

Report of CoLab (ICPL) Khartoum. Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Projects Laboratory



1. Introduction

The CoLab was held from Monday 28 November to Thursday 1 December at the Institut Français in Khartoum. A team of four facilitators (Aurea Martínez, Juan Freire and Karla Brunet, coordinated by Gabriel Perezan – with the support of Javier Arbizu, the local partner) was in charge of the workshop. A total of 5 projects were developed during the workshop (see Annex 2 for details of projects, people and websites with additional information) and 17 persons were involved as leaders and collaborators. A 6th project (storytelling workshop), involving two participants, was the filming of the workshop process to document the complete experience making a documentary film. Also, this group helped the other participants to learn new skills related to the audiovisual language and its techniques.

Although the workshop was organized based on the methodology previously used in colabs held in Spain, that is an adaptation of the Medialab-Prado protocols, some modifications were included during the process. The main reason was that participants were not familiar with this kind of methods and in most cases proposals were too preliminary to allow the development of a functioning prototype during the 4 days of the workshop. In this sense, we incorporated as a basic goal the refinement and improvement of the proposals adapting the work to the state of development of the initial proposals. Actually, during the first day of the workshop some new projects appeared and the proposals developed were slightly different for those selected in the previous phase.

2. Dynamics of the workshop



The dynamics of the storytelling workshop is explained in Annex 1 because it runned in parallel to the main workshop.

The CoLAB was carried out following these general phases along the four days:

0. **Institutional** presentations: partners and institutions participating in the CoLAB

1. Workshop **facilitators'** presentation: background, roles in the workshop

2. Workshop main **objectives** presentation:

- Build an interdisciplinary team involving both the team "leaders" or proponents and the interested collaborators
- Review and update the proposals
- Develop the projects
- Produce of a conceptual project or prototype (depending of the development of the initial proposