

Deep Internationalization - Media and public spheres in fragile states: The case of Afghanistan

Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies

Module: 06-005-0611, Media Change and Social Change

A seminar of the Research Centre for Development Communication - Communication for Social Change

Thursday, 13:00 – 15:00 & 2 x 10:00 – 16:30

Room: The seminar will be held in a hybrid format.

Room for block sessions in presence: **room number**

Instructor name:

Dr. Hazrat Bahar (Universität Leipzig, EC4SC)

Additional lecturers

Mariam Meetra (Universität Leipzig, EC4SC)

Laily Habib (Universität Leipzig, EC4SC)

Ali Reza Husaaini (Universität Leipzig, EC4SC)

Hamid Obaidi (Universität Leipzig, EC4SC)

Abumoslem Khueasani (Universität Leipzig, EC4SC)

Instructor email: hazrat.bahar@uni-leipzig.de]

Introduction of the course:

The DFG-funded network "Cosmopolitan Communication Studies" calls for a "deep internationalization" or "cosmopolitan orientation" of German Communication Studies (KW). This is understood as "a comprehensive recognition and integration of global diversity in knowledge production, measured in terms of the content and spatial dimension of the research and teaching output of professorships and the associated job structures". The results of the project show that "German HE has a lot of catching up to do in terms of 'cosmopolitan knowledge production'" and call for an "in-depth internationalization" of teaching and research in this country, which "essentially involves quantitative measurement and qualitative assessment of knowledge production oriented towards international topics, contexts and comparisons". Looking beyond the Eurocentric horizon is seen as crucial for the contribution of KW. The recognition of the international diversity of academic cultures is also reflected in the use of theoretical perspectives and approaches, methodologies and objects of study that go beyond or complement the traditional paths of Western research. Many societies outside Europe and the USA, for example, have a wealth of experience with multi-ethnic or multi-religious diversity and may have acquired valuable transformative knowledge through "asynchronous leapfrogging effects". Understanding these experiences can help avoid possible stagnation at the local level in Germany or Europe. In Germany, neither technological digitalisation nor the possibilities of digital mobility have been fully exploited. Given the importance of global values, global knowledge and global governance, there is a clear need for development in German communication studies.

In this seminar, we will focus on a topic and environment that has been completely unexplored in German communication studies: media and public spheres in fragile states, using Afghanistan as an example. We want to observe the development of participatory media and communication structures from within fragile state and social structures. Given the specific challenges and complexities of fragile states such as Afghanistan, it is of particular interest to understand the role that media can play in promoting participation, dialogue and social change. Through comprehensive analysis and empirical research, we will gain insights into how people in such environments raise their voices, share information and participate in public discourse.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be generally exposed to and able to have a clear idea about 'deep internationalization,' what deep internationalization is important, what is media system, the elements of media systems, the relationship between political systems and media systems, factors that impact media systems, what and how was media system in Afghanistan in the past two decades, how it was developed, how it was functioning and its roles. Besides that, participants will learn about journalism and social media and their roles.

Required Readings:

1. Hallin & Mancini (2004) *Comparing media systems: three models of media and politics (Introduction and Conclusion)*.
2. Richter & Kozman (2021) *Arab Media Systems (Introduction and Conclusion)*.
<https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/1281>
3. Richter & et al. (2023) *Die „tiefe Internationalisierung“ der deutschen Kommunikationswissenschaft?: Eine Evaluation der Personal- und Forschungsstrukturen sowie der Lehrprogramme deutscher Hochschulen*, Global Media Journal. https://www.db-thueringen.de/receive/dbt_mods_00057904
4. Khalvatgar (2019) *Afghanistan - Media Landscapes*
<https://medialandscapes.org/country/afghanistan>
- 5.

Grading

Writing an essay, mini/maximum **1000/1500** words, about topics taught during the class. The essay is assessed for its argument, criticality, and novelty. The essay may be checked against plagiarism and genuineness.

Schedule

4 April (13:00 – 15:00) - Introduction

11 April (13:00 – 15:00) - Deep internationalization

Required reading

1. *Die „tiefe Internationalisierung“ der deutschen Kommunikationswissenschaft?: Eine Evaluation der Personal- und Forschungsstrukturen sowie der Lehrprogramme deutscher Hochschulen,*
2. *Afghanistan - Media Landscapes*

18 April (13:00 – 15:00) - Media system of Afghanistan

Required reading

1. Introduction and Conclusion of *Comparing Media Systems*
2. Introduction and Conclusion of *Arab Media Systems*

02 May (10:00-16:30)

(10:00-11:30, 13:00-14:30, 15:00-16:30)

- Journalism culture in Afghanistan
- Social Media in Conflict: A Theoretical Framework
- Gender Activism and Social Media in Afghanistan

16 May (13:00 – 15:00) - Gender Activism and Social Media in Afghanistan

(Follow-up + guest)

30 May (13:00 – 15:00) - Media system in Afghanistan

(Funding + guest)

13 June (13:00 – 15:00) - Journalism culture in Afghanistan

(Follow-up + guest)

27 June (10:00-16:30) (10:00-11:30, 13:00-14:30, 15:00-16:30)

- The Taliban's Media Network and Social Media Strategy
- YouTube channels in Afghanistan
- Tools for Understanding & Analyzing Social Media Data

04 July (13:00 – 15:00) - Evaluation