



CONFLUXCENTER

TECHNOLOGIES
AND DIGITAL TOOLS
FOR PEACEKEEPING
AND POLITICAL MISSIONS:

Data, Research, Analysis, & Communication

VIRTUAL TRAINING COURSE **PROGRAM**

25 — 28 January 2022

Conflux Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Mediation

Facilitators & Organizers

Senior Mentor:

Renata Avila

*International Human Rights Lawyer, Co-Founder
— Alliance for Inclusive Algorithms, CEO Open
Knowledge Foundation*

Senior Lecturer:

Slavimir Nikolić, PhD

*Political Affairs Officer and Information Analyst
with the United Nations*

Course Director:

Emilija Marić

Conflux Center

Project Officer:

Mina Strugar

Conflux Center



Speakers

Lecturers:

Nanjala Nyabola, J.D.
Director — Advox Digital Rights Programme at Global Voices, IGLI Practitioner in Residence at the University of Denver

Juan Ortiz Freuler
JustLabs, University of California, Affiliate — Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard

Moses Karanja
PhD Student, University of Toronto, Research Fellow — The Citizen Lab

Maria Xynou
Research and Partnerships Director — Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI)

Jillian C. York
Director — International Freedom of Expression

Matías Ponce, PhD
Head of Communications of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Andrej Petrovski
SHARE Foundation

Filip Milošević
SHARE Foundation

Tim Davies, MSc
Co-Director — Practical Participation

Manuel Beltran, MSc
Artist and Founder — Institute of Human Obsolescence and Persuasion Lab

Ambassador Miloš Strugar
UN Senior Mediation Adviser

Andres Guadamuz, PhD
Reader in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Sussex, Editor in Chief — Journal of World Intellectual Property, WIPO Academy trainer

Guest Speakers:

Andrea Tenenti
Chief of Strategic Communications and Spokesperson at UNIFIL

Mariann Urban
Innovation Officer — UNHCR

Enrico Formica
UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs



About the Course

Overall Goal

New technologies have an impact on almost every aspect of our lives, creating opportunities, but also posing challenges. Global connectivity brings radical and fast-paced changes in the environments in which we operate, and with almost 62% of the global population online in October 2021, this upward trend is set to continue. The new technologies also have a profound impact on the nature of conflict and on the way in which it is managed. Conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts must keep up with the changing environment to respond efficiently to new challenges.

The course aims to develop a deeper understanding of the digital ecosystem, focusing on both the opportunities and risks associated with using new technologies in conflict settings. Particular attention will be paid to acquiring digital literacy skills and understanding the concepts related to human rights in the digital space, cyber security, and the connection between geopolitics and technologies. A special focus will be placed on the practical tools and skills that can be used for more effective research, analysis and communication, including social media analysis, and community outreach and engagement. The course will also address collecting, protecting and using data in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. In addition, it will address the necessary skills and techniques for online negotiation and mediation.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Acquire knowledge and skills for utilizing digital, information, and communication technologies;
- Apply acquired skills and tools in digital research, analysis and communication;
- Identify and mitigate risks and maximize opportunities provided by information and communication technologies;
- Understand and minimize cyber threats and risks;
- Apply data protection policies, handle sensitive data, and reduce data frictions
- Apply a digital toolkit in conflict analysis, engagement with parties and communities, and strategic communication;
- Utilize social media and digital tools in designing inclusive mediation process, in particular ensuring participation of women and other vulnerable groups;
- Acquire skills and tools for effective online negotiation



Course Program

DAY 1

25 January 2022

09:00 – 09:30

*Opening & Introduction —
Agenda & Program of Work*

09:30 – 09:45

Tour de Table & Expectations

09:45 – 10:45

SESSION 1:

*“From Data to Knowledge —
Collection, Analysis, & Do No Harm”*

RENATA AVILA

10:45 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 11:45

SESSION 2:

“Digital Rights — Human Rights”

NANJALA NYABOLA

11:45 – 12:30

SESSION 3:

*“How Are We Connected?
— Geopolitics & Technologies”*

JUAN ORTIZ FREULER

12:30 – 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 14:15

SESSION 4:

*“Biometric Datasets in Conflict Settings —
Rationale & Threats”*

MOSES KARANJA

14:15 – 14:30

COFFEE BREAK

14:30 – 16:00

EXERCISE 1:

*“Open Observatory of Network Interference
(OONI)” — Practical exercise measuring
Internet censorship*

MARIA XYNOU

DAY 2

26 January 2022

09:00 – 10:45

EXERCISE 1 CONTD.:

Presenting group work

10:45 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 11:45

SESSION 5:

“Content Moderation Online”

JILLIAN YORK

11:45 – 12:30

GUEST SPEAKER:

*“Conflict & Public Communication
— Creating a Narrative & Dealing with
Disinformation”*

ANDREA TENENTI

12:30 – 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 14:15

SESSION 6:

*“Institutional & Personal Risks in the Digital
Environment — Dealing with Paid Net
Centers, Bots, & Trolls”*

MATÍAS PONCE

14:15 – 14:30

COFFEE BREAK

14:30 – 15:15

SESSION 7:

*“Surveillance Architecture —
Understanding Autonomous Systems,
Flow & Access to (Meta)Data”*

ANDREJ PETROVSKI / FILIP MILOŠEVIĆ

15:15 – 16:30

EXERCISE 2:

“Who Has Access to My (Meta)Data?”

