Online Winter School
Times and Spaces of Globalization
Sustainable Glocal Futures:
Knowledge, Democracy and Global Communications
February – April 2021

a partnership between
University of Padova (IT), Next Generation Global Studies
University of São Paulo (BR), Department of Modern Languages
Leiden University (NL), Global Transformations and Governance Challenges Initiative

EGOS students from the University of Padova interested in participating should complete this online application form

Background and Context

Since 2013 the University of Padova has hosted an annual Next Generation Global Studies (NGGS) Winter School to critically address the challenges of time and space in global transformations. Over the years we have addressed different themes, including *The Challenges of Global Communication*; *Illusions of Democracy*; *Necessary Translations for Global Understanding*; *Boundaries, Borders and Walls: What of Universality?*; *Knowledges of the Future*; and *Knowledges at Risk.* Supported by a funding scheme of the University of Padova, these intensive courses have involved critical reflection on the Eurocentric representation of global space and time; an open and transdisciplinary approach to the debated issues; and a variety of formats through which presenters, participants and invited guests have engaged in 'glocal conversations'. NGGS has thereby built a scholarly community, interested in exploring the heuristic potential of mixing perspectives, languages and knowledges. The 2021 edition of NGGS Winter School once again brings this community together, to strengthen a tradition of intellectual exchange across disciplines, knowledges and generations.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, Winter School 2021 will be held online, and will be structured around a series of events 'diffused in time and space'. Each of the three partner universities will virtually 'host' a two half-day thematic session; and each session will critically reconsider and update some of the themes discussed in the past. Consistent with past experiences, the format of sessions will allow participants to experience in an online context the sense of commonality and intercultural exchange that has characterized previous editions. This will be done by making use of digital technologies, adopting a critical approach to digital education, experimenting with participatory modalities and tools: all of this with the goal of 'sharing knowledge with care' as a response to the distancing and constraints imposed by the pandemic.

Winter School 2021: Thematic and Pedagogic Approach

This year's program is organized so that participants have the opportunity to address, reconsider, combine and remix issues pertaining the global transformations that have been discussed in previous editions, namely: *Revisiting Knowledges of the Future - Expanding the Present*; *(Dis)Illusions of Democracy*; and *Rethinking Borders and Boundaries in Global Communications*. This in view of developing updated readings and new knowledges that will highlight the conceptual, theoretical, practical and political inter- as well as dis-connections amongst issues and topics. This will allow participants to discuss their research interests in the context of changing notions of society and politics, and to reflect on new forms of conflict, within and between societies, which globalisation presents.

The teaching organization of the Winter School aims at building a path of horizontal and sustained active collaboration between teachers and students. The objective of this teaching/learning approach is to guide all participants in the concrete scientific milieu of a truly international and trans-disciplinary research network; also contributing to strengthening the relevance of the organizing universities' partnership as a space for intellectual exchange on global issues.

Thanks to the articulated format of this online Winter School, participants will be offered new/innovative/critical perspectives in the panorama of Global Studies, alternative visions and frameworks, analytical tools to make sense of emerging challenges; while developing, at the same time, transversal skills that can be applied to research, analysis and practices to support *Sustainable Glocal Futures.*

Winter School 2021: The Format

The 'diffused' Winter School - across regions and time - comprises **3 thematic sessions**, each conceived, organized and hosted by one of the partner institutions. **Each theme will be addressed in two online meetings of 4 hours each**. Sessions may include keynote speakers, presentations, panel conversations, round tables, videos and group activities (such as: meeting the experts, focused discussions, Q&A within groups, and more).

The general format will be lectures and/or panel discussions in the first two hours, followed by interactive sessions for students from the three participating universities who will be divided into small, mixed, transnational groups and will work together across the different encounters. Enrolled participants will spend a total of 24 hours of lectures, interactive sessions and workshops during the 3 sessions.

Furthermore, activities between the sessions are envisaged (about 8/10 hours): starting from the first session, students will be organized in mixed groups of 6 (2 participants from each partner university) with facilitators to support their activities. Each group will autonomously meet on a weekly basis to discuss and reflect on the previous sessions and to explore the interconnections between themes and issues. For the end of the course, these groups are expected to prepare a final 'collective output': this will be the groups' own 'story telling' of the Winter School, which synthesizes their reactions and

interpretations of the formal sessions. This 'collective output' can be elaborated in any format the groups decide (text, video, poster, padlet, presentation and more). The 'collective output' will be presented in a dedicated final session.

In order to take full advantage of the inter/active modalities of Winter School 2021, ten students (typically PhD and master students) from each of the partner universities will be given the opportunity to participate (selection process conducted at each partner university according to internal criteria).

Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate of attendance.

Winter School 2021: The Program (overview)

dates and time	theme/s	coordinating university
25-26 February 2021 Time: 14-16, 17-19 (CET) 10-12, 13-15 (Brasilia Standard Time) 15-17, 18-20 (SAST)	**Revisiting knowledges of the future - expanding the present** 25 February 'Expanding the present: On Death and Democracy' 26 February 'Expanding the Present: from the Underbelly of Modernity'	**University of São Paulo**
11-12 March 2021 Time: 14-16, 17-19 (CET) 10-12, 13-15 (Brasilia Standard Time) 15-17, 18-20 (SAST)	**(Dis)Illusions of Democracy** 11 March 'The National (Dis)illusion' 12 March 'The Global (Dis)Illusion'	**Leiden University**
25-26 March 2021 Time: 14-16, 17-19 (CET) 10-12, 13-15 (Brasilia Standard Time) 15-17, 18-20 (SAST)	**Rethinking borders and boundaries in global communications** 25 March 'Decolonizing Digital Rights' 26 March 'Communication and Democratic Boundaries'	**University of Padova**
9 April 2021 Time: 17-19 CET 13-15 (Brasilia Standard Time) 18-20 (SAST)	**Final presentations by participants** **WS2021 Closing session**	**University of Padova**

Winter School 2021: The Program (thematic sessions)

Session I - University of São Paulo

25-26 February 2021

Revisiting knowledges of the future - expanding the present

A recurring preoccupation of previous editions of the Winter School was that of looking forward to new possible configurations of knowledge, given current contexts of the challenges of time and space represented by issues of global democracy, global communications and their complex politically laden offshoots. From the perspective of the Global South - a concept profoundly articulated by the World Social Forum, and which, current thinkers have reminded us, is not a geographical but a metaphorical location indicating political, economic and historical marginality and subalternity - it is commonplace to affirm that there can be no social justice without cognitive justice.

This involves questioning the status of western knowledges and western science which, through the geopolitics of the last centuries that propitiated the spread of capitalism and colonization and resulted in the universalization of European concepts of modernity and progress. The darker side of this was the invisibilization of other knowledges, other sciences, and other modernities. This resulted in one of the slogans of the World Social Forum: "Other Worlds are Possible". In order for these other worlds to acquire visibility, the historical precedence given to progress and modernity in the Global North would need to be questioned, and with them their comrade-in-arms, the concept of historical time as linear and singular inevitably leading to a promised future of progress, emancipation and social justice. The move to interrogate the predominance of this linear concept of time involved contracting the prevailing concept of the "Future"; once this occurred, the shift of focus would be on the present. With this shift, the present would necessarily be expanded and the previous dominant gaze fixed on the singularity of knowledge and of science leading the march of time, would now be shifted sideways (and backwards) making visible a multiplicity of knowledges referred to as an ecology of knowledges. This ecology brings its own complexities such as the situatedness of all knowledge and the intense relationality interconnecting these knowledges, which does not make them identical to each other as relativism would have it. On the contrary, translation acquires supreme importance but is no less problematic. These issues mark the thinking of what have been called the "epistemologies of the south", "decolonial thinking" or simply "thinking otherwise".

What implications does this expanding of the present have on our current thinking of democracy, knowledge and language? These are issues that underlie the presentations in this thematic session of the Winter School coordinated by the University of São Paulo.

The session is divided in two thematic sub-sessions.

25th February '*Expanding the Present: On Death and Democracy*'

Part I (14.00-14.45 CET / 10.00-10.45 Brasilia Standard Time / 15.00-15.45 SAST)
- WS2021 Opening Session - Contextualizing the Winter School

Part II (14.45-16.00 CET / 10.45-12.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 15.45-17.00 SAST)
- Introductory presentation
- Opening Lecture: ***Beyond necropolitics: the emergence of the suicidal state***

Part III (17.00-19.00 CET / 13.00-15.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 18.00-20.00 SAST)
- Small group activity

26th February '*Expanding the Present: from the Underbelly of Modernity*'

Part I (14.00-16.00 CET / 10.00-12.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 15.00-17.00 SAST)
- Opening lecture: ***Decolonizing higher education: Multilingualism, Linguistic citizenship and epistemic justice***
- Panel: ***On Epistemic Justice*** (three speakers)

Part II (17.00-19.00 CET / 13.00-15.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 18.00-20.00 SAST)
- Small group activity

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Session II - Leiden University

11-12 March 2021

'(Dis)Illusions of Democracy'

An earlier generation of global(isation) studies in the 1990s-2000s was marked by considerable optimism regarding democracy. Nationally, a purported 'third wave of democratization' encompassed South East Asia, Latin America, the former Soviet sphere, Sub-Saharan Africa, and finally the so-called 'Arab Spring'. Globally, liberals celebrated a forthcoming cosmopolitan democracy, while progressives flocked to the World Social Forum and other transnational transformational movements. Enthusiasts regarded globalisation and democratisation as two sides of a single coin.

Anno 2021 the picture looks decidedly different. Nationally, liberalism has slipped toward authoritarianism in all of the above-named regions: e.g. Duterte's Philippines, Bolsonaro's Brazil, Orbán's Hungary, Kagame's Rwanda, Sisi's Egypt – not to mention Modi's India, Putin's Russia, Trump's USA, and the geopolitical rise of China. Globally, cosmopolitan democracy looks a pipedream, the World Social Forum has shrunk to a whimper, and the Global Right currently stands as one of most prominent transnational movements.

What happened to the hopes and expectations of the recent past? Are we seeing a 1930s-like systemic counter-movement against democracy? If so, what has driven this trend, in terms of both local circumstances and world-scale forces? How deep do these counter-democratic shifts run, and what are the prospects to reverse them?

This section of the 2021 NGGS Winter School addresses these questions in a pair of sessions: the first day (11 March) focused on the national scale, and the second day (12 March) addressed to the global scale. In each case a panel of specialist researchers looks comparatively at different instances of the trend of de-democratisation. The national panel assembles commentators on Egypt, Hungary, the Philippines, Tunisia, and the USA. The global panel gathers commentators on cosmopolitan democracy, Euroscepticism, glocal environmentalism, global multi-stakeholder democracy, and the World Social Forum. Each session has a first part involving a round table discussion among the specialist researchers and a second part of small-group discussion among the student participants with one of the speakers.

11th March *'The National (Dis)illusion'*

Part I (14.00-16.00 CET / 10.00-12.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 15.00-17.00 SAST)
  ● Round table panel (five speakers)

Part II (17.00-19.00 CET / 13.00-15.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 18.00-20.00 SAST)
  ● Five student discussion groups (each joined by one of the speakers)

12th March *'The Global (Dis)Illusion'*

Part I (14.00-16.00 CET / 10.00-12.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 15.00-17.00 SAST)
  ● Round table panel (five speakers)

Part II (17.00-19.00 CET / 13.00-15.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 18.00-20.00 SAST)
  ● Five student discussion groups (each joined by one of the speakers)

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Session III - University of Padova

25-26 March 2021

Rethinking borders and boundaries in global communications

Over the past years a number of developments have characterized global communications - studies, practices and governing arrangements - in response to technological transformations and emerging concerns related particularly to the global reach of social media; to platforms' centrality in communication processes; to enhanced possibility to acquire, organize and control data by different actors, with different degrees of power and autonomy across the globe. In this context different research approaches have emerged: a material turn within internet research seeks to firmly ground critical analyses in the manifold physicalities and corporalities embodied and engendered within such networked technologies; visions of the 'platform society' (Van Dijck 2018) have been elaborated to account for the tensions between the immersive reality of technological infrastructure and public values/fundamental rights; concerns with 'datafication' and 'commodification'(Hintz et al 2018) have highlighted the critical role of institutional actors in elaborating normative provisions, as well as the responsibility (and effectiveness) of major commercial players' adoption (and implementation) of self-regulatory measures.

