on questions of democracy and human rights are sharply rebuffed. What these states expect is unconditional cooperation, especially with the EU. In Trump—with
his penchant for authoritarian strongmen—they feel they have found an ally.

This development, though of international geopolitical significance, cannot mask the fact that the major shift in power in the Middle East has been to the detriment of both western and Arab states. Russia, Iran and Turkey have all advanced to become those calling the shots in the region.

The reasons are obvious: the U.S. is war-weary. Having lost two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. has been successively withdrawing its military operatives from the Middle East. Iran, of all countries, was the beneficiary of the abrupt departure of American troops from Iraq in 2011, quickly rising to become the dominant influence in Mesopotamia. In the years prior, the Bush administration had conquered Iran’s “natural enemies”, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein’s Baath regime in Iraq, as part of its “war on terror.”

The West’s feigned impotence in Syria

With the outbreak of the Syrian civil war, which has since seen violence per se develop its own deadly dynamic, it quickly became apparent that western foreign policy would not be able to do justice to the new realities emerging on the ground. While Assad was able to count on massive support from Russia, Iran and Shia factions in Lebanon and in Iraq, the West proved incapable of formulating a common policy on Syria.

The West’s feigned impotence particularly manifested itself in the watering down of the “red line doctrine” by the Obama administration: instead of reacting with military force to Assad’s use of chemical weapons in 2013, Obama reached an agreement with Russia that led to a resolution under international law obliging Syria to destroy all chemical weapons. However, as anticipated, it proved impossible to monitor its implementation credibly. From a Middle Eastern perspective, this failure to engage inflicted huge damage on the West’s credibility and assertiveness.

More or less from the outset, decision-makers on both sides of the Atlantic decided not to intervene in Syria, preferring instead to let the conflict “bleed to death.” A fateful miscalculation that ultimately gave Russia, Iran and Turkey free reign in Syria.

The decision of the incumbent U.S. president to pull American troops out of Syria, without consulting allies on the ground and against the advice of his advisors and leading members of the American administration, rightly shocked many U.S. allies in the Middle East—the Kurds in particular. Undoubtedly, it has also compounded the loss of influence of Western regulatory policy on developments in the Middle East.

The U.S. withdrawal and the significant shifts of power within the region mean that the EU urgently needs to come up with a common policy for the Middle East, something more than merely strengthening European military capacity and cooperating with autocrats. Bearing in mind the challenges posed by failed states and mass migration, not to mention the inherent weakness of the Arab countries, a comprehensive European answer to these historic processes of transformation would appear to be in all our interests.

The EU urgently needs to come up with a common policy for the Middle East.

In this special episode of Shababtalk at DW’s Global Media Forum, host Jaafar Abdul Karim and his guest panel will discuss the awakening of the Arab Spring and its consequences.

Is there a resurrection of the Arab Spring after eight years? Which countries are in “rebellion” and how are they aiming to achieve successful change? Is it really going to be revolution 2.0 for the Arab World? What are they doing differently from the countries that went through the Arab Spring in 2011? What have they learned from the previous revolutions in their neighboring countries? Will change finally ensue or will the old regime win yet again?

Reaching millions of viewers across the Arab-speaking world, the interactive, award-winning talk show Shababtalk airing weekly on DW critically confronts socially-charged topics that concern the Arab world, such as politics, religion, human rights and sexuality. It has become the voice of the Arab youth. Shababtalk enables open and direct communication between Germany and the Arab world and provides a safe space for the younger generation to openly discuss ideas, opinions and thoughts. The show is hosted by award-winning German-Arabic journalist Jaafar Abdul Karim.

Since 2015, Shababtalk has been touring the Middle East, producing episodes from countries like Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon and Morocco. The show has been honored by the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) as Best Arabic Talk Show three years in a row.

www.dw.com/shababtalk

MONDAY, MAY 27 | 2:30 – 3:30 P.M. | FOYER

Is the Arab Spring waking up again? Revolution 2.0?
What type of media are most successful in India today?

Ever since the Indian government allowed private TV broadcasts in 1991, television has trumped newspapers to become the country’s most successful media with more than 880 channels today. Among these, news is the most crowded genre with at least 463 24-hour channels in operation today. News channels are sub-segmented into Hindi, English and regional language channels.

TV’s proliferation and penetration across the country has been triggered by affordability. Cable TV companies are providing as many as 500 channels for a monthly charge of around Rs 300 ($4.33/3.75 euros).

A decade and a half ago, print accounted for more than half of total advertising in India. Today it’s less than one-third of the total advertising pie of $10 billion. TV, which was about a third, now makes up nearly half.

Yet, unlike most other parts of the world, legacy print media is not just growing in India but is also profitable. Digital media, which accounted for about one percent of media revenue in the country 15 years ago, is now 18 percent and growing at a very robust 30 percent per annum. But just like anywhere else in the world, digital media remains unprofitable. Platforms such as Google, Facebook and Twitter account for 90 percent of the total digital advertising pie.

How do Indian media react to rapid technological changes as well as the social changes, such as the continued empowerment of minorities and women?

Growth of mobile and social platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram is exposing and challenging the whole social landscape. At the same time, social media has become the most popular tool to reach the masses. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of the world’s most-followed leaders with over 46.5 million followers on Twitter.

‘Fake news is a scourge’

“In India, there is no control for social media platforms, the breeding grounds for fake news,” says Aroon Purie. According to the founder and former editor-in-chief of India Today, TV is the most successful media, while digital media is growing but still unprofitable even as mobile data rates in India are the lowest in the world—empowering people down to the village.

Questions Vera Tellmann
India’s social media proliferation and penetration also has been enabled by affordability as mobile data rates in India have crashed to the lowest in the world. Indian mobile users get 1 GB of data for Rs 18 ($0.25/0.22 euros) against the world average of Rs 600 ($8.57). Thus, social media is empowering people down to the village and the poorest users.

What is the relationship between leading Indian media and the government?
India is one of the world’s most vibrant democracies enabled by plurality of views, free flow of information and a population that has learned to thrive on chaos.

India does not have a strong constitutional backing for media such as the U.S.’s First Amendment but Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution of India provides for the right to freedom of speech and expression as a fundamental right. The right to freedom of the press does not exist independently but is part of the right to freedom of speech. Hence, the right to free press is also regarded as a fundamental right.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi once said: “Freedom of the press is an article of faith with us, sanctioned by our Constitution, validated by four decades of freedom and indispensable to our future as a nation.”

To what extent do populists shape public opinion in India? How do the media combat fake news and hate speech?
Indian media on its face stays neutral and does not have a tradition of endorsing parties like the United States. However, often the leanings of the media become quite apparent from their coverage. Mainstream political parties propagate their agendas through public rallies as well as through debates on national and regional TV. They are also now using social media to propagate their agenda through supporters.

Fake news is a scourge. It is often created by politicians themselves or their supporters.

What is your vision for Indian media after the upcoming elections and in the next ten years?
The role of media as a watchdog and as the fourth pillar of democracy continues to be relevant as ever. Higher literacy levels, growing per capita and disposable income will all contribute to keeping media as a vibrant and flourishing industry in India.

