



AI JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP 2024



Project Information

Project	AI Journalism Fellowship Program
Total no. of fellows	41
Project Duration	3 months
Location/Coverage	West Africa
Applications received	Over 431
Candidates Shortlisted	75
Institutions & Organisations	30+
Total Sessions	25
Project submissions	5
Evaluation Criteria	Relevance, clarity, originality, impact, and feasibility



About Fact Check Africa

At FactCheckAfrica, we're dedicated to empowering individuals with the tools and knowledge they need to navigate today's complex digital landscape. Our innovative programs and initiatives focus on key areas like online safety, media literacy, and fact-checking, and are designed to serve a diverse audience. Our mission is to promote digital literacy, combat misinformation, and create a safer online environment for people across various age groups and communities.

Currently, we're tackling misinformation and disinformation across Nigeria and Africa through our AI-powered fact-checking platform, MyAifactchecker.org. Within this platform, we've integrated two fact-checking systems to improve accuracy. The Fact Check API quickly retrieves top-rated fact-checks for users, offering a concise summary of an article's trustworthiness. Meanwhile, our use of the OpenAI GPT-4 engine enables in-depth fact-checking, providing detailed responses to help users make informed decisions about the content they encounter.

We've made significant progress in our journey toward truth and accountability. Our team has expanded, and we've proudly welcomed over thirty skilled fellows who play key roles in our ongoing work. Thanks to their dedication and expertise, we've become a leading fact-checking resource for election and political information in Nigeria. We've also organized extensive training sessions across several states and West African countries, reaching over 150

journalists, fact-checkers, and researchers. Through these efforts, we've promoted a culture of truth-seeking and equipped these professionals with essential fact-checking skills. In addition to this, we've built the capacity of more than 30,000 youth across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones and reached over 30 communities, training over 10,000 older adults.

Our research publication *Information Disorder: A Malady on Elections in Nigeria* has been well-received by policymakers, academics, media outlets, and civic organizations across the country. We've also published three other research studies on misinformation and information literacy, with more underway.

In collaboration with Meta, we published a report titled *Network of Issues and Opportunities in East Africa's Misinformation Landscape: A Critical Assessment of Stakeholders' Perspectives on Gaps, Challenges, and Opportunities*. Another notable work, *Information Pollution, New Technologies, and Extremism in West Africa: A Diagnostic Analysis*—which includes a factsheet and policy brief—addresses the challenges in the region. Our research and initiatives have been featured by prominent media outlets, including TechCabal, Al Jazeera, IJNET, Solution Papers, Zikoko, MediaCareer, and Republic. We've also been featured on radio stations like Sobi 101.9 FM, Oodua 99.9 FM, and Diamond 88.7 FM, helping us extend our reach to even more people.

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Introduction

The AI Journalism Fellowship West Africa is a pioneering program designed to equip journalists and media professionals with the knowledge, skills, and more importantly, ethical considerations necessary to navigate the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and journalism in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape. Developed in partnership with universities and supported by leading technology partners, this program aims to empower journalists to harness AI technologies responsibly and effectively in their reporting practices.

According to Miller, Administrator of the Pulitzer Awards, while AI tools originally carried suspicions among journalists, it was important to recognize the necessity of understanding the capabilities and possible risks associated with the use of AI (Digital Watch, 2024). Our initiative is hinged on helping journalists gain access to knowledge on the opportunities and prospective risks of AI use.



Objectives



By participating in this groundbreaking program, journalists will gain a deep understanding of the transformative potential of AI in the media industry. Thereby closing the gap in the delay in the adoption of innovation by third-world countries, most importantly it will impact ethical knowledge in the use of AI in journalism.

1. Equip journalists with a deep understanding of AI's transformative potential in media.
2. Train participants to integrate AI into news gathering, fact-checking, data analysis, and content creation, while maintaining ethical standards.
3. Encourage discussions about AI-related biases, privacy concerns, and misinformation risks.

Expected Outcomes



The AI in Journalism Expected Outcomes are:

1. Foster a community of AI-savvy journalists capable of navigating digital journalism's evolving landscape.
2. Equip participants with practical and ethical AI implementation strategies, ensuring their journalistic practices align with integrity standards.

By investing in the AI Journalism Fellowship West Africa, journalists will position themselves as leaders in the digital era, where AI is poised to revolutionize the way news is gathered, analyzed, and presented to the public.

AI Journalism Fellowship Program West Africa

Cohort of 2024

We are delighted to announce the 2024 cohort of the AI Journalism Fellowship Program West Africa, conducted by FactCheckAfrica and the Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative. We received over 431 applications from across the region and shortlisted 75 candidates from over 30 organizations at the initial phase. 41 candidates, journalists, educators and researchers from over 30 organizations and institutions across West Africa were then unveiled in the second month to proceed in this prestigious program.

Receiving over 25 sessions from esteemed facilitators: Dr Greg Gondwe, David Caswell, Prof Elisabeth Muller, Camilla Bath, Walid Al-Saqaf, Douglas Ng, Laurens VreeKamp, S. I. Ohumu, Joshua Olufemi, Sam Guzik, Ali Al Ibrahim, Justina Asishana, Prof. Stephen Quinn, Bratislava Lovre, Muhammed Akinyemi, Mallick Mnela, Prof Hannes Cools, Andreas M. Panagopoulos, Nicholas Mamo, David Lemeyian, Paul Bradshaw, Wales Ahmed, Nikita Roy, and Brownyn Jones on sessions ranging from overview of Artificial Intelligence in Journalism, Practical Applications of Generative AI for Journalists, Ensuring Ethical and Equitable AI Practices in Journalism, Strategies for Implementing AI in News Production, AI and Audience Engagement, Developing an Effective AI Implementation Plan for News Organizations, Adapting AI Tools to Meet Specific Journalism Needs, Reporting on Generative AI: Challenges and Opportunities, Utilizing AI for Data Analysis and Data Visualization in Journalism, Creating Impactful Visuals Using AI Tools, Identifying Deepfakes and Disinformation in Journalism, and Assembling Your AI Toolkit: Adapting AI Tools to Meet Specific Journalism Needs.

In the three months of the fellowship, Fellows collaborated in teams of 6-7 working to leverage AI to enhance reporting and other journalism processes.

Our team, together with our facilitators, conducted the final evaluation and selection based on the strength of the project proposals.

Fellows belong to news organizations from 6 countries in West Africa: Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Liberia. They represent both legacy, smaller news organizations, Universities etc.

Meet our Fellows



Ndinojuo Ben-Collins Emeka, Umar Al'amin, Ngevaeo Patricia Sia, Lawanson Olajumoke, Zakaria Ouedraogo, Ofosu Agyapomaa Afia, Sidibe Adnan Salif Hamidou, Aruwajoye Oladapo Olugbenga.



Babalola Toheeb Ademola, Fadare Titilope, Jerry Gaye, Oluwalowo Tosin Opeyemi, Che Azenyui Bruno, Esther Ewune otto, Ibrahim Adam, Chibundu Janefrances.



Ngeh Kum Peter, Amokeoja Oluwatomisin, Isa Ali Musa, Arinze Chijioke, Yukfu Sylvie Bantar, Amamboh Carrey Pride Asongu, Shuaib Muhammad Bashir, Effande Lyonga Larry Jr.



Obe Emmanuel, Congo Rabiadou, Onwuzoo Angela, Aliyu Usman, Ballah, Emmanuel M., Emma Black Kamara, Rufus, Konah, Ugwu Tochukwu Onwe



Ige Tofarati, Rahaman Abiola, Acheampong Richmond, Besane Mangam Jean, Kwasigah Sedem, Ilona Katherine Ngozi, Umar Aliyu Dambuwa, Paul Emeka Chimodo, Obayendo Temitope Comfort

Session Agenda

- An Overview of Artificial Intelligence in Journalism
- Practical Applications of Generative AI for Journalists
- Ensuring Ethical and Equitable AI Practices in Journalism
- Strategies for Implementing AI in News Production
- AI and Audience Engagement
- Developing an Effective AI Implementation Plan for News Organizations
- Adapting AI Tools to Meet Specific Journalism Needs
- Reporting on Generative AI: Challenges and Opportunities
- Utilizing AI for Data Analysis and Data Visualization in Journalism
- Creating Impactful Visuals Using AI Tools
- Identifying Deepfakes and Disinformation in Journalism
- Assembling Your AI Toolkit: Adapting AI Tools to Meet Specific Journalism Needs

Sessions Overview

1

Session One (Onboarding session)

Date: Saturday 4th May 2024

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Greg Gondwe

Topic: Overview of Artificial Intelligence in Journalism

The virtual onboarding session for the selected FactCheckAfrica AI Journalism Fellows kick started with the aim of empowering West African journalists, fact-checkers and researchers alike with the knowledge and skills to ethically and effectively deploy AI for maximum impact in the evolving media landscape.

The session had Dr. Gregory Gondwe, an Assistant Professor of Journalism and a Harvard Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Centre as the keynote speaker.

He also highlighted the prevalent issue of bias within AI systems and underscored the challenges identified by scholars in Africa regarding AI alongside its implications. Dr. Gregory Gondwe also spoke about the risks of data centralization in technology, advocating for a more inclusive approach that reflects the diverse cultural backgrounds and realities of African societies. The virtual onboarding session for the FactCheckAfrica AI Journalism Fellows ended with participants gaining deeper insights on the use of AI in journalism and it signalled the start of a 3-month journey.



