



**SOMALI MEDIA and DIASPORA WORKSHOP
PROGRAMME IN COMPARATIVE MEDIA LAW & POLICY
OXFORD UNIVERSITY**

JUNE 29-30

Wednesday, 29 June

Location: Seminar Room A, Manor Road Building, University of Oxford

9.30- 10.00 **Welcome and Introductions**

10.00-11.30 **Diasporas, Conflict and Peace**

This opening session will offer context for the workshop by exploring the ways in which diaspora communities affect conflict and contribute to peace building. In what ways are diaspora communities investing their resources and engaging back home? Have methods of engagement changed as technologies have advanced?

Dr Nicholas Van Hear, COMPAS, Oxford University
Mohamed Gaas, Author of *Remittances for Peace*
Farah Aden, Former Director of Horn Afrik

11.30-11.45 **Coffee**

11.45-1.15 **Satellite Television and the Image of the Nation**

Satellite television stations are an important source of news both within Somalia and for the diaspora communities. This session will explore how satellite channels offer similar or competing visions of the nation and the implications this reporting has on national politics. While satellite stations have offices abroad to what extent do they articulate a narrative from the diaspora and for the diaspora? How do they balance the competing needs of their viewers? Additionally, significant changes in technology are forcing television stations to adapt and evolve. How have the stations been adapting and competing with other media outlets like websites, radio stations and international broadcasters?

Ahmed Almubarak, Director of Universal TV
Dr Jean Chalaby, Department of Sociology, City University
Fawzia Ahmed, Raad TV
CHAIR: Dr Abel Ugba, University of East London

1.15-2.15 **Lunch**

2.15-3.45 **The Online Media Ecology**

The internet and new communication technologies have radically transformed diaspora politics and the ways in which news is created and consumed. This session will attempt

to examine the many diverse ways in which Somalis are engaging in the online space, from Facebook to Twitter, from discussion groups to blogs. How have different political parties and non-governmental groups sought to occupy the public space online? How have they used the web to galvanize supporters or convey particular agendas? How are online platforms like chat forums and social media networks being used and what is their potential for fostering collaboration between diaspora and national politics?

Abdikarim Abdi Buh, Editor, Wardheer News Online
Dr Abdisalam Issa-Salwe, Taibah University, Saudi Arabia
Dr Yasmin Ibrahim, School of Business and Management, Queen Mary University
CHAIR: Harbi Kullane, Political Correspondent, Sheeko Magazine

3.45-4.00 **Break**

4.00-5.15 **Keynote Talk - The Role of Remittances**
Abdirashid Duale, CEO of Dahabshiil

Discussant:

Dr Anna Lindley, School of Oriental and African Studies

Thursday, 30 June

Location: Seminar Room A, Manor Road Building, University of Oxford

9.30-11.00 **Diaspora and Political Mobilization**
This panel will focus on the ways in which diaspora communities engage in political processes in their homeland. It will also look more closely at the ways in which political parties and politicians mobilize the diaspora for support. Given that politics in Somalia is heavily dominated by members of the diaspora, we wish to explore how this has both shaped, and been shaped by, media and new media in particular. How are political reforms and electoral campaigns communicated? And how does the diaspora contribute to the framing of political actors? How do Somalis living inside Somalia perceive the role of the diaspora political involvement? In what ways does it coincide or diverge from the ways in which the diaspora perceive their own role?

Dr Afyare Elmi, Department of International Affairs, Qatar University
Dr Don Slater, Department of Sociology, LSE
Abdulkadir Farah, Kasmoo Newspaper
CHAIR: Dr Gregory Kent, Department of Social Science, University of Roehampton

11.00-11.30 **Coffee**

11.30- 1.00 **Governments, Communication and the Diaspora**
How do the communication strategies directed at constituencies inside the country differ from those directed at diaspora communities? What communication techniques can governments adopt to better mobilize the diaspora? This session will draw on experiences from Somaliland and will discuss the TFG's current approach.

Yusuf Gabobe, Hatuuf Newspaper
Ali Abdi Dahir, Director of International Affairs, Shabelle
Sahal Abdulle, Consultant, Albany Associates
CHAIR: Iqbal Jazbhy, Institute for Global Dialogue, University of South Africa

1.00-2.00 **Lunch**

2.00-3.30

The Politics of International Broadcasters

The language services of international broadcasters such as Al Jazeera, the BBC and VOA are influenced by, and accountable to, their governments but they are also shaped by the journalists from the specific countries they target. These journalists are often members of the diaspora, and frequently political exiles with previous media experience in their home country. International broadcasters have often been accused of political bias. How are journalists and editors selected and what methods are used for monitoring programming and content quality? As the media environment has become increasingly competitive, how has the influence of these stations changed over time and how have the international broadcasters sought to remain competitive?

Abdisalam Hareri, Head of UK office, VOA Somali Service

Abdi Aynte, Broadcaster, Al Jazeera

Amina Weheliye, Broadcaster, BBC Somali Service and Director, White Veils for Peace

CHAIR: Mary Harper, Africa Editor, BBC World Service

3.30

Coffee

4.00-5.30

Conclusions and Looking Forward