ARIADNE

European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights

Agenda

2020 Ariadne Digital Power Grant Skills Week

Online sessions on 28, 29 September and 1 October 2020

Ariadne members, like all grantmakers around the world, are faced with new, growing, and complex challenges presented by technology. To support our members to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of technology, we have launched a new initiative on Digital Power.

The 2020 Ariadne Grant Skills Week will debut programming and the overall set of activities that will be on offer through the Digital Power programme.

The Grant Skills Week will focus on the implications of technology for human rights and human rights grantmaking. We will kick-off with insights into the way that emerging technology is reshaping human rights considerations, then provide hands-on support for Ariadne members to improve their practical grantmaking to technical projects and fields, and close out with support for crafting technology grantmaking strategy. All funders are welcome to register and attend.

Outline of the Grant Skills Week

Plenary: Technology and Evolution of Human Rights Challenges: What funders need to know about technology to be effective

Monday 28 September

8:00 - 10:00 EST | 13:00 - 15:00 BST | 14:00 - 16:00 CEST

The nature and protection of human rights is changing as digital systems are embedded in everyday life. Digitisation has made human rights work more complex and has generated new subfields that donors need to understand. In this session we will hear from experts fighting to protect rights as the very nature of rights and violations changes around the world. You will leave with a new understanding of the rights at risk, and the dynamics that every funder should be grappling with in their strategies.

This session will be a kick-off of the next 18 months of the digital power project at Ariadne. Each month we will cover a technical concept or rights area to showcase the dynamics at play that are reshaping the EU and the broader world.

Speakers:

- **Seyi Akiwowo**, Founder and Executive Director, Glitch: Seyi will break down the myths surrounding online violence and address how it hampers freedom of expression. She will zero-in on the ways online abuse targets communities of colour, and especially women of colour, and how they can become more resilient.

- **Deborah Raji**, Fellow, Mozilla: Deborah will focus on the implications of algorithms on our daily life, drawing on the work she is doing to audit them and make transparent the values embedded within the code.

- **Patrick Williams**, Senior Lecturer (Criminology), Manchester Metropolitan University: Patrick will paint a picture of the historical precedent of policing that defines who and what is a risk, and look at how racialised criminalisation is hardwired into policing technologies under the guise of neutral technology.

Hands-on Learning: Funding Technology Projects

Tuesday 29 September

8:00 - 9:30 EST | 13:00 - 14:30 BST | 14:00 - 15:30 CEST

In this session you will learn how and when to ask the right questions to assess the sustainability and possible impacts of any grant application with technology components.

Engage with peers and work through technology-dense project scenarios alongside experienced grantmakers and technologists who can guide you if you get stuck. You will leave with question sets and systematic approaches to understanding and vetting technology project grants.

Breakout sessions moderated by:

- Poonam Joshi, Director, Funders Initiative for Civil Society
- Julie Broome, Director, Ariadne
- Alix Dunn, Project Lead (Digital Power), Ariadne

Hands-on Learning: Funding Fields

Tuesday 29 September

10:30 - 12:00 EST | 15:30 - 17:00 BST | 16:30 - 18:00 CEST

Zoom out. It may seem like a single grant here and there, but there is an ecosystem effect. In this session you will reflect on the impact of your grants at the field level, identify which parts of the technology ecosystem have far reaching implications on the issue areas and your grantees work.

We will dream up ways to better support the field as a whole, without losing the nuance. You will leave with frameworks for considering the way your grantmaking affects new fields and the uptake of new technologies.

Kickoff by:

- Phoebe Tickell, Portfolio Officer at the Digital Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund

Breakout sessions moderated by:

- Elizabeth Eagan, Program Officer (Information Program), Open Society Foundations
- Michael Brennan, Program Officer, Ford Foundation

Hands-on Learning: Crafting Your Own Approach

Thursday 1 October

8:00 - 10:00 EST | 13:00 - 15:00 BST | 14:00 - 16:00 CEST

You fund technology and technology issues whether you want to or not. Each grantmaker and foundation needs to work through for themselves their priorities and red lines when it comes to funding technology in projects, organisations, and fields.

This session will provide you with an initial framework to build internal technical maturity as a funder and facilitate conversations about organisational values within technology. With this you will be positioned to engage your team about your technology approach.

Attending "Hands-on Learning: Funding Fields" is recommended (but not required) if you want to sign up for this session.

Kickoff and breakout sessions by:

- Hanan Elmasu from, Director, Fellowships and Awards, Mozilla Foundation
- Amber French, Co-Executive Director, Media Democracy Fund