With the COVID19 pandemic the tension between the power of 'Big Tech' and national policies has become even more evident (from efforts on anti-trust rules to intermediary liability), and new concerns have emerged around data exploitation by transnational business and hegemonic state powers like the US and China. These developments are paralleled by evolving data protection regulation and calls for data sovereignty, at national and community level. At the same time, content policies, e.g. on hate speech and misinformation, diverge radically across jurisdictions; while localised communication and media practices are coloured by international interventions (e.g., media development initiatives), and local policy initiatives intervene in international policy debate and affect decisions around the globe.

All this invites critical reconsideration of global communications and its governance in view of developing scenarios and practices for sustainable global futures: to what extent do persisting realities of unequal power in communication structures, processes and governance contribute to democratic crises? How to articulate - in theory and practice - the nexus between basic principles of openness, accessibility, diversity and pluralism and policy formulation and implementation for the media and digital sectors? On which grounds - discursive, normative, regulatory - can aspects of inclusion, exclusion, privacy and transparency be addressed, and by whom? Finally: how to avoid the danger of 'the single story' when it comes to grounding communication policies in fundamental principles, and how to make sense of attempts to 'decolonize' frames and approaches that inform communication policies around human and digital rights?

The session addresses some of the above in two thematic sub-sessions, organized in collaboration with international networks and projects: the working group on Global Media Policy of the International Association for media and Communication research (IAMCR), the Digital Constitutionalism Network and the DATACTIVE research project and collective focusing on the politics of data according to civil society.

25 March *'Decolonizing Digital Rights'* (in collaboration with the Digital Constitutionalism Network and DATACTIVE project)

The goal is to reflect on the social, political and economic impact of the Internet and related technologies on contemporary societies, offering the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and best practices in different regional contexts, so as to address the danger of 'the single story' when it comes to discuss fundamental rights and principles for the digital age.

Part I (14.00-16.00 CET / 10.00-12.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 15.00-17.00 SAST)
- Glocal conversation: ***Decolonizing Digital Rights*** (four speakers)

Part II (17.00-19.00 CET / 13.00-15.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 18.00-20.00 SAST)
- Small group activity around ***COVID19 from the Margins. Pandemic invisibilities, policies and resistance in a datafied society***

26 March *'Communication and Democratic Boundaries'* (in collaboration with the WG on Global Media Policy)

The aim of this session is to engage with critical research perspectives on how communication technologies, processes and governing arrangements impact on/challenge/transform democratic practices.

Part I (14.00-16.00 CET / 10.00-12.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 15.00-17.00 SAST)
- Round table/panel presentation: ***Glocal communications and the wager of democracy*** (four speakers)

Part II (17.00-19.00 CET / 13.00-15.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 18.00-20.00 SAST)
- Small group activity around the ***#Freemyinternet project***

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Session IV

9 April 2021 (17.00-19.00 CET / 13.00-15.00 Brasilia Standard Time / 18.00-20.00 SAST)

Final presentations by participants

Closing session of Winter School 2021

Winter School 2021 main objectives:

1. To systematize the knowledges that have been acquired with past editions of Winter School in consideration of their interconnectedness;
2. To identify and address emerging issues in the global context, and to critically discuss how these issues are framed, by whom, and how this framing impacts on the possibilities for democratic development at different levels;
3. To strengthen the role and relevance of *Next Generation Global Studies* as a space for collaborative trans-disciplinary exchange on global issues at the University of Padova;
4. To support the University of Padova in its commitment to develop understanding and competence for critical digital education, learning, teaching and knowledge exchange; and to make this competence available to students in the EGOS degree and across partner institutions.

Organizers
- University of Padova: Claudia Padovani, Francesca Helm, Mauro Farnesi Camellone
- Leiden University: Jan Aart Scholte
- University of São Paulo: Lynn Mario Menezes de Souza, Juliana Zeggio Martinez

In partnership with
- Working group on Global Media Policy (IAMCR)
- Digital Constitutionalism Network
- DATACTIVE project and collective (tbc)

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