The biggest challenge will be how to make digital media viable and make readers pay for credible content. In my view, establishment of credibility will be the most crucial part of that journey. The industry has already taken the lead in adopting self-regulation but getting the user to pay for credible media will be the challenge to overcome in the next decade.

Who’s got the power in the media landscape?
Digital platforms such as Google, Facebook and YouTube have shifted the power structures in the global media landscape tremendously—and largely to their own advantage. Established media organizations are now highly dependent on such external digital platforms as they try to maximize their own reach and remain competitive. The relationship between established media houses and new players is becoming increasingly one-sided. News outlets are still trying to rebound from the 2018 Facebook algorithm change, while services like Google Analytics and Subscribe with Google are transforming everyday workflows for journalists in the digital era. What challenges can journalists still expect? What risks and opportunities lie ahead? And how can journalists profit from these rapid developments?

SPEAKERS
Mathias Döpfner, CEO, Axel Springer media group
Aroon Purie, Founder and former Editor-in-Chief, India Today
Jesper Doub, Director of Media Partnerships Europe, Middle East and Africa
HOST Edith Kimani, DW
The collapse of the Turkish media — by Can Dündar, Turkish journalist living in exile in Germany.

The Turkish daily Milliyet used to be an influential newspaper with its social democratic editorial line. The owner of the paper, Aydin Dogan, was dubbed the “media mogul” of Turkey. He was the owner of the Dogan Media Group which ran the largest newspapers and TV channels with the highest numbers of viewers. He was a partner of German publisher Axel Springer and not getting along well with the AKP government.

Then Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was constantly complaining about journalists like me but his efforts were always in vain. Finally Erdogan found a practical backdoor, claiming that a 25 percent stake transfer to Axel Springer was marred with irregularities. In 2009, the Dogan Media Group was fined with a record tax penalty of 2.5 billion dollars.

Two years later, Aydin Dogan sold Milliyet for 48 million dollars to Erdogan Demirören, a businessman with close ties to the government. On his first day, Demirören called a meeting with us, all the columnists. His first sentence was: “I don’t want to read any lines against Erdogan from now on.”

Soon after that meeting, Demirören called me personally to tell me I wouldn’t be writing for the paper anymore. This is how I was fired from Milliyet, the paper I had worked for for 12 years. One day a tapped phone call between PM Erdogan and Demirören was leaked on the Internet. The subject of the call was a news story which had been published in Milliyet that same day. On the phone Demirören addressed the prime minister as “boss.”

Demirören: “Did I upset you, boss?”
Erdogan: “You embarrassed me. (…) Is the mission of the newspaper to stir provocation?”
Demirören “We would never even think about it, Mr. Prime Minister.”

TUESDAY, MAY 28 | 11:15 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. | PLENARY CHAMBER

Media and politics: Where is this love-hate relationship going?

From Brexit to various election-hacking scandals, the world as we know it has changed significantly. A new world order is emerging that seems to be changing the way that journalists interact with politicians as well. Inflated national egos and unilateral policies take center stage in this brave new world, where a single tweet can change the course of events. How can media professionals stay afloat in this hostile environment, and to what extent do politicians still need journalists today? What does the future hold for the relationship between journalists and lawmakers, and how can democratic processes be ensured in an age in which reporters are routinely accused of spreading “fake news,” when those in power don’t want to be held accountable? How can news-makers uphold standards of objectivity in this climate? Or can’t they?

SPEAKERS
Can Dündar, Turkish journalist
Leonid Volkov, leading opposition figure in Russia
Yuen-Ying Chan, Chinese journalist
Georg Mascolo, Director of the research cooperation between NDR, WDR and Süddeutsche Zeitung
Michael Dobbs, British political novelist and member of the House of Lords

Can Dündar

worked for the Turkish newspaper Milliyet from 2001 to 2013. After he was dismissed, he became editor-in-chief of the daily Cumhuriyet. In 2016, he was sentenced to five years and ten months in prison, following a report that linked Turkish intelligence to Islamists fighting in Syria. After three months, he was released and has since been living in exile in Germany.
Erdogan: “Do whatever it takes to take care of those inglorious” (journalists).
Demirören: “I will bring the person responsible into the light before this evening. Do not fret.”
Erdogan: “Alright, have a nice day.”
Demirören: “Why did I enter this business... For whom?”

Demirören was sobbing when he muttered those last words. In a way, he obviously already knew the answer to that question: The person who forced Demirören to enter this business, the real owner of the newspaper was Erdogan and now he was holding him accountable.

But Demirören’s tears dried fast. Ahead of the 2018 general elections he bought all the newspapers and TV channels Dogan had left. He did so with a 1.2 billion dollar loan provided by a public bank which included a ten-year repayment period and no repayment during the first two years. Demirören became the new “media mogul” of Turkey.

It is no coincidence that all the AKP-opposing journalists and managers got fired after the takeover. The Demirören outlets were turned into a propaganda machine. Erdogan entered the election race in a media environment that couldn’t have been more perfect for him.

And the “win-win” scheme worked. The Demirören newspapers’ reputation was tarnished, circulation numbers decreased but there was nothing to worry about. The money that was lost kept returning through public procurement contracts. President Erdogan, thanks to the Trojan Horse he had placed in the media sector, oversaw over 90 percent of all newspaper and TV outlets in Turkey. There was no need for censorship anymore as the media were turned into appraisal mechanisms for the government and attack dogs against the opposition.

But the happy ending was nowhere near; in fact quite the opposite happened.

The readers and viewers soon tired of seeing the same headlines and watching the same person in ten or so newspapers and on television channels. While Erdogan’s speeches lagged behind the soap operas in ratings, the main news show of the only mainstream TV station that he could not exert control over, FOX TV, became the most popular one.

Erdogan’s pressure on the Turkish media has backfired. People have turned to alternative media platforms.

There are still talented and brave journalists who are in detention, in prison, charged, exiled or unemployed, searching and defending the truth in spite of dire conditions.

What about Demirören? At 80, he passed away just before the 2018 general elections. All that remains from his legacy of 50 years as an industrialist is a pathetic phone call.

What’s in a compromise?

“A compromise is the art of dividing a cake in such a way that everyone believes he has the biggest piece,” former German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard once said. Is this suitable for North Macedonia and Greece?

If the perfect compromise is defined as a situation in which no one wins and no one loses then the conclusion of the decade long name dispute between North Macedonia and Greece should not fall into this category. Not because there are no winners and losers. On the contrary. The so-called Prespa Agreement, named after the lakes shared by Albania, Greece, and North Macedonia, ended one of the most protracted and bizarre disputes in the world: a conflict between two neighboring countries over history, identity and territory. In many other parts of the world, those issues would have been discussed and possibly settled between historians, sociologists or anthropologists. But in the Balkans, all problems begin and end with politics. Thus the solution to the dispute seemed unlikely for a long time, and even today, after its successful conclusion, it still appears as an exception to Winston Churchill’s famous quote that many interpret as a rule about the Balkans as a region that produces more history than it can consume.

Of course the Balkanites will continue their quest for a better and more glorious past — nationalists in both North Macedonia and Greece who still oppose the name deal are the perfect example of that—but the Prespa Agreement offers something unique for both countries and the region: a chance to build a better and more glorious future.