ANDREJ PETROVSKI / FILIP MILOŠEVIĆ

Course Program

DAY 3

27 January 2022

09:00 — 09:45
GUEST SPEAKER:

*“Handling Sensitive Data
— Stories of Harm”*

MARIANN URBAN

09:45 — 10:00
COFFEE BREAK

10:00 — 10:45
SESSION 8:

*“Data Architecture — Reducing Data
Frictions & Creating an Effective Data
System for an Organization”*

TIM DAVIES

10:45 — 11:30
EXERCISE 3:

*“Identifying Data Frictions &
Applying Standards to Solve them”
— Work in groups using a real-case scenario*

MANUEL BELTRAN

11:30 — 11:45
COFFEE BREAK

11:45 — 13:00
SESSION 9:

*“Satellite, Manned & Unmanned Aerial
Systems’ Imagery — Advanced Technologies
for Data / Information Gathering, Mapping,
Analysis & Decision-Making Support”*

SLAVIMIR NIKOLIĆ

13:00 — 14:00
LUNCH BREAK

14:00 — 15:00
SESSION 10:

*“From Data to Knowledge II —
Big Data and Geographic Information
Systems (GIS) for Geospatial Conflict
Mapping & Analysis”*

SLAVIMIR NIKOLIĆ

15:00 — 16:30
EXERCISE 4:

*“Geospatial Conflict Mapping & Analysis”
— Presenting individual work using a real-
case scenario*

SLAVIMIR NIKOLIĆ

DAY 4

28 January 2022

09:00 — 10:30
SESSION 11:

*“Balancing Within Ecosystem of Digital
Platforms — A Primer for Measured
Approach in Use of Open Sources & Social
Media in Conflict Setting”*

SLAVIMIR NIKOLIĆ

10:30 — 10:45
COFFEE BREAK

10:45 — 11:45
EXERCISE 5:

*“Exploring Commercial-Off-The-Shelf-Tools
(COST) for Social Media Analysis & Rumors
Exercise”*

SLAVIMIR NIKOLIĆ

11:45 — 12:30
SESSION 12:

“Online Negotiation”

MILOŠ STRUGAR

12:30 — 13:30
LUNCH BREAK

13:30 — 14:15
GUEST SPEAKER:

“Cybermediation”

ENRICO FORMICA

14:15 — 15:00
SESSION 13:

*“Demystifying Technologies — Facts & Myths
About AI, the Blockchain & the ‘Dark Web’”*

ANDRES GUADAMUZ

15:00 — 15:15
COFFEE BREAK

15:15 — 16:00
SESSION 14:

*“A Multilateral, Agile Digital Future —
Concluding Considerations”*

RENATA AVILA

16:00 — 16:15

Coffee Break & Evaluation

16:15

*Course Wrap-Up &
Q&A with Senior Mentor*

Course Details

Target Audience

The course program is designed for staff in peacekeeping operations, political and peacebuilding missions of the UN and regional organizations (AU, OSCE, EU etc.), diplomats, those working in governments and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

Content and Structure

The virtual course will take place over a period of four days, from **25 – 28 January 2022** via the **online platform Zoom**. The training will consist of lectures and facilitated discussions by senior experts and practitioners in the field, and the activities are devised to be highly interactive through discussions, Q&A sessions, group work, and hands-on exercises and assignments. A virtual space will be provided for group discussions and best practices and experience sharing among the participants under the guidance of the senior mentor.

Upon completion of the course, certificates of participation will be issued in PDF, and a hard copy can be sent via post upon request.

Technical Requirements:

In order to join the virtual training, all attendees should have access to the internet and a personal computer (laptop), with an operational camera and microphone (external or internal). A stable internet connection is essential in order to minimize the chances of stutter or disconnection. It is advisable that the participants download the Zoom application (free of charge). It is also possible to join a meeting directly from a web browser, but the meeting experience and available features are limited.

Additional Information

Registration:

Registration is open until **22 January 2022** and can be done via the following link:

<https://www.confluxcenter.org/events/application-form/>

Upon online registration, participants will receive an invoice, pre-course video, audio, and reading materials, as well as information on how to use Zoom. The pre-course materials will also be available on Conflux Center's website.

COURSE FEE:

850 EUR (1,000 USD)

Conflux Center alumni are eligible for a 20% discount. Partial subsidy could be available at a later stage. Those interested in a partial subsidy should send their CV and a motivation letter no later than **14 January 2022** to office@confluxcenter.org.

Conflux Center will not provide refunds for participants who face technical issues beyond its direct control. It is recommended that all prospective participants test Zoom for free at Zoom.us prior to confirming their payment.

- The participants should be relieved of their regular work duties for the duration of the course.
- The course is conducted in English and translation is not provided.
- All specified times are in accordance with CET (Central European Time) / UTC+1 (Coordinated Universal Time) time zone.
- Conflux Center reserves the right to modify the course program at any time.

For further details about the course, please contact us at:

office@confluxcenter.org or **+381 63 130 89 97**

