BIOGRAPHIES

Moderation

Annelies Beck, Journalist, VRT

When it comes to news and current affairs programmes on the VRT, Annelies Beck is almost part of the furniture. She has presented just about all major news shows on the public broadcaster and also worked as national and international reporter for Terzake. She has also presented Terzake on the Canvas channel for many years now. In 2017, she won the Grote Prijs Jan Wauters for excellence in the Dutch language.

Annelies is a determined moderator, interviewer and presenter, also in English. She also presents lectures about migration in times of war, based on her first novel about Belgian refugees during WW1. Her latest novel is set in Brazil and incorporates a Belgian attempt at colonisation in the 19th century with a contemporary storyline. She has lived in Brazil, earned an MA in Brazilian Studies in London and also follows the country for the VRT news.

Opening Remarks

Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director General, Communication and Information, UNESC0

Tawfik Jelassi is Professor of Strategy and Technology Management at IMD. His major research, teaching and consulting interests are in the areas of digital business transformation and leadership in turbulent times. He was granted in Europe and the USA several excellence awards for his teaching and research, and the President of Tunisia awarded him two national decorations.

Before joining IMD, Dr Jelassi was Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Information & Communication Technologies in the transition-to-democracy Government of Tunisia (2014-2015). Between 2000 and 2013, he was Professor and Dean of the Business School at Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (Paris). At IMD, Professor Jelassi has been teaching in leadership programs and has also directed or taught on several tailored executive education programs for companies such as Mitsubishi, Bayer, Unilever, Huawei, Telecom Malaysia, Turkcell, etc.

Dr Jelassi's research has appeared in leading academic journals as well as practitioner-oriented publications including Harvard Business Review, MIS Quarterly Executive, European Management Journal and Information Systems World. Dr Jelassi holds a Ph.D. degree in information systems from the Stern School of Business at New York University (USA).

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High level opening session
Social media content governance and impact on peace and conflict dynamics

Věra Jourová, Vice-President, European Commission

Věra Jourová is currently Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency that deals with democracy, the rule of law, disinformation and media pluralism. From 2014 to 2019, she served as EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before arriving at the European Commission, Ms Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic.

Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law and a Master's degree in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.

Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser, UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Alice Wairimu Nderitu is the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Ms Nderitu has been a recognized voice in the field of peacebuilding and violence prevention, having led as mediator and senior adviser in reconciliation processes among communities in her country, Kenya, as well as in other African settings.

She served as Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission in Kenya (2009-2013) as well as Founding Member and co-Chair of the Uwiano Platform for Peace, a prevention agency linking early warning to early response in Kenya. She is also the founder of Community Voices for Peace and Pluralism, a network of African women professionals preventing, transforming and solving violent, ethnic, racial and religious conflicts worldwide.

Ms Nderitu holds a Master of Armed Conflict and Peace Studies (2013) and a Bachelor of Arts, Literature and Philosophy (1990) from the University of Nairobi. She is a Transitional Justice Fellow, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in South Africa. She is widely published and is the recipient of awards recognizing her commitment to peaceful resolution of conflicts throughout Africa and innovative approach to mediation.

Hilde Hardeman, Director - Head of Service, Foreign Policy Instrument, European Commission

Hilde Hardeman is Head of the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI). Ms Hardeman has spent over twenty years working for the European Commission, covering external relations and economic and competitiveness issues. From 2014 to early 2017, she served as Deputy Head of Cabinet to Vice-President Katainen in charge of Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness.

Between 2011 and 2014, she was in charge of briefing the President of the Commission for meetings with EU Heads of State or Government. Previously, she headed the Commission's Units for Relations with Russia and with Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. She became Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments in May 2017 with a focus on putting the EU's Foreign Policy Instruments to the best possible use in achieving the EU's foreign policy objectives and projecting EU interests abroad.

Guy Berger, Director, UNESCO Communication and Information Sector

Guy Berger is Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development at UNESCO. He is responsible for the Organization's global work on press freedom, safety of journalists, internet freedom, media pluralism and independence, gender and media, media and information literacy, and journalism education. Before joining UNESCO, he headed the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. He has also worked in both press and television and had a long-running column on the The Mail & Guardian website. Besides that, Guy Berger was the deputy chair of the South African National Editor's Forum. He holds a Doctorate in Philosophy, from Rhodes University, has published extensively, and has won several awards.

Matt Brittin, President, Google Europe, Middle East and Africa

Matt Brittin leads Google's business and operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa - helping people, communities, companies and countries make the most of technology. Joining Google in 2007 to help build its business in the UK, he became MD of Google UK two years later. In 2011, he was promoted to lead Northern and Central Europe, before taking over as President of Business and Operations in EMEA in 2014.

In his current role, Mr Brittin has been a driving force behind Grow with Google, a global initiative that's trained 10M+ across Europe, the Middle East and Africa on skills needed for the jobs of the future - working side by side with partners ranging from German trade unions to small business federations to the UN World Tourism Organization.

Prior to Google, he had a long career in media and marketing, most recently in the newspaper industry, where he led commercial and digital operations at the UK's biggest publisher. Matt Brittin is a trustee of charity The Media Trust, was a non-executive Director at retailer Sainsbury's for nine years to 2020 and previously for nine years a trustee of The Climate Group. He has an MBA from London Business School and an MA from Cambridge.

Markus Reinisch, Vice-President Public Policy, Facebook Europe, Middle East and Africa

Markus Reinisch joined Facebook in March 2018 as the Vice President for Public Policy in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. His portfolio includes the management of the company's regional public policy strategy and key relationships with senior policy stakeholders. Prior to this, Markus was Global Public Policy Director at Vodafone, where he was responsible for leading the company's work on developing policy strategies and engagement with policy makers. He has also held other executive policy roles within the communications industry including at Colt Group, Orange Group and Deloitte Consulting. Markus holds an LLM from the University of Warwick and a law degree from the University of Vienna.

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Panel Session 1
Social Media 4 Peace: Challenges and Opportunities

Prof. Hubert Gijzen, Director, UNESCO's regional Office in Nairobi

Prof. Hubert Gijzen holds a PhD in Biotechnology and has an established career of over 38 years in both academics and in international cooperation for sustainable development. Throughout his career, he has lived and worked in various countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe, in a range of senior functions as Full Professor and Chair in Universities, as a Diplomat, Team Leader, Regional Representative, and currently as UNESCO Regional Director and Representative.

Mr Gijzen joined the United Nations in 2006 as the Director of the UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. In 2015, he was appointed as the Regional Director of the newly established UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe.

He also serves as the UNESCO Representative to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. On 30 June 2021, he moved to the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya) as Director.

Besides his current work for UNESCO, he continues to hold academic positions as full Professor of Environmental Biotechnology at IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education (since 1995).

Simon Bojsen-Moller, Deputy Head of Unit, Foreign Policy Instrument, European Commission

Before joining the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments in 2018, Simon worked for fourteen years in EU Delegations in the Middle East. This include the EU Delegation to Syria (2007-2013, 2015-2018) in a number of functions, including as Acting Head of Delegation/Charge d'Affaires a.i. (2016-2017) and as Head of Political Section (2010-2011 (acting); 2016-2018); the EU Delegation in Lebanon (2013-15); and the EU Delegation to Jordan and Yemen (2004-2006).

Simon Bojsen-Møller holds a MA in Interdisciplinary European Studies (College of Europe) and a MA in History and Middle Eastern Studies (University of Copenhagen).

Iverna McGowan, Director of Europe Office, Center for Democracy and Technology

Iverna McGowan is Director of the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) at the Europe Office, and an advocate for ensuring international human rights standards are at the core of law and policy related to technology.

Prior to joining CDT, Ms. McGowan served as a Senior Advisor to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She led the work on protecting online civic space and human rights and technology more broadly for the European Regional Office. She previously served for seven years as the Executive Director and Advocacy Director for Europe at Amnesty International's European Institutions Office. On account of this human rights advocacy she was listed by Politico in 2017 as one of the most influential women on EU policy and law making.