**Dr. Greg
Gondwe**



[Find out more>>>](#)

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Sessions Overview

Session Two

Topic: Practical Applications of Generative AI for Journalists
Date: Tuesday, 7th May, 2024
Speaker: David Caswell



The FactCheckAfrica AI Journalism Fellows had an insightful session with David Caswell, founder of StoryFlow Ltd, who discussed the role of hands-on experience in utilizing Generative AI for journalistic endeavours. He discussed the practical applications of Generative AI, showcasing its potential to revolutionize how journalists create content. "The only way to really learn prompting in a newsroom environment is to use it; is to do it. It is like learning to drive a car, or learning to ride a bicycle" he said.

David

Caswell



Practical Applications of Generative AI for Journalists

AI Journalism Fellowship Program Session
May 7th, 2024

David Caswell

@StructStories
david@structuredstories.com

[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Three

Date: Tuesday 14th May, 2024 Topic: Practical

Applications of Generative AI for Journalists Speaker: Prof. Dr. Marie Elisabeth Müller

Prof. Dr. Marie Elisabeth Müller, a Professor of AI in Communications and International Education Management at Media Design University, led an insightful presentation on the application of AI tools in multimedia journalism.

The session delved into various AI-augmented technologies, including AI-powered text generation, image creation, and data journalism tools. A significant portion of the discussion focused on the ethical considerations surrounding AI-generated content. Müller emphasized the need for human supervision throughout AI processes, ensuring that no AI-generated content is published without rigorous human oversight.

The importance of verifying AI-generated materials—such as text, images, and audio—was highlighted, encouraging journalists to cross-reference sources, consult experts, and ensure accuracy. These best practices aim to preserve journalistic integrity and prevent the spread of misinformation in the media industry.



**Dr. Marie
Müller**



[Find out more>>>](#)

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Sessions Overview

Session Four

Date: Thursday, 16th May, 2024

Topic: Developing an Effective AI Implementation Plan for News Organizations

Speaker: Camilla Bath



Our AI Journalism Fellows had an enlightening session with Camilla Bath, a distinguished journalist, consultant, and trainer. The session focused on **“Developing an Effective AI Implementation Plan for News Organizations.”** Camilla led the Fellows through a comprehensive exploration of practical steps for integrating AI into news operations. Her emphasis was on strategic planning, clear communication, and the importance of continuous learning, testing, and adaptation. She highlighted that an effective AI implementation plan requires careful consideration of the newsroom’s specific needs and goals.

Camilla
Bath

Implementing AI
in the
Newsroom

[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Five

Date: Tuesday, 21st May, 2024

Topic: Ensuring Ethical and Equitable AI Practices in Journalism

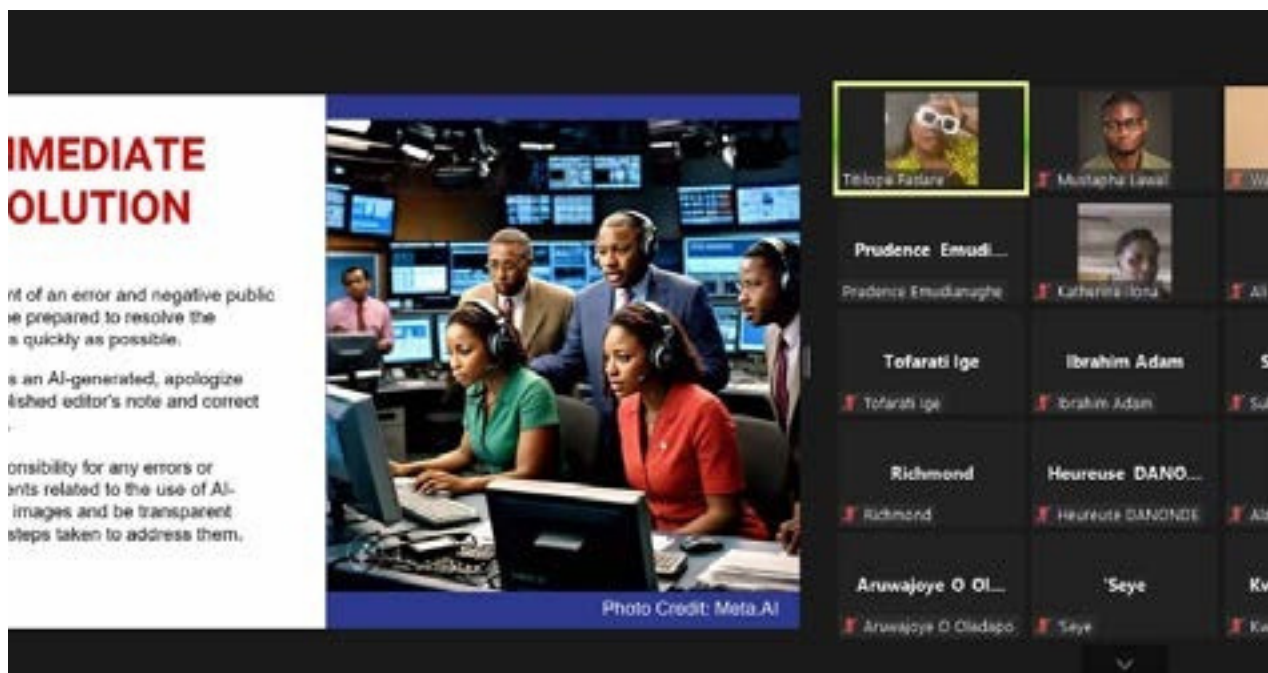
Speaker: Walid Al-Saqaf

Walid Al-Saqaf, an Associate Professor in Journalism and Senior Lecturer in Media Technology at MCS | Södertörn University led and engaged our Fellows in a thought-provoking group activity. Fellows explored the ethical guidelines for using AI-generated images in newsrooms. Part of the discussions centred around the importance of human supervision in AI processes, ensuring that no content is published without thorough human oversight.

Emphasis was placed on verifying that AI-generated images accurately represent the stories and people involved by cross-referencing multiple sources, consulting experts, and conducting due diligence on the image's origin. These guidelines aim to uphold journalistic integrity and prevent the dissemination of misinformation.



**Walid
Al-Saqaf**



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Sessions Overview

Session Six

Topic: Developing an Effective AI Implementation Plan for News Organizations

Date: Thursday, 23rd May, 2024

Speaker: Douglas Ng



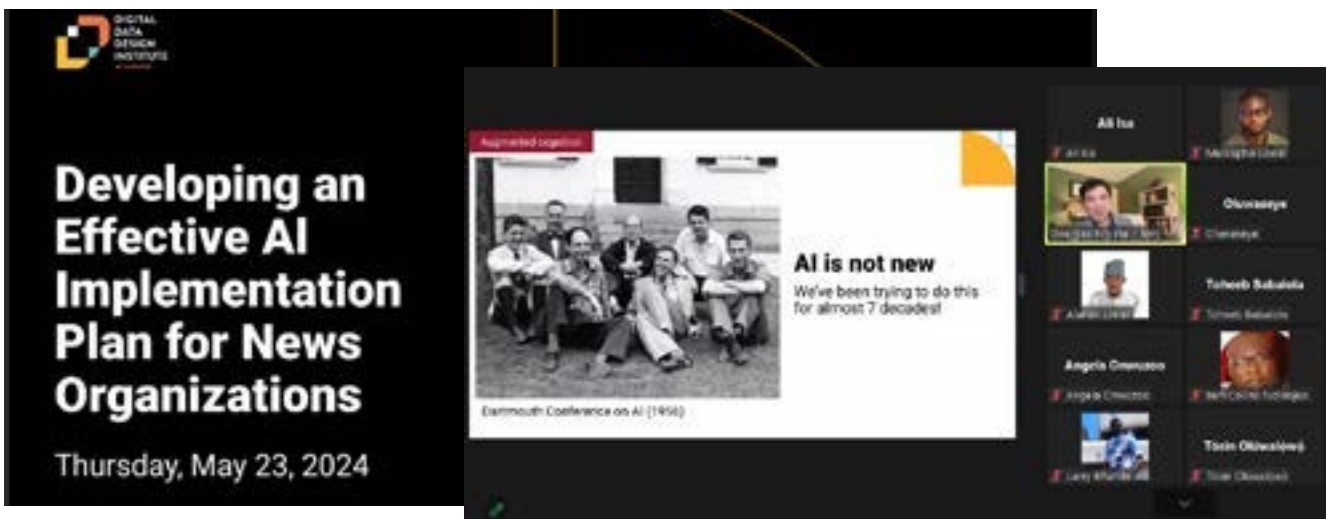
Douglas NG

The FactCheckAfrica AI Journalism Fellows had a highly insightful session with Douglas Ng, Head of Design & Launch Chief of Staff at the Digital Data Design (D3) Institute at Harvard.

The session centred on “Developing an Effective AI Implementation Plan for News Organizations.” Douglas Ng explored the potential of AI to exhibit empathy, underscoring the importance of ethical considerations and human oversight in AI applications. He showcased an AI-generated music demo, demonstrating how AI can create theme songs for initiatives like FactCheckAfrica, highlighting AI’s innovative capabilities in the creative field.

The discussion emphasized the critical role of human supervision in AI processes to uphold journalistic integrity and prevent misinformation. Douglas Ng stressed that no content should be published without rigorous oversight, maintaining the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

This session underscored the necessity of preserving the human touch in the age of AI, ensuring that technology enhances rather than undermines the credibility of journalism.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview



Session Seven

Monthly Cohort Virtual Networking Event

Date: Saturday, 25th May, 2024

Group Presentations

The FactCheckAfrica team had an incredible time with our AI Journalism Fellows at the Monthly Cohort Virtual Networking Event.

