Digital Sovereignty in the BRICS Countries

In a world where digital development and policymaking are dominated by Silicon Valley tech giants, the BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – play an increasingly important role. With 40 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of global GDP, these nations possess a vast trove of personal data. Yet, their conceptions, narratives, and initiatives of digital sovereignty remain understudied. This volume is the first to explore digital sovereignty from a Global South perspective and offers a forward-looking take on what a world less dependent on Silicon Valley might look like. It brings together excellent analyses of BRICS digital sovereignty issues, from historical imaginaries to up-to-date conceptualizations, e-payment to smart cities, and legal analysis to geopolitical assessment. By offering neglected perspectives from the Global South, this book makes important contributions to the digital sovereignty debate. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Min Jiang is Professor of Communication Studies and an affiliate faculty member of International Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is a secretariat member of the annual international Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC) and CyberBRICS Visiting Professor at FGV Law School (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

Luca Belli is Professor of Digital Governance and Regulation at FGV Law School, Rio de Janeiro, where he heads the Center for Technology and Society and the CyberBRICS project. He is Editor of the journal *International Data Privacy Law* and Director of Computers, Privacy and Data Protection Conference Latin America.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 19:49:33, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009531085

COMMUNICATION, SOCIETY AND POLITICS

Editors

W. Lance Bennett, *University of Washington*
Regina Lawrence, *University of Oregon*

Founding Co-Editor, Emeritus

Robert M. Entman, *The George Washington University*

Communication, Society and Politics is a series that probes the political and social impacts of communication processes and systems in national, comparative, and global contexts. The series adopts a broad definition of politics as the exercise of power within and between nations, which includes the social, cultural, psychological, and institutional underpinnings of politically significant communication. The series includes a diversity of methods and views, with an emphasis on questions about democracy, equality, justice, and other normative concerns.

In recent years, politics in societies across the world have been transformed by communication technologies that blur traditional definitions of news, the nature of citizenship, and the boundaries between public and private life. Many democracies face challenges due to disruptive communication processes operating in the context of declining levels of trust in public institutions, including legacy journalism. One result of these trends is the spread of disinformation by illiberal movements and parties that aim to undermine science, the press, civil society organizations, and other traditional public information sources. A related trend involves the growth of authoritarian regimes that rely on media systems and communication strategies to manage publics.

Within these broad trends are many other important communication developments in which communication technologies and networked organization have impacted human rights, climate change, new forms of citizenship and inclusion, and personal political expression. Communication, Society and Politics provides a platform to explore how people in different societies engage with the ideas that organize their lives.

Other Books in the Series:

Min Jiang and Luca Belli, *Digital Sovereignty in the BRICS Countries: How the Global South and Emerging Power Alliances Are Reshaping Digital Governance*

Kevin Arceneaux, Johanna Dunaway, Martin Johnson, and Ryan J. Vander Wielen, *The House that Fox News Built? Representation, Political Accountability, and the Rise of Partisan News*

j. Siguru Wahutu, *In the Shadow of the Global North: Journalism in Postcolonial Africa*

Stuart N. Soroka and Christopher Wlezien, *Information and Democracy: Public Policy in the News*

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 19:49:33, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009531085

Danny Hayes and Jennifer L. Lawless, *News Hole: The Demise of Local Journalism and Political Engagement*

Sabina Mihelj and Simon Huxtable, *From Media Systems to Media Cultures*

Matthew Powers and Adrienne Russell, *Rethinking Media Research for Changing Societies*

Roderick P. Hart, *Trump and Us: What He Says and Why People Listen*

Clifford G. Christians, *Media Ethics and Global Justice in the Digital Age*

Reece Peck, *Fox Populism: Branding Conservatism as Working Class*

Roderick P. Hart, *Civic Hope: How Ordinary Citizens Keep Democracy Alive*

Sue Robinson, *Networked News, Racial Divides: How Power and Privilege Shape Public Discourse in Progressive Communities*

Lynn S. Clark and Regina Marchi, *Young People and the Future of News*

Douglas M. McLeod and Dhavan V. Shah, *News Frames and National Security*

Victor Pickard, *America's Battle for Media Democracy: The Triumph of Corporate Libertarianism and the Future of Media Reform*

Erik Albæk, Arjen van Dalen, Nael Jebril, and Claes de Vreese, *Political Journalism in Comparative Perspective*