She holds a B.A. in European Studies from Trinity College Dublin and an LL.M from Maastricht University's School of European Law.

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Gerald Sowah, Public Policy Manager, Content Policy team, Facebook

Gerald Sowah is a Public Policy Manager on the Content Policy team at Facebook. The Content Policy team is responsible for developing and interpreting the global set of policies governing what users can share on Facebook. Gerald's work puts him at the center of many current Internet policy issues – including the incitement of violence online, voting interference, and hate speech etc. Prior to joining Facebook in 2018, Gerald worked as a Policy Analyst at the Office of the President, Republic of Ghana, working specifically on policy delivery and implementation, and has previously worked with McKinsey & Company, PwC and Google. Gerald graduated from the University of Oxford with a Masters in Public Policy in 2016 as a Weidenfeld-Hoffman Scholar and the Oxford Sub-Saharan African Graduate Scholar for that year. Additionally, Gerald holds a Bachelor's (Hons.) in Political Science from Earlham College in the United States and is a Fellow of the British Royal Society of the Arts.

Anita A. Wahid, Presidium of Indonesian Anti Hoax Movement MAFINDO

Anita. A. Wahid is an activist for human rights and democracy, mainly on 3 issues: anti-corruption, religious tolerance and information disorders. She graduated from University of Indonesia for her bachelor's degree in international Relations and got her master's degree from Rühr-Universität-Bochum, Germany in Development Management.

For the past 5 years, she focuses on how information disorders such as misinformation, disinformation and malinformation have been a major challenge in Indonesia, which contributes to the already challenging issues of religious intolerance, anti-corruption, human rights and democracy. She now serves as Presidium of Masyarakat Anti Fitnah Indonesia (MAFINDO), a volunteer-based organization that works on information disorders. The organization works on two domains: online and offline.

Anita Wahid also serves on SiberKreasi (digital literacy national movement) as Vice Chairman on Research and Curriculum Development.

Maida Bahto Kestendzic, Project Coordinator, Press Council in Bosnia & Herzegovina

Maida Bahto Kestendžić is graduated from the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law. She is working in the Press and Online Media Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina past ten years, at different positions but most of the time dealing with complaints of citizens on unprofessional print and online media reporting. Currently is a Project coordinator. She possesses extensive experience in media self-regulation, media law and coordination of different kind of projects promoting freedom of expression. Ms Bahto previously worked in the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Tax Administration of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and USAID Streamlining Permits and Inspections Regimes Activity Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Panel session 2
Lessons learnt of the project "#CoronavirusFacts, Addressing the 'Disinfodemic' on COVID-19 in conflict-prone environments"

Khaled Salah, Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroun

Salah Khaled is the Director of UNESCO's Regional Office for Central Africa based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He joined UNESCO in 2001 as the Chief of the Iraq Liaison Unit based in Amman (Jordan), where he led the establishment of the extrabudgetary funded portfolio for Iraq participating in several UN-wide programming exercises and joint reconstruction and stabilization programmes.

In 2010, Mr Khaled helped in backstopping the Port au Prince Office in the aftermath of the Earthquake, managing the contribution of UNESCO in the relief programmes. Mr Khaled also served as Officer-in-Charge for the UNESCO Office in Islamabad (Pakistan) in 2011. From 2011 to 2016, Mr Khaled established the first UNESCO Country Office for South Sudan, where he led a multi-million stabilization, peace building, reintegration and reconstruction programme.

Mr Khaled also served as Director of the UNESCO Office in Rabat and UNESCO representative to Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria and Tunisia from 2016 to 2018. Mr Khaled holds a BA in Political Science from the American University in Cairo and an MBA from the Arab Academy of Maritime Sciences Alexandria, Egypt.

Jurgis Vilčinskas, Deputy Head of division, Strategic Communication & Information Analysis, EEAS

Prior to joining EEAS, Jurgis Vilcinskas has served at Lithuania's diplomatic service and on President Valdas Adamkus team as a speech-writer on foreign policy issues and advisor on the EU affairs.

