



## **The Wits Centre for Journalism Fojo Media Institute and the Graduate School of Media and Communications seek a Network Lead -Africa Investigative Journalism Network (AIJN)**

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Duty station:** Aga Khan University

**Contract:** 50% (part-time)

**Period:** March 2026 – December 2027

### **Commissioning organisations:**

Fojo Media Institute (Linnaeus University, Sweden)

Wits Centre for Journalism (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)

Graduate School of Media and Communications (Aga Khan University, Kenya)

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### **Background**

The Wits Centre for Journalism (WCJ), Fojo Media Institute and Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications (AKU-GSMC) are jointly supporting the development of the **Africa Investigative Journalism Network (AIJN)**, which has grown out of the **African Investigative Journalism Conference (AIJC)**. Building on AIJC's long-standing role as a key meeting place for investigative journalists and editors across Africa, AIJN provides a more structured platform for ongoing collaboration, cross-border investigations, and professional exchange and development.

To support this work, the WCJ, Fojo and AKU-GSMC are seeking an experienced **Network Lead** to represent the organisations in Nairobi and to coordinate AIJN-related activities during 2026–2027. This includes the development of the 2026 African Investigative Journalism Conference (AIJC) to be held at Aga Khan University (AKU) in November 2026.

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### **Role purpose**

The Network Lead will serve as the **WCJ's, Fojo Media Institute's, and AKU-GSMC's representative in Nairobi** and play a central role in facilitating and strengthening the Africa Investigative Journalism Network. The role primarily focuses on **network-building, coordination, mentoring of editors and reporters, and content-related collaboration**, but includes event management of the 2026 and 2027 AIJC. This will involve **supporting and facilitating the AIJN network components of the conference**, working closely with the AIJC organising team led by Wits and Fojo and the local organising committee, led by AKU-GSMC.

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### **Key responsibilities**

#### **Network leadership and coordination**

- Act as the Network Lead for the Africa Investigative Journalism Network (AIJN) and as a key point of contact in Nairobi



- Strengthen and expand AIJN across regions, newsrooms, and institutions
- Facilitate collaboration between investigative journalists, editors, journalism educators, and media support organisations
- Promote and support cross-border investigative journalism initiatives and partnerships, including handling story grants.

#### **AIJC Nairobi 2026 – AIJN network components**

- Work with the Wits Centre for Journalism team in Johannesburg and represent Fojo Media Institute and the Wits Centre for Journalism in Nairobi in relation to the AIJC
- Facilitate AIJN-related sessions, meetings, and networking activities connected to AIJC Nairobi 2026
- Support coordination between AIJN members, partners, and the AIJC organising team
- Contribute to the development of network-focused content linked to the conference

#### **Capacity development and mentoring**

- Facilitate mentoring and peer-learning opportunities for investigative editors
- Organise workshops, roundtables, and online seminars within the AIJN framework
- Support collaboration between journalists, editors, and journalism educators

#### **Journalism education and higher education engagement**

- Work with universities and journalism schools to strengthen investigative journalism education
- Support links between newsrooms and higher education institutions, including guest lectures and joint activities
- Contribute to long-term collaboration between investigative journalism practice and education

#### **Representation and communication**

- Represent AIJN, Fojo Media Institute, and the Wits Centre for Journalism in relevant regional and international forums
- Contribute to the visibility, positioning, and strategic development of AIJN
- Work closely with Fojo and Wits on planning, coordination, and reporting

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#### **Required qualifications and experience**

- Deep knowledge of **investigative journalism in Africa**, including its ecosystems and challenges



- Strong professional credibility and networks within investigative journalism and media development
- Experience coordinating networks, partnerships, or regional collaborations
- Experience working with journalists and editors, including mentoring or facilitation roles
- Strong communication skills and experience in representational roles

#### **Preferred qualifications and experience**

- Experience engaging with higher education institutions and journalism education systems
- Experience working with investigative journalism in challenging contexts, including a strong understanding of gender perspectives and the realities faced by journalists operating in high-risk or restrictive environments
- Knowledge of and experience in risk assessment, safety, and security practices related to investigative journalism.

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#### **Language and location requirements**

- Fluency in **English** required
- Working knowledge of **French** strongly preferred
- **Based in Nairobi**, with the ability to work from Aga Khan University and travel regionally as required.

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#### **Reporting and collaboration**

The Network Lead will work in close collaboration with Fojo Media Institute, the Wits Centre for Journalism and AKU-GSMC and in dialogue with AIJN members and partners across Africa. The Network Lead will report to the directors/programme leads of all three commissioning organisations. The role requires independence, good judgement, a strong profile and strong collaborative skills.

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**For enquiries only:** Email Dr Dinesh Balliah ([dinesh.balliah@wits.ac.za](mailto:dinesh.balliah@wits.ac.za)) OR Sofia Hultquist ([sofia.hultqvist@lnu.se](mailto:sofia.hultqvist@lnu.se)).

**To apply:** Submit a letter of application demonstrating your suitability for this role with a recent CV and contactable references to [deangsme@aku.edu](mailto:deangsme@aku.edu) by no later than **28 February 2026, 5pm (SAST)**.