Impact of digitisation on civic rights in Africa

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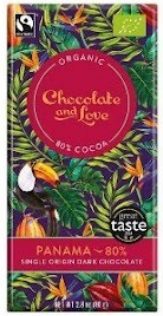
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES UTRECHT

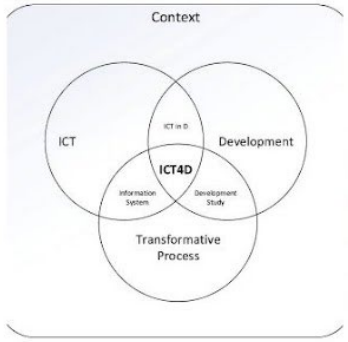
IIMA

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

IMPACT YOUR FUTURE

Who am I?



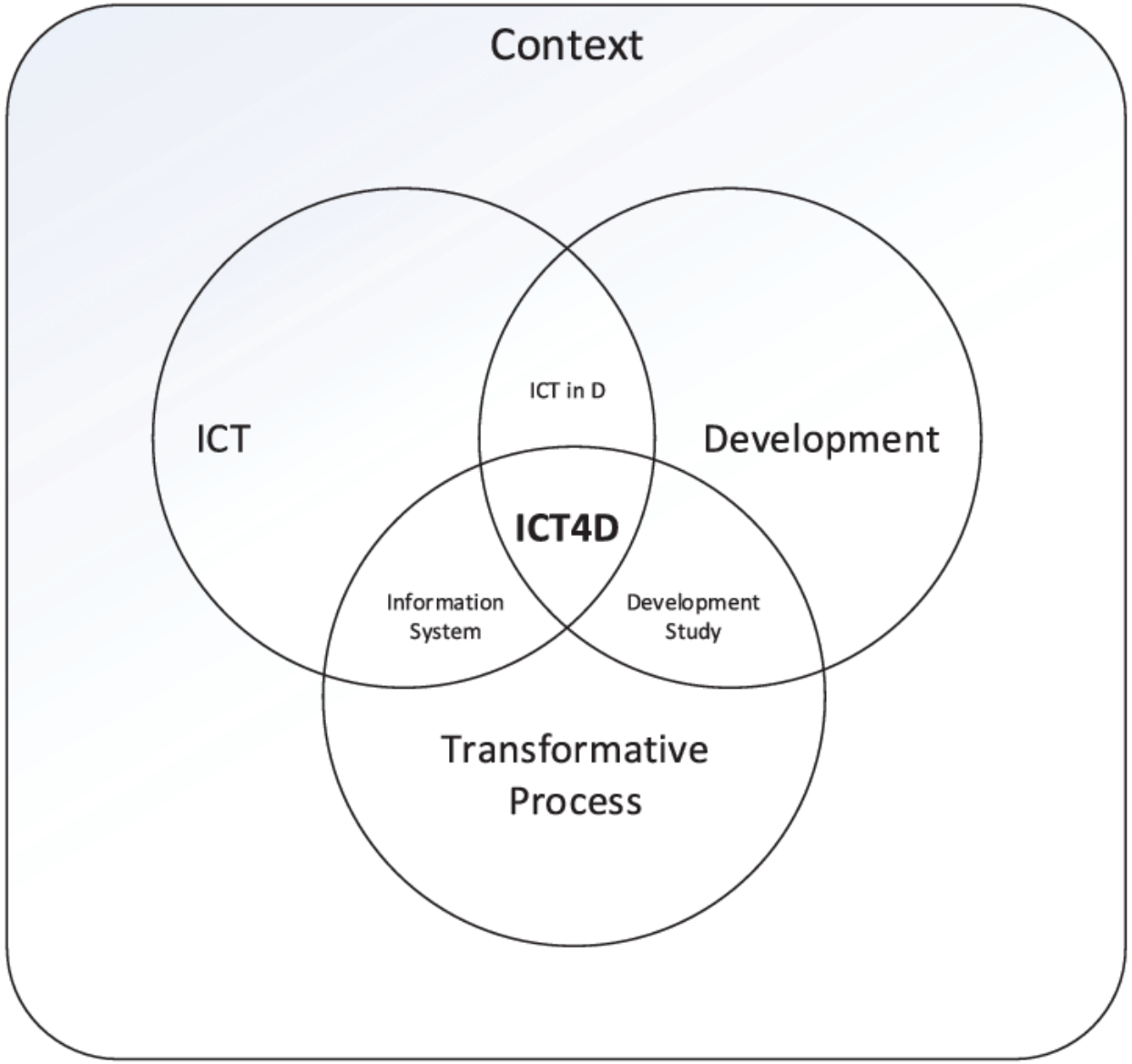


- Postdoc researcher & lecturer
- IT consultant in **healthcare** & **higher education** (22 years)
- PhD research on **social media** for international development
- Research interests: ICT for development (aka digital development), social media, digital transformation & nonprofits, eHealth, ICT for education, societal impact of ICTs.
- **Chocoholic** – preference for sustainable & fair-trade cacao
- @Anandstweets & curator of Facebook group

Does ICTs foster Development?

Research area of ICT4D: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development.

(aka Digital Development)



Sein et al.(2018)

Comparing 10 African countries on COVID-19-related measures on opening and closing online civic space

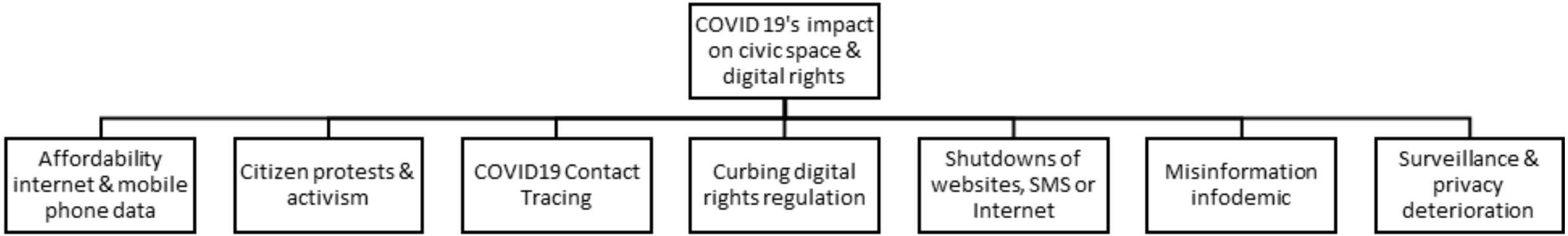
african digital rights network

www.africandigitalrightsnetwork.org

- Research during COVID-19 pandemic by local researchers.
- Ten countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Sudan, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Cameroon.
- 65 examples of citizens opening democratic spaces online and 115 examples of governments closing online civic space.

Key Concepts

Themes From The Findings In Relation To COVID-19's Impact on (online) civic space



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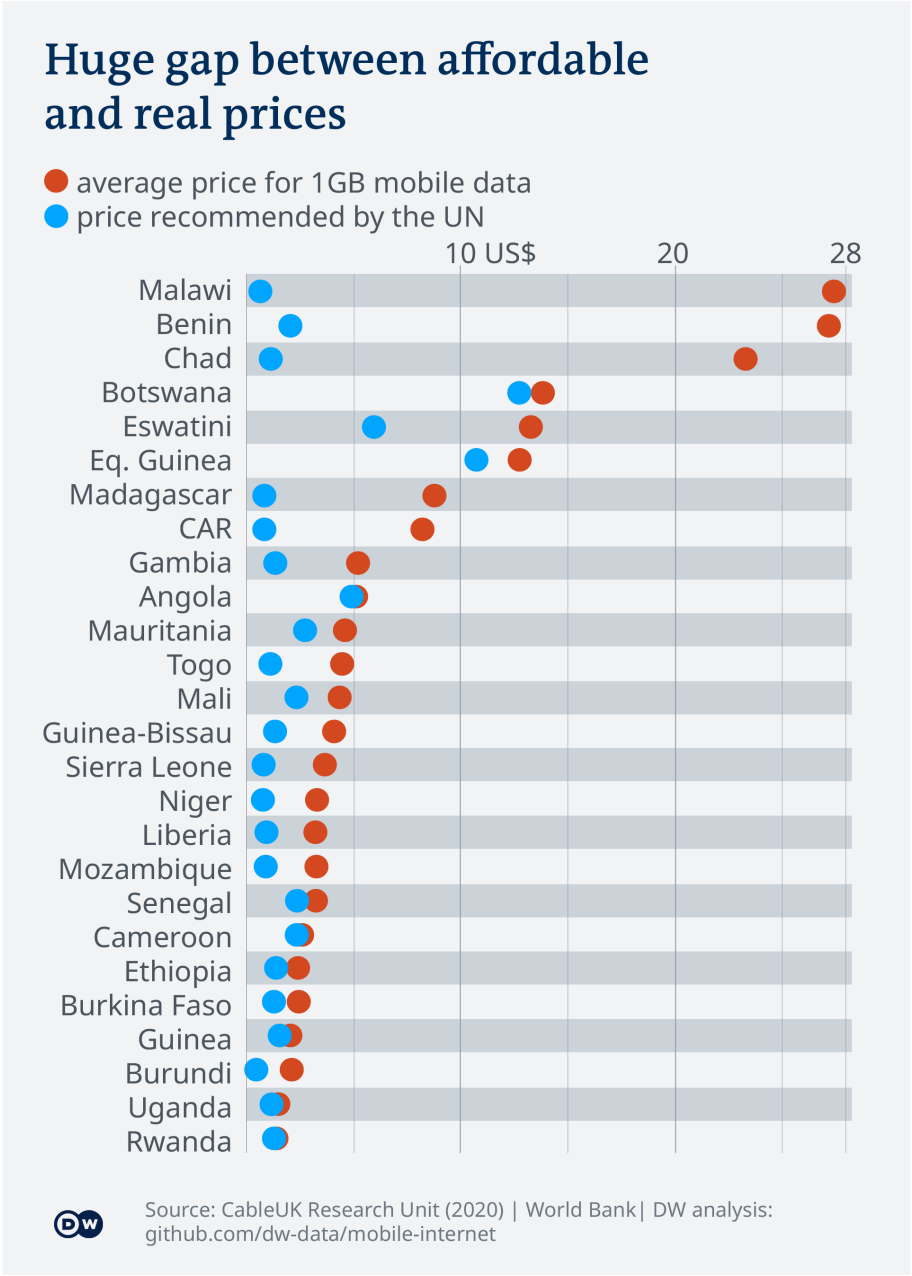
Affordability Internet & Mobile Phone Data



- Social Media Taxes- price hikes
- In some countries prices were capped or went down.

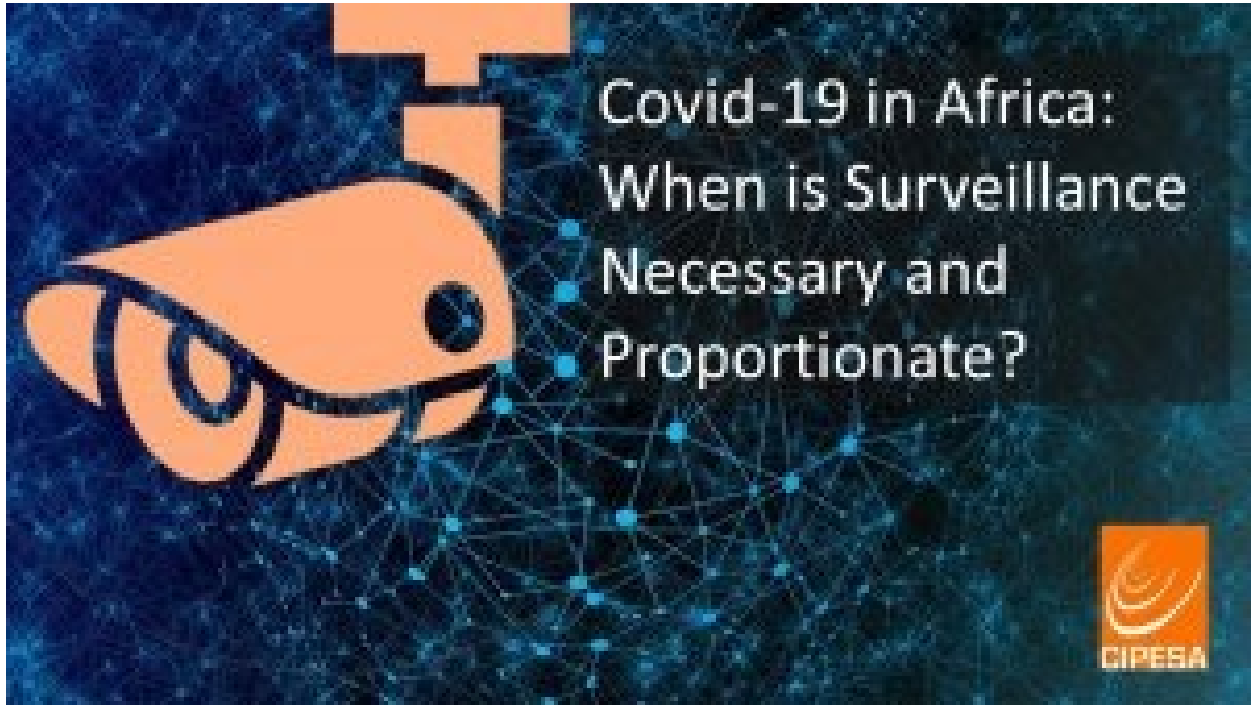
Citizen Protests and Activism

- Online protests
- Twitter hashtag campaigns (#BringBackOurInternet, #ZanuPFMustGo)

Digital Contact Tracing

- Detrimental to privacy and potential instrument for surveillance?
- Not in all countries; some rely on on public awareness campaigns

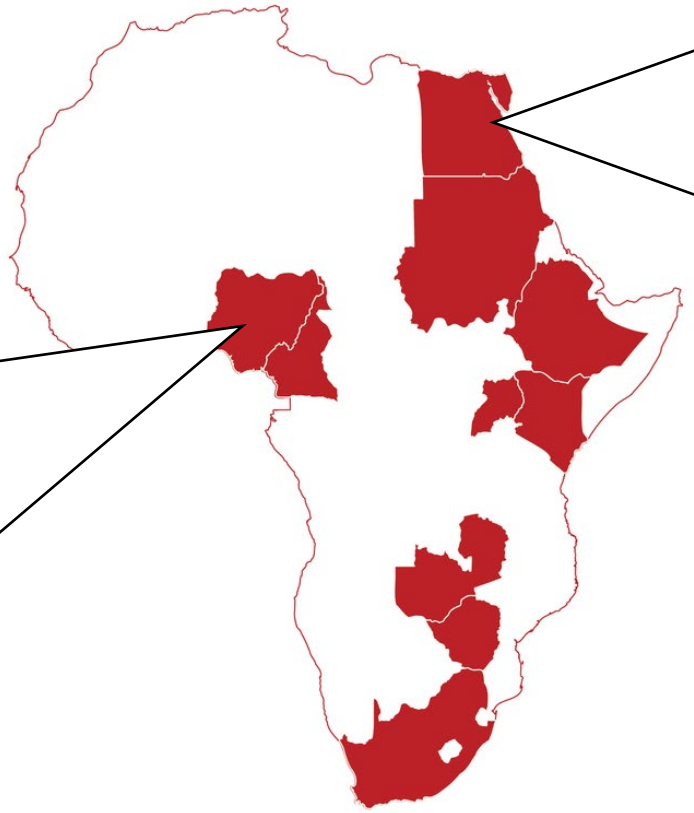
Surveillance and Online Privacy Deterioration



- Privacy has deteriorated
- Concerns on reach of technology-based disease surveillance

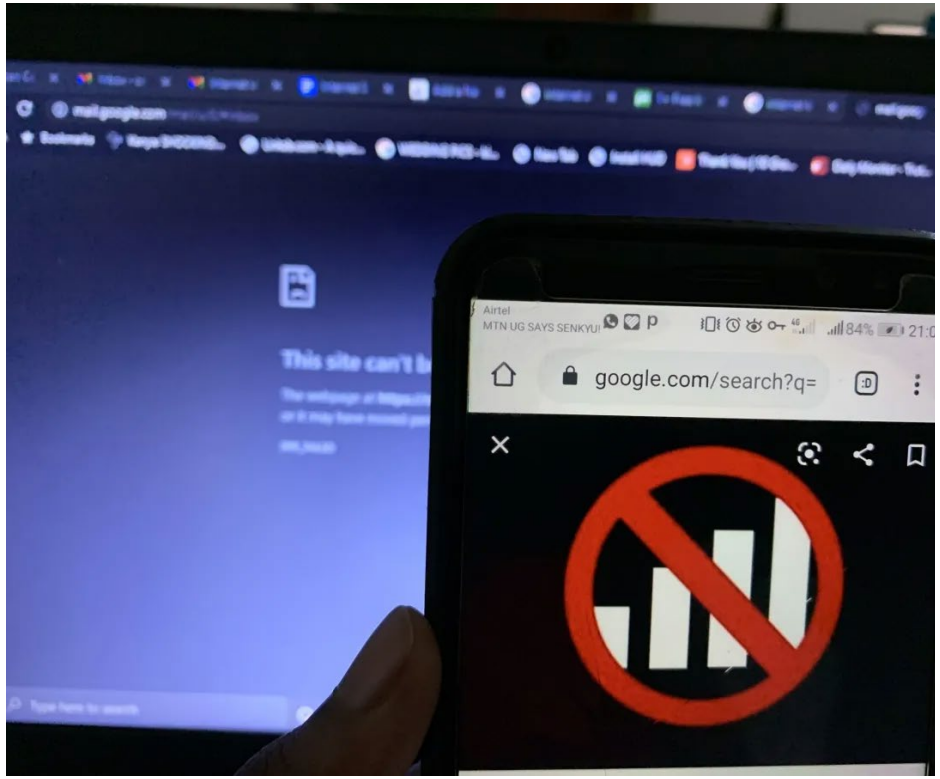
COVID-19 regulations as pretext for curbing online rights