He is alumni of Vilnius and Oxford Universities and a researcher at Oslo and Creighton universities, with professional trainings in IMF Institute, D.C. and Clingendael Institute of International affairs in The Hague. Jurgis overseas postings included secondments to the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the European External Action Service - two diplomatic posts in Sarajevo and Kyiv, where he respectively headed Political, Trade, EU and Communications sections.

Mr Vilcinskas was a speaker at Krynica Economic Forum, Davos Communication Forum, Wilton Park and other events dedicated to media and public diplomacy issues in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood. He is a co-founder of the EU affairs experts' network and led diverse media and EU affairs training projects.

Cecília Napido Gonçalves, Director, Department of Research, Planning and Cooperation, Information Office, Mozambique

Cecília Napido Gonçalves, director of Department of Research, Planning and Cooperation of the Information Office of Mozambique.
She is holds a Bachelor's degree in Law by the University of Eduardo Mondlane and she is post-graduated in Governance and Public policy.

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Janet M. Kincaid, Training Operations Officer & Project Manager, Department of Communications, WHO

Janet Kincaid is a Communications Officer at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Janet trains WHO leadership, technical officers, communications officers, and spokespersons to communicate effectively with the public and the media, including in the use of plain language for a global audience. Janet is a Certified Professional in Training Management and has been the operational lead for WHO's flagship Emergency Communications Network training, ensuring that WHO staff are equipped and skilled in responding to public health emergencies in a timely, accurate, understandable manner. Prior to joining WHO, she worked in Washington, D.C., on communications related to national policies on recycling and the environment.

Olivia Sohr, Director of Impact and New Initiatives, Chequeado, Argentina

Olivia Sohr is the Impact and New Initiatives director at Chequeado, the first fact checking organization in Latin America. She's a sociologist and journalist with a passion for data. She holds a BA in Sociology from Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis, and an MA in Sociology with a specialization in Media from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in France.

Sana Hassan, Editor in chief of Iraqi Youth News Agency

Sana Hassan holds a PhD in English Literature from the Cairo University and has over 10 years' experience working with national and international agencies active in the field of journalism and new media in Iraq.

Ms. Hassan has been working as Head of the Iraqi Group of Media and Communication since 2018 and has recently contributed as Senior Expert to the UNESCO project #CoronavirusFacts on safety of journalists and fighting misinformation amid COVID-19" in Iraq. As a local expert she also provided technical expertise for the project "Breaking Silence on safety of journalists", implemented by UNESCO and funded by the Netherlands.

In 2017 Ms. Hassan contributed to the research and publication of the National Assessment of Iraq, Media and Information Literacy Framework, and contributed to analytic studies on the safety of journalists in Iraq, notably on digital safety. In the past she has also lectured in the Department of Journalist and Communication and Information at the University of Baghdad, where she also held the roles of Head of the department of English and Head of the Peace Studies.

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Kenneth Okwaroh, Executive Director, Africa Centre for People Institution and Society

Kenneth Okwaroh is the Executive Director at Africa Centre for People, Institutions and Society (Acepis) an Afro-centric think-tank based in Nairobi that is dedicated to bolstering access to credible information to shape public dialogue, inform public policy and drive inclusive sustainable development in Africa.

Through Acepis' Free Information and Media Development programme, he coordinates training for young people – leaders, journalists, content creators and influencers in East Africa on utilising Media Information Literacy as a tool for enhancing civic engagement, reducing extremism, tackling disinformation online, and supporting information efforts to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

He holds a Master of Arts in International Relations from University of Nairobi (Kenya) and Master of Science in International Development (MSc) from University of Birmingham (UK). He also comments regularly on political economy issues in local and international media in Eastern Africa.

Panel Session 3
Contextualization of online harmful content to foster peace

Anna Herold, Head of Unit, Media Pluralism, DG Connect European Commission

Anna Herold is currently Head of the Audiovisual and Media Policy Unit at the European Commission. She was previously Member of cabinet of Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner responsible for Digital Economy and Society. Prior to that, she was Assistant to Deputy Director-General of DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission since 2003, dealing with media, audiovisual and telecoms policy as well aw competition law. Ms Herold holds a PhD in Law from the European University Institute in Florence and has written on media law and policy, international trade and competition law.

