



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS & PROFESSIONALS OF NIGERIA

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ACSPN 6th Annual Conference 2019

***Theme: National Interest, Freedom of Expression and
Governance in Africa***

Date: Wednesday, September 4 – Thursday, September 5, 2019

Venue: Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, Kuto, Abeokuta, Ogun State

Arrival: September 3, 2019

Departure: September 6, 2019

Special Panel: Media Sustainability and the Consolidation of Democracy

Call for Papers

There are converging and subsisting conflicts between freedom of expression, national interest, rule of law, and governance in Africa's democratic transitions. At the heart of the continuous conflict between these concepts has been the vague and arbitrary use of and confusion over the term national interest, especially within political systems. The issue is particularly relevant because years of governance across the continent has created sharply divided loyalties across tribal, racial, geographical and political lines, thus blurring the lines of what indeed constitutes national interest (Rice, 2008). The natural response to these divided loyalties, has been the more vocal nature of civil society and an otherwise docile electorate across the continent. New media platforms have also helped to push the boundaries of freedom of expression. In addressing the different challenges to governance patterns caused by the weakening and erosion of accountability, freedom of expression and human rights, a number of African governments have tightened the noose on freedom of expression, predominantly in the attempt to perpetuate power and silence dissenting voices (Callamard, 2010). Many governments in the region have routinely manipulated national interest to scuttle freedom of expression, thus shrinking the civic space on the continent.

Despite these challenges, African nations continuously strive to promote and preserve national interest that will help them in the achievement of developmental goals. However, as is becoming more evident across continents, this is realisable only through the establishment and

consolidation of structures that will strengthen public accountability, the rule of law, human rights, democratization of political structures, and broaden citizen participation for effective reforms.

Government commitment is fundamental to providing an environment that promotes freedom of expression and foster social change. It is unequivocal therefore that good governance and freedom of expression are vital forces for linking all segments of society by creating platforms for syncing national interests, facilitating inclusive political systems, giving voice to the people and enabling participation and accountability. Freedom of expression is the first crucial step towards identifying shared commonalities where the people talk to the government and the government talks back to the people. UNESCO's position is that freedom of expression is necessary, to ensure interest and participation in all aspects of decision making in governance, especially by citizens, in order to foster sustainable development.

As Nigeria marks the 160th anniversary of the founding by Reverend Henry Townsend in 1859 of Nigeria's first newspaper - *Iwe Iroyin fun awon Egba ati Yoruba* (newspaper for the Egba and Yoruba people) also at Abeokuta, ACSPN's conference – also at Abeokuta, represents an acknowledgement of the convergence of national interest, freedom of expression and governance, as a logical contribution to the ideals of democratic and sustainable development. If the launch of the newspaper press contributed to triggering the rise of a core of nationalists who were critical to the end of colonialism, another gathering at Abeokuta would enable the appropriate emphasis on the need to stave any slide to incivility, impunity, and undemocratic tactics, no matter their manifestations.

ACSPN therefore invites individual, corporate, institutional and governmental submissions, local or international, on the theme: **National Interest, Freedom of Expression and Governance in Africa**. Submissions are encouraged from communication and media scholars and professionals and other interested individuals across disciplines and professions.

Academic, professional and experiential contributions are invited on any (but not restricted to) of the following sub-themes:

General

- Media Discourse on Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Governance
- Theorizing Freedom of Expression, National interest and Governance
- National Information Policy, National Interest and Governance
- Freedom of Information, National Interest and Good Governance
- Gender, National Interest and Good Governance
- Gender and Freedom of Expression
- International Communication, National Interest and Governance
- Interest Groups, National Interest and Good Governance
- Disinformation, National Interest and Governance
- Hate Speech, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Governance
- Law, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Regulation, Freedom of Expression and National Interest

- Cultural Dynamics, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Identity, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Religion, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Human Rights, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Discontents, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Extremism, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Citizen Participation, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Content Creation, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Big Data, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Governance
- Globalization, Identities, Freedom of Expression and Good Governance

Journalism

- Free Speech, National Security and Censorship
- Safety of Journalists, National Interest and Good Governance
- Journalism, Freedom of Expression and National Interest
- Citizen Journalism, Accountability, National Interest and Good Governance
- Media and Information Literacy, National Interest and Good Governance
- Community Dynamics, National Interest and Good Governance
- Fake News, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Governance
- Censorship, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Governance
- Media Ownership, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Governance
- Guerrilla Media and Freedom of Expression
- Alternative Media, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Indigenous Media and Freedom of Expression

Advertising/Public Relations

- Advertising and Freedom of Expression
- Advertising, Gender and National Interest
- Advertising, Identity and Freedom of Expression
- Advertising Regulation, National Interest and Sustainable Governance
- Advertising and Crisis Management
- Advertising and Governance
- Public Relations and the Communication of National Interest
- Public Relations and Freedom of Expression
- Public Relations, Legislation and Good Governance
- Public Relations and Crisis Management
- Public Relations and Governance
- Reputation Management, Freedom of Expression, and Governance
- Spin, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance

- Regulation and the Limits of Freedom of Expression

Film

- Nollywood and National Interest
- Foreign Films and National Interest
- Film, Identity and National Interest
- Narratives, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Youth, Film Culture and National Interest
- Gender, Film Culture and National Interest
- Film Audiences, Perception, National Interest and Good Governance

Broadcasting

- Broadcasting, Identity and National Interest
- Broadcasting and Good Governance
- Broadcasting, Freedom of Expression, Representation and National Interest
- Broadcast Audiences, Perception, National Interest and Good Governance
- Broadcast Regulation, National Interest and Governance
- Talk Shows, Freedom of Expression and National Interest
- Live Broadcasting, Freedom of Expression and National Interest

New Media

- Social Media, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Good Governance
- Social Media, Governance and Accountability
- Social Media, Ethics and Freedom of Expression
- Social Media Regulation, and Governance
- Technology, Governance and Online Communication
- Social Media Laws, Freedom of Expression, National Interest and Governance
- Social Media/Network Narratives on Freedom of Information, National Interest and Governance

Development Communication

- Freedom of Expression and the Communication of Development
- Communication for Development and National Interest
- Development Communication Interventions, National Interest and Governance
- Sustainable Development Goals, Freedom of Expression and Governance
- Development Communication and Culture
- Globalization, Localisation and Communication for Development
- Social Change, Communication Cultures and Governance
- Development Communication Interventions, Accountability and Governance

Abstracts of no more than 300 words (typed using Times New Roman font and 1.5 spacing format) should be emailed by 15th July, 2019 and full papers (typed using Times New Roman font and 1.5 spacing format) by 15th August, 2019 to these addresses - info@acspn.com.ng, acspn.communicationnigeria@gmail.com, acspn.conference/agm@gmail.com

Abstracts should be appropriately labelled and include affiliation, address, email and phone numbers of authors, as more specific correspondence would be sent only to confirmed participants as the date approaches.

The conference fee is N15, 000, £75, \$100 (subscribed ACSPN members for 2019)
N20, 000, £100 \$150 (non-ACSPN Participants)

There are a limited number of places available for those who are strictly students at a fee of N5, 000 (Please indicate if you wish to be considered for one of these places when sending your abstract; or contact us as soon as possible).

All payments to:

Account Name: Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria
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Please note: the conference fee does not include accommodation and, unfortunately, we are unable to offer travel grants or other forms of financial assistance.

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