

CALL FOR POLICY PAPERS

Social Media and the Changing Dynamics of the Somali Society

Conference Date: August 25-26

Venue: TBA

Contact: callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org

With internet affordability and recent advances in information and communication technologies, social media has had a profound impact on interactions between people. Social media platforms allow their users to connect with others worldwide. Many Somalis, particularly youth, use social media platforms extensively for entertainment, news, politics, religion, communication, and business. Platforms widely used by Somali youth include WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram. Social media users share thoughts and ideas and learn about what is happening elsewhere in the world. Social media has also made it easier for businesses to connect with their customers, communicating directly and learning what they think about their products and services.

Social media has become an important part of life for many people all over the world and the use of these platforms has grown rapidly among the Somali people. Yet, our understanding of its impacts on society is inadequate due to a scarcity of scholarly studies on the topic. The most pressing issues are fake news, defamation, cyberbullying, misinformation, loss of identity, extremism, polarization, addiction, and psychological and social problems. Furthermore, it's not yet fully studied how Somalis use social media for civic engagement, political participation, culture preservation, humanitarian awareness, peacebuilding, or promotion of social harmony. These topics require special attention from Somali researchers so that parents, community elders, teachers, and policymakers can come up with relevant strategies.

In this light, the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies welcomes submissions of original policy research (both qualitative and quantitative) relevant to the broad theme "Social Media and the Changing Dynamics of the Somali Society." It also welcomes panel proposals relevant to this and the themes of the conference. Researchers may select one of the themes below or any topic relevant to the conference and may focus on a specific social media platform (such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok, etc.) as a case study or provide a general description of these platforms.



Themes for the Conference on Social Media and Somali Society

Social Media and Political Activism Social Media and Community Building Social Media and Public Discourse Social Media and Identity Social Media and Mental Health Social Media and Religion	Social Media and Privacy Social Media and Diversity Social Media and Business Social Media and Education Social Media and Peace and Violence Any Other Relevant Topic
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Guidelines for Abstracts and Full Papers

Abstracts/proposals	Full papers
Relevant to the theme of the conference	Relevance to the theme of the conference
Clear introduction/purpose	Clear introduction/purpose statement
Problem statement/gap	Methods used
Explanation of the methods used	Literature review (Short)
Significance/contribution to policy	Findings, analyses, conclusion and recommendation
Clarity/language	Clarity/language
Length (200-300 words)	Length (4,000 to 5,000 words)
Abstract deadline: 25 February 2023	Policy paper deadline: 30 June 2023

All submissions must be sent electronically to callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org. For further information, please contact us at the email address above.