Julie Owono, Board member of Facebook oversight board, Director-General of Internet without Borders

Julie Owono is the Executive Director of Internet Sans Frontières (Internet Without Borders), and an inaugural member of the Facebook Oversight Board. At the intersection of Business and Human Rights, her work focuses on creating channels of collaboration between different set of actors of the Internet. She is particularly interested in policy and technical solutions to foster multistakeholder collaborations on content moderation. Julie is a member of the Global Partnership on AI (AI) created by France and Canada, of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on AI for Humanity, of the WEF Council on the Connected World. She was also a member of UNESCO's Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) for the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, a Member of the World Benchmarking Alliance's Expert Committee on Digital Inclusion, and a Civil Society member of the Global Network Initiative's Board. Ms Owono graduated in International Law from La Sorbonne University in Paris and practiced as a lawyer at the Paris Bar.

Pierre François Docquir, Head of the Media Freedom Programme, Article 19

Pierre François Docquir (PhD) is a researcher and expert in the fields of Human Rights Law, Internet and Media Law and Regulation. He joined ARTICLE 19 in 2015 as senior legal officer and is now the head of the Media Freedom Programme of the organization. He previously served as vice-president of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel in French-speaking Belgium (2007-2015) and was a researcher at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, where he obtained his PhD in Law in 2009. He was a lawyer ('avocat') at the Brussel's Bar (2000-2004). His publications include a volume on the evolution of media regulation in the age of convergence, a book on comparative free speech law (US-ECHR), and articles on the protection of freedom of expression, the evolution of media landscapes and media policy, the European Convention on Human Rights and international human rights law.
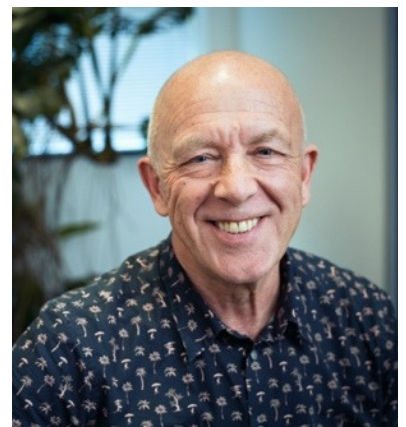
Jonathan Bright, Associate Professor, University of Oxford & Senior Research Fellow, Oxford Internet Institute

Jonathan Bright is an Associate Professor, Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute who specialises in computational approaches to the social and political sciences. He has two major research interests: exploring the ways in which new digital technologies are changing political participation; and investigating how new forms of data can enable local and national governments to make better decisions.

Andrew Puddephatt, Internet Policy Expert and Author

Andrew Puddephatt is an internet policy expert who focuses on the intersection of internet policy and human rights. A long-term consultant to UNESCO, he is the founder Director of Global Partners & Associates Ltd a social purpose company that promotes democracy and human rights online. He is Founder Director of Adapt, a social purpose company that helps organisations manage their users' data ethically.

He chairs the Internet Watch Foundation, a charity registered in the UK that works with the internet industry to remove child sex abuse images online and chairs International Media Support, a Danish based NGO that promotes independent media in conflict zones. Mr Puddephatt is the Deputy Chair of the philanthropic foundation the Sigrid Rausing Trust. In 2003 he was awarded an OBE for services to human rights.

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Closing session

Louise Haxthausen, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels

Louise Haxthausen was appointed as UNESCO Representative to the European Union and Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels in February 2019.

She joined UNESCO in 1993, as Associate Expert in the Human Rights Division of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris). She has worked on conflict and crisis response at country-level in Afghanistan and in Palestine; and most recently as Director of the UNESCO Office for Iraq (Baghdad). At UNESCO HQ, she has acted as Focal Point for the Middle East in the Office of the Director-General; as Senior Coordinator, Crisis Response in the Arab World, Bureau of Field Coordination; and as Senior Coordinator, Crisis and Transition Response, in the Office of the UNESCO Director-General.

She has an academic background in political science (Bachelor's degree) and international public law (Master's degree).