



**Global Technology
for Social Justice Lab**

UMassAmherst

Empowering Election Integrity in the Global Majority

Workshop & Launch Event

**April 18 and 19, 2024
University of Massachusetts at Amherst**

**Presented by
Global Technology for Social Justice Lab**

**IG/X: @glotechlab
#GloTechLab
GLOTECHLAB.net**

WELCOME

Welcome to the launch event of the GloTech Lab at UMass Amherst!

With the guiding principle of “Beyond Borders, Bits, and Biases”, our Lab explores tech innovation, design and activism beyond Silicon Valley in favor of comparative analysis and trust network-building across countries and regions.

We are excited to welcome you as a special guest to “**Empowering Election Integrity in the Global Majority**”, our Lab’s official launch event and “coming out” party to the UMass community and beyond. This GloTech workshop follows through with our long-term efforts to build transnational solidarities in the tech and democracy space—especially in a year of pivotal elections in Brazil, India, Ghana, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States. This event is part of a series of dialogues and networking events hosted by the **South-to-South Knowledge Exchange Spaces vs Disinformation initiative**. Our last convening hosted 50 elections researchers and tech accountability organizers from around the world with our partner institution, the Pontifical Catholic University de Rio de Janeiro, in November 2023.

This event features the launch of an exciting study entitled “**Custom Built / Feito Sob Medida: Strategy Blueprint for Global Majority Election Coalitions**”, a collaborative endeavor between GloTech researchers and research partners in Brazil. Drawing from comparative research on Brazil and the Philippines, developed in conversation with election integrity leaders in the Global Majority, “Custom Built / Feito Sob Medida” aims to inform tools development, policy advocacy, and network-building for in-country election monitors as well as global tech accountability coalitions. Our study and this GloTech workshop put into practice our commitment to South-to-South theory- and community-building. “Custom Built / Feito Sob Medida” will have launch and community engagement activities in Brazil and the Philippines in Summer 2024.

We are thrilled by the participation of scholars, advocates, storytellers, campaigners, institution-builders, and community leaders in our workshop. We expect participants will make the most of opportunities for field visioning and agenda-setting, career mentoring, and convivial exchange over the two days!

We want to thank our UMass colleagues in the Department of Communication, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the UMass Foundations Office, and the News and Events Office. We would like to especially thank the UMass Research Office and their support of a Large-Scale Integrative Research Award (LIRA) to GloTech.

We are grateful for external sponsors who share our vision for a bold and inclusive tech and democracy space: **Luminate, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the National Science Foundation.**



Beyond
Borders, Bits
and Biases

glotechlab.net

INTENTION SETTING

These statements express our commitment to each other on this special gathering.

We respect all participants and work from our highest intentions. We want everyone to do well and be themselves. It's okay to present positions and methodologies that are new and experimental. It's also okay to disagree with others' ideas insofar as our disagreement does not invalidate others' specific experiences.

When engaging with others, we are mindful of our positionality and acknowledge our biases and limitations. We engage other disciplines, methodologies, and genres of knowledge production with openness and curiosity.

We are generous when citing other colleagues' work (including those not in the workshop) and amplifying less-heard voices and perspectives.

We expect presenters and panelists to be mindful of their time on stage and invite questions and conversation from our high-level expert audience.

We don't have a blanket policy for posting/publicizing the event on social media so we simply encourage folks to simply be mindful about social media etiquette. Some presenters have open-access reports they wish to be widely used and cited, while others may want to keep sensitive information to those in the room. It's good to ask for consent before posting and sharing! Our event hashtag is **#GloTechLab**.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 18.

530PM: Gather in Hotel UMass Lobby. GloTech faculty and grad students will drive visitors to Garcia's Mexican Restaurant in downtown Amherst.

6-8PM: Dinner Reception at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant in downtown Amherst.

Toast to GloTech Lab.

Tacos, Burritos and Margaritas.

8PM: GloTech faculty and grad students will drive guests back to Hotel UMass.

Friday, April 19. Main Venue: Department of Communication Hub, 3rd Floor of Integrative Learning Center (across Hotel UMass).

8:30-9:00AM: COFFEE, REGISTRATION and INTERACTIVE WALL ACTIVITY

Interactive Wall Prompts:

How can we practice transnational solidarity in the Tech and Democracy Space?

What should be researchers' and civil society organizations' priority programs ahead of pivotal elections?

9:00-9:30AM: WELCOME TO GLOTECH

GloTech's Vision and Values

Our Membership

Central Program and Advocacy: South-to-South as Theory and Method
Opportunities to Collaborate

9:30-10:00AM: REPORT LAUNCH - “CUSTOM BUILT / FEITO SOB MEDIDA: STRATEGY BLUEPRINT FOR GLOBAL MAJORITY ELECTION COALITIONS”

Presentation by

JM Lanuza (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

Marcelo Alves (Pontifical Catholic University de Rio de Janeiro)

Dean Jackson (Public Circle Research)

Rafael Grohmann (U of Toronto)

Raquel Recuero (Federal University of Pelotas)

Camilla Tavares (Federal University of Maranhão)

Jonathan Corpus Ong (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

Moderator: Martha Fuentes-Bautista (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

10:00-11:15AM: FOSTERING TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITIES IN TECH AND DEMOCRACY SPACE. RESPONSES TO GLOTECH REPORT “CUSTOM BUILT / FEITO SOB MEDIDA”.

