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PANEL TITLE:

Democracy, Recent Global Social Movements and Technopolitics: An international and interdisciplinary research project from the South

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Democracy; Recent Global Social Movements; Internet Social Media; Technopolitics; Epistemologies of the South; Advanced Research Project

ABSTRACT:

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are strategic when attempting to understand the upsurge of global social movements emerged in recent years on the basis of a new academic-scientific field: technopolitics. Defined here as the appropriation of ICTs by social movements for political purposes and its impact on the institutional sphere in the technological transition. These processes has been remarkedly since 2011 in Africa under the heterogeneous and diverse flagships of the arab springs an+ d their reclaiming for truly commons-based democracy.

The analysis of communication as a strategic dimension has break with research focused on leveraging resources (Della Porta, Snow, Klandermans and McAdam, 2013) to delve deeper into the technopolitical dimension (Sampedro, 2011; Gerbaudo, 2012; Howard and Hussain, 2013; Milan, 2013; Candón, 2013; Treré, Jeppessen and Mattoni, 2017 and Pavan, 2017), opening up a new path for research. The increase use of transmedia narratives (Ryan and Thon, 2014) linked to the development of the “connectography” (Khanna, 2016) of multiple and hybrid cross-media platforms has subsumed the traditional communication flow of the media, individually consumed as a sort of collective narrative constantly co-created by prosumers (Fuchs, 2014), generating an enormous contingent of data, seen

currently as a strategic source to be mined across the use of algorithms in politics. The lack of studies in this new field of research makes necessary praxis-centred actions and empirical data collection on terrain throughout the complex mixed up of diverse methodologies.

Our aim is to develop a new multi-methodological model of research of the impact in the public awareness of the political digital communication in the ISM, in order to generate specific politics of communication based on participatory processes and communication dialogues for democratic innovation, as a tool linked to processes of community social innovation using new digital technologies faced to the challenge for inclusive societies in Europe.

To this end, it envisages as a expected results both the creation of transmedia networked space for permanent and extensive on line and on site reflection about Internet political communication involving local, national and international stakeholders, including scholars, policy makers, civil society, political actors, movements partakers and public institutions with international training, outreach, hands-on and dissemination activities including high impact publications, podcasts, video, papers and data, with an eye to generating knowledge of excellence, that has a high impact on the institutional sphere through the formulation of knowledge-based policies and the development of an Open Concept Map of public access as an instrument for citizen participation and involvement and collaboration in the co-creation of open democratic spaces faced the European challenge for inclusive societies, involving project stakeholders from 10 countries, with the aim of organizing the research, outreach and dissemination plan supported by Communication Office of the University of Sevilla.

Around 50.000 people are expected to participate in the international conferences and seminars and visit the project website and ISM, download publications, podcasts, videos, interviews, documents and access project's available data on open access.