



Profile

Yolanda Mlonzi is a vibrant and motivated young woman in the field of Internet governance (IG) and communications. She started off her career in IG as a Google Policy Fellow for a year where she was hosted at the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). Yolanda is a member of the Internet Society Gauteng chapter and was selected as part of the 2016 Internet Society Ambassadors to the global Internet Governance Forum held in Mexico. Overall, Yolanda has been involved in the IG space on local, regional and international levels, where she been a speaker at the last South Africa IG, a resource person for the African School on Internet Governance (3rd & 4th editions) and is currently involved in a number of IG processes. She is currently working as a project manager at Kantar Added Value which is a brand consulting and marketing research company in Bryanston.

Yolanda holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in International Relations and Media Studies from Witwatersrand University, where she was awarded the Wits Postgraduate Merit Award for her academic excellence. She conducted a short research study which focused on the growing politicization of intelligence services in constitutional democracies like South Africa, her paper sought to explore the intersection between new media, privacy, surveillance and politics in modern democratic states. Throughout her honours year, she has been placed to critically engage media texts and cultural products within her local context and the world at large.

She is therefore a hard worker, determined and a driven individual who believes in delivering optimal results always.

She is Yolanda is a lover of everything media, food, travel, meeting new people and challenging environments. She is well spoken, a team player and a fast learner.

Her interest areas lie in the following fields:

- Information Communications Technology (ICT) policy
- Internet Governance
- Human Rights
- Public Policy
- Youth development
- Communications
- Digital media
- Marketing
- Branding

Yolanda also prides herself in excellence where this is evidenced through her achievements in and beyond her university studies. Below are some of her achievements:

- [Communications Policy Research South Young Scholar 2017](#)
- Youth@IGF 2017 Internet Society Awardee
- Internet Society 2016 Global Ambassador – see [here](#)

- Google Africa Policy Fellow 2015, it is through this prestigious fellowship where Yolanda unlearned the realities of living in a digital age and how the world is converging into a more digitized world.
- Postgraduate Merit Scholarship to further her studies in any chosen field of interest at the University of Witwatersrand.
- She was awarded an entrance Undergraduate Merit Scholarship from the University of Witwatersrand
- She was honoured as a Golden Key Member at Witwatersrand University, due to her academic excellence.

Experience

Project Manager, Kantar Added Value South Africa, Johannesburg (Present)

Yolanda joined a brand consulting and research company based in Bryanston, where she carries the role of coordinating and liaising with clients on project related matters. Additionally, she assists in gathering and pulling insights and strategic outputs from research that has been conducted. Since her time with Kantar Added Value, she has been involved in brand research and insights for financial services, hospitality and alcohol companies, just to name a few.

Her primary duties are as follows:

- Assist in managing client relations
- Research
- Logistics management
- Writing and reporting brand insights
- Project Administrative work

Co-Founder, Emerging Leaders in Internet Governance (South Africa), Johannesburg (Present)

The South African Emerging Leaders on Internet Governance (SA-ELIG) hopes to unlock and unleash young minds to infiltrate the space of Internet Governance locally, regionally and global spaces. SA ELIG believes that the present and the future of Internet Governance is in young minds.

Media Studies Tutor, University of the Witwatersrand; Johannesburg, Gauteng — February 2016 – November 2016

Yolanda served as a media studies tutor for 1st year media students at the University of the Witwatersrand. This role has enabled her to assist 1st year students in assimilating themselves with media studies academic course content as well as understanding the basic tools needed for writing academic essays and reports. She took up to 20 students once a week, and helps them apply what they learn in lecturers to real world media examples.

Duties as media studies tutor:

- Conduct weekly tutorial to first year Wits media students
- Attend weekly meetings with first year course coordinator to discuss learning material and areas of challenge for students
- Assist first year students by deciphering course material
- Assist students with academic writing and constructing essays.
- Student academic assessment – marking of essays and transcripts

Communications and social media coordinator, African School of Internet Governance and African Internet Governance Forum; Durban, South Africa — October 2016

Yolanda was contracted to provide communications support for the Association for Progressive Communications' (APC) events in Africa during the month of October 2016, namely the African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) 4th edition (AfriSIG) and the African Internet Governance Forum.

Duties included:

- Managing the social media coverage for APC during the events – Updating of relevant social media accounts with photos, videos, and live tweeting from the events.
- Encourage and coordinate content contributions from AfriSIG participants, alumni, members and partners to be published in AfriSIG and African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms websites
- Conducting interviews with participants and faculty of AfriSIG and AFIGF and producing content
- Providing onsite training in use of social media to AfriSIG 2016 participants as needed.
- Content production for the AfriSIG website

Program Assistant, Association for Progressive Communications (APC); Johannesburg, Gauteng — December 2015 – June 2016 (1 year, 6months)

Yolanda served as the Africa policy program assistant for APC. APC is a global non-governmental organization which operates in various regions across the world. She worked remotely with a diverse group of human rights activists who are concerned with human rights on the internet and the use of ICTs to develop human potential and social justice.

Duties at APC:

- Events Planning for Africa Events
- Communications - which involved writing articles and reports, doing interviews, blogging, updating relevant websites within the organization and social media co-lead
- Research
- Program Administration

Key highlights while at APC:

- Yolanda has had the opportunity of interacting with influential policy makers and influencers in the realm of ICT in South Africa, where she briefly formed part of the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services working group on internet governance
- Yolanda assisted in organizing the third African School on Internet Governance which was hosted at and endorsed by the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa

Google Africa Policy Fellow, Google; Johannesburg, 2015 (1year)

During the fellowship Yolanda was tasked to offer research assistance, writing and reporting on events and meetings attended, events planning and program coordination. Her primary focus as a the policy fellow was to focus on the African continent as well as looking at ICT development and broadband challenges in South Africa. She subsequently attended numerous policy meetings and assisted in organizing the 3rd African School on Internet Governance which was held in Ethiopia and numerous stakeholder meetings.

Key highlights during her fellowship:

- Assisted in organising the South African report launch for the Global Information Society Watch Report which was attended by organisations like Google Africa, University of Johannesburg, Sunday Times, NEPAD and local civil society organisations.
- Assisted in coordinating and acted as rapporteur for a high profile policy infrastructure sharing workshop which was in partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Communications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) in Sandton, Johannesburg
- Yolanda had the opportunity of visiting the African Union where she was a participant at the African Internet Governance Forum
- Whilst at the African Internet Governance Forum in 2015, Yolanda gave policy input to a working document that was to be used by the African Union in the World Information Society Summit which took place in Geneva, in December 2015
- Attending the Global Internet Governance Forum in Brazil, November 2015
- Assisted in organizing the rountable on the Film & Publications Board Drat Online Regulation with a number of civil society organisations and local South African businesses.

Events/workshops organized

1. IGF 2017 Workshop organizer: [Internet shutdowns taking a toll on Africa's internet economy](#)
2. South Africa IGF: Speaker on youth participation in Internet Governance
3. Noncommercial Users Constituency Outreach: assisted in organizing and speaker on Internet regulation in Africa.
4. Currently organizing a workshop at the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa: Can open government data enable an open internet in Africa?

Volunteer Work/Membership

- Selection Committee for the 4th African School on Internet Governance, (Period: September 2016)
- Internet Society Gauteng, Deputy Secretary/Marketing & Communications Officer
- Internet Society Global Member

- NonCommercial Users Constituency (NCUC)
- Internet Governance Civil Society Caucus

Articles/Blog Posts

1. Coverage of Africa Internet Governance Forum for the Association for Progressive Communications News
2. Blog posts during my time as a Google Policy Fellow at APC
3. NCUC Outreach
4. ICANN Wiki Guide – Covered as women next IG leader
5. Personal Blog on Internet Governance

Education

St. Dominic’s Priory High School, Port Elizabeth – 2011 (Matric)

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg — Bachelor of Arts, 2014

Courses:

- International Relations Theory and Research Methods
- Intermediate International Political Economy
- Research Methods in Media and Cultural Studies
- Political Economy of the Media in Southern Africa
- Regional Studies: East Asia
- Media Policy and Regulation
- Media and Democracy
- Human rights and the media

Awards:

- 2012 Merit Award Scholarship from Witwatersrand University
- 2013 Golden Key International Honour Society
 - Academic excellence : top 15% of Wits University
- 2014 Postgraduate Merit Award
- 2014 Obtaining Bachelor of Arts Degree with first class in media studies

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg – Honours in Media Studies, Present

Courses:

- Critical Media Analysis
- African Media Systems
- Media Economics
- Media and Politics

Awards

- 2016 Awarded Postgraduate Merit Scholarship Award

Skills

- Events planning/Logistics
- Research
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Data collection and analysis
- Writing and blogging
- Communications
- Planning and organizational skills
- Time management
- Presentation Skills

Languages:

- English (Excellent written and spoken)
- isiXhosa (Excellent written and spoken)
- isiZulu (conversational)