Discussants offer 8-minute max. responses to “Custom Built / *Feito Sob Medida*” and reflect on trust network-building in the face of pivotal global elections. 30 minutes for questions from the audience.

Daniel Kreiss (UNC - Chapel Hill, USA)

Nicole Curato (Canberra University, Australia)

Odanga Madung (Mozilla Foundation, Kenya)

Nandini Jammi (Check My Ads Institute, USA)

Tori Elliott (Wired Magazine, USA)

Moderator: Seyram Avle (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

11:15-11:30AM: COFFEE BREAK.

11:30AM-1:00PM: Roundtable Panel - GLOBAL ELECTIONS 2024.

Panelists are invited to preview forthcoming elections and discuss: 1) What are the stakes of the upcoming election? 2) What are wedge issues you are monitoring? 3) How might new technology and AI (as platforms but also regulatory frameworks) affect the conduct of campaigns and their target audiences? 4) What are the prospects of citizen engagement initiatives in various countries?

South Korea: Heesoo Jang (UNC - Chapel Hill / UMass Amherst)

South Africa: Herman Wasserman (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

Ghana: Seyram Avle (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

USA: Kathy Roberts Forde (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

Moderator: Ethan Zuckerman (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

1:00-2:00PM: Lunch in the COMM HUB.

2:00-3:15PM: Roundtable Panel (Closed Event) - CALLING OUT AND CALLING IN: HOW TO GLOBALIZE THE TECH AND DEMOCRACY SPACE (AND STILL GET FUNDED).

A candid conversation with program officers, civil society organizers, and researchers: What are emerging opportunities to sustain globally minded and critical tech studies for the long-haul? How is critical research hijacked or co-opted by national security / tech nationalist agendas? What resources do Global Majority and Global North researchers and civil society need to mitigate legal risks and digital harassment?

Meetali Jain (Tech Justice Law Project, USA)

Adam Fivenson (National Endowment for Democracy, USA)

Toni Friedman (The Asia Foundation - San Francisco, USA)

Herman Wasserman (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

Dhanaraj Thakur (Center for Democracy & Technology, USA)

Moderator: Burcu Baykurt (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

3:15-3:30PM: COFFEE BREAK.

3:30-5:00PM: 5 BREAKOUT PANELS (*Closed to General Public*).

Venue: Various rooms in the ILC listed below

These are meant to be practical, applied, and interactive small group meetings. All participants will sign up to the panel of their choice via Google Forms before the workshop. Breakout panel abstracts will be added to this document as they are finalized. Conversation Starters / Workshop Leaders are meant to kick off discussion with all participants in the room. Moderators will introduce conversation starters/workshop leaders, keep time, encourage interactive and flowy discussions, and prepare a summary of their session for the final session "Reporting Back".

A: The Asian American Vote in the 2024 US Elections (Room S416)

Where's our people at for the 2024 Elections? Do we expect them to resist Red Waves in key states? Who are emerging bad actors, counter-resistance influencers, and community media groups shaping political conversations? What are interventions to de-radicalize our conservative uncles and aunties?

Conversation Starters:

Wayne Xu (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

Kavitha Rajagapolan (CUNY, USA)

Jinxia Niu (Chinese for Affirmative Action, USA)

Pawan Dhingra (Amherst College, USA)

Moderator: Yena Kang (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

B: Advocacy and Resistance Toolkit Development (Room S415)

The aim of this session is to collectively design a toolkit based on existing practices of advocacy and resistance.

Workshop Leaders:

Seyram Avle (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

Matt Bui (U of Michigan)

Moderator: Nora Suren (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

C: AI Tools and Computational Resources for Data Journalists (Room N301)

What tools exist? What are real use cases for generative AI and what is hype? Where are we at when it comes to building AI tools addressing disinformation?

Workshop Leaders:

Scott Hale (Oxford Internet Institute)

Jaemark Tordecilla (Nieman Fellow, Harvard University, USA)

Katrina Ventura (Columbia School of Journalism, USA)

Moderator: Larrisa Miller (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

D: Building Bold and Visionary Centers and Offering Whole-Person Support (Room N345)

What does it take to build academic research hubs and centers with a global outlook? What roles do regional centers | coalitions play in breaking down information silos across countries, fields, and sectors? How can centers be allies in accessing social media data for legitimate research purposes?

Conversation Starters:

Nicole Curato (Canberra University, Australia)

Toni Friedman (The Asia Foundation - San Francisco, USA)

Daniel Kreiss (UNC - Chapel Hill)

Martha Fuentes-Bautista (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

Moderator: Marco Trigoso (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

E: Defunding Disinformation and Exposing Illicit Influence Economies (Room N351)

What are strategies for defunding disinformers? What are the risks and limits to demonetization campaigns? What (transnational) institutions and collaborations are needed to make these efforts more effective?

Conversation Starters:

Nandini Jammi (Check My Ads Institute, USA)

Odanga Madung (Mozilla Foundation, Kenya)

Marcelo Alves (PUC-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Moderator: JM Lanuza (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

5:10-6:00PM: REPORTING BACK, CALLS FOR COLLABORATION, AND FINAL REFLECTIONS.

Reporting back: Breakout Group moderators share 3- to 4-minute summaries from each of their sessions.

Interactive Wall Summary (6- to 8-minutes)

Martha Fuentes-Bautista (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

Calls for Collaboration and Final Reflections

Moderator: Jonathan Corpus Ong (UMass Amherst/GloTech)

6:00-8:00PM: Dinner, Drinks, Dancing, and Divination in the COMM HUB.

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