

ifex in Berlin

Amazing what can happen in two days!

IFEX Strategy Conference Agenda

Draft as of 14 March 2019

MONDAY (April 8, 2019)

9:15 - 9:30

Welcome

Annie Game Executive Director IFEX

9:30 - 11:30

Artists for Free Expression

This talk show will explore the powerful impact of arts on freedom of expression in conversation with 'artists' from the film, writing and music communities

Host: Geraldine De Bastion (Germany)

Guests:

- Iyad El-Baghdadi, Writer (Palestine)
Musical performance
- Bobi Wine, Musician and Parliamentarian (Uganda)
- Violeta Ayala, Documentarian (Bolivia)

11:30 - 12:30

So, what is this about?

Presentation on flow of the conference, sessions and networking opportunities.

LUNCH (12: 30 - 13:30)

Continued: MONDAY (April 8, 2019)

SESSIONS (13:30 - 15:15)

Back to the Future

What will the Freedom of Expression landscape look like in 5 years? How do we need to prepare as activists, members, and as a network to respond to this context?

This session will use tools to support visioning around future scenarios that will impact our defence and promotion of freedom of expression and information.

Mind the Gap!

Recent research on the issue of closing civic space suggests that broad collaboration, context-specific communication, and core, flexible long-term funding can help to combat this issue, which is being experienced by many organisations in our community.

This session will create the space for meaningful conversations between members, advocates, networks and donors to explore the current landscape, and focus on solutions.

Resuscitating Facts

Our capacity to reasonably debate with each other, separate fact from fiction, and reach consensus is increasingly under threat. As members of the free expression community, what is our role in nurturing media literacy?

This session will provide participants with opportunities to discuss, explore and develop powerful strategies for nurturing these critical skills as part of their work and campaigns.

Come out, come out wherever you are!

Anonymity is an important dimension of freedom of expression, but how do we ensure that our calls for transparency do not jeopardize the principle of anonymity as it relates to this right? What is the impact on privacy?

This session will provide a space for a focused discussion on these key questions.

SESSIONS (15:15 - 17:00)

Problem...What Problem?

Conversations on difficult topics are often simplified to their lowest common denominator. How can we learn to frame the problem at hand in a different and more productive way?

This session will introduce the Integrative Thinking process for problem solving, that can support a process that moves beyond the binary and embraces the nuance of our contexts and issues.

No to Censorship (but then again)

If we say we are categorially against censorship, are we ignoring valid concerns of potential allies? Successful campaigns may require reaching out to and bringing onboard groups that are in opposition to free speech or who support censorship.

This session will equip participants to consider opposing views in planning campaigns around censorship, and establish "counter arguments" to help strengthen the free speech position.

Sustaining Our Communities in Challenging Contexts

Advocacy work is challenging. So how do we effectively value, promote and sustain well-being in this challenging context?

This session will invite participants to engage in a series of conversations to explore and share tools, stories and tips for ourselves and our colleagues to endure volatile, uncertain and complex times.

Young and Restless

Who wouldn't be restless knowing children and young people face unique threats to their freedom of expression. They have fewer legally recognized rights to privacy and expression than adults.

This session will be an opportunity to learn more and collectively brainstorm ways that participants' current work may intersect with youth expression rights, as well as hear some successes from network members who are already working in this area.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION (18:00 - 19:30)

TUESDAY (April 9, 2018)

9:00 - 10:30

Campaign Revival

We'll gather around the kitchen table and listen to an engaging discussion between campaigners from Kyrgyzstan, the USA, Kenya and Brazil on their unique tactics for getting attention and results from their campaigns. All sure to ignite our imaginations on the subject of campaigning!

Moderator: Maina Kiai (Kenya)

Guests:

- Gaudêncio Fidelis, Queer Museum (Brazil)
- Zhanna Zharmatova , Girl Activists of Kyrgyzstan
- Lizz Winstead, Lady Parts Justice League, (US)

COFFEE BREAK (10:30 - 11:00)

11:00 - 12:00

Really, who is listening?

Ever wonder how we can get more traction in our campaigns? We will have an expert on hand who is going to give us some fresh ideas based on neuroscience to apply in our campaigns.

Presenter: John Clark, Coley Porter Bell (UK)

LUNCH (12:00 - 13:30)

SESSIONS (13:30 - 15:15)

The Great Divide

Tech companies' self vs. government regulation is a great case study for problem solving when there is a wide spectrum of stances. We will put into action the Integrative Thinking process with the goal of gaining insights to this topic in an innovative way.

IFEX VisionQuest

An opportunity for members, partners and allies to feed into the new 2020-2024 IFEX Strategic Plan by discussing and debating the strategic direction questions.

This session will engage participants in laying the groundwork for our work together over the next five years.

Who's Not in the Room?

How can we include diverse voices in the work we do? Who are we missing and how can we build the reflex of inclusion? This session will be an exploration of all the voices we should consider to create a stronger and more inclusive approach.

15:15 - 16:45

Journalism and Communities of Action

This session will focus on the concept "communities of action" as expressed by Maria Ressa of Rappler in a recent video presentation and learn from participants' experiences interacting directly with their audience to deliver the news. How does a strong link between journalists and their communities and peers, can help cover the news in very repressive political environments? What should be the role of FoE organizations in their communities of action?

Moderator: Gayathry Venkiteswaran (Malaysia)

Guests:

- Inday Espina-Varona (Phillipines)
- Melanio Escobar (Venezuela)
- Can Dundar (Turkey)

Break into groups: Deeper conversations on how we can apply this concept of "communities of action" in our own context (as human rights advocates, practitioners, etc). Can we look for stronger connections with the community we serve, media, and other networks to further our cause? Can we bring in ideas or insights we've learned during these two days?

16:45 - 17:00

The Big Finish