

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

**Decoding the Ballot: How AI is Reshaping Democracy
on the African Continent**



By

CREDO Guest Speakers:

Dr Scott Timcke

Senior Research Associate at Research ICT Africa

Mr Hanani Hlomani

Researcher at Research ICT Africa

Mrs Zara Schroeder

Researcher at Research ICT Africa

Dr Scott Timcke is a political economist of digital technology and democratic life. He is a Senior Research Associate at Research ICT Africa, a Pan-African, Cape Town based think tank operating in the areas of telecommunications, data, and AI governance. He is affiliated with the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Social Change, the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Stellenbosch University's Department of Journalism. His second book, *Algorithms and The End of Politics*, was released in February 2021 and his third book, *The Political Economy of Fortune and Misfortune: Prospects for Prosperity in Our Times*, was released in March 2023.

Hanani Hlomani is a tech law strategist, researcher, law lecturer and legal consultant. He is a researcher at Research ICT Africa and the iNtaka Centre for law and technology, where he primarily explores the relationship between the law and emerging technologies in Africa including data governance and Artificial Intelligence. His influential publications have made an impact for organisations like the African Union, Southern African Development Community, European Union, and African Economic Regional Consortium. Hanani also contributes op-eds to reputable publications, discussing the opportunities and risks of emerging technologies. His goal is to advocate for beneficial tech policies that positively impact Africans at a broader level.

Zara Schroeder is a Researcher at Research ICT Africa; SHE holds a master's degree in public Sociology and Anthropology from Stellenbosch University. Zara's research interests lie in the intersectionalities between digital and social inequalities, Generative AI, Children and AI, Gender and AI, and Participatory Action and AI. Zara is committed to rethinking development in a digital world through methods that promote citizen-participation.

The views of speakers do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Political Science or that of the University of Stellenbosch.

TO BE CO-CHAIRIED BY PROF. URSULA VAN BEEK and PROF. NICOLA DE JAGER

Date: Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Time: 12:15-13:30

Department of Political Science, room 648, Arts Building.

RSVP: Pauliane Davidse at pauliane@sun.ac.za