

MEDAS 21 at a Glance: Overview of Fellows and Their Research Projects

MEDAS 21 is a post graduate programme concerned with various aspects of media development in the 21st century. The programme's academic home are three institutes of the University Alliance Ruhr (Erich Brost Institute for International Journalism at TU Dortmund, the Institute for Media Studies at Ruhr University Bochum, the Institute for Communication Science at University Duisburg-Essen) and the respective programme initiators Prof Dr Susanne Fengler, Prof Dr Barbara Thomaß and Prof Dr Jens Loenhoff. Seven fellows are pursuing their doctorates at the intersection of academic theory and practical application:



Mira Keßler | mira.kessler@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

Project: "Difference experiences in journalism trainings as part of media development. Between the global North and South"

Project partners: PANOS South Asia, Radio Netherlands Training Centre

Research interests: journalism training, teaching methods, cross-cultural communication, identity, culture psychology, postcolonialism, de-westernisation, qualitative methods, ethnography



Michel Leroy | michel.leroy@tu-dortmund.de

Project: "Interrelations between community radios' sustainability and professionalization in development contexts - a comparative study in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda"

Project partners: CAMECO, Fondation Hironnelle, MiCT

Research interests: social impact, media sustainability, education, digital transformations, radio in developing contexts



Johanna Mack | johanna.mack@tu-dortmund.de

Project: "The role of media development actors in instable (trans)national(izing) media systems"

Project partner: to be decided

Research interests: transnational journalism studies, media and migration, cultural and literary studies, postcolonial studies



Fabíola Ortiz | fabiola.ortiz-dos-santos@uni-due.de

Project: "Journalism and peacebuilding: challenges and approaches to international media sector development – a case study of radio projects in the Central African Republic"

Project partner: Fondation Hironnelle

Research interests: media development in (post)conflict societies, media systems in Africa, media in conflicts, journalism cultures and concepts



Viviane Schönbachler | viviane.schoenbaechler@rub.de

Project: "Women in local radio: How gendering the media contributes to peace in Burkina Faso"

Project partner: Eirene

Research interests: conflict transformation, gender media studies, gender in development, media and peace



Stefan Wollnik | stefan.wollnik@uni-due.de

Project: "Health journalism and its social importance in the context of global media assistance: An empirical study on Sub-Saharan Africa"

Project partner: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Research interests: political communication, health communication, public health, intercultural communication, digital transformation, concepts and theories of communication studies and media sociology



Roja Zaitoonie | roja.zaitoonie@rub.de

Project: "From idea to reality? The UN efforts on media development in fragile and (post-)conflict contexts"

Project partners: Deutsche Welle Akademie, Fondation Hironnelle

Research interests: media development, human rights and the United Nations