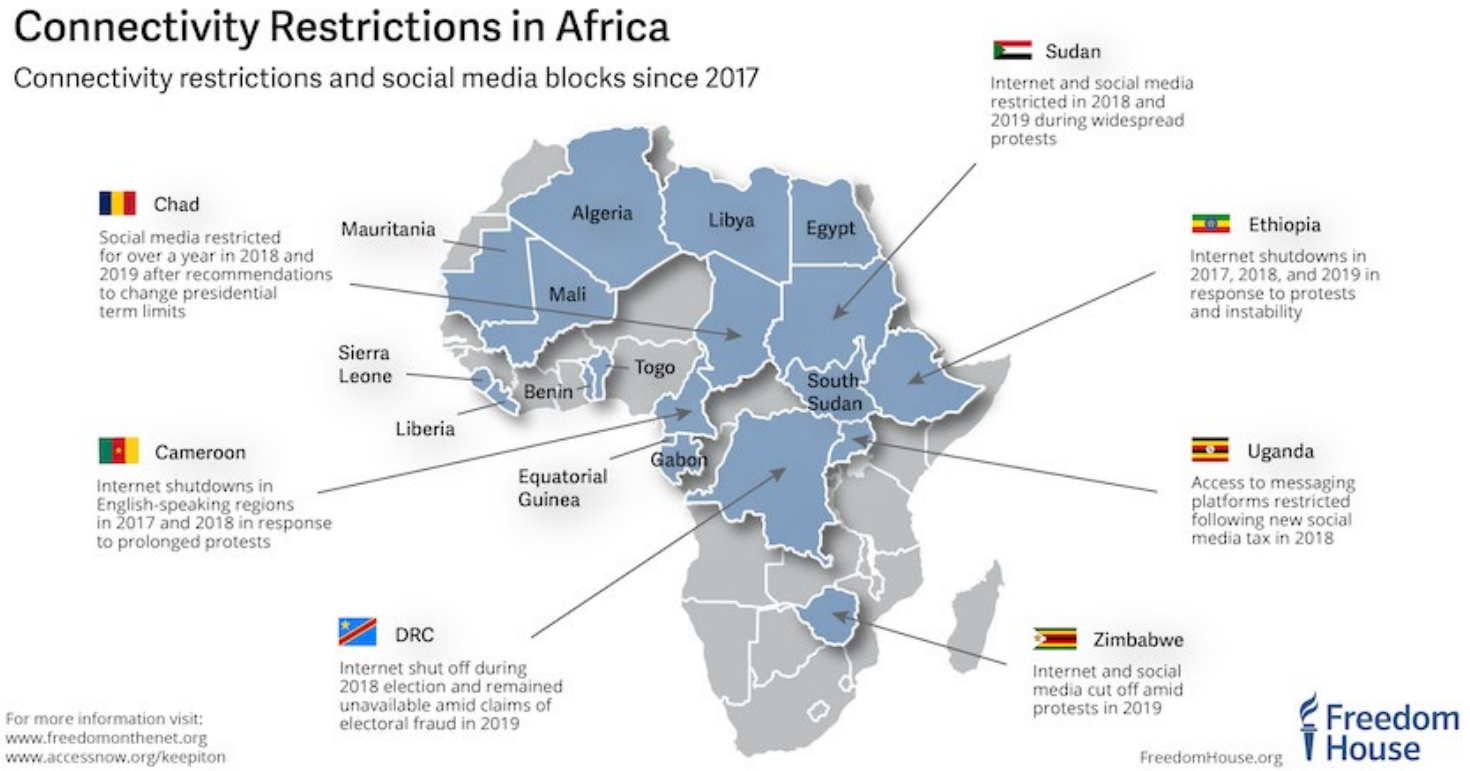
In Nigeria: 'National Health Emergency Bill 2020' and 'Control of Infectious Diseases Bill 2020' to curb citizens' digital rights. Recently a Twitter ban was imposed.



In Egypt:, NGOs law extended during COVID-19 to muzzle civil society organisation institutions and staff's private person's social media communications.

Shutdowns of websites, social media, SMS or Internet – Digital restrictions





Misinformation and Infodemic

Unicef
Corona virus is large in size where the cell diameter is 400 - 500 micro and for this reason any mask prevents its entry so there is no need for pharmacists to trade in masks.

The virus does not settle in the air but is grounded, so it is not transmitted by air.

Coronavirus when it falls on a metal surface, it will live 12 hours, so washing hands with soap and water well enough.

Corona virus when it falls on the fabric remains 9 hours, so washing clothes or being exposed to the sun for two hours meets the purpose of killing it.

The virus lives on the hands for 10 minutes, so putting an alcohol sterilizer in the pocket meets the purpose of prevention.

If the virus is exposed to a temperature of 26-27 ° C, it will be killed, as it does not live in hot regions. Also drinking hot water and sun exposure will do the trick.
And stay away from ice cream and eating cold is important.

Gargle with warm and salt water kills the tonsils' germs and prevents them from leaking into the lungs.

Summary: several ways COVID-19 pandemic has influenced online civic space

- The excuse for limiting civic space vs opening up
- Two frames for legitimising conduct by governments:
  - Health Safety Concerns
  - National Security or Stability
- Disadvantages underprivileged groups
- Digital scars of COVID
- Double-edged sword analogy for the effects of social media…

Contemplation on Social Media Platforms

Facebook revelations and the fundamental problems of platform monopolies

https://eooh.eu/blog/facebook-revelations-and-the-fundamental-problems-of-platform-monopolies

Human-centered Digitalisation

Enjoy your conference!!!