Participants engaged in insightful sessions, exchanging ideas and forging new connections. It was inspiring to see everyone so actively involved.

The highlight of the event was the mini-pitch presentations on the Week 3 task: "Creating a Practical AI Implementation Plan".

Our cohort members delivered impressive and innovative pitches, showcasing their understanding of AI and its potential applications in our newsrooms. The creativity and practicality of the ideas presented were truly commendable.



[Find out more>>>](#)

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Sessions Overview

Session Eight

Topic: Developing an Effective AI Implementation Plan for News Organizations

Date: Tuesday, 28th May, 2024

Speaker: Laurens Vreekamp



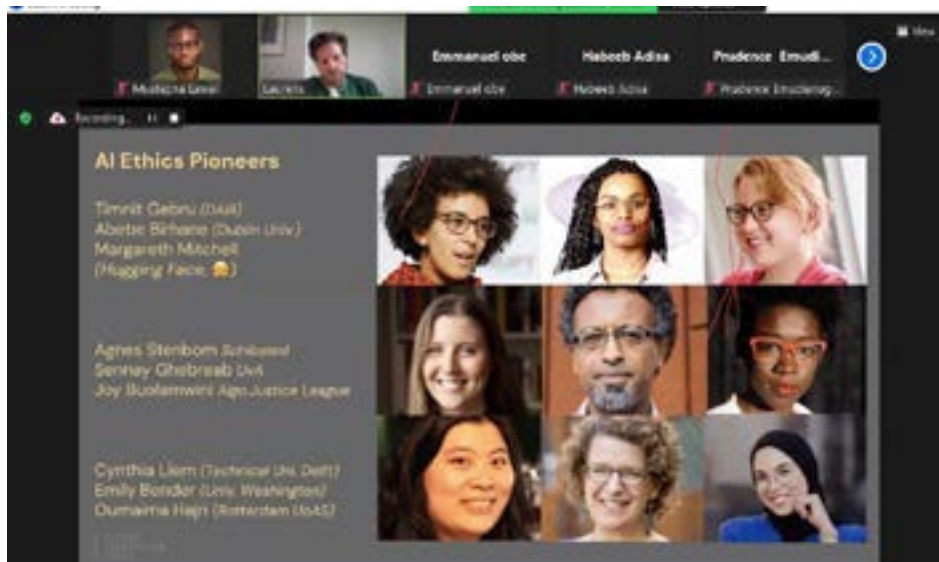
**Laurens
Vreekamp**

Laurens Vreekamp, founder of the 'Future Journalism Today Academy,' led our AI Journalism Fellows through an engaging session on developing an effective AI implementation plan for news organizations, yesterday.

Drawing from his extensive experience and insights from his book, "The Art of AI," he delivered a presentation filled with practical strategies and in-depth knowledge that equipped our fellows with innovative approaches to integrating AI and machine learning into journalism.

He walked the Fellows through the March 2024 Website Traffic report by site category. It was fascinating to see how the digital landscape is evolving, with Google, YouTube, and social media giants leading the way.

We also had an intriguing demo of the Gemini 1.5 Pro, which showcased its multimodal prompting capabilities with a 44-minute movie. The technology's ability to analyze and extract detailed information is truly impressive!



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Nine

Date: Wednesday, 5th June, 2024

Topic: Utilizing AI for Data Analysis and Data Visualization in Journalism

Speaker: S.I. Ohumu

The session enlightened the fellows on data visualisation and analysis. It also awakened them to the technicality and practicality of data visualization for data analysis in journalism.

During the session, she introduced various AI tools designed to transform raw data into clear, engaging visualizations. These tools are not only crucial for enhancing productivity and accuracy but also for improving engagement and storytelling in data journalism.

Fellows learned about diverse applications of AI in ideation, report refining, web scraping, and data storytelling. The session also emphasized the importance of data privacy, objectivity, accuracy, and editorial independence.



S.I.
Ohumu

[Find out more>>>](#)

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Sessions Overview

Session Ten

Topic: Utilizing AI for Data Analysis and Data Visualization in Journalism

Date: Thursday, 6th June, 2024

Speaker: Joshua Olufemi

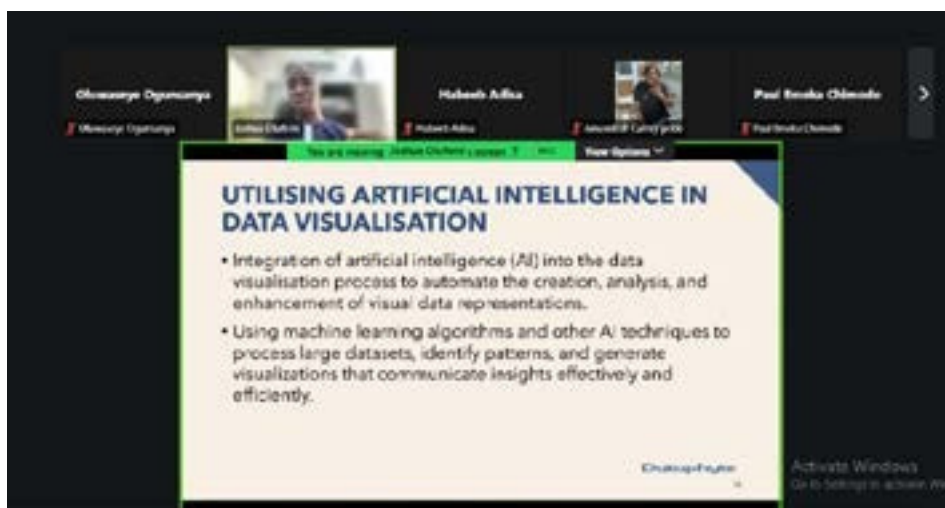


**Joshua
Olufemi**

The session, focused on the uses and benefits of various data visualization tools and their application in journalism, was both profound and interactive, offering invaluable insights to participants.

Joshua Olufemi introduced the fellows to powerful tools such as Google Pinpoint, Document Cloud, and Nubia, demonstrating their potential to transform raw data into compelling visual narratives. He emphasized the practice of translating information into visual representations, making complex data more accessible and understandable.

Through real-life and local examples, he highlighted the practical importance of data visualization in journalism. He illustrated how these tools can enhance storytelling, making information more teachable, attention-grabbing, and visually appealing. The session underscored the essential role of visualization in ensuring seamless application for journalists, aiding in the effective dissemination of information to the general public.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview



Session Eleven

Topic: AI and Audience Engagement: Creative Ways to Enhance Audience Interaction

Date: Thursday, 13th June, 2024

Speaker: Sam Guzik

Sam took the fellows on a historical journey, tracing the evolution of printing technology from its 15th-century origins to its modern-day impact on media. He highlighted the transformative effects of mechanization, steam presses, and the rise of wire services like the Associated Press. The advent of radio and television was also discussed, showcasing how these innovations have shaped media consumption and storytelling.

Delving into the current landscape, Sam explained how generative AI is reshaping traditional media business models and user behaviors. He stressed the importance of journalists building deeper relationships with their audiences and adapting to evolving SEO practices.

The session concluded with a discussion on emerging AI trends and the future of internet systems. Overall, our Fellows had an highly informative session with Sam, and were equipped with valuable insights and tools to leverage AI in their journalistic practices.



Sam Guzik



[Find out more>>>](#)

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Sessions Overview

Topic: Ensuring Ethical and Equitable AI Practices in Journalism

Date: Thursday, 20th June, 2024

Speaker: Ali Ali Ibrahim



Ali Ibrahim

Ali highlighted AI's ability to process and analyze large volumes of data efficiently, aiding in story-building and structuring.

However, he emphasized the potential pitfalls, such as errors and biases, stressing the need for rigorous verification and fact-checking to avoid the spread of

misinformation. The discussion covered AI's role in fact verification and data analysis, with Ali cautioning that AI should be used as an assistive tool rather than a replacement.

He also stressed the importance of ethical guidelines and the development of investigative skills to ensure impactful journalism. Ali emphasized the critical role of human skills in verifying and interpreting AI-generated results. He shared a list of AI tools for various tasks, including data analysis, image processing, and geolocation, and encouraged participants to seek help in using these tools effectively.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Thirteen

Topic: Creating Impactful Visuals Using AI Tools

Date: Tuesday, 25th June, 2024

Speaker: Justina Asishana

Justina Asishana expertly guided participants through the intricacies of collaboration workflows on Canva Teams, showing them how integrating AI into newsroom activities can streamline processes and elevate our storytelling.

The session’s highlights were truly eye-opening. Fellows learned how to use text prompts to generate stunning images, captivating videos, and immersive audio, all powered by AI tools.

They were particularly impressed by how these technologies can be leveraged to enhance the visual impact of their journalistic work, making stories more engaging and accessible to diverse audiences.

The hands-on experience with AI tools and the practical examples shared by Justina left our fellows equipped with new skills and inspiration to innovate in their visual storytelling



**Justina
Asishana**



Creating Impactful Visuals Using AI Tools

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the world of visual journalism, offering a diverse array of tools and techniques that can elevate storytelling and enhance the impact of media.

This session, we will explore the potential of AI in creating captivating visuals, improving data visualization, and transforming the way journalists engage with their audiences.

