



*Consolato Generale d'Italia
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Italian Research Day in the World

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Iginio Gagliardone

Professor of Media Studies

UNIVERSITY OF THE
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PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has lived and conducted research in Italy, Ethiopia, the UK, and South Africa, focusing on the relationship between digital media, political change, and human development. His work explores the emergence of distinct models of the information society in the Global South.

He joined the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa, in 2016, after having held positions at the University of Cambridge (Centre for Governance and Human Rights) and the University of Oxford (Centre for Socio-Legal Studies). In 2024 he became one of the inaugural fellows of Wits' Machine Intelligence and Neural Discovery (MIND) Institute. In 2025 he was awarded the SA-UK Bilateral Chair in Digital Humanities, jointly funded by the British Academy and the South African National Research Foundation.

INNOVATION:

Prof. Gagliardone has over two decades of experience researching the evolution of distinctive models of the information society in the Global South, with a particular focus on Africa. He is **recognised as one of the leading experts on China-Africa relations in the digital space. His latest book "China, Africa, and the Future of the Internet" (2019), provides the first empirically grounded account on the role China is playing in the shaping of the information society in Africa, and its possible repercussions in the conceptualisation of the global Internet. His most recent work examines the international politics of Artificial Intelligence and the emergence of new imageries of technological evolution in Africa.**