



9th Annual Gershowitz Conference on Media & Democratic Governance

Theme: Pandemic Paralysis: What the Media and Government Learned

Date: November 5, 2021

Time: 11:00a.m - 4:00p.m.

Venue: Virtual

Overview

A year later, it's clear that the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the world, lives, professions, and indeed everything in lasting ways, and glimpses of that transformed system are already emerging. In education, many countries are in the middle of massive experiments in new ways of teaching and learning, and new ways of dividing responsibilities between home, school, and work. Media professionals, civil servants, businesses, and many others learned how to work from home.

While the pandemic has unleashed a wave of innovation in several sectors that has accelerated change and prompted blue-sky thinking throughout the system, it also exposed lots of failures in journalism practice and governance processes. The wave of misinformation in the media exacerbated the already fragile credibility of the media while deepening the trust deficit in public administration. At the same time, inequality and marginalization of vulnerable population persisted.

How can societies keep breaking down barriers of inequity through what we learned in the pandemic? What are the failures and successes of the different levels of government during the pandemic? Did the media provide appropriate guidance to the society and political leaders during the pandemic? Overall, did media practitioners and government functionaries find new ways to spark their creativity, harness technology, and provide the services they need to succeed?

Join top-level leaders to discuss these questions and more at the 9th Gershowitz Conference on Media and Democratic Governance – a daylong virtual event.

Schedule and Presentations

11:00-11:30

Opening Statements:

Dr. Charles Menifield, Dean, School of Public Affairs & Administration,
Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

Dr. Robert Shick, Affiliated Faculty at SPAA, Conference Co-Chair.

Dr. Uchenna Ekwo, President, CMPI – Conference Co-Chair

Gabriel Gershowitz, Attorney - DLA Piper LLP, NY

11:30 – 12:15

Keynote Speech:

George J. Hill, M.D. D.Litt.

Surgeon, Educator, Author, Volunteer, Captain, Medical Corps, US Navy
(retired)

Dr. George Hill draws on forty years of experience as a physician and surgeon, and a parallel career as a teacher, writer, and leader of non-profit organizations. Dr. Hill was the first U.S. Navy Medical Officer to graduate from the U.S. Army Airborne School, Fort Benning, Georgia. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and Fellow of The Explorers Club

12:15 – 1:15

Q & A

1:15 – 1:30

Alain TCHEGNON – *Foreign Press Correspondents Association, NY*

Alain TCHEGNON is a COVID-19 Response Specialist at Philadelphia Department of Public Health with a background in Media and Journalism. With over ten years of experience in Journalism, Alain has covered two presidential elections his native country, Republic of Benin. In 2005, he joined the French Union Press Organization before traveling to France and to Switzerland in 2006 where he explored the international dimensions of journalism. In 2011, Alain relocated to the United States of America where he continued to pursue further education and training in Mass Media and Journalism studies.

1:30 – 2:00

Q & A

2:00 – 2:20

Mehran Sahami, Ph.D. *Professor at Stanford University*

Mehran Sahami is the James and Ellenor Chesebrough Professor in the School of Engineering, and Professor (Teaching) and Associate Chair for Education in the Computer Science department at Stanford University. He is also the Robert and Ruth Halperin University Fellow in Undergraduate Education. Prior to joining the Stanford faculty, he was a Senior Research Scientist at Google. His research interests include computer science education, artificial intelligence, and ethics. He co-authored "System Error: Where Big Tech Went Wrong and How We Can Reboot."

2:20 – 2:30

Mike Wagenheim, *Senior U.S. Correspondent at i24NEWS*

Mike is American sportscaster turned Israeli-based political TV reporter. With vast experience in radio, television and Internet broadcasting, including reporting, hosting, narration, production and editing, writing for print and broadcast, Mike's well-rounded skills in media relations, social media, community relations and event management makes him a valuable asset in the media industry.

2:30 – 3:30

Q & A

3:30 pm – 3:35

Closing Remarks