**by Justina
Asishana**

[Find out more>>>](#)

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Sessions Overview

Session Fourteen

Topic: Creating Impactful Visuals Using AI Tools

Date: Thursday, 27th June, 2024

Speaker: Professor Stephen Quinn



**Stephen
Quinn**

Stephen Quinn delved into the transformative role of AI in filmmaking, from scriptwriting and storyboarding to footage creation and post-production. He highlighted key tools like Gemini Chat, Runway, and Topaz AI, showcasing their potential while discussing their limitations and costs. His insights emphasized that while AI can enhance creativity, human input remains irreplaceable.

The session included practical demonstrations and discussions

on using AI for generating images, videos, and voice narration. Fellows were particularly intrigued by tools like MidJourney, Dali, and Night Cafe for video creation and the innovative concept of lip dubbing.

Stephen also touched on challenges in AI filmmaking, such as character morphing, and introduced cutting-edge music creation tools like Suno and Udio. He wrapped up by sharing his personal journey and the ethical considerations of AI in the media.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Fifteen

Topic: Ensuring Ethical and Equitable AI Practices in Journalism

Date: Thursday, 29th June, 2024

Speaker: Branislava Lovre

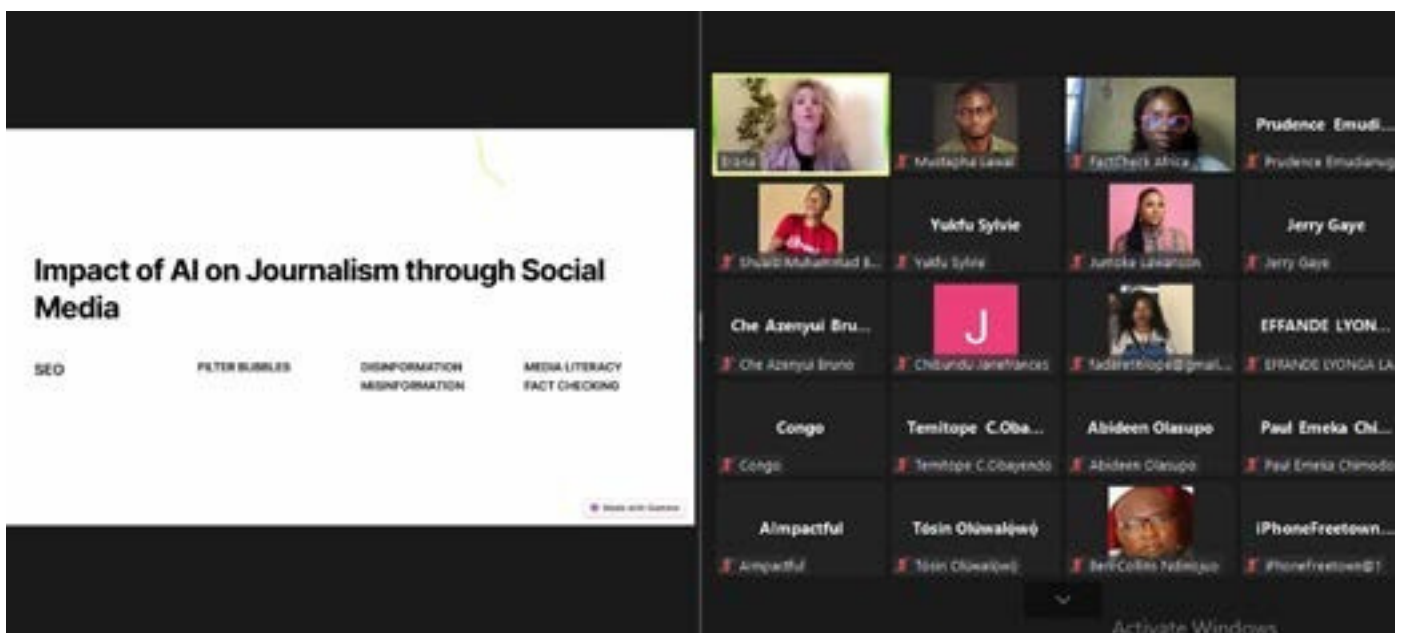
The session explored the ethical guidelines for AI use in journalism, stressing transparency, accountability, and responsible innovation.

Fellows engaged in interactive discussions and appreciated the valuable takeaways, which included creating AI policies, avoiding bias, acknowledging AI tools, and balancing innovation with integrity. This session reinforced their commitment to maintaining ethical standards in their work.

It was also a powerful reminder of the crucial role ethical considerations play in AI-driven journalism, ensuring that technological advancements align with journalistic integrity.



Branislava Lovre



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Sessions Overview

Topic: Understanding the art of Prompt Writing

Date: Saturday, 6th July, 2024

Speaker: Muhammed Akinyemi

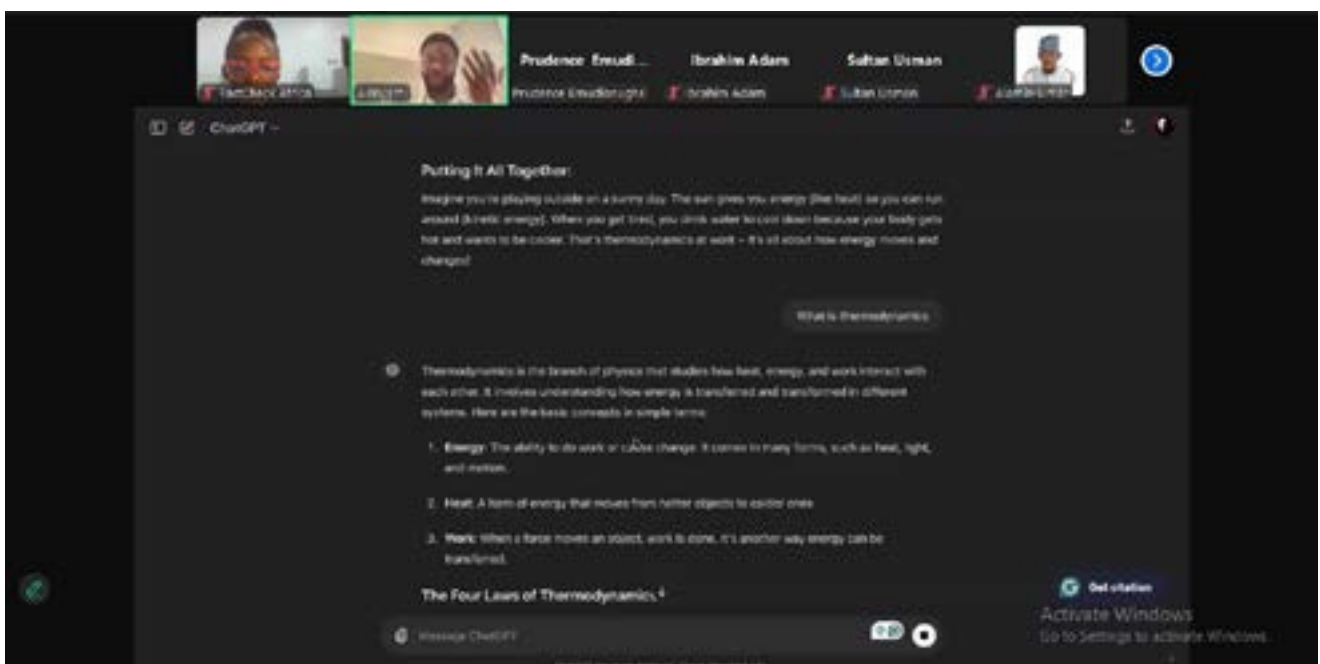


**Muhammed
Akinyemi**

The session was filled with practical applications of AI in journalism and creative writing.

He began by emphasizing the importance of tailoring AI responses to specific user needs. He illustrated this through the art of prompt writing, comparing it to building a basic house versus the Taj Mahal. Specific, detailed prompts yielded more relevant results, while generic ones led to broad, less useful information. This analogy highlighted the necessity of context and specificity in AI development.

He also introduced new tools for text analysis and maintaining writing consistency, showcasing their application in professional settings like LinkedIn. He stressed the importance of language, structure, and fact-checking to ensure accuracy and cultural sensitivity in AI-generated content.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Seventeen

Topic: Identifying Deepfakes and Misinformation in Journalism

Date: Tuesday, 9th July, 2024

Speaker: Mallick Mnela

Mallick Mnela, Journalist & Founder of iHubOnline, exploring the intersection between deepfakes and journalism.

The discussion highlighted both the potential benefits and significant risks associated with deepfake technology in the media landscape. He emphasized the importance of human verification in an age increasingly dominated by AI.

One key takeaway from the session was the concept of “deep fix,” which can both positively and negatively impact credibility and trust in journalism. Mallick discussed various AI tools available for detecting #deepfakes and highlighted the importance of internal policies within newsrooms to ensure ethical use of AI-generated content.



**Mallick
Mnela**

Some Tools Used in Creating DEEPFAKES

- 01** **ElonTalks [Audio-Visual]**
Use text-to-audio visual to create videos that use prominent figures.
- 02** **Synthesis [Video]**
Create videos using avatars leveraging text-to-audio technology.
- 03** **Deepfakes Web [Video]**
Create realistic video deepfakes using content supplied by user.
- 04** **PlayHT [Audio]**
Create realistic voices using text-to-audio or voice cloning methods.

