TELLING THE REFUGEE STORY DIGITALLY
October 25, 4:30pm • Communication Hub, ILC

Dr. Claire Wardle (Research Director, Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University; Co-Founder, Eyewitness Media Hub) will share her experience as Senior Social Media Officer at UNHCR, the United Nations’ Refugee Agency, based in Geneva (2014-15).

The role that social media can play in shaping narratives about refugees, as well as the ways that refugees are themselves using social media to tell their stories, is an important perspective on the communication challenges facing refugees today. Dr. Wardle will speak about the changing role of Communications departments in international organizations and the advocacy space in general. With foreign reporting budgets being slashed by newsrooms, these organizations have significantly more access to crisis situations worldwide than many professional journalists often do.

Dr. Wardle will consider the benefits and risks of disintermediation, or the way in which social media allow refugee advocacy organizations to reach audiences directly, rather than relying on news organizations as conduits.

Sponsor: Department of Communication