Relevant Books

Gagliardone, Iginio. *The Politics of Technology in Africa: Communication, Development, and Nation-Building in Ethiopia*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2016, pp.190, ISBN: 1107177855.

This book argues that as more people in Africa get online, information and communication technologies (ICTs) are increasingly hailed for their transformative potential. Yet, the fascination for the possibilities of promoting more inclusive forms of development in the information age have obfuscated the reality of the complex negotiations among political and economic actors who are seeking to use technology in their competition for power. Hence, the author investigates the relationship between politics, development, and technological adoption in Africa's second most populous country and its largest recipient of development aid. The book places a focus on the 'technopolitics' of ICTs, and on their ability to embody and enact political goals, offers a strong and empirically grounded counter-argument to prevalent approaches to the study of technology and development that can be applied to other cases in Africa and beyond. The author teaches Media and Communication at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and is Associate Research Fellow in New Media and Human Rights at the University of Oxford.
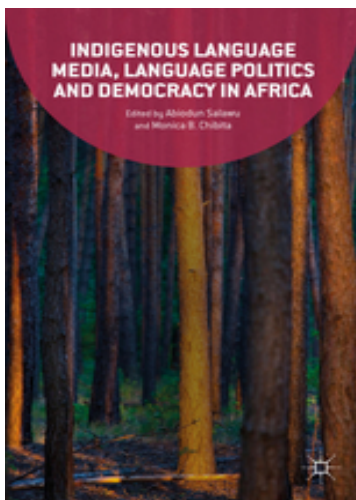
Salawu, Abiodun, Chibita, Monica, Sarantakos, eds. *Indigenous Language Media, Language Politics and Democracy in Africa*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp.246, ISBN: 978113754729-3.

This book deals with the often-neglected link between indigenous languages, media and democracy in Africa. It recognizes that the media plays an amplifying role that is vital to modern-day expression, public participation and democracy but that without the agency to harness media potential, many people in Africa will be excluded from public discourse.
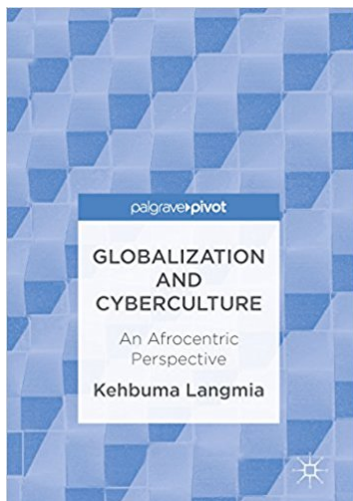
Langmia, Kehbuma. *Globalization and Cyberculture: An Afrocentric Perspective*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp.136, ISBN: 3319475835.

This book argues for hybridity of Western and African cultures within cybercultural and subcultural forms of communication. Hence, the author suggest that when both Western and African cultures merge together through new forms of digital communication, marginalized populations in Africa are able to embrace communication, which could help in the socio-cultural and political development of the continent. On the other hand, the book also engages Richard McPhail's Electronic Colonization Theory in order to demonstrate how developing areas such as Africa experience a new form of imperialistic subjugation because of electronic and digital communication. The book also illustrates how new forms of communication inculcate age-old traditional forms of communications into Africa's cyberculture while complicating notions of identity, dependency, and the digital divide gap. The author is a Fulbright Scholar/Professor and Chair of the Department of Strategic, Legal and Management Communication in the School of Communications at Howard University.

Ndemo, Bitange and Tim Weiss, eds. *Digital Kenya: An Entrepreneurial Revolution in the Making*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp.509, ISBN: 9781137578808.

This volume offers key insights into the historical, cultural, social, economic and political forces at play in the creation of world-class ICT innovations in Kenya. Following the arrival of fiber-optic cables in 2009, the report examines why the initial entrepreneurial spirit and digital revolution has begun to falter despite support from motivated entrepreneurs, international investors, policy experts and others. Written by engaged scholars and professionals in the field, the book offers 15 chapters and 14 one-on-one conversations with entrepreneurs and investors to ask why establishing ICT start-ups on a continental and global scale remains a challenge on the "Silicon Savannah". Hence, the authors present evidence-based recommendations to help Kenya to continue producing globally impactful ICT innovations that improve the lives of those still waiting on the side-lines, and to inspire other nations to do the same.
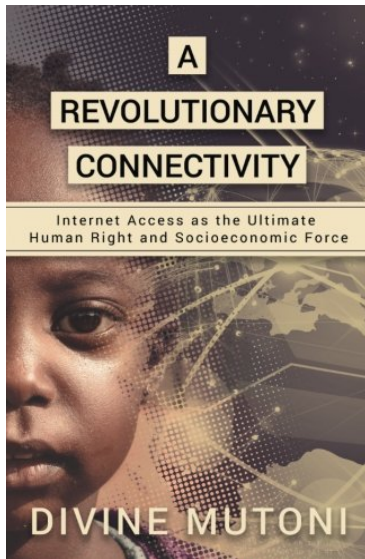
Mutoni, Divine. *A Revolutionary Connectivity: Internet Access as the Ultimate Human Right and Socioeconomic Force*. Austin, TX: New Degree Press (LionCrest Publishing), 2017, pp.196, ISBN: 1641370068

This work points out that 3.78 billion people do not have access to one of the most important Human Rights of the 21st Century, thus it review through the process of understanding how and why "Internet Access for All" is a Human Right. Thus, the author engages a journey of what Universal Internet Access could mean for a region like East Africa and by extension other developing regions. The author is the founder of 4-A Solutions Ltd, a consulting brand dedicated to helping private entrepreneurs and organizations design solutions to bring internet access to the offline populations in Africa.
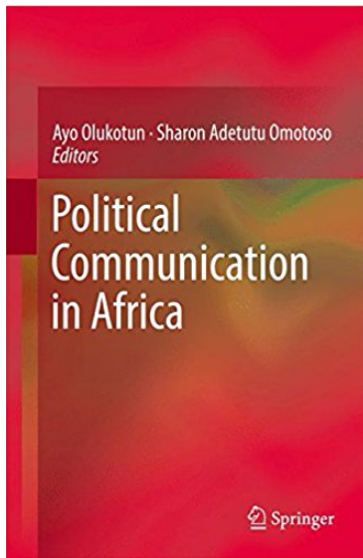
Olukotun, Ayo and Sharon Adetutu Omotoso, eds. *Political Communication in Africa*. Berlin, Germany: Springer, 2017, pp 246, ISBN: 3319486306.

This book offers an account of the nature and development of political communication in Africa. In light of the growing number of African nations now turning towards democratic rule, as well as the growing utilization of information technologies in Africa, the contributors examine topics such as: the role of social media in politics, strategic political communication, political philosophy and political communication, gender and political communication, image dilemma in Africa, and issues in political communication research in Africa, and identify the frontiers for future research on political communication in Africa. Ayo Olukotun is a Professor of Political Communication and former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Entrepreneurial Studies at Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria; and Sharon Adetutu Omotoso is currently a Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Director, Center for Applied Ethics and Political Communication in Africa.
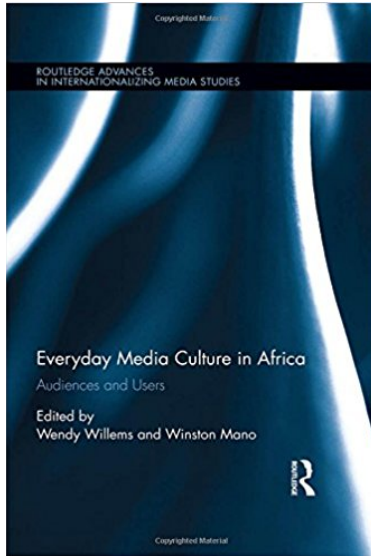
Wendy Willems, Wendy and Winston Mano, eds. E*veryday Media Culture in Africa: Audiences and Users*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2016, pp.274, ISBN: 1138202843.

The book argues that African audiences and users are rapidly gaining in importance and increasingly targeted by global media companies, social media platforms and mobile phone operators, and thus, it addresses the everyday lived experiences of their interaction with different kinds of media: old and new, state and private, elite and popular, global and national, material and virtual. Hence, the focus is on everyday media culture in a range of African nations which contributes to the broader project of provincializing and decolonizing audience and internet studies.
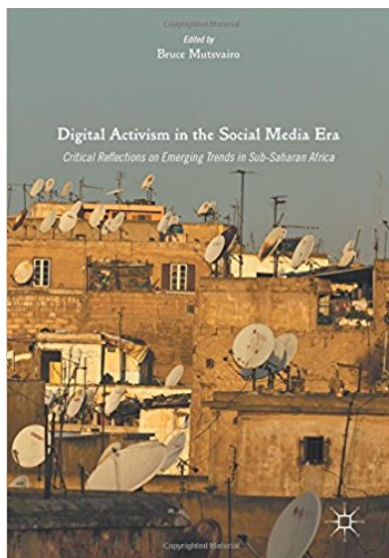
Mutsvairo, Bruce, ed. *Digital Activism in the Social Media Era: Critical Reflections on Emerging Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp.341, ISBN: 3319409484.

This book probes the vitality, potentiality and ability of new communication and technological changes to drive online-based civil action across Africa; and argues that in a continent booming with mobile innovation and a plethora of social networking sites, the Internet is considered a powerful platform used by pro-democracy activists to negotiate and sometimes push for reform-based political and social changes. Hence, the book discusses and theorizes digital activism within social and geo-political realms, analyzing cases such as the #FeesMustFall and #BringBackOurGirls campaigns in South Africa and Nigeria respectively to question the extent to which they have changed the dynamics of digital activism in Africa south of the Sahara with comparative case study reflections in eight African countries that identify and critique digital concepts questioning what impact they have had on the civil society.