Participants (23)

- Waiting Room (1)
- Joined (23)
- factcheckafrica (Host)
- Mallick Mnela (Co-host)
- Habeeb Adisa (Co-host)
- Prudence Eneadi (Co-host)
- Tjani Abdulkabeer (Co-host)
- Adnan Saif Hamidou SIDBE
- Ali Agreponna Obita
- Azami Umar
- Anamboli Carrey pride
- Enno, Chi Azanyal
- Private Windows

[Find out more>>>](#)

18 Sessions Overview

Session Eighteen

Topic: Practical Applications of Generative AI in the Newsroom

Date: Thursday, 11th July, 2024

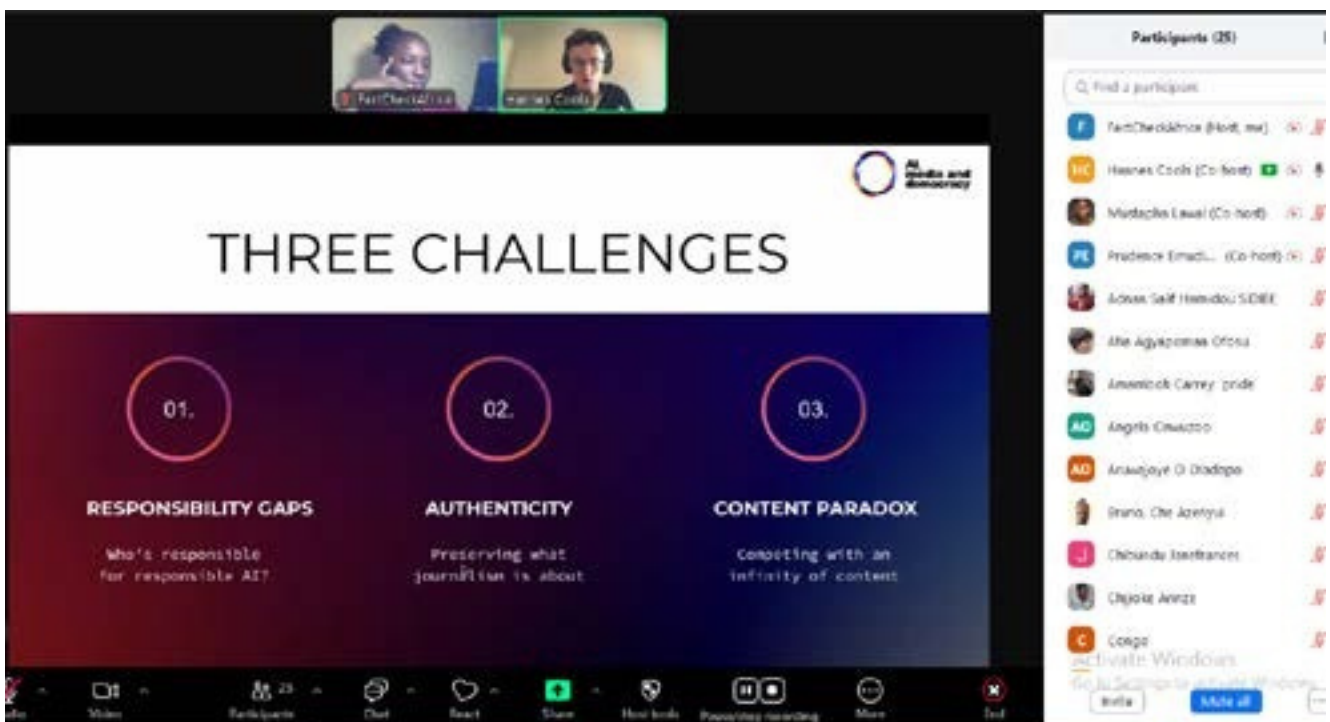
Speaker: Prof. Hannes Cools



**Hannes
Cools**

Prof. Hannes Cools discussed the potential of generative AI in newsrooms for tasks such as information classification, scoring, data extraction, and summarization. He also shared findings from his study with the Associated Press, which highlighted the prevalence of AI-generated text in news production and the importance of responsible experimentation with AI tools.

Hannes underscored the blurred lines between real and fake content and the essential need for responsible AI use in newsrooms, emphasizing guidelines, transparency, and human oversight.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Nineteen

Topic: Developing an effective AI implementation plan for news organizations.

Date: Saturday, 13th July, 2024

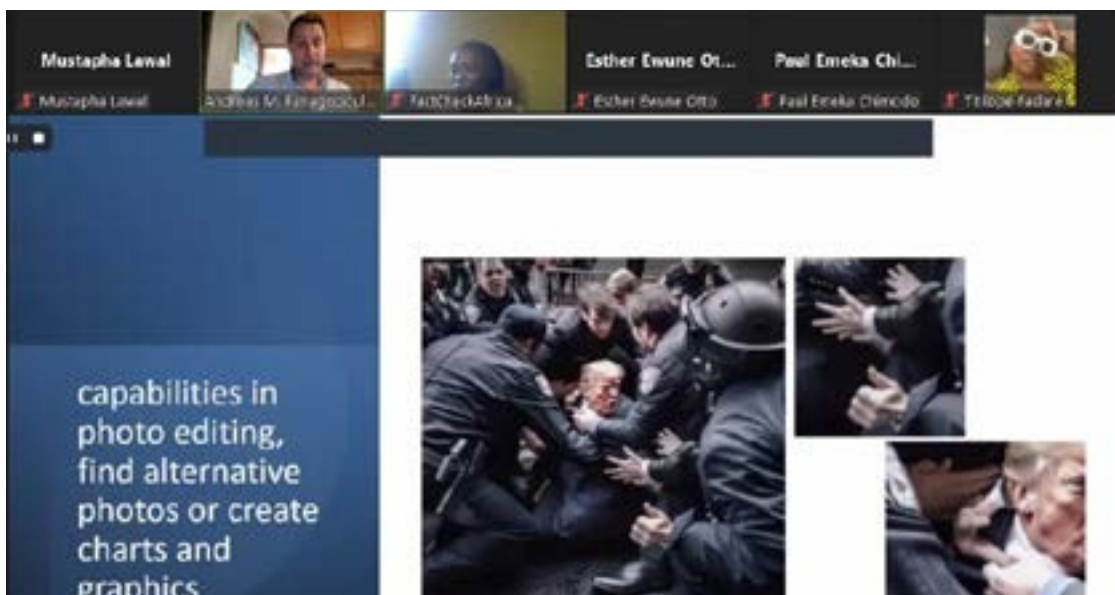
Speaker: Andreas M. Panagopoulos

He highlighted how AI is revolutionizing journalism by automating tasks like plagiarism detection, headline writing, and personalized newsletter creation. He stressed the importance of fact-checking and transparency, using CNet’s policy as an example, and discussed potential job impacts in editing and copywriting due to AI advancements. He outlined the potential benefits and challenges of AI in the newsroom, emphasizing media literacy and the importance of a strategic approach. He discussed the seven steps for implementing AI, which include automating data sifting and speech-to-text transcription, freeing journalists to focus on more creative work, and helping the public navigate news overload and misinformation.

Andreas emphasized the need for editorial control and transparency when using AI in newsrooms. He introduced the IFJ approach, which categorizes AI risks into prohibited, moderate, and low levels, ensuring that moderate risks remain under the direct responsibility of editors and journalists.



**Andreas
Panagopoulos**



[Find out more>>>](#)

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Sessions Overview

Topic: AI in the Newsroom: Strategies for Implementing AI in News Production

Date: Tuesday, 16th July, 2024

Speaker: Nicholas Mamo

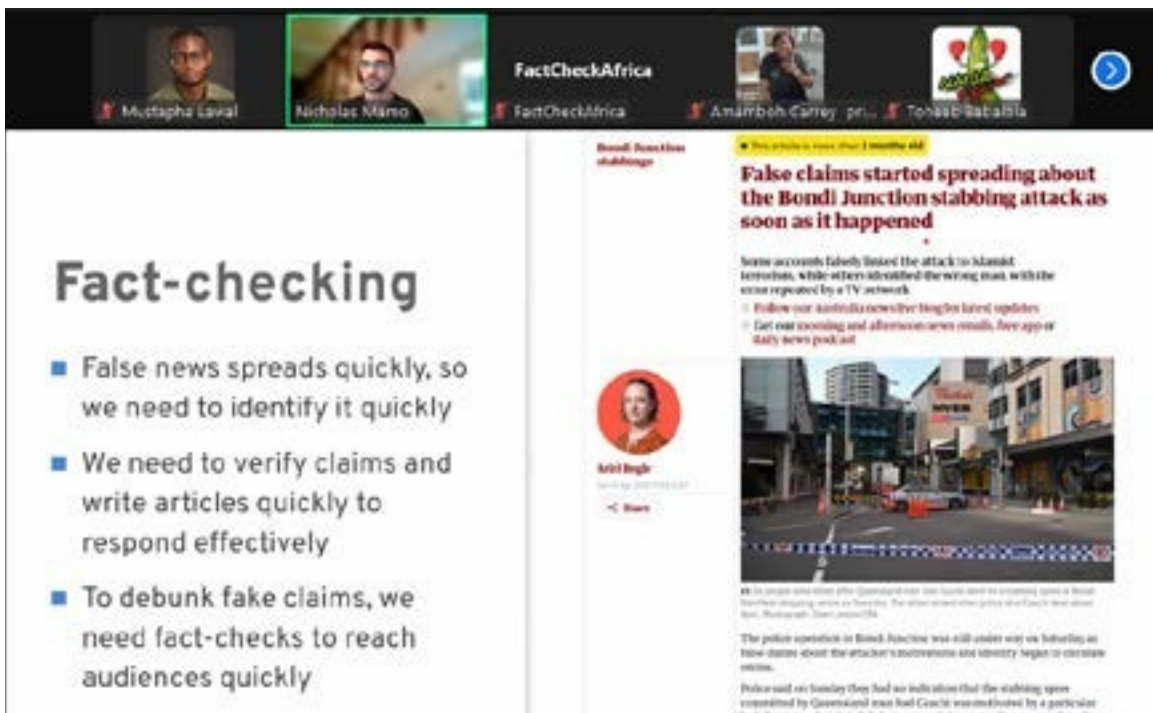


Nicholas Mamo

Nicholas Mamo, PhD, Data Scientist and AI Expert, guided our AI Journalism Fellows through a session titled “AI in the Newsroom: Strategies for Implementing AI

in News Production.” He discussed the holistic integration of AI in news production, covering news gathering, production, and distribution. By breaking down problems into manageable components and following an iterative development process, newsrooms can better harness AI’s capabilities.

