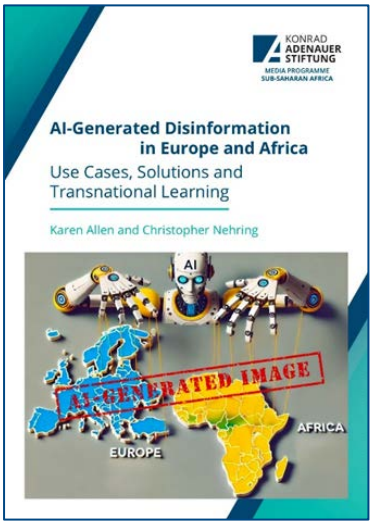
KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

Invitation

Presentation _ Study of the KAS Media Programme Sub-Saharan Africa

AI-Generated Disinformation in Europe and Africa

How elections are influenced and what we can do about it



Disinformation is the digital plague of our time. And with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the creation and dissemination of disinformation, a completely new dimension has been reached. The World Economic Forum's *Global Risk Report* has therefore declared AI-generated disinformation the number 1 global risk. Manipulated video, audio and text files are used as weapons to distort reality, exacerbate conflict and deceive people - for example, in tampering with elections. This poses a great risk that democratic principles will be undermined.

The new study by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Media Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa, based in Johannesburg, identifies the existing forms of AI-generated disinformation. It names actors and targets using concrete examples. It also presents measures against disinformation and lists concrete recommendations for countermeasures.

For the first time, the study compares the current challenges related to AI-generated disinformation in Europe and Africa. It was produced by two proven experts on this topic: Karen Allen from South Africa, and Dr Christopher Nehring from Germany. The two experts worked together for several weeks in Johannesburg last year. More information about the authors you can find at the end of this invitation.

Dr. Christopher Nehring: *"What we've seen so far is just the tip of the iceberg - and a devilish promise for the future."*

Karen Allen: *"AI Technology comes with much promise and for Africa the prospect of accelerated development. I'm afraid that untamed technology could turn Africa into the scene of a global arms race in AI-driven disinformation."*

At our launch, we will present the most important results of the study. The authors will then be available to answer questions and give statements. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to interact over a snack.

For logistical reasons we ask that you register by email:
cailan.ferreira-mokoka@kas.de

We look forward to seeing you! Welcome!

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Presentation

AI-Generated Disinformation in Europe and Africa

Study of the KAS Media Programme Sub-Saharan Africa

Monday, 17 February 2025, 16:00 h

Akademie der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Tiergartenstraße 35, Raum 6/7

16:00 h **Registration**

16:20 h **Welcome**
Hendrik Sittig, Director, KAS Media Programme Sub-Saharan Africa, Johannesburg

16:30 h **Presentations**

AI-Generated Disinformation in Africa
Karen Allen, Institute for Security Studies, Johannesburg

AI-Generated Disinformation in Europe
Dr Christopher Nehring, Cyberintelligence Institute, Frankfurt/Main

Africa and Europe - similarities, differences and countermeasures
Karen Allen / Dr Christopher Nehring

17:10 h **Q&A and Discussion**

17:50 h **Final Remarks**
Dr. Stefan Friedrich, Referatsleiter Subsahara-Afrika, KAS

18:00 h **Get together**

Authors of the Study:

Karen Allen

Karen Allen is a former BBC correspondent with over 25 years of experience covering Africa and the Middle East. She now advises a number of organizations on emerging threats, including cyber threats and information operations. For the Institute for Security Studies, Johannesburg, she has conducted studies on the impact of disinformation and interference on elections in Kenya and South Africa. Karen Allen holds a Master's degree in International Relations and Contemporary Warfare from King's College London, and is a visiting scholar in the Department of War Studies. She has lived on the African continent for the past 20 years.

Dr Christopher Nehring

Dr Christopher Nehring is a researcher, analyst and journalist and currently the director of intelligence at the Cyberintelligence Institute in Frankfurt, Germany. He is an expert on disinformation and has been a visiting lecturer on disinformation, intelligence and media at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Media Programme South East Europe and at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication at Sofia University. He worked as a senior analyst at the Institute for Global Analysis in Sofia and has been working as a journalist and editor for various media outlets (e.g. Deutsche Welle, Spiegel, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Tagesspiegel, etc.) since 2017.

Download the study:

The study will be available for download on our website from February 17th:
https://www.kas.de/en/web/medien-afrika/einzeltitel/detail/-/content/new-study-ai-generated-disinformation-in-europe-and-africa

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