Research ICT Africa's Africa Digital Policy Project

Call for Fellowships + Expressions of Interest to Collaborate
Deadline: 28 June 2018

Do you believe in working towards an Internet that is free (based on and supportive of human rights), trusted (based on sound cybersecurity measures), and innovative (based on enabling policy environments)? Join or play a role in RIA's new Africa Digital Policy Project!

RIA's Africa Digital Policy Project invites applications for fellowships of three or six months in digital policy. The Project will focus more specifically on an inspiring array of themes related to cybersecurity, Internet governance, data governance, privacy and other digital rights, content governance, innovation and/or microwork.

What do we offer?

By joining RIA's Project, you get to work on cutting-edge digital policy issues from a uniquely African perspective. We offer competitive research stipends in addition to invaluable interdisciplinary experience working with a bustling and diverse team on some of the most pressing issues facing not only our continent but the world.

While we would prefer to welcome you to beautiful Cape Town, we will also consider applications from established scholars in the field who wish to work remotely. To encourage in-person mentorship opportunities, junior fellows will, however, have to work from our Cape Town office.

What do you need to apply?

Besides an interest in digital policy, you need to have or be studying towards a master's degree or equivalent. Established scholars should have at least ten years' research experience with a focus on innovation, telecommunications, media, communications, or Internet policy and regulation research.

For junior fellows, basic requirements include strong writing and language skills and competence in online research; extracting and summarising information from reports; and translating complex topics and jargon into more understandable formats.

How do I apply?

Applicants should submit, by 28 June 2018:
- a CV of max two pages long plus list of publications,
- the names of two references,
- two recent writing examples (no older than one year) – one academic and one informal in style, and
- a motivation/cover letter, including a research idea of relevance to cyber policy in Africa.

Submit these to the Manager: RIA Africa Digital Policy Project (avanderspuy@researchictafrica.net) OR admin@researchICTafrica.net

More about RIA and the Project:

Research ICT Africa (RIA) has over 15 years of consistent experience in research on information and communication technology (ICT) policy and regulation. Its new Africa Digital Policy Project (the Project) – was developed in response to a call by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for the establishment of regional cyberpolicy think tanks in the Global South. The Project builds upon RIA's existing capacity while focusing specifically on cyberpolicy challenges for Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Project will undertake research to influence policy, organisational performance and capacity-building initiatives in the field of cyber policy. Like RIA's other work, the Project will provide African stakeholders with the information and analysis required to develop innovative and appropriate policies better able to address the challenges of sustainable development on the continent. It thereby aims to facilitate evidence-based and informed policymaking for supporting the development of an Internet that is free (based on and supportive of human rights), trusted (based on sound cybersecurity measures), and innovative (based on enabling policy environments).

While the Project has a distinctively African focus, policies pertaining to cyber realms operate not only at national and regional levels but also at a global level of governance. The Project therefore promotes interaction between researchers and other stakeholders at national, regional and international levels to harmonise methodologies, tools and standards for conducting cyberpolicy research that is in the interest of a free, open, innovative and secure cyber realm. Among other interactions, the Project will collaborate with the two other successful IDRC grantees, namely the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) in Bangalore, and DIRSI, a Latin American network based at the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE) in Mexico. The Project also benefits from the synergies of RIA's strong existing research network of local partners in over twenty African countries together with their sister networks in Asia (LIRNE*asia*) and Latin America (DIRSI).