

# Fresh Global Media Players: Disrupting the Digital Ecosystem?

Northwestern University | Qatar | April 10–11, 2026

CFP Release: June 25, 2025 | Submission Deadline: August 31, 2025 |

Notification: December 20, 2025

## Overview

The second edition of the global media symposium—Fresh Global Media Players: Disrupting the Digital Ecosystem?—invites proposals for papers that explore the disjunctures and conjunctures defining the global media landscape today. Hosted at Northwestern University in Qatar, this two-day, in-person conference offers a platform for interdisciplinary engagement with emerging players, platforms, practices, and policies that are reshaping media flows and power structures across the Global South and beyond.

This event builds on the [2015 symposium](#) that culminated in a [special journal issue](#) and continues a commitment to rethinking global media transformations through inclusive, comparative, and critical perspectives.

## Key Themes

We welcome submissions that interrogate global media transformations through one or more of the following thematic axes:

- Infrastructure & Industry: Emerging media hubs, streaming ecosystems, platform logics, regulatory responses, and industry restructuring.
- Practices & Creativities: Shifting modes of authorship, production, distribution, and exhibition within digital and hybrid environments.
- Identities & Audiences: Representation, audience formation, and cultural politics within diasporic, transnational, and platform-mediated circuits.

We especially encourage research grounded in underrepresented geographies, critical approaches to technology, and innovative methodological frameworks.

## Format

The symposium will feature:

- Roundtable discussions with leading scholars
- Paper presentation panels selected through a competitive review process
- Workshops led by invited scholars for advanced graduate students
- A lunchtime fireside chat with a speaker from the regional media sector.

This symposium format is designed to foster deep dialogue across disciplinary, geographic, and professional boundaries.

**Travel Support:** Travel and accommodation support will be available to accepted presenters. More details will be provided upon notification of acceptance.

**Publication Opportunity:** Select conference papers will be considered for inclusion in a peer-reviewed academic journal special issue. In order to facilitate timely editorial review and feedback,

full drafts must be submitted by January 31, 2026. Authors will receive input from both editors and conference co-presenters, allowing time to revise before formal submission.

**Submission Guidelines:** Please submit your proposal via [this form](#) by August 31, 2025. Submissions should include:

- Title and abstract (max 300 words)
- Short bio (100 words)
- Indication of interest in participating in the graduate workshop (if applicable)

Notification of acceptance: December 20, 2025

Full paper submission deadline: January 31, 2026

Final program release: February 20, 2026

Symposium dates: April 10–11, 2026

Location: Northwestern University | Qatar, Education City, Doha

Language: English

**Contact:** For questions, please contact the organizing committee at:  
[globalmedia2026@qatar.northwestern.edu](mailto:globalmedia2026@qatar.northwestern.edu)