

## Propositions

To accompany the PhD thesis of Sadrag Panduleni Shihomeka

### **Citizen Engagement: Politics and digital media in Namibia**

1. Young people are less engaged in civic and political activities deployed in real, non-virtual space, which they associate with the elderly; they are willing instead to engage online, via mobile phones. (*this dissertation*)
2. There is a low level of young citizen engagement in politics through mobile phones by the political leaders as young citizens feel less engaged in regional politics as a result of the perceived systematic unavailability of their political representatives, who never answer their mobile phones (although they promised they would). (*this dissertation*)
3. Young people demonstrate great readiness to share and discuss issues of interest in the digital sphere using mobile phones. (*this dissertation*)
4. Despite connectivity issues, mobile social media are now becoming an autonomous political sphere as they create a space where young citizens can connect around civic and political activities, meet and discuss, influence and motivate one another. (*this dissertation*)
5. Mobile phone has become an object of entertainment and leisure for young citizens rather than being used as a political tool that can connect them to their political leaders. (*this dissertation*)
6. Digital excluded populations in the global south fell left out of democratic governance.
7. The 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution and society 5.0 are the pillars of progressive politics and governance.
8. Political leaders are more willing and available for digital engagement during campaigns and elections on their mobiles.
9. The digital divide inhibits young people's active participation in local politics.
10. Lack of digital literacy ethics can lead to mobile political dehumanization and human rights violations intentionally or unintentionally.
11. Proximity to leaders may lead to efficiency and effectiveness in governance.