



**ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS
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ACSPN 8th Annual Conference 2021

Theme: *Media and Citizens Participation in Governance for Accountability and Peace in Society*

Date: Wednesday, September 1 – Thursday, September 2, 2021

Venue: Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria

Arrival: Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Departure: September 3, 2021

Special Panel: *Media, Democracy and Accountability*

Female Researchers Panel: *Governance, Women, Media and Inclusive Society*

CALL FOR PAPERS

Media and Citizens Participation in Governance for Accountability and Peace in Society

Accountability in governance has remained a major challenge globally. Weak accountability has resulted in the increases in the risk of underperformance and failure of public administration/services, which are characterized by constant blame among government organs when things go wrong, continuous wrong and detrimental decisions or action without anyone being held accountable, poor management of government services etc. These shortcomings in systems of accountability have significantly limited the chances of lessons being learned and mistakes avoided subsequently. In some instances, repeated failures, which harm the citizens and

undermine trust in governance has affected development and resulted in deterioration or collapse of peace.

A governance system that promotes robust development and societal peace is usually facilitated by an inclusive means of operating a responsible, independent media and participatory systems that provide the governed an avenue for decision making, processes for accountability that ensure transparent system that are able to provide security and other mechanism for development. These elements are undoubtedly necessary in reinforcing a society that reduces the risk of mismanagement, unaccountable institutions and insecurity

When governance systems are devoid of participatory platform or provide only restricted means of participation, in some ways, their public administration's legitimacy is challenged and collective decisions may be countered, leading to citizens feeling excluded, thus contributing to insecurity among other issues.

Media and Citizen participation in governance are central to accountability and societal peace. The role of the media obviously sits on the pedestal of monitoring, investigating and sometimes criticizing the public administration's policies/actions. Media continuous checks and assessments of the activities of government as well as bringing to the fore public concerns, facilitate accountable governance and resulting in the hoped-for benefits. The media ensure the formation of a public sphere in which a wide range of debates can take place and a variety of citizens' opinions be represented. Citizens often leverage on the media among other channels, to express their acceptance or rejection of issues, which enhances greater participation in governance for accountability and a more stable polity. Greater participation by citizens in the process of governance ensures some level of accountability and can enhance a speedy adoption of government policies and decisions that are in synchronization with the needs of the people.

However, increasingly, there are instances of the unilateral approach to governance. Practices of secrecy in governance excludes or limits interests and participation of citizens. In some cases, governments enact laws and informal means of keeping the media away from asking questions. These have resulted in conflicts of interest in the practice of governance and compromised societal peace.

Conflicts of interest have hitherto become commonplace and more pronounced in the decades since the internet birthed a digital revolution that has impacted media processes of news acquisition, production and dissemination. The revolution produced platforms that caused media organisations to evolve into hybrid news providers – keeping the traditional and leveraging on the new digital space. It has also inspired citizen journalism, which for a while gained traction and nearly drowned out the need for the media, it has since dissolved into a myriad of credibility issues, thus creating the conviction that the media is still needed in the drive towards accountability. In this drive towards accountable governance amidst other challenges in society, there has been an increase in questions surrounding the relevance and structure of certain aspects of the media. These changes have established the need for a more professional approach to the business and practice of media for the purpose of engaging and ensuring accountability at all levels of governance starting with the media itself. Additionally, a more professional media is expected to support citizens to make choices that encourage accountability, stability and peace in their society.

As the global shifts in media and citizen participation in governance for accountability and peace continues to attract attention, ACSPPN invites papers from its members/potential members, other interested individuals, local and international organizations, associations, institutions, agencies, the private sector and governments for participation in its 2021 annual conference to examine the issue.

Participants are encouraged to explore theoretical, conceptual and contextual issues in the areas of media and citizen participation in governance for accountability and peace in society as they relate to any of the sub-themes or related areas under the theme. We welcome academic contributions, case studies or special presentations that are products of collaborative, original and innovative empirical studies or professional experiences in these areas.

Papers should reflect but not restricted to these sub-themes

- Media and accountability in governance
- Media, Accountability and Political Stability
- Citizen participation, accountability and governance
- Digital Culture and accountability in governance

- Social Media, citizen participation and accountability
- Gender, media, accountability and governance
- Media Ethical Issues, accountability and governance
- Governance, secrecy and the media
- Media and Information Literacy, governance and accountability
- Citizen participation in Governance, Media Ownership and Control
- Media, citizen participation and peace
- Media accountability and Peace
- Public Relations, accountability and Governance
- Public Relations, accountability and peace
- Advertising, accountability and Governance
- Data-driven Journalism and Accountability and governance
- Multiculturalism, Diversity, accountability and governance

Abstracts of no more than 300 words (typed using Times New Roman font and 1.5 spacing formats) should be emailed by 30th of June, 2021 and full papers (typed using Times New Roman font and 1.5 spacing formats) by 15th August, 2021 to these addresses – info@acspn.com.ng and acspnpublicationshub@gmail.com

Abstracts should include affiliation, address and email 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)
N20, 000, £100 \$150 (non-ACSPN Participants)

There are a limited number of places available for those who are strictly undergraduate and master's degree 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.

Enquiries: info@acspn.com.ng, acspnpublicationshub@gmail.com