BLACK IN TECH BERLIN
mediale pfade
gig GLOBAL INNOVATION GATHERING
IMPACT HUB Berlin
BAMENDA FILM SCHOOL
Brot für die Welt
EPIZ Globales Lernen in Berlin
Landesstelle für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit
Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Energie und Betriebe
BERLIN
berlin global village

Panel - Integrating Digitalization and Global Justice

Over the course of the day, we discussed social justice and digitalization from several perspectives, including tech developers, end users, government regulators, political agendas, education, social outreach, non-profit organizations, community organizers.

We also spoke about ensuring representative participation from: the global south and north, the global majority and minority, BIPOC, African people, people from migrant diasporas, women, and a number of intersecting identities. It is critical that the narratives flow in all directions, not just from the Global North to the Global South. This is challenging given the gaps created by colonization. Governance in the Global South is often somewhat fragile and early adopters of technology are vulnerable when regulatory infrastructure is missing. The farther the technological development pulls ahead, the farther the is at risk of falling behind.

Digitalization is about being in conversation with the future, and there are many futures. Dystopian futures were often referenced, but there are also African, European, Diasporic, and Indigenous futures. We spoke about how digitalization will play a major part in many of our shared futures and that commonalities in perspective and values allow for us to build connections to generate change. Conference participants called for a practical emphasis, challenging thinkers to root all theoretical ideas with real-world applications to avoid the pitfall of technology being seen as "something for some people".

To not engage in a conversation about how technology affects our work, and our communities would put us at a disadvantage, in positively affecting and in creating real value and resources for the people and organizations we support. As access increases, organizing around that access means not waiting for those in power to determine the

next steps. There is a need to delve further into how digitalization in Democracy can enable civil society to engage, empower and revolutionize rather than exploit and control residents and citizens.

There are a number of contextual challenges and ongoing developments in tech and digitalization. Solutions around content moderation, business models, and governance are still in flux. Filtering vs. Censorship, Clickbait vs. Open Source, Self vs. State regulated. Global infrastructure gaps that result in vulnerability and critical conversations about data, privacy, and regulation are missing or not prioritized. Walls and complexity are intentionally created by companies and governments. Generosity and broader cultural input are central to generating inclusive media and not replicating the status quo. Integrating parents to reach children requires expanded opportunities for experiential and creative play for all ages.

Technological developments have often been advanced at the cost to the Global South and as a One World Center it would be remiss and unethical of us to try to have a conversation about digitalization without having a conversation about how the entire industry has been based on exploitation. Tools are not ideal or neutral, nor inherently liberating or limiting, neither are the spaces they create. Digital literacy is critical for interpreting information for organized action and challenging power structures.

Tech education is political. Skills learning supports closing the gap between creators and users, including AI and especially to address bias in coding. Any digital infrastructure and set-up should be dependent on and reflect the needs of actual people. This typically includes a mix of online and offline events. Analog spaces are an important part of a successful digital community.

AI in Child and Youth Services: Development and Practice

An interactive dialogue to understand how AI works in a cloud and how instead of owning and managing physical hardware the cloud paved the way for technological development. Contextualization of the discussion about AI with a focus on its cultural influences on the life of youth through analysing AI in practice and starting a critical dialog about AI in child and youth services.

Digital Hub Virtual Reality Tour and Infrastructure Brainstorming

A two part session with a particpatory introduction to the WeltRaum and digital learning formats followed by a virtual tour of the future digital hub space and interactive VR brainstorming to the possible design of both the physical space and digital infrastructure.

Getting started with AI in Non-Profits

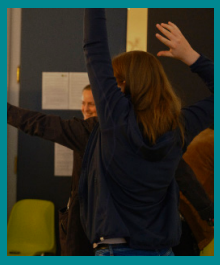
Pratical traininag for non-profit organizations around entry points to AI, this sesssion will provide instruction on how to explore the different tools and what possible ways it can support global intiatives across the Global North and South.

Marginalized Voices in Digitalization, how and why?

This session includes methods and dicussions around the practical exclusion and Data approach in digitalization. What topics in tech and virtual development are most relevant for african migrants in europe? What infrastructures on a practical basis and what approaches leave margininalized perspectives behind? How and why are marginalized perspectives excluded from the tech developments?

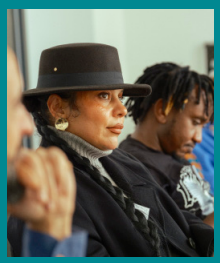
Driving participation and empowerment through local networks and digital tools

Learn best practices and concrete examples to leverage technology for social engagement. How do social enterprises and local networks use digital tools to promote inclusion and equity? What are opportunities of using tech to drive participation and empowerment?



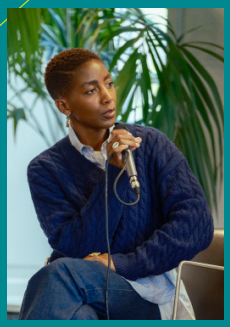
Digital Media Utilization: Crafting an Equitable Digital Future

This workshop, anchored by the Exile Media Hub Brandenburg in cooperation with the Bemnda Film School/JJoliba e.V., explores the challenges and opportunities for asylum seekers in Germany as they navigate digitalization. Through storytelling and presentations, we will delve into the importance of inclusive development in creating a fair digital future, while discussing strategies to overcome barriers, secure work, and integrate into local communities.



Wrap up and Questions for the future

Most importantly, in addition to a robust and thought-provoking discussion, the conference was central in helping us to formulate a list of questions that will drive how we shape the Berlin Global Village Digital Hub. These include:



- What is the origin of the problems tech seeks to solve? What is technology even in this context? A tool? A resource?
- Where do we easily and inclusively access the technology that exists?
- Do we have a say in how tech is developed? How do we intentionally encourage bottom-up development and usage of tools?
- How do we ensure solutions are in service of migrants' actual needs in Berlin and in the Global South?
- If coders have the power, how do we foster integration of additional different experiences and languages reflective of the global majority?
- Redirecting from big systems to practical and simple needs, what is the role of tech?
- How does digitalization enable engagement in civil society? Empowering vs. Exploiting? Liberating vs. Controlling?

- What does content creation look like when the goal is to promote social justice?
- Who is controlling the narrative? How is it being sold? How do we use tech to enhance economic empowerment?
- How do we create different results from inequitable platforms?
- How do we support marginalized groups in shaping the narrative to make demands on the political realm?
- Digitalization for what? For whom? In which context?
- Who gets to decide when the state steps in? What is addiction?
- How is this technology really helping us?

- What happens when all information is only digital or online? How do we distinguish digital learning from analog?
- How do we deconstruct to not duplicate or replicate the status quo or more inequity?
- In which digital spaces are you active? What can you do to foster social justice there?

The conference closed with a call to action: Be a facilitator of your values. Expressing values helps to set transparent expectations which helps increase accountability and lays the foundation for action! This we take as a personal challange but also as the Berlin Global Village Center and the future Digital Hub as our way to go forward.