Nicholas highlighted the importance of prioritizing human-centered AI strategies and provided resources for further exploration. The fellows left the session with a deeper understanding of AI’s role in journalism and the tools and strategies needed to implement it effectively.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

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Session Twenty-one

Topic: AI and Audience Engagement: Creative Ways to Enhance Audience Interaction

Date: Thursday, 18th July, 2024

Speaker: David Lemayian

David Lemayian, founder & principal of Tenery Research, led our AI Journalism Fellows in an enriching session titled “AI and Audience Engagement: Creative Ways to Enhance Audience Interaction.” He shared how AI can revolutionize newsrooms by automating tasks, enhancing data insights, and enabling innovative storytelling, ultimately boosting audience engagement and ad performance.

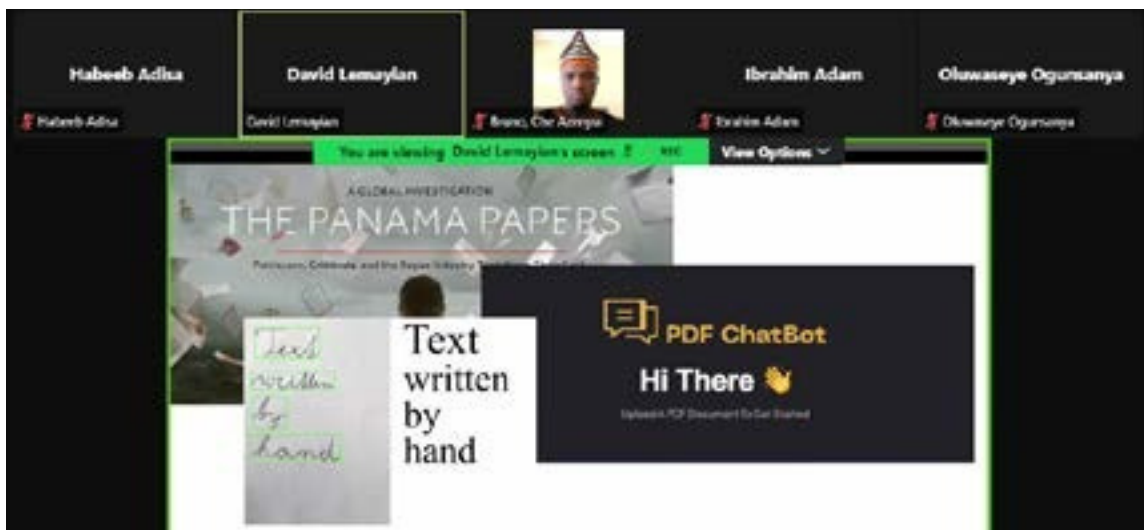
He addressed the critical need for mitigating AI misinformation and bias, stressing the importance of AI ethics guidelines and regular audits. The session also explored the impact of conflict-related content on media revenue, with discussions on the potential risks of AI fine-tuning data sets for specific agendas.

David emphasized the value of collaboration and partnerships to ensure African journalists aren’t left behind in the AI revolution.

He introduced robot journalism, where AI generates stories from extensive documents, sparking interest among fellows about its potential to enhance reporting.



**David
Lemayian**



[Find out more>>>](#)

22 Sessions Overview

Session Twenty-two

Topic: Applications of Generative AI: Use Cases in Journalism

Date: Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024

Speaker: Paul Bradshaw



**Paul
Bradshaw**

The session, titled “Applications of Generative AI: Use Cases in Journalism,” explored both the potential and limitations tools like ChatGPT and Claude, especially in areas such as idea generation, system understanding, and investigative journalism.

He highlighted the importance of using specific, detailed prompts to maximise the effectiveness of these AI tools while also discussing the environmental impact of certain AI applications, particularly those involving image generation. He underscored the necessity of human oversight and editorial control to mitigate biases inherent in AI models, which often favour Western sources and English language content.

Paul’s insights on bias mitigation and the ethical use of AI tools in journalism were invaluable, offering guidelines for promoting a diverse range of experts and data sources.

Prompt design is a CAREful skill.

- **Context:** describe the situation (role, employer, events)
- **Ask:** request specific action
- **Rules:** provide constraints (audience, story type, length)
- **Examples:** demonstrate what you want
- + Iterate, refine, and combine outputs ([break down into steps](#)) *The last 10% is 90% of the effort*

[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

23

Session Twenty-three

Topic: Assembling Your AI Toolkit: Adapting AI Tools to Meet Specific Journalism Needs

Date: Thursday, 25th July, 2024

Speaker: Waqas Ahmed

Waqas shared invaluable insights into how next token predictors like ChatGPT and Meta AI's Lama Series are revolutionizing the field of journalism. He discussed their use as language calculators, highlighting their capacity to assist in research and content generation, while emphasizing the importance of human oversight.

One key highlight was the emphasis on effective use of research tools. Waqas cautioned against relying solely on AI-generated content, stressing that these tools should support journalists by providing facts and data, rather than being the sole content creators.



**Waqas
Ahmed**



[Find out more>>>](#)

24 Sessions Overview

Session Twenty-four

Topic: Assembling Your AI Toolkit: Adapting AI Tools to Meet Specific Journalism Needs

Date: Saturday, 27th July, 2024

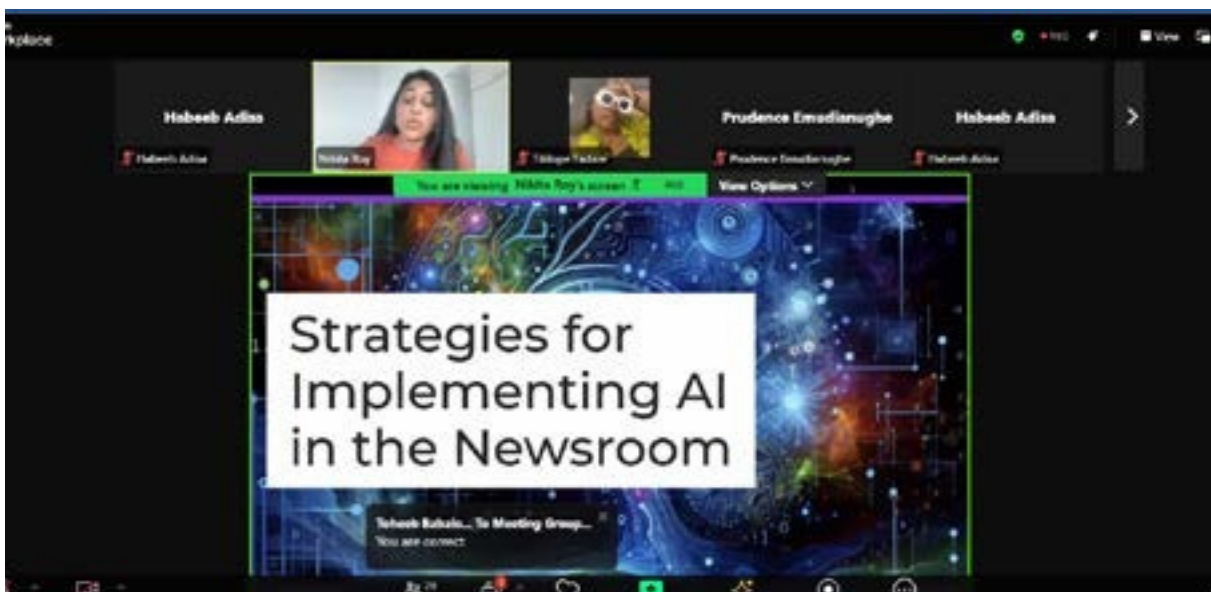
Speaker: Nikita Roy



**Nikita
Roy**

Nikita Roy, a data scientist, journalist, and AI futurist, led a discussion on the implementation of AI in newsrooms. She emphasized the importance of high-quality data, data cleaning, and continuous testing and improvement. Roy highlighted the potential of AI in summarizing news articles, generating content, and research assistance for journalists.

Roy encouraged participants to experiment with custom GPTs for their specific journalistic tasks and to consider the "build vs. buy" decision when implementing AI tools in their newsrooms. She also stressed the importance of fact-checkers in an era of increasing misinformation and the need for better understanding of the data. The session covered various topics, including AI training data and data cleaning, analyzing protests and AI model development, and the impact of AI on news content distribution. Roy emphasized the importance of collaborating across sectors and technologies to address the challenges posed by AI and the need for AI ethics guidelines and regular audits.



[Find out more>>>](#)

Sessions Overview

25

Session Twenty-five

Topic: Ensuring Ethical and Equitable AI Practices in Journalism

Date: Tuesday, 31st July, 2024

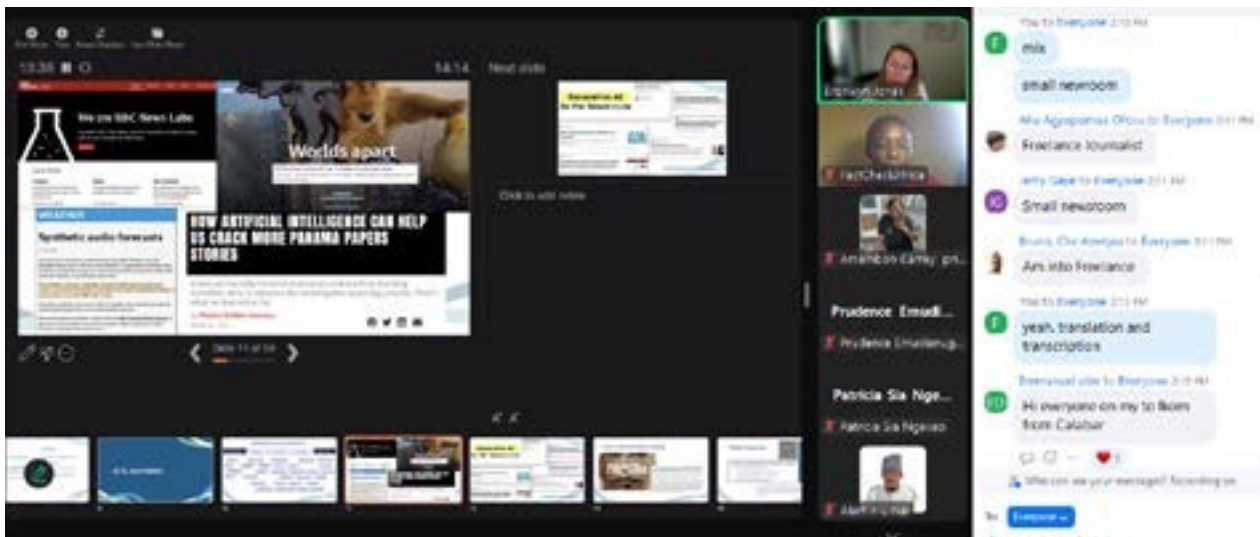
Speaker: Bronwyn Jones

Bronwyn, a translational fellow on the Bridging Responsible AI Devices program at the University of Edinburgh, led a discussion on the applications, benefits, and challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) in journalism. She highlighted the importance of understanding AI's various forms and its impact on different industries, including journalism. Bronwyn also clarified the difference between AI and simple tools of automation, emphasizing that AI is a developed and designed computational model. She then discussed the applications of AI in journalism and the media, and the need to understand the backgrounds and biases of those designing these systems.

Key points included: AI's potential to streamline operations, enhance accessibility, and aid investigative journalism, Global disparities in AI use, potential risks of misinformation, and ethical implications, Need for critical thinking, transparency, and regulation in AI development and deployment, Importance of considering hidden labour issues and community-based initiatives for language preservation.



Bronwyn Jones



[Find out more>>>](#)

Fellow Feedbacks

IRISH BUILDERS **FACTCHECK AFRICA**

FELLOWS FEEDBACK

The session met my expectation as I have gotten some new tools I can use for my visuals. I will be sure to use appropriate prompts for my visuals and not forgetting to add my human input to it. We always need human input in everything we do or generate with AI.

★★★★★

ANAMBON CARREY PRIDE
NEWS REPORTER
CAMEROON

#AIJournalismFellowshipProgram

@FactCheckAfrica @factcheck_africa



IRISH BUILDERS **FACTCHECK AFRICA**

FELLOWS FEEDBACK

Learning how to effectively use different tools so you can create your own unique style and collaborate with others and experiment and embrace the future were valuable. Hence, I will be using the AI presentation tools like Gamma and Tome. We can change the way we tell our stories and impact our audience with effective and ethical use of AI powered tools.

★★★★★

LAWANSON OLAJUMORE
COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, IFZ LIMITED
NIGERIA

#AIJournalismFellowshipProgram

@FactCheckAfrica @factcheck_africa



IRISH BUILDERS **FACTCHECK AFRICA**

FELLOWS FEEDBACK

The Facilitator emphasized the importance of planning visuals through storyboarding. I will adopt this method to outline the visual elements of my stories systematically, ensuring a cohesive and engaging narrative. Incorporating data visualization tools to present complex information in a more digestible format was a key point. I plan to use tools like infographics and interactive charts to make data-driven stories more accessible and compelling and to enhance teamwork and share resources efficiently when working on visual stories. The session stressed the ethical considerations in using AI for visuals. Ensuring accuracy and avoiding manipulation is crucial, and I will be mindful of this in all my visual storytelling.

★★★★★

EMMA BLACK KAMARA
MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE STEAM REPORTING NETWORK
GHANA

#AIJournalismFellowshipProgram

@FactCheckAfrica @factcheck_africa



IRISH BUILDERS **FACTCHECK AFRICA**

FELLOWS FEEDBACK

My main takeaway from the session has to do with the best practices we as journalists should always follow while using AI. While it is true that AI has come to help us in making our work easier and faster, we should always maintain that journalistic integrity by ensuring accuracy, fairness and transparency in the work we do. Thanks to AI for today's session. It was really rewarding because he addresses all of the concerns. Kudos to the team at FactCheck Africa.

★★★★★

GAYE JERRY
LOCAL VOICES
LIBERIA

#AIJournalismFellowshipProgram

@FactCheckAfrica @factcheck_africa



IRISH BUILDERS **FACTCHECK AFRICA**

FELLOWS FEEDBACK

The session was quite interactive and interesting. It met my expectations. I enjoyed the discussion by Ms Brana, she raised quite important and relevant questions regarding the ethical use of AI tools in the newsroom and for other organizations. The importance of full disclosure when using AI tools in writing seemed valuable. Thus, my takeaway is that, it is important to also acknowledge AI tools in our work.

★★★★★

NONOJUO, BEN-COLLINS EMEKA
LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
NIGERIA

#AIJournalismFellowshipProgram

@FactCheckAfrica @factcheck_africa



IRISH BUILDERS **FACTCHECK AFRICA**

FELLOWS FEEDBACK

My main takeaway from the session has to do with the best practices we as journalists should always follow while using AI. While it is true that AI has come to help us in making our work easier and faster, we should always maintain that journalistic integrity by ensuring accuracy, fairness and transparency in the work we do. Thanks to AI for today's session. It was really rewarding because he addresses all of the concerns. Kudos to the team at FactCheck Africa.

★★★★★

GAYE JERRY
LOCAL VOICES
LIBERIA

#AIJournalismFellowshipProgram

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[Hear more feedbacks>>>](#)

Fellowship Projects

Learn more about the 6 projects and meet the 2024 AI Journalism Fellows

Language Translator for real-time translation in Newsrooms **Project Team**

MyLanguageTranslator will be designed to utilize advanced natural language processing (NLP) algorithms that will be trained specifically on African languages and dialects. It will be designed to offer real-time translation, ensuring timely dissemination of news and journalistic content in different African languages. Using machine learning models, its model will continuously improve through feedback from users to improve its accuracy and contextual relevance over time. Also, my AI translator is expected.

Toheeb Babalola, Nigeria
(*Freelance reporter with Premium Times*)

Patricia Sia Ngevao, Sierra Leone
(*News Reporter, Awoko Publications (SL) Ltd*)

Shuaib Muhammad Bashir, Nigeria
(*Reporter at Confidence News Ng*)

Konah Rufus, Liberia
(*Director of News, Quality Media Incorporated*)

Paul Emeka Chimodo, Nigeria
(*Online Editor/Social media manager Today FM*)

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for wider audience reach in African newsrooms Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

We want to build a tool that can proffer timely translation solutions to journalists.

The team wishes to build an AI tool in an App and web format, which would be prompt-based, to allow every user to utilise the tool however they deem fit.

The AI tool would translate content from only English to other African languages while ensuring it utilises the services of Indigenous people to programme the right word to capture the essence of every language. Also by providing translations of news articles and information in different languages, newsrooms can facilitate cultural exchanges, build stronger relationships, and promote unity among diverse populations.

Project Team

Rahaman Abiola, Nigeria
(*Editor-in-Chief, LEGIT.ng*)

SIDIBE Adnan Salif Hamidou, Burkina Faso
(*Journalist Fact-checker at Fasocheck*)

Ige Tofarati, Nigeria
(*Lifestyle Editor (Punch Newspaper)*)

JaneFrances Chibundu, Nigeria
(*Climate reporter, Fact-check journalist*)

Yukfu Sylvie Bantar, Cameroon
(*Journalist/ Cameroon Radio Television*)

Fellowship Projects

Enhancing News Dissemination and Cross-cultural Understanding in Africa through Effective Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Translation Tools

VoxAfrica is an innovative AI-Powered translation tool that leverages machine learning, algorithms and natural language processing techniques to provide swift, accurate and culturally sensitive translations of news content into multiple African languages. By leveraging AI, the tool can translate news content, text, audio and even visual material into multiple African languages ensuring language is no longer a barrier to information access. This enables news Media to reach audiences across linguistic divides promoting greater inclusivity and engagement.

