

Communication Lab for Exchange between Research and Media

ComLab#9: Contested Freedom – from Migration to AI and the Climate Crisis

19 – 22 September 2024, Berlin

All over the world, people take to the streets for their freedom. They protest against war, xenophobia and the climate crisis. In many places they risk their lives for a better, more just society. But “freedom” is a difficult concept and, depending on the respective interests, open to interpretation. Whilst some people feel climate laws restrict their freedom and affluence, others see them as ways of protecting humans and the environment. Whilst new technologies like artificial intelligence make information accessible more quickly and efficiently, octopus and deep fakes also aid discrimination and manipulation on the web. ComLab#9 seeks to explore the social, ethical and economic areas where freedom is under threat and develop constructive communication strategies, showcasing unheard narratives.

Twenty researchers, twenty journalists, four days in Berlin: Comlab#9 is not merely a conference. It is a bootcamp for science communication and journalism that guarantees a safe environment for collaboration. Together with experts from research, media, civil society organisations and the political sector we will look at current global dynamics and interpretations of freedom. In keynotes, networking rounds, group work, training sessions and a final pitching slam, ComLab#9 focuses on:

- ❖ **Migration Dynamics:** Understand the complex interplay of migration and nation-building, and the promise and realities of freedom for people on the move. What are different types of freedom under threat in migrant societies and how can we learn to unlock the potential of diversity in all areas of life to ensure freedom for all?
- ❖ **Enhancing AI:** Delve into the realms of artificial intelligence and its role in empowering and/or undermining freedom. How does AI enhance access to information, also providing novel applications in medicine, industry and communications, and what can be done to prevent misuse through ever more advanced manipulation, and deep fakes?
- ❖ **Climate Change Narratives:** Unearth strategies to communicate the urgency of the climate crisis, forging narratives that not only raise awareness of the global interconnection of climate policies and its consequences but also empower individuals and communities to campaign for a free and sustainable future.

Preliminary Programme ComLab#9

The times indicated refer to CEST (Central European Summer Time)

Day I: 19 September 2024

15:30	Check-In
19:00	Welcome Dinner

Day II: 20 September 2024

9:00	Check-In
9:30	Opening
10:00	Flash talk & Discussion “Your Freedom or Mine? Conflict Zones of Liberty: A Science-Media Dialogue”
11:30	Matchmaking / Networking
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Networking tables with representatives from media, research, civil society organizations and political sector <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Migration Dynamics• Enhancing AI• Climate Change Narratives• Diversity in Communicating Science Reports Moderators
15:00	Coffee Break
15:30	Group Sessions / Deep Dive
17:00	Regional Reports “Fake News and Misinformation”
18:00	Dinner
19:30	Workshop “Future Prototyping” for Migration, AI and Climate Issues
21:30	Wrap-Up

Day III: 21 September 2024

9:00	Opening
9:30	Trainings / Workshops (parallel sessions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI in Journalism and Science Writing • Podcast Trends • Infographics / Visualisations in Communicating Science • The Future of Social Media
11:00	Keynotes “AI and Migration” & “Big Data and Climate Policies” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI and Conflict Mapping: How to Use Tech to Secure Peace • What the Numbers Tell Us – or Not: Big Data, Social Perspectives and Climate Policies from the Global South
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Flash talk: Hook me – How to Pitch a Science Story
14:15	Mentoring Session Part One: Brainstorming Stories and Matching Session
15:30	Coffee Break
16:00	Deep Dive Teamwork
17:00	Mentoring Session Part Two: Editorial Conference
18:30	Dinner
19:30	Free Time or/and Group Work

Day IV: 22 September 2024

9:00	Opening
9:30	Key Learnings of ComLab#9: Memory Wall
10:00	Pitching Session with Editors
11:30	Judicial Conference
12:30	Presentation of Winning Teams
13:00	Final Remarks and Farewell
13:15	Lunch
14:00	Departure Participants