Daniela Stockmann, *Media Commercialization and Authoritarian Rule in China*

Rodney Benson, *Shaping Immigration News: A French-American Comparison*

Margaret Scammell, *Consumer Democracy: The Marketing of Politics*

Eva Anduiza, Michael James Jensen, and Laia Jorba, eds., *Digital Media and Political Engagement Worldwide: A Comparative Study*

Bruce Bimber, Andrew Flanagin, and Cynthia Stohl, *Collective Action in Organizations: Interaction and Engagement in an Era of Technological Change*

Daniel C. Hallin and Paolo Mancini, eds., *Comparing Media Systems Beyond the Western World*

Bruce A. Williams and Michael X. Delli Carpini, *After Broadcast News: Media Regimes, Democracy, and the New Information Environment*

Ruud Koopmans and Paul Statham, eds., *The Making of a European Public Sphere: Media Discourse and Political Contention*

Tim Groeling, *When Politicians Attack: Party Cohesion in the Media*

Patrick Sellers, *Cycles of Spin: Strategic Communication in the U.S. Congress*

Marwan M. Kraidy, *Reality Television and Arab Politics: Contention in Public Life*

Pippa Norris and Ronald Inglehart, *Cosmopolitan Communications: Cultural Diversity in a Globalized World*

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 19:49:33, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009531085

Stephen Coleman Jay G. Blumler, *The Internet and Democratic Citizenship: Theory, Practice and Policy*

Peter Dahlgren, *Media and Political Engagement, Citizens, Communication and Democracy*

Hernan Galperin, *New Television, Old Politics: The Transition to Digital TV in the United States and Britain*

L. Sandy Maisel, Darrell M. West, and Brett M. Clifton, *Evaluating Campaign Quality: Can the Electoral Process Be Improved?*

C. Edwin Baker, *Media Concentration and Democracy: Why Ownership Matters*

Robert B. Horwitz, *Communication and Democratic Reform in South Africa*

Philip N. Howard, *New Media Campaigns and the Managed Citizen*

Frank Esser and Barbara Pfetsch, eds., *Comparing Political Communication: Theories, Cases, and Challenges*

Daniel C. Hallin and Paolo Mancini, *Comparing Media Systems: Three Models of Media and Politics*

Gadi Wolfsfeld, *Media and the Path to Peace*

Bruce Bimber, *Information and American Democracy: Technology in the Evolution of Political Power*

Myra Marx Ferree, William Anthony Gamson, Jürgen Gerhards, and Dieter Rucht, *Shaping Abortion Discourse: Democracy and the Public Sphere in Germany and the United States*

Adam F. Simon, *The Winning Message: Candidate Behavior, Campaign Discourse*

C. Edwin Baker, *Media, Markets, and Democracy*

Pippa Norris, *Digital Divide: Civic Engagement, Information Poverty, and the Internet Worldwide*

Murray Edelman, *The Politics of Misinformation*

W. Lance Bennett and Robert M. Entman, eds., *Mediated Politics: Communication in the Future of Democracy*

Pippa Norris, *A Virtuous Circle: Political Communications in Postindustrial Society*

Richard Gunther and Anthony Mughan, eds., *Democracy and the Media: A Comparative Perspective*

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 19:49:33, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009531085

Digital Sovereignty in the BRICS Countries

How the Global South and Emerging Power Alliances Are Reshaping Digital Governance

Edited by

MIN JIANG

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

LUCA BELLI

Fundação Getulio Vargas Law School, Rio de Janeiro

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 19:49:33, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009531085

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009531139

DOI: 10.1017/9781009531085

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009531085 under a Creative
Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in
any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given
and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this license visit https://creativecommons.org/
licenses/by-nc/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the
DOI 10.1017/9781009531085

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
NAMES: Jiang, Min (Professor of communication studies), editor. | Belli, Luca, editor.
TITLE: Digital sovereignty in the BRICS countries : how the Global South and emerging
power alliances are reshaping digital governance / edited by Min Jiang, Luca Belli.
DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York : Cambridge University
Press, 2025. | Series: Communication, society and politics. | Includes bibliographical
references and index.
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024017712 | ISBN 9781009531139 (hardback) |
ISBN 9781009531085 (ebook)
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Information technology – Government policy – BRIC countries. |
Digital media – Government policy – BRIC countries. | Internet – Government policy – BRIC countries.
CLASSIFICATION: LCC HM851 .D5444 2025 | DDC 303.48/33–dc23/eng/20241007
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024017712

ISBN 978-1-009-53113-9 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-53112-2 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 19:49:33, subject to the
Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009531085