**Media Policy Track: Access**

**June 16-19, New Orleans**

 (1) Who Can Read Your Story? The Digital Divide is Still Here.

**June 16**

Fifteen percent of Americans don’t use the internet—and they aren’t all seniors. In rural areas, on reservations and in prisons, many users simply don’t have access. The story of lack of access deepens when we overlay “access” with economic data. For example, 62% of Spanish-dominant Latinos do not have broadband access at home. A significant number of users can’t afford to have access when or how they want it.

Do users really have internet access if the only access is mobile wireless? If the cost is 10% of their monthly wage? Will the proposed lifeline program impact a significant number of people? Speakers will explain the implications of lifeline access, the hope community broadband offers, and provide tools/sources so you can investigate internet access across geographic, demographic and policy lines.

Confirmed Speakers:

* Matt Rantanen, Native Public Media—speaking on reservations and mapping data—how to find who has access
* Michael Scurato, National Hispanic Media Coalition—speaking on Latino access
* Christopher Mitchell—one solution community broadband

Moderator: Amina Fazlullah

Sandra Gonzalez asked via twitter—interested. Sandragonzalezthereporter@gmail.com

(2) What Costs Nothing but Isn’t Free? The Battle over Zero-Rating

**June 18**

To counter the digital divide, especially internationally, companies including Facebook and T-mobile have proposed zero-rating. In this model, users pay nothing for access to walled-garden internet. Those opposed argue that zero-rating violates net neutrality by privilenging the providers’ content over any other. This session will introduce you to the intricacies of this policy fight, both as it plays out in the United States and globally.

Confirmed Speakers:

Sarah Morris, Open Technology Institute

Malavika Jayaram, Digital Asia Hub—why India rejected Zero rating

Invited: Nicol Turner Lee

Moderator: Mike Ludwig, Truthout (based in New Orleans)

(3) Brave New World: Monitoring Activists, Monitoring Reporters

**June 19**

This panel will address the intersection of racial justice, activism, acts of journalism and state-based surveillance. Surveillance has gone 360 degrees. Stingrays intercept phone calls. Video from drones flying overhead is parsed by facial recognition software to identify individuals. Live video footage is scrambled by jammers. Not to mention the capability of the FBI to hack phones or the NSA to intercept messages.

In journalism circles, we tend to focus on national surveillance (read Edward Snowden). But increasingly sophisticated surveillance tools are aimed at activists and protesters—and at the reporters who cover them. We have increasing evidence that people of color are the primary targets.

Steven Renderos, Center for Media Justice—on the threat surveillance poses to activism

Brandi Collins, Color of Change—Launch campaigns calling for a public registry of stingrays, facial recognition and license plate surveillance. Collect and archive stories from activists. FOIA project for secure activism run by journalists of color.

Mike Respoli, worked for privacy international—journalists surveilled

Moderator: Dave Maas, EFF