Media Consortium Workshops at IRE 2016

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**Who Can Read Your Story? The Digital Divide is Still Here.**

[**http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2199/2680/**](http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2199/2680/)

Moderator: Amina Fazlullah, Benton

* Matt Rantanen, Native Public Media
* Michael Scurato, National Hispanic Media Coalition
* Christopher Mitchell, ILSR Community

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.

June 18, 2016

**What Costs Nothing but Isn’t Free? The Battle over Zero-Rating**

[**http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2199/2668/**](http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2199/2668/)

Moderator: Mike Ludwig, Truthout

* Sarah Morris, Open Technology Institute
* Malavika Jayaram, Digital Asia Hub
* Nicol Lee-Turner, MMST

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.

June 19, 2016

**Brave New World: Monitoring Activists, Monitoring Reporters**

[**http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2199/2679/**](http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2199/2679/)

Moderator, David Maass, Electronic Frontier Foundation

* Steven Renderos, Center for Media Justice
* Brandi Collins, Color of Change
* Mike Respoli, Free Press

Surveillance has gone 360 degrees. Live video footage scrambled by jammers. Stingrays intercept phone calls. Video from drones flying overhead can immediately be parsed by facial recognition software to identify individuals. Metadata helps the NSA (and corporations) guess where we will go next,  who we associate with, and more.  Increasingly, the NSA, FBI and local police work together to conduct surveillance on activists--and journalists.