To put it simply, this compromise did produce both winners and losers. The governments in Skopje and Athens led by Prime Ministers Zoran Zaev and Alexis Tsipras clearly fall into the first category. They risked their political future and faced strong opposition and
protests, often violent, led by nationalists in their societies. The Ewald von Kleist Award which Tsipras and Zaev received during the Munich Security Conference this year was a just reward for their rapprochement policy.

For North Macedonia, the agreement opens the door to full membership in NATO and a chance to finally open the accession negotiations with the European Union. Both NATO and the EU were long seen by the Macedonians themselves as guarantees for a stable and prosperous future of the small landlocked Balkan country. Now the new generation will finally have the chance to stop digging in the historical trenches and start planning for the future.

The historic reconciliation gives Greece a chance to finally close one chapter that produced many political crises in the past 28 years since the (former) Republic of Macedonia declared its independence from the former Yugoslavia. Instead of a problematic neighbor,

"In the Balkans, all problems begin and end with politics."

Greece now has an ally on its north border, no small feat considering its tricky relations with other neighboring countries, most of all Turkey. The deal well serves the strategy of the Greek government to become "a leading force in the Balkans and the East Mediterranean," as PM Tsipras stated in December last year.

In the broader Balkans and South East European context, the Prespa Agreement and North Macedonia’s entry into NATO improves regional stability in times when the ghosts of the past threaten to be unleashed — and especially in light of the expected solution to the Kosovo issue — with or without the proposed exchange of territories with Serbia.

Last but not least, the agreement gives the EU something to work with in the Western Balkan region. It sets a fine example that Brussels can use to overcome the dispute between Kosovo and Serbia and solve the Bosnian conundrum.

Nationalists on both sides of the border are the clear losers in this compromise. Both in North Macedonia and in Greece they fought tooth and nail for the dispute to live on. For decades the dispute was both their modus vivendi and modus operandi. Without it they are left empty-handed in the pursuit of domestic and foreign enemies and populist topics.

Text Boris Georgievski, DW Head of Macedonian services

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Since 2013, almost all European states have been on the receiving end of information operations by the Kremlin in order to influence political decision-making in democratic processes from outside. This is according to the interactive Internet tool Authoritarian Interference Tracker of the German Marshall Fund, which lists the Russian state's interference in other countries in detail. In order to manipulate public discussion—especially in times of elections or referendums—information providers controlled by the Kremlin have purposefully disseminated disinformation, extremely hyperpartisan news and populist narratives. This is not an extension of pluralism of opinion through balanced and objective information, which is acceptable in the sense of a free public sphere, but rather illegitimate interference.

These novel disinformation campaigns exploit the increased information overload of people in the digital world: The information space is flooded with a multitude of lies, half-truths or absurd news. It is not at all a question of disseminating new knowledge or arguments about an event or aspect. Rather, it is a matter of unsettling citizens as information consumers by such an intensified “information noise.” Facts that have been confirmed are lost or devalued as one of several possibilities.

Not only Russia, but also China and other authoritarian countries carry out influencing operations in order to manipulate social discussions in democracies. Under the guise of an alleged contribution to freedom of opinion and freedom of the press, the free possibilities of an “open society” (Karl Popper) are deliberately used to combat it, while the authoritarian states take repressive action against their national free media and develop into “digital dictatorships.” It is a new form of expansive digital authoritarianism that threatens the achievements of liberal democracies.

The political-strategic goal is to undermine democratic processes. This is why the narrative according to which an “evil elite” rules over the “good people” and elections are therefore pointless can be found as a continuous theme in the reporting of the Kremlin media RT (Russia Today) and Sputnik, as the “EU vs disinfo” project has proven in numerous case studies. The narrative of the “capitalists” who subjugate the “proletariat,” known from Soviet times, has thus been replaced by Marxist ideology and transferred into a postmodern populist version. And as in Soviet times, this anti-elitist narrative is often supplemented by anti-American resentments.

Another narrative is to ascribe political dysfunction to Western democracies: In a British study on RT and Sputnik published this spring, Gordon Ramsay and Sam Robertshaw of the Policy Institute of London’s King’s College came to the conclusion that of the 2,641 articles on domestic issues in Britain, the U.S., France, Germany, Sweden, Italy and Ukraine, 2,157 articles, i.e. 81.7 percent, contained frames relating to political dysfunction.

By devaluing democratic processes in Europe, the undemocratic nature of the Russian system is to be concealed and the power of President Vladimir Putin legitimized. Moreover, Kremlin interference in Europe is aimed at weakening political groups and parties that oppose the president’s policies and demand sanctions for the Kremlin. Media support in Putin’s media is usually directed at populist parties in Europe or protest movements like the “Yellow Vests” in France. The extent to which the Kremlin-controlled Russian foreign broadcaster RT has concentrated on the Yellow Vest movement in its French programming is depicted in a recent study conducted by the campaign platform Avaaz.

The rise of populist parties in Europe certainly has a multitude of political, historical, cultural, economic and social causes. But unmistakably, the Kremlin, with its controlled media, acts as an amplifier of such tendencies by spreading populist narratives, polarizing propaganda and disinformation.
Globalization has influenced everyone’s living standards, changing the relationships between nations, affecting the economy, and shifting the international networking of science and research as well as cultural exchange. It also impacts the external and internal security of states. And digitalization is only accelerating and manifesting the effects of globalization further.

Global healthcare is facing new challenges due to these profound and comprehensive changes. While healthcare has improved the treatment of diseases thanks to the progress made in biological and medical research, the importance of improving the quality of healthcare and people’s quality of life continues to grow. The health of people all over the world is still under threat: Infectious diseases do not stop at national borders. Concern about pandemics is on the rise, as is the danger that germs will become increasingly resistant to antibiotics. Environmental degradation, air pollution and climate change are likewise global problems. No longer something to be addressed by individual nations on their own, these issues must be resolved jointly and multilaterally. International politics and political action must take into account this rapidly changing reality, particularly in terms of health policy.

The time for national unilateral action is finally over. Health is a priority goal on the international political agenda. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2016, commit the world community to securing the basis of life on our planet in the long-term and to enabling all people to live in peace and health through political, economic and social measures. The SDGs address issues in education, social security, economic development and climate protection. Goal 3 should “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at every age.”

Germany has dedicated itself to the goal of global health, as the German chancellor’s personal commitment to the goals during the country’s rotation on the G7 and G20 presidencies showed. Among other things,
Health is no longer considered a desired concomitant to life, but a pivotal area for political action worldwide. The German government has significantly increased payments to the World Health Organization (WHO) and to organizations that are involved in large vaccination programs or the elimination of diseases. These programs have already saved countless lives by working hand-in-hand with other partners.

Given the task at hand, as well as the opportunities, Germany should not only carry on in its commitment to global health, but systematically expand it. Global health should be developed in a holistic way as a topic for consensus in international politics. The fact that Germany is taking on a leading role is welcomed worldwide, especially now that the U.S. has become an unpredictable partner and Great Britain’s possibilities are increasingly reaching their limits.

