

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Communication Lab for Exchange between Research and Media

ComLab#9: Contested Freedom – from Migration to AI and the Climate Crisis

19 – 22 September 2024, Berlin

All over the world, people take to the streets for their freedom. They protest against war and for democracy, xenophobia and the climate crisis. In many places they risk their lives for a better, more just society. But “freedom” is a difficult concept and, depending on the respective interests, open to interpretation. Whilst some people feel climate laws restrict their freedom and affluence, others see them as ways of protecting humans and the environment. While new technologies enable faster and more efficient access to information, they also facilitate discrimination and manipulation on the web, exemplified by phenomena like deep fakes and orchestrated misinformation campaigns. ComLab#9 seeks to explore the social, ethical, and economic areas where freedom is under threat and will develop constructive communication strategies, showcasing unheard narratives.

PROGRAMME

Twenty researchers, twenty journalists, four days in Berlin: Comlab#9 is not merely a conference. It is a bootcamp for science communication and journalism that guarantees a safe environment for collaboration. Together with experts from research, media, civil society organisations and the political sector we will look at current global dynamics and interpretations of freedom. Through keynote presentations, networking sessions, group activities, training workshops, and a culminating pitching slam, ComLab#9 is focused on:

- ❖ **Migration Dynamics:** Understand the complex interplay of migration and nation-building, and the promise and realities of freedom for people on the move. What are different types of freedom under threat in migrant societies and how can we learn to unlock the potential of diversity in all areas of life to ensure freedom for all?
- ❖ **Enhancing AI:** Delve into the realms of artificial intelligence and its role in empowering and/or undermining freedom. How does AI enhance access to information, also providing novel applications in medicine, industry and communications, and what can be done to prevent misuse through ever more advanced manipulation, and deep fakes?
- ❖ **Climate Change Narratives:** Unearth strategies to communicate the urgency of the climate crisis, forging narratives that not only raise awareness of the global interconnection of climate policies and its consequences but also empowers individuals and communities to campaign for a free and sustainable future.

- ❖ **Collaboration is key:** Immerse yourself in small cross-disciplinary teams and craft a compelling story proposal together with scientists. Get support from experts and enable researchers to become more proficient in storytelling.
- ❖ **Pitch your projects:** The ComLab#9 is a launching pad for collaborative projects that have the potential to make a lasting impact at the intersection of science and media. The **top three project ideas, recognised by both an international jury and your peers**, will not only receive accolades but also financial support to turn the ideas into reality.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation is open to twenty IJP fellows and alumni

Knowledge and experience in science communication is an asset, but not a prerequisite for participating in this four-day workshop. We welcome applications from journalists from all media outlets. Your beat should have a strong inclination to the topics of the bootcamp.

The event will be held **in English**.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL COSTS

Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers. Participants will work and reside in Berlin city centre, close to the main station (Berlin Hauptbahnhof).

In addition, we provide a travel allowance of up to 150 Euros for participants who currently do not live in Berlin. We encourage applications from IJP's global alumni network. Journalists who have previously participated in one ComLab are welcome to re-apply. Please keep in mind, however, that the amount of the travel allowance is non-negotiable.

EXPECTATIONS

- Commitment to take part in all four days of the conference
- Strong motivation to engage with an international community of researchers/scientists
- Active participation in expert discussions, interactive learning sessions, training sessions and creative collaboration in journalist-scientist groups
- Commitment to create a compelling piece of science communication together with your team partners

HOW TO APPLY

- **CV in English** (PDF), two pages max. (should include title of your IJP Fellowship Programme)
- **Motivation letter** of 500 words max. (PDF)
- **Application video** (via WeTransfer, <https://wetransfer.com>), 90 seconds max., which gives us a clear initial understanding of why you want to take part in the ComLab#9 and which focal point (migration, AI, climate policies) interests you the most and why
- Please see the video guidelines for more content-related and technical details
- All documents should be submitted in **ONE e-mail** to comlab@ijp.com. Subject line: **Application ComLab#9 and your name**

→ **APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15 May 2024**

For more information on the Communication Lab please visit our websites:

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/explore/organisation/reinforcing-sciencecommunication>

<https://www.ijp.org/en/alumni/communicating-science>