Telling the stories of the future: journalism and Internet policies

DEADLINE
JANUARY 16TH
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT IS INTERNETLAB SCHOOL?

InternetLab is an independent research center that aims to foster academic debate around issues involving law and technology, especially Internet policy. Our mission is to conduct interdisciplinary impactful research and promote dialogue among academics, professionals and policymakers. Among our research topics are privacy and data protection, state surveillance, freedom of speech and censorship, and studies on technology and inequality, such as gender and race questions on the Internet.

InternetLab School is one of our activities. With it, we want to build bridges not only between key-sectors of the public debate on the Internet in Brazil, but also to fostering the construction of networking between participants, focusing on qualifying the understanding on topics covered by InternetLab.

2017: JOURNALISM AND INTERNET POLICIES

InternetLab School 2017 is focused on journalists. It is an initiative for those who are interested in telling stories about social, political, and cultural changes resulted from the development of technology and internet. Our purpose is to create a learning environment through the contact with examples of information society narratives. The participants will be immersed in lectures, seminars and workshops that will happen in three moments: (i) before school, (ii) during school, and (iii) after school. During school, the activities will be face-to-face and intensive. Before and after school we will guide and advise the participants remotely.

Expert guests from various vehicles and enterprises will share their experiences with us. Our goal is to foster the dialogue between members of the school and the experts around a network through which stories and opportunities will be shared in the future.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The participation in the InternetLab School 2017 is free of charge and InternetLab will offer scholarships to cover the costs related to the program, such as lodging, food, and transportation.

This year’s activities are organized in three thematic axes:
UNDERSTANDING THE STRUGGLES
(INTERNET, POLITICS, STORIES, TRENDS)

Presents a few technical notions about technology and internet. Mappings draft bills, actors and stakeholders, interests, and struggles dealing with internet policies. In order to better understand the new trends, we must pay attention to the technical and political questions of the field. What are the consequences of such shifts in journalism? We will point out agendas that could be investigated and explored.

TELLING STORIES
(DATABASES, LEAKINGS, FACT-CHECKING)

The transformations triggered by new technologies demand investigation. Talking about these stories in a creative way is challenging. How to deal with leaks? For instance, the Panama Papers case. Fact-checking: not everything you read on the Internet is true. Workshops will deal with examples of investigative narratives and the use of databases to build such narratives.

CONSIDERING THE CONSEQUENCES
(BIG DATA, BUBBLE EFFECT, ENGAGING READERS, SECURITY)

Big data on the agenda: how to tell these stories? Consequences of the bubble effect. Understanding reader’s participation (likes, comments, and sharings). Workshops and activities will explore security tools for journalists (such as device cryptography, secure databases, protection and storage of gathered data).

INTERNETLAB SCHOOL 2017 PROGRAMMING

We are still building our programme! You can access this link and follow our progress while we are working on it.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE?

InternetLab School 2017 is focused on journalists who are interested in telling stories about social, political, and cultural changes triggered by the development of new technologies. This is an opportunity to further the comprehension over innovations and trends that such transformations have caused. To achieve this, our expert guests will talk about the use of databases, big data challenges, digital security tools, examples of investigative journalism and data journalism. We will also discuss nowadays struggles
- such as Whatsapp's blockings in Brazil, the interfaces between Internet, gender, race, and other social markers, request for content removal, and more.

We will seek to articulate a network between participants of the school, aiming to keep them connected even after the programme. The idea is that you continue to share stories, opportunities, and outputs, as well as passing on your own works to your peers.

With this in mind, after finishing school, InternetLab will stimulate the egresses to produce something materializing what they have learned. Our goal is to spread such contents, which will suit as examples of good narratives and as guidelines for further productions.

**SUBMISSIONS**

**Selection criteria**

- **Journalists from all over Latin America:** 20 journalists will be selected, ten from Brazil and ten from other Latin American countries.

- **Interest in the transformations that new technologies and internet have triggered:** the most important requirement to accomplish is the interest in these changes.

- **Acquaintance with the coverage of Internet policies’ agenda:** we are looking for people who are already covering these issues and want some specialization. This criterion is not qualifying, but it will be taken into account during the selection.

- **Diversity:** we will take into account diversity criteria [such as gender, race, regional distribution, and others].

- **Quality and engagement:** we will take into consideration the candidate’s’ general interests, the commitment to Internet policies’ agenda, and the quality of the work submitted to us.
HOW TO APPLY?

Send the following documents to escola@internetlab.org.br:

- résumé
- motivation letter with up to 300 words, no title needed, describing your areas of interest and relevant aspects of your professional experience
- a recent article written by you on some issue dealing with technology and Internet
- [optional] letter of recommendation of university professors who know the candidate well and/or organizations working in the field of digital rights and/or media (digital or printed) in which the journalist has already worked or provided services for.
- [scholarships] please indicate the need of financial support for transport or accommodation [identify which]

FURTHER INFORMATION

The participation in the InternetLab School 2017 is free of charge. The project has an aid fund to offer scholarships which will cover transportation and daily expenses in São Paulo.

The activities of the school will be conducted mainly in Portuguese and Spanish (and possibly in English). Participants will make an effort for communication to overcome language barriers between the two languages.

Deadline for applications: 16 January 2017

Accepted applicants will be contacted in: 30 January 2017
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