***NGO in consultative status with United Nation’s ECOSOC***

**10th Gershowitz Conference on Media and Governance**

**Theme: *“Confronting Democratic Diminution:***

***Press Freedom in an Era of Pandemic, War, and Political Crisis”***

**Schedule and Presentations**

Friday, November 11, 2022

9 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Venue: School of Public Affairs and Administration,

Rutgers University - Newark

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-9:45 Opening Statements:

**Dr. Gregg Van Ryzan,** InterimDean,

School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University - Newark

**Dr. Robert Shick,** John Jay College, New York - Conference Co-Chair.

 **Dr. Uchenna Ekwo**, President, CMPI – Conference Co-Chair

 **Gabrial Gershowitz, Attorney,** Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, NY

9:45-10.30 **Keynote Speakers:**

 **Congressman Herbert Klein**, Former US Congressman (NJ)

10:30-12.00 **Panel I: Tracking current democratic crisis around the world**

According to Freedom House’s 2022 report, global freedom faces a dire threat following relentless attacks by the enemies of liberal democracy. In countries with long-established democracies, internal forces have exploited the shortcomings in their systems, distorting national politics to promote hatred, violence, and unbridled power. Unfortunately, less developed democracies copy the trends in greater democracies often with negative consequences. The global order is nearing a tipping point, and democracy’s defenders must work together to help guarantee freedom for all people. Panelists review democratic trends around the world with focus on immigration, elections, and public health crisis.

Panelists:

**1. Dr. Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia**, Professor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) at Rutgers University–Newark.

2. **Prof. Richard F. Southby**, the Director of the Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives and Executive Dean Emeritus of Global Health at the George Washington University.

Moderator: **Dr. Robert Shick**, Affiliated Faculty, School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University – Newark

12:00-12:15 Break

12:45-1:00 Luncheon Lecture/Presentation: **Volodymyr Yelchenko**,

 Former Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States

1:00-2:30 **Panel II: Taking Stock: Media Freedom around elections, pandemics, or political conflicts.**

Digital authoritarianism — the use of digital information technology by authoritarian regimes to surveil, repress, and manipulate domestic and foreign populations — is reshaping the power balance between democracies and autocracies. The unbridled collection of personal data has broken down traditional notions of privacy. And a cohort of countries is moving toward digital authoritarianism. The internet is growing less free around the world, and democracy itself is withering under its influence.

The flurry of activity since 2016 after Brexit and the election of Donald Trump helped shine a spotlight on the general quality and structure of contemporary media environments with functioning democracies. While the spread of mis-/disinformation has resulted in the mobilization of wider society around the real dangers arising from unverified and inaccurate reporting around elections, pandemics, or political conflicts, the decline of media freedom around the world present real threats even to the so called functioning or partial democracies. Panelists dive in to provide descriptive and causal evidence on the scope of diminishing media freedom, sharing information in secure platforms, and freedom of expression as well as possible interventions.

 Panelists:

1. **Adrian Karmazyn,** formerly of Voice of America and now affiliated with Transatlantic Task Force for Ukraine
2. **Umaru Gwandu** Ph.D. - Department of Mass Communication, Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto – Nigeria
3. **John Cavanaugh,** Executive Director – The Plunk Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio
4. **Alexander Ostashko -**Ukrainian-American journalist
5. **Kahraman Haliscelik -** Press Secretary, Organization of Turkic States

Moderator: **Dr. Uchenna Ekwo,** Center for Media & Peace Initiatives

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45- 4:15 **Panel III: Democracy, Constitutionalism, and the administrative state**

As it turns out, Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s social contract - a compact between the individual and the state is constantly under renewed assault. The contract is probably broken and needs to be fixed. Shortly after the 2016 election, presidential advisor Stephen Bannon vowed to pursue the “deconstruction of the administrative state,” signaling the new administration’s view that parts of government itself had usurped power from the American people. But while the administrative state may have been a new term for many Americans, debates around this so-called fourth branch of government have persisted since its origins in the late nineteenth century: Is the administrative state (i.e., the agencies, people, and processes of the executive establishment) constitutional? Who controls it? What limits should it face? And is it time for significant change? Do politicians and civil servants have the incentive to make government more accountable, efficient, and truly representative?

Panelists:

**1. Dr. Stephanie Newbold**, Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) at Rutgers University–Newark

**2. Saqib Qureshi, Ph.D**. -Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and the author of *“The Broken Contract”*

Moderator: Edmund Janniger, Vice President CMPI

4:15- 4:20 **Post-script**

George Bamguarten, Independent Journalist, on behalf of the Steering Committee of the Gershowitz Conference, delivers a brief message

4:15 - 4:45 **Wrap Up Session:**

Facilitator: **Robert Bernstein**

5:00 Conference Adjourns

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