



# Digital Media in Repressive Regimes

## Public sphere, civic engagement and political mobilization

Public Research Seminar, Copenhagen, 10-11 November 2008  
The Danish Institute for Human Rights  
Strandgade 71, Main Auditorium, ground floor  
1401 Copenhagen K

### DRAFT PROGRAM

#### Monday, 10 November

9.15 – 9.45 Registration

**9.45 – 10.00 Welcome**

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

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

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

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

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

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

11.15 **Panel debate and discussion**

**12.00 – 13.00 Lunch**

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

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

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

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

14.15 **Panel debate and discussion**

**15.00 - 15.20 Coffee break**

- 15.20 – 17.00    Session 3: Frontline Activism**  
**Political mobilization through digital media**
- 15.20            **Sami Ben Gharbia** (Advocacy Program, Global Voices)  
*The Battle for Online Free Speech in Tunisia*
- 15.45            **Walid Al-Saqaf** (Founder of the Yemen Portal)  
*Confronting Censorship of Online News and Opinion Content in the Arab World*
- 16.10            **Sara Kalantari** (University of Oslo)  
*Information Superhighway in Iran: Liberator or Panoptikon?*
- 16.35            **Panel debate and discussion**

## **Tuesday, 11 November**

- 9.30 – 12.00    Session 4: Analyzing Digital Activism**  
**The role of digital media for freedom of expression and democratization**
- 9.30            **Brief thematic introduction**
- 9.45            **Bruce Etling** (The Berkman Center, Harvard University)  
*The Internet & Democracy*
- 10.10            **Karin Karlekar** (Freedom House)  
*The Global Internet Freedom Index*
- 10.35 – 11.00    Coffee break**
- 11.00            **Mariam Memarsadeghi** (Independent Consultant)  
*The Internet and the Struggle for Voice in Repressive Regime Contexts*
- 11.25            **Panel debate and discussion**
- 12.00 – 13.00    Lunch**
- 13.00 – 15.00    Session 5: Online Free Speech**  
**How digital media facilitates civic engagement**
- 13.00            **Charlotte Flindt Petersen** (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)  
*Digital Media in the Post-Soviet Countries*
- 13.25            **Kristen Taylor** (The Knight Foundation, Media Program)  
*Aggregating Commentary on Information Needs*
- 13.50            **Ravinder Kaur** (Roskilde University)  
*Using Humor in Iranian Politics in Digital Media*
- 14.15            **Panel debate and discussion**
- 15.00 – 15.30    Conference Conclusions**

**Participation is free. Please sign up before 4 November 2008 by sending an email to [copenhagenseminar@gmail.com](mailto:copenhagenseminar@gmail.com)**