Global health is an interdisciplinary topic at the national and international level in the best sense of the word. Health issues affect nearly all political areas: They can be found intertwined in the economy as well as in education, internal and external security, nutrition or public infrastructure. The state of a population’s health has a direct impact on the economic, social and political development of a country.

The scale and variety of what is to be done is enormous; world health is growing in its relevancy. Health is no longer considered a desired concomitant to life, but a pivotal area for political action worldwide, regardless of the political system. China, for example, is pursuing a consistent “health in all policies” strategy. Germany should assume a cooperative leadership role in this area. This would not be arrogant, but it would rather mean that one of the richest countries in the world is assuming responsibility and increasingly gaining international respect for doing so.

The establishment of a Global Health Hub Germany planned by the federal government and the increased promotion of research in this field are important steps. The World Health Summit, which takes place every year in Berlin under the joint patronage of the German Chancellor, the French President and the President of the European Commission, and hosts several thousand participants from 100 nations, is also seen as an integral part of Germany’s commitment to improving global health. It is an important signal that Germany, as a leader and in good partnership, is using its great scientific, economic and political potential for global health as a central and unifying theme of German foreign policy, development policy and security policy for humanitarian reasons, as well as its own well-understood interest. In view of our history, our possibilities and our expectations, this is a logical, noble priority of German policy.
Ensuring the best possible framework conditions

The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is for the first time financially supporting DW’s Global Media Forum. State Premier Armin Laschet explains how politics can contribute to media diversity and freedom of expression.

> Shifting powers — the theme of DW’s 12th Global Media Forum could not have been better chosen. Digital change is radically changing the way media content is produced, distributed and used. At the same time, it is shifting the economic balance of power in the media markets. This is why we in the Media Digital State of North Rhine-Westphalia are focusing on the effects that digital change has on media diversity, freedom of expression and social cohesion.

This change offers many new opportunities to disseminate media content and actively involve media users. But at the same time we are seeing how it is putting massive pressure on media diversity — here in Germany and throughout the world. Earning money with journalistic content is becoming increasingly difficult for media providers. Particularly in local reporting, we are experiencing considerable concentration processes and run the risk that citizens will learn less and less about their community and that public areas will no longer be subject to control. This damages active participation in social life and social cohesion.

Digital change in the media world does not stop at national borders. It is therefore important that we discuss the challenges ahead on an international scale. DW’s Global Media Forum is ideally suited for this. For this reason, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia is for the first time also financially involved in this renowned conference this year. We want to bring journalists and media experts from Germany and North Rhine-Westphalia together with guests from all over the world to discuss pressing fundamental questions of media change and to learn from each other.

There is no doubt that it is first and foremost the task of media companies to develop business models that secure journalism in the long term. But politics can contribute by ensuring the best possible framework conditions for media diversity and freedom of expression. We discuss new approaches and ideas for strengthening media diversity and journalism at all political levels — locally and regionally, nationally and on a European scale.

At the local and regional level, for example, we are working on a strategy to strengthen private local radio stations in North Rhine-Westphalia. They are extremely important for the formation of opinion in our

State Premier Armin Laschet will be holding a keynote on the topic of “Media policy in the digital age” on Tuesday, May 28, at 10:15 a.m.

“Many initiatives show that new forms of financing for journalism are possible.

Armin Laschet

studied law and political science before working as a journalist at Bayerisches Fernsehen and Radio Charivari. He was editor-in-chief of the church newspaper for the diocese of Aachen and publishing director and managing director of Einhard Verlag, also in Aachen. In 1994, Laschet was elected to the German Bundestag. From 1999 to 2005 he was a MEP in Brussels. Since 2017, Laschet has been premier of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

© Laurence Chaperon
towns and villages. At the same time, they too must face up to new competition in the digital age and offer their audience good services, especially on the Internet. The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia wants to create a good legal framework for this.

At the federal level, for example, we address tax issues that are relevant to journalism. For example, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia is examining an initiative aimed at recognizing non-commercial journalism, which is committed to the high standards of journalism, as non-profit in tax law. Many initiatives, especially in the Anglo-Saxon region, show that new forms of financing for journalism are possible with donations and endowments. We also want to make this easier in Germany.

Politicians must also assume responsibility at the international level. It is therefore positive that the EU has formulated a European approach against disinformation on the Internet. We must not simply stand by and watch fake news that poison social and political discourse spread on the Internet.

The copyright reform of the European Union has been and continues to be debated. Throughout Europe, thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest against upload filters because they fear for freedom of expression on the Internet. The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia advocates the consistent protection of intellectual property on the Internet. But this must be possible without a filter and with the help of legally secure procedures, so that authors can assert their rights and creative services are paid for. For journalists and media providers in particular, this is almost an existential question.

One development that will continue to fundamentally change our media landscape in the coming years is the triumph of artificial intelligence (AI). It is already being used in all types of media. But what does it mean for our media diversity if individual global players such as Google or Facebook are increasingly able to bind media users to their products with the help of artificial intelligence—at the expense of traditional media providers?

What happens when more and more perfected news apps pull media users away from the offerings of other companies—or when these companies have to pay for their content to appear in these apps? As a result, our media providers could become increasingly dependent on Google or Facebook. I therefore very much welcome the fact that the EU Commission has decided to search for a common European approach to the challenges of artificial intelligence.

Just as the European Coal and Steel Union was founded 70 years ago, we now need such a community for AI.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, we are flanking this with our own AI strategy, with which we want to ensure that we pool our strengths in this field and consistently address pressing ethical issues.

I am delighted that so many media experts and media users are coming together at the Global Media Forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the media world. Because media variety and democratic participation must be preserved and strengthened!

Best practice: Amidst political attacks Hungarian online newsroom Atlatszo.hu has managed to fund nearly half of its operations via donations from readers

TUESDAY, MAY 28 | 5:15 – 6:15 P.M. | PLENARY CHAMBER

More than money! Media viability in the era of clicks

Media outlets around the world face enormous difficulties in delivering quality reporting while staying financially afloat. Traditional business models are collapsing and the focus is often on the problems. But what can news media do to be more viable? This session focuses on solutions: What can we learn from success stories? What fresh approaches can foster media in different parts of the world? The panel will present a broader view, looking beyond the money and reconsidering media viability in an age of clicks.

SPEAKERS

Dr. Ann Hollifield, Professor of Media Management and Economics, University of Georgia

Marina Vashakmadze, Strategy Adviser, Ajara TV

Michael Muwanguzi, Station Manager, Smart FM/ NBSTV

HOST Carsten von Nahmen, Head of DW Akademie

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The necessary distance to everyday proximity

Why we need good local journalists: A plea from Helge Matthiesen, editor-in-chief of Bonn’s daily newspaper General-Anzeiger.

Big stories sometimes start very small. The Washington Post’s research into what happened at the Watergate Building began in a local editorial office. Bob Woodward sat in a court hearing recording what later became vital information about a supposedly banal break-in, information which led to Nixon leaving the White House and which changed the U.S. forever.

Or Bonn: The construction of the congress center where the DW Global Media Forum is held, is linked to a fraud scandal that led to several convictions and cost the city of Bonn around 300 million euros. The editors of the General-Anzeiger researched, documented and published the information over months and years.

Local journalists have the advantage of being close to the topic but this can also be their biggest handicap. If they take their job seriously, they will learn many things that observers would not notice from afar. Sometimes this leads directly to interesting stories but their disclosure does not suit the city’s most powerful.

Courage and healthy self-confidence

Local journalists meet the main players in their region not only as part of their work but also in everyday life. Their children attend schools, they play sports and are active in clubs. Everywhere, journalists are confronted with the consequences of local politics and if they are awake and attentive, their everyday life can open doors for them to peer inside. They can ask the political decision-makers and heads of industry directly, informally and initially off-the-record, to assess developments.

This is where the great danger of proximity lies. Those who close ranks with the powerful in a city may overlook, consciously or not, things that should be made public. Local journalists meet the mayor or a member of parliament or the director of the biggest company in town nearly every day. When these journalists shy away from conflict, the powerful have an easy life. Local journalists therefore need courage and self-confidence.

Because they meet these local actors again and again, the work of an editorial office can, at the same time, be scrutinized. Local journalists may have to justify themselves because they are well-known and readers often approach them directly. If a local editorial office is too far removed from people’s wishes and problems, the connection to the readership is lost. Then journalists lose their credibility.

Faithful to facts and integrity

If you want to control the powerful, you have to be a master of your craft, knowing not only how to obtain information but also how to verify and reliably document it. The other side of the story is always important as well. It must be heard. Fair play is in the interest of the media. For the work done at the base of society, where real life takes place, the best people are in demand. Credibility is the life-blood of local media. For them in particular, the classic separation between news and commentary is of great importance. Nobody likes to feel as though they are being manipulated and in a city or a region the facts are easily verifiable for everyone. Integrity is therefore an important pre-requisite for work. Social media is one option for journalists to reach their audience but that method is only one.

Good local journalism organizes democratic everyday life. It formulates important topics that affect everyone and must be discussed in order to find solutions. Good journalists get these debates going. But in the end it is not them alone who decide what is important and what is not. Politics is not their job. They have to keep a safe distance on all sides of the story is always important as well.

The future of local journalism

Being informed around the clock about the latest global events has become easy, thanks to the Internet. But local news remain highly important, even in this globalized digital age, as people continue to seek out information that reflects the latest developments in their immediate surroundings. The closer an event physically occurs, the more relevant it is to that audience. But despite this, local newspapers and radio stations continue to suffer falling sales, often resulting in takeovers and bankruptcies.

How can media professionals strengthen local news organizations against this current backdrop? Is local journalism still irreplaceable today and if so, how can local news organizations reach younger audiences?

Speakers
Sa’a Ibrahim, Managing Director, Abubakar Rimi Television (ARTV)
Chani Guyot, CEO, RED/ACCION
Michael Bröcker, Editor-in-Chief, Rheinische Post
Anna Minj, Journalist and Director of the Community Empowerment Program at BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee)

Host Terry Martin, DW
sides in order to be able to talk to everyone. This is especially important for reporters in a small area. Local media are always committed to democracy and freedom. These values must be defended against influence and pressure from all sides, with a sense of proportion and fairness, because not every criticism is an attack on freedom of the press.

Every society starts within a family, a village or a town. Journalists who work here have the task of giving a voice to the people in their region—to shed a light when no one cares about the difficulties of a region that does not have a decent connection or lacks a data network. When it comes to the interests of the people in the region, local media are allowed to take sides.

Local journalism must be free: from economic constraints, political influence, violence and threats. Because editorial offices are close to the people, this is not to be taken for granted. These freedoms must be defended every day. Local journalism is of paramount importance to democracy. Where there are no journalists, there is no one to keep the powerful in check. No one cares about the big scandals, like the Watergate break-in or the reckless and criminal mishandling of public funds like in Bonn.

Dr. Helge Matthiesen

editor-in-chief of the Bonner General-Anzeiger newspaper, is a historian and political scientist. He’s been an active local journalist for most of his career, starting at the regional newspaper Walsroder Zeitung. His career later took him to positions at the Waldeckische Landeszeitung, the Flensburger Tageblatt and the Weser-Kurier newspaper, based in Bremen.

© Barbara Frommann

Uncovering criminal mishandling of public funds: journalists visiting the World Conference Center Bonn during the construction phase in 2012—General-Anzeiger was honored with the renowned “Wächterpreis” for the investigations. 
South Africa's peaceful transition from authoritarian rule under apartheid to a pluralistic democracy, bringing an end to decades of oppression and state-sponsored violence, set new global standards for peace, reconciliation and democratization.

But in recent years, the pioneering spirit behind that transition appears to have been replaced by a seemingly insatiable sense of greed among many of the country's political elites, as the country's electorate continues to firmly place its loyalty in the same hands nonetheless.

When the African National Congress (ANC) came into power in 1994, it ruled as part of a multiparty Government of National Unity (GNU) under President Nelson Mandela, creating a system of checks and balances by default, as various parties in government effectively held each other to account this way.

As of 1999, however, the ANC started to rule as the only party under then-President Thabo Mbeki, even clinching a two-thirds majority during elections in 2004. Thus began the ANC's internal conflicts, as infighting took over an increasingly powerful—and apparently power-hungry—ANC; a descent into corruption that practically flipped the country's inspirational story on its head.

Under the next president, Jacob Zuma, South Africa's newspapers became used to chronicling one corruption story embroiling Zuma and his inner circle after the next, with the president reportedly manipulating numerous state institutions to serve his personal interests at the taxpayer's expense.

Investigative South African journalist James Styan, an expert on state capture especially in the country's utilities sector, explained to DW that during Zuma's tenure, it became “more beneficial for businesses to have connections with the ANC elite than it is to have connections with the state.”

Ramaphosa's uphill battle

The list of accusations against Zuma in particular is long, and many of the charges against him remain under investigation; however, Zuma's nine years in office were undeniably fraught with scandal, leaving incumbent President Cyril Ramaphosa to pick up the pieces after him.

“The consequences of keeping the ANC in power are most clearly defined in the

Where power corrupts and corruption empowers

South Africa is celebrated throughout the world as a role model in reconciliation and political transformation. But for the past decade, the new South Africa's power structures have become stale, barely hiding their reluctance to embrace change and instead opting to pursue their personal interests at the expense of the South African people.

Text Sertan Sanderson, DW editor

covering elections: From research to fact-checking to securing your accounts

This workshop will offer participants practical tips on how to fact-check content online, research efficiently and introduce Google's privacy and security tools. We look at a variety of tools that can help journalists find correct sources as well as secure their own accounts and content.

Speaker
Isabelle Sonnenfeld, Google News Lab

Monday, May 27 | 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Room Berlin

Despite its pitfalls, the ANC manages to still draw massive crowds to their rallies.
economic performance of the country,” Styan told DW, highlighting South Africa’s poor economy, plummeting currency and painfully insufficient service delivery, affecting the nation’s power grid in particular, as load shedding continues to affect millions of South Africans each day.

If it’s not this utility crisis, it’s the prospect of another drought in Cape Town, not to mention the country’s murder rate, the subject of land redistribution, unemployment, poverty, malnourishment, immigration, xenophobia and racism. The only place where the new South Africa’s egalitarian principles ever seem to apply is once every five years at the ballot box—though little ever changes there.

Loyalty above scrutiny

Yet despite all the country’s internal dysfunction, South Africans in the millions will likely continue to vote for the ANC for decades to come. “The masses remain largely poorly educated and stuck deep in poverty,” James Styan says. “The ANC relies on these masses to keep voting for it.”

Even among the “born-free” generation in South Africa (born after 1994), there’s broad support for the ANC. The secretary general of ANC Youth League (ANCYL), Njabulo Nzuza, repeatedly came to President Zuma’s defense in the past: “It’s not Zuma who sits on the ballot, it’s the ANC,” Nzuza said, echoing the notion of loyalty voters across the nation feel when they hear the three-letter-name of their party mentioned anywhere.

Rallying around the rainbow party

But the ANC, despite its pitfalls, manages to still draw massive crowds to their rallies and, more importantly, to the ballot box, leaving any opposition trailing behind with envy. It is the only political party, after all, that unites so many South Africans under one flag, a feature it inherited from its former role as the nation’s leading liberation movement.

Above all, the party responds to the wounds of apartheid like no other movement has, bringing together various factions, tribes and ethnic groups which otherwise would not even want to be in the same room together. And that is a feat bigger than any corruption scandal. The ANC is a true rainbow party for a rainbow nation, where many of its voters don’t seem to care about the fact that the proverbial pot of gold at the other end is being plundered by those they voted into power.

77 percent of Africans are younger than 35. A generation of confident, dynamic people who can shape the future of Africa. DW joins African youths as they share their stories, their dreams and their challenges—on social media, radio and TV. The 77 Percent aims to inform and help but also entertain. It’s the young people who determine the contents: whether it’s tips for job seekers or for those already running a business, presenting cool ideas from other countries or confronting politicians with tough questions, all mixed with cartoons and satire. The 77 Percent makes people laugh and inspires them to dream. It’s a platform on which we listen to Africa’s majority. And give them a voice.

MONDAY, MAY 27 | 1:30 – 2:00 P.M. | DW BOOTH
The 77 Percent: Meet the crew behind Africa’s young social media format

PRESENTERS
Wanjiku Mwaura and Eddy Micah Jr.

Street debate: How can African journalists shape the image of their continent — at home and abroad?

Corruption in Nigeria. Famine in South Sudan. Violence in DR Congo. These are the narratives that make it out of Africa and onto the world stage. The 77 Percent, DW’s platform for Africa’s youth, is asking how African journalists can give international audiences the full picture. What good news should be making headlines? What stories will African readers identify with? And how can these stories shape the image of Africa?
Making movies in Africa: Breaking conventions

Together with the German production companies Good Karma Fiction and One Fine Day Films plus several other partners, DW Akademie is supporting African filmmakers across the continent in bringing local stories to the screen.

Text Nina Molter, DW Akademie

Kamau Wandungu grew up in Mathare, the second largest slum in Nairobi, Kenya. He got his first taste of drama while acting in a local school play and was encouraged to pursue an acting career. Today he is a writer and producer with his own production company, Tililiz. Wandungu first gained his know-how by taking part in One Fine Day Films workshops as well as a Good Karma Fiction workshop on soap operas. The trainers were all international experts aiming to strengthen Africa's film industries by building skills, professional networks and infrastructure.

The trainers taught him how to view his work from a different perspective and gave him "the confidence to sit down and actually write a story," he says. "I've since done two short films which I wrote, directed and produced on my own."

The courage to experiment

According to the UN World Population Prospects, Africa has the world's youngest age distribution. Africa also has the fastest-growing TV market.

As the demand for local stories continues to grow, new channels, such as online streaming services, are also finding an audience. DW Akademie and its partners are using this potential to support filmmakers in producing films and TV series that are not only financially viable but also focus on topics relevant to their viewers.

Wandungu recently had the chance to co-produce the pilot for Good Karma Fiction's new soap opera. Called "Country Queen," it deals with current topics ranging from land grabbing to the urban-rural divide. The main character is a woman who lives in the city but goes back to save her village after a mining company threatens to grab it.

Films, TV shows and soap operas often reach a much wider audience than fact-based formats. They can promote public debates about sensitive issues and counteract a society's fragmentation.

Wandungu admits that he and his team were not initially enthusiastic about getting involved in a soap opera but said that this changed when they started working with James MacSill, a writer from Brazil. "He talked about the characteristics of soap operas..."
and gave us pointers on how to write good scripts and develop characters.”

It’s all about quality

Still, digitization has also increased competition, making it tough for African filmmakers to reach audiences. “It’s always been a challenge, but it’s more difficult now,” says Wandungu. “Our country is exposed to Netflix and people won’t accept mediocrity anymore.”

This means that filmmakers need to deliver quality productions and develop their own voice. Wandungu is convinced that focusing on local stories is the way to get ahead. “The audience gets something that is truly Kenyan—a soap opera, for example—that is written by Kenyans for Kenyans. It’s a reflection of our society and that’s what the market is yearning for,” he said. Quality productions also have better chances in the international market.

According to Wandungu, an even bigger challenge for Kenyan filmmakers is the bureaucracy involved and a lack of experience in accounting and administration. Also missing, he adds, are investors willing to provide long-term funding.

One step at a time

These challenges are not unique to Kenya. Tiny Mungwe, a filmmaker and producer from South Africa, works for STEPS, a non-profit organization that uses documentary to give a voice to marginalized and disadvantaged communities. One of their documentary projects is Generation Africa, supported by DW Akademie. Mungwe and the STEPS team bring in documentary professionals from around the world to train and coach filmmakers.

“There are few support structures for filmmakers who want to make films across colonial boundaries that exist between English-speaking and French-speaking African filmmakers,” she points out.

One approach by Generation Africa is to “focus on the lived experiences of young people here. These films will build an audience for filmmakers,” she says, adding that it can change how Africa is conventionally portrayed. In terms of the film sector’s overall development, she added that the key is to network across country borders because they can learn so much from one another.

“There is great potential in building sustainable models for inter-African co-production and collaboration,” says Mungwe.

Film production in Africa

DW Akademie, funded by Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and its partners have been supporting and training African filmmakers with a number of projects. DW Akademie has been working with the One Fine Day Films production company co-founded by German film director Tom Tykwer. More than 1,400 filmmakers from 21 countries have since been trained and seven feature films produced.

In 2013, director Volker Schlöndorff initiated the Rwanda Media Project and with the support of DW Akademie, it offers master classes for filmmakers and a vocational training program for media designers. In a two-year pilot project, DW Akademie is also developing a global film fund to strengthen freedom of expression through film and TV productions. In 2018, DW Akademie launched four pilot projects for different formats together with Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin, Filmmakademie Baden-Württemberg, Good Karma Fiction and STEPS.

MONDAY, MAY 27 | 2:30 – 3:30 P.M. | ROOM ADDIS ABEBA II

And action: Film for media development

Film support as media cooperation is the focus of this workshop, which features the work that DW Akademie has done in Africa with the support of the film industry. The results aim to strengthen the economy in these countries while presenting an African perspective on various themes for a global audience.

The session is co-hosted by Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

SPEAKER
Waltraud Ehrhardt, Good Karma Fiction

HOST Edward Micah Jr., Africa Desk, DW
+90 — Connect to an independent agenda

In a unique collaboration of four international broadcasters, BBC, DW, France24 and VOA have launched a Turkish-language YouTube channel in Istanbul on April 29.

> The objective of the channel is to provide independent and trusted information, respecting freedom of speech and fostering the expression of different views.

> The diverse programming of +90 is aimed at Turkish-speaking users living in Turkey and abroad, who are interested in international politics, business, social issues, science and culture.

> Representatives of the four international broadcasters held a joint press conference in Istanbul for the launch of the new YouTube channel. DW Director General Peter Limbourg: “These four media outlets stand for unbiased, independent journalism and freedom of the press. With the unique joint approach that is +90, we are reaching out to Turkey. There is great international interest in this country. We would like to contribute to a better understanding by offering a platform for dialogue and involving the audience in ways we haven’t done before.”

> FMM Chairwoman and CEO Marie-Christine Saragosse: “Digital technology has completely transformed the way people keep themselves informed about world events. This is particularly true for the younger generations. But the advent of online platforms has also seen a surge in fake news, one of today’s great banes. In this environment offering certified, verified information is one of the core missions of France Médias Monde. That is precisely what compelled us to join our European, British and transatlantic partners and become an associate partner in launching +90.”

> Eric Phillips, program manager South and Central Asia Division at VOA: “We are supporting +90 because we want to create truly impactful content and conversations that matter. VOA’s approach is ‘digital first’ and via YouTube we hope to reach young, influential people. It is paramount that they can express their opinions freely.”

> The international broadcasters will contribute selected video content to the +90 channel where users will find a growing variety of reports, interviews and features. All content is available on demand.

Explore the new channel: 🎥 youtube.com/plus90

Join channel manager Isil Nergiz for a presentation of the project:
**MONDAY, MAY 27 | 2:00 – 2:30 P.M. | DW BOOTH**

Enter! Young Europeans get on board

The sails are set for an ambitious European cooperation project as DW and France’s international broadcaster FFM work to develop an online platform for topics that affect and move young people in Europe.

> Digital, participative and multilingual, the Enter! portal intends to spark conversations about topics relevant to young people and to make Europe a more tangible experience. With the project, the two international broadcasters want to strengthen the civil society among young Europeans and are particularly keen to reach those who feel repressed or indifferent towards Europe.

> Enter! has political support through the Aachen Friendship Treaty that was signed in January by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron. Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media Monika Grütters also underlined the significance of the media venture: “This new platform has the potential to become another beacon in bilateral cultural and media cooperation.”

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The quirks of German politics and society

Once a week, Damien McGuinness, Berlin correspondent for the BBC, and DW's Chief Political Editor Michaela Kufner disappear into a radio studio with two special guests. Political inhibitions are left at the door and after the red light goes on, the roundtable leaves all nonsense aside.

“What is really going on?” is the underlying question behind every Stammtisch as the hosts and their guests aim to get at the week’s pressing questions. There’s a focus on big issues like artificial intelligence, the state of Europe’s democracy or the future of the beleaguered German government.

Often set to a cheesy German pop classic soundtrack, Stammtisch opens the door to both cultural and political insight as guests divulge what’s going on behind the scenes in Berlin. When it comes to hot-button political debates, it’s the off-the-record stuff that didn’t quite fit into that week’s news coverage that often makes the final cut. Like which German politicians are betting their next bar tab on the future of Brexit.

The engaging and entertaining guest list includes prominent journalists and experts, both international and German, who bring their personal observations on what is different, remarkable or downright weird about German politics and society to the studio. Like the very concept of safety, which really struck Jeremy Cliffe, former Berlin bureau chief of The Economist. He has written about the heart of “German Angst,” and described the “Germans’ constant fear that the end could be near.” On the podcast, he used an anecdote about a former U.S. ambassador who was warned by a passerby that he was surely going to die in an accident if he didn’t immediately tie his shoelaces. Further proof, Cliffe argued, that to many Germans “without rules and systems and institutions, calamity will occur.”

Keeping guests on their toes from time to time, host Damien McGuinness regularly tests his guests’ knowledge. As guest on the show, you’d better be able to tell your Merkel quotes from your Macron quotes and know where exactly Germany is putting its budget money.

Often the only German in the room, Michaela Kufner never tires of explaining the odd quirks of German politics and society, like why stability is sexy for most Germans, a possible explanation for why Angela Merkel remains popular even as some of her policies aren’t.

After hearing all the latest political gossip from Berlin, listeners of the Stammtisch podcast will have their finger on the pulse of all the latest developments in Germany, as well the country’s role on the European and world stage.

Who knew German politics could be so entertaining?

twitter.com — #DWStammtisch

Be part of the first ever live recording during the DW Global Media Forum:
TUESDAY, MAY 28 | 12:30 – 1:30 P.M. | ROOM BONN III
What makes you think the everyday lives of people in Africa should be presented in a new light?

People around the world have misunderstood and misrepresented Africa for too long. It’s insulting, colonialist and diminishing in myriad ways, and Everyday Africa is an attempt to change that. The stereotypes are pervasive.

Yes, these things exist on the continent, but just like safaris, they are not the norm for everyone. Most people live very normal lives that, in many ways, are much like our lives in the West. Establishing that baseline truth can lead to a more equitable level of interaction and understanding, on a personal and a global scale. It’s very much a human rights issue.

“Everyday Africa — Re-picturing a Continent” is a successful collaboration of African and non-African photographers. It uses pictures to challenge the stereotypes that distort our understanding of the continent. Austin Merrill, co-founder of Everyday Africa, presents the project and the exhibition at the DW Global Media Forum in Bonn in May.

Questions Martina Bertram, DW

© Tom Saater

> Instagram @EverydayAfrica
You use social media, especially Instagram, for your project. Isn’t that hopeless in view of the large number of rather stereotypical images of Africa?
What better way to spread the word? Publishing a story in a newspaper would get you one or two photographs, if you’re lucky. In a magazine, maybe a couple more than that. Space is shrinking in traditional media outlets, which have become a more difficult storytelling path than ever before. We’ve created our own publishing platform through Instagram, we have built a large following, and we can deliver the stories we want to tell directly to our audience. And traditional media outlets have taken note. They have reached out to publish our work, and we have seen many outlets that concentrate on that kind of coverage. We’re offering something different, something that is important, because prior to Everyday Africa it wasn’t easy to see these kinds of images.

Isn’t Everyday Africa embellishing in a way that doesn’t do justice to the fate of many people in the face of ongoing conflicts and problems such as a lack of perspective and mass flight, corruption and despotism?

These are exactly the kinds of stereotypes we’re trying to combat. And I’m not sure what is meant by embellishment. We’re simply photographing scenes of everyday life and sharing them with the world. We’re not saying bad things don’t happen. It’s important to cover traditional news stories, but that’s not our focus. There are plenty of outlets that concentrate on that kind of coverage. We’re offering something different, something that is important, because prior to Everyday Africa it wasn’t easy to see these kinds of images.

What do you expect from the Global Media Forum in Bonn?
I’m looking forward to meeting and learning from people. And I hope to share our story with a new audience, an audience that will understand the importance of what we’re trying to do and will be inspired to help us spread the word. Not just about Everyday Africa, but about all of the various Everyday feeds all over the world.

Yes, things like poverty, disease and conflict exist on the continent, but they are not the norm for everyone.
Fundamental rights: Germany’s Constitution at 70

According to a recent survey, 88 percent of German citizens rate their Constitution “very good” or “good.” On May 23, 2019, the German Basic Law will have been in effect for 70 years. In honor of the occasion, DW looks at people who are committed to fundamental rights.

In a six-part TV and social media series, the authenticity of its characters, like Dominik Bloh, shines through. Bloh lived on the streets for years: “A brutal life,” he said, in which he was often treated like a leper. During the refugee influx a few years back, the young man met people who were even worse off. Dominik helped them—and in doing so, found support for himself. For the last two years, he has been living in an apartment and become involved in offering the homeless a bus in which they can wash themselves. “Because washing is dignity,” Bloh said.

20-year-old Natalie Dedreux actively stands up for the rights of those with disabilities and against discrimination. DW reporters followed the woman with Down’s Syndrome to capture her everyday live in Cologne and at a demonstration in Berlin. “Life with Down’s Syndrome is cool,” she said. She signed a petition against making the costs of genetic testing to determine chromosomal differences during pregnancy covered by public insurance. “I am afraid that babies like me will no longer be born.”

Deutschtrainer now in Farsi

For Nowruz, the Persian New Year in March, DW launched a bilingual German-language training tool in Farsi.

The online tool includes vocabulary from 100 topics of everyday life. Bilingual video slides with easily recognizable images support building up one’s vocabulary. Everyone can choose the topic that interests them most and progress at their own pace. The German trainer is also ideal for training pronunciation, making it particularly suitable for self-learners and for those who use it on a smartphone.

DW Women: New facebook page

Providing a broad array of content related to women’s rights and empowerment, the DW Women Facebook page was launched on International Women’s Day, March 8.

Drawing from video reports and articles posted across DW’s diverse offerings, the site lends a voice to the issues facing women and girls around the world.

“Women’s empowerment is one of our focus topics. The new Facebook account will help make our content about and for women more visible. It is kind of a ‘best of’ compilation of DW content from all editorial teams,” said DW Editor-in-Chief Ines Pohl.
Curious about Germany?

Discover a diverse, modern country on www.deutschland.de. Everything you need to know about politics, business, society and culture — and the most important tips on studying and working in Germany.

facebook.com/deutschland.de  twitter.com/en_germany  instagram.com/germany_en  blog.deutschland.de/en
The growing need for a broader worldview

With the debut of several new TV shows on DW’s English-language broadcasts, reporting on regional news has been enhanced. Presenting these shows are four new-to-DW hosts who have a close relationship to the broadcast areas. Meet the co-hosts of DW News Africa and DW News Asia and hear more about their future plans for their roles in presenting thoughtful and constructive stories on Africa and Asia from a European perspective.

Presenting DW News Africa are Christine Mhundwa and Eddy Micah Jr. Already a familiar face at DW, Mhundwa joined the broadcaster in 2015 after a stint at CNBC Africa in Johannesburg where she covered the South African stock market and economy. Originally from Zimbabwe, she’s hoping to use her time at DW to help the broadcaster grow into a platform for Africans across the continent to connect and start a dialogue by relying on perspectives from their own countries. She sees her role as one in which she gets to portray Africa in a way that is helpful, constructive.

“I ask myself every day if I’ve made a difference in helping tell Africa’s story in a way people on the continent will appreciate,” says Mhundwa. “I’m no longer in a position to lament how we as Africans are portrayed in a negative light; I have a platform to make sense of our continent to a wider audience, to help people see that there are problems but there are also progressive developments.”

Her co-host Eddy Micah Jr. hails from Ghana, the near total opposite end of the continent. A lover of football and basketball, the former local radio journalist also hosts the DW YouTube series, The 77 Percent, which is aimed at making young people more aware and involved in their communities.

“I’m really interested in topics that engage the youth and help shape their future — politics, society, health, anything empowering,” he says. “I believe Europe should know more about Africa and vice versa. There is so much more exchange of knowledge that can be mutually beneficial.” An avid Twitter user, @eddymicah jokes that he always brings his A-game while working for the international broadcaster with such a large viewing public.

Two new faces have likewise joined the DW team as co-hosts in the News Asia studio: Melissa Chan and Biresh Banerjee. Born in Hong Kong and raised in Los Angeles, Chan graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor’s degree in history and obtained a Master’s degree in comparative politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She's worked as a journalist for over 20 years, coming to DW from the New York Times.

A versatile horse rider, Chan’s excited to be taking on her role at DW, where she says her personal values align tightly with the broadcaster’s priorities. “One of the most valuable contributions Europe has provided the world has been the Enlightenment’s articulation of individualism, which of course also means individual rights and human rights. In the 21st century, this is a universal value, and I am interested in and committed to seeing how this value plays out in Asia,” she says. “China is the big question here. It is a growing regional power with a different set of values, and I think Europeans need to pay attention to this. That’s where DW comes in, because the newsroom stands for human rights and freedom of the press.”

Also joining News Asia with an eye to the developments in South and Southeast Asia, Banerjee received a Master’s degree in media management from the University of Westminster, London. Moving to DW after previous work with The Pioneer, TV Today Network and NewsX, Banerjee says he’s really hoping to use his role to listen to people’s hopes and aspirations and “to bridge gaps in perception between people on opposite sides of the world.”

He said a lot has changed since his childhood and he’s interested in exploring how those changes have impacted people across Asia. “The sense of self-confidence and self-belief people across South and Southeast Asia have now, compared to when I was growing up has shifted. People truly believe they have the power to improve their own lives and with it, the countries they live in. People have the legitimate right to decide their futures even if it seems odd to people elsewhere.”

The four new hosts are a welcome addition to the DW team as the English-language channels moves toward more targeted reporting that focuses on local issues and responds to the growing need for a broader worldview.

Inb, your conclusion or questions.
17. bis 31. Mai 2019

Lisa Wulff Quartett
Quasthoff Quartett
Eric Schaefer – Kyoto mon Amour
Joe Lovano Trio Tapestry
Riccardo Del Fra – Moving People
Shake Stew
JO
Jean-Paul Bourelly Trio
Tobias Hoffmann Trio
Lucia Cadotsch – Speak Low
Of Cabbages And Kings
Miroslav Vitouš & Emil Viklický
Manu Katché – The Scope
Jazzrausch Bigband
Florian Weber Quartett
WDR Big Band feat. Knower
Tower of Power
Julia Hülsmann Oktett
Yellowjackets
Kyle Eastwood Quintet
Web Web
plus Special Guest
Joy Denalane
Helge Lien & Knut Hem
Jason Moran
Momika Roscher Bigband
Mezzoforte