Project Team

Che Azenyui Bruno, Cameroon (*Founder, Digifarms Africa and Freelance Journalist*)

Effande Lyonga Larry, Cameroon (*Multimedia Journalist, Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), State broadcaster.*)

Emmanual Obe, Nigeria (*Editor, National Point*)

Amamboh Carrey Pride Asongu, Cameroon (*Journalist, Ndefam Radio Bamenda*)

Afia Agyapomaa Ofofu, Ghana (*Communication Consultant/Freelance Journalist*)

Ibrahim Adam, Nigeria (*Web Officer and Reporter*)

Isa Ali Musa, Nigeria (*Research Scholar, DFRLab*)

AI-Powered Multilingual Translation System to Enhance Journalism in West Africa

Develop an automatic speech-to-text and text-to-speech translation platform for languages spoken in West Africa, specifically designed for the needs of journalism. Our solution stands out by its specific adaptation to the needs of African journalists, integrating a variety of local languages with real-time translation tools while considering local accents and dialects. This platform goes beyond existing solutions by offering close integration with local linguistic experts and initiatives such as Masakhane.

Project Team

Ilona Katherine Ngozi, Nigeria (*Radio content Assistant, Radio IITA, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)*)

Lawanson Olajumoke, Nigeria (*Communication and media relations director, PFZ Limited*)

Arinze Chijioko, Nigeria (*Ripples Nigeria*)

Oluwalowo Tosin Opeyemi, Nigeria (*Managing Editor, Bold Sports*)

Congo Rabiadou, Burkina Faso (*Fasocheck*)

Fellowship Projects

AI-powered Recommendation tool

The AI-powered recommendation system aims to personalize content for African journalism audiences, enhancing their engagement and access to relevant information. The system will be developed in collaboration with African news outlets, media organizations, and journalism schools.

Content Project Team

Ugwu Tochukwu Onwe,
Nigeria (*Tech enthusiast,
blogger and content writer*)

Jerry Gaye, Liberia (*Fact-
Checker/Local Voices Liberia*)

Umar Al'amin, Nigeria
(*Climate Reporter at
HumAngle Media Limited*)

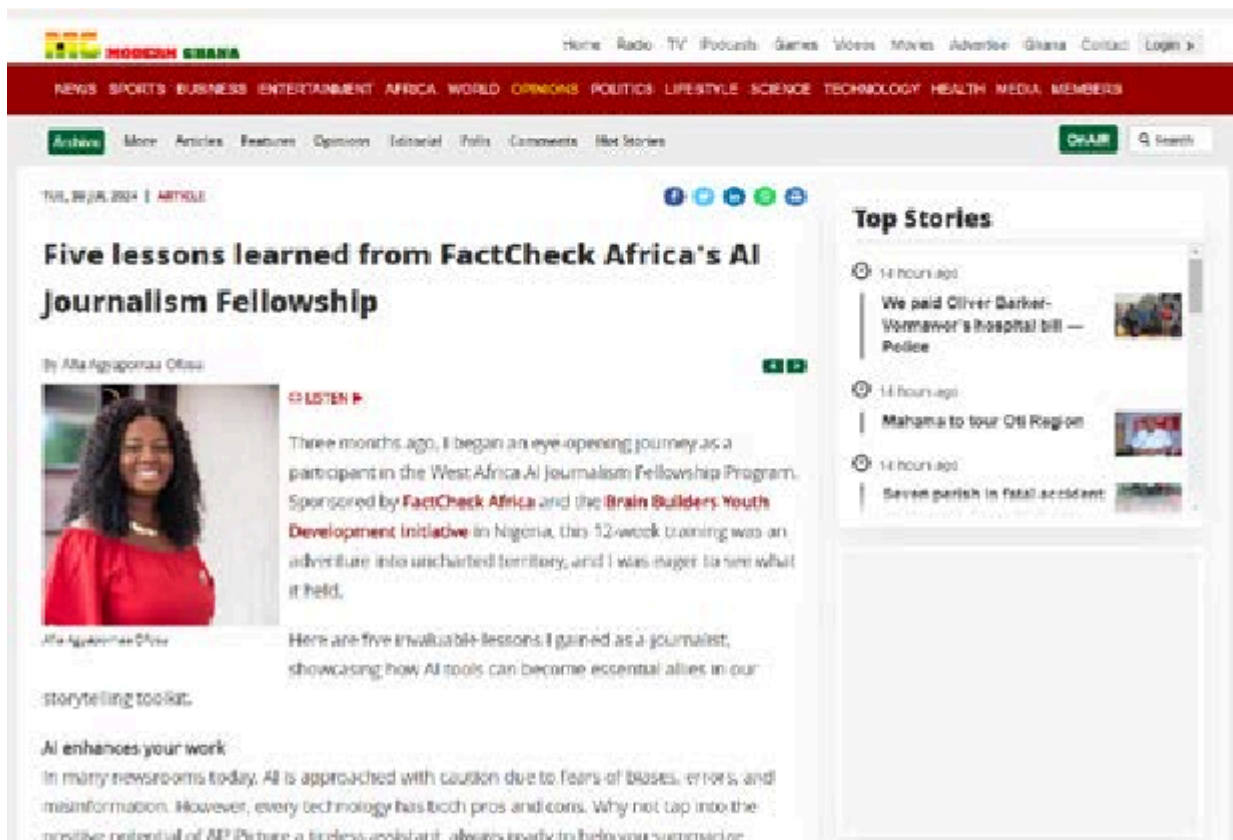
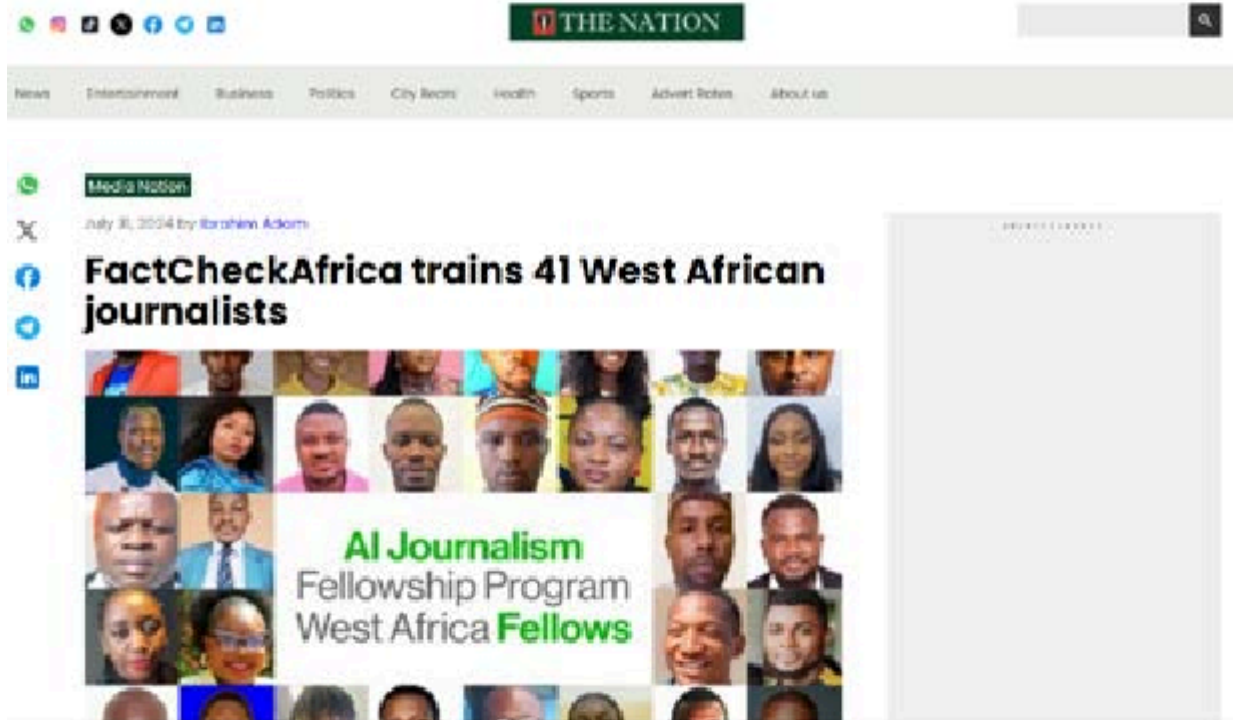
Aruwajoye Oladapo
Olugbenga, Nigeria (*CEO,
QED Network Ltd and Senior
Special Assistant on Broadcast
Communications to Ondo
state Governor*)

Esther Ewune otto, Nigeria
(*Sports journalist, Media sports
Info*)

Ndinojuo Ben-Collins Emeka,
Nigeria (*Lecturer, University of
Port Harcourt*)

Onwuzoo Angela, Nigeria
(*Deputy Editor PUNCH
Healthwise, PUNCH
Newspaper*)

Publications



[Check more publications>>>](#)

Topical Resources for Subject Areas

An Overview of Artificial Intelligence in Journalism

[Exploring the Landscape of Modern
Technology: From Machine Learning to
Gen AI](#)

[LPI Webinar: Exploring the AI Landscape
Beyond ChatGPT](#)

[Exploring the Education Landscape of AI](#)

[Exploring the Generative AI Landscape:
From Basics to Hands-on Applications -
Raghav Bali](#)

[Explore other Subject Areas Here>>>](#)

Notice

This document was designed and produced by Fact Check Africa as an output material under the AI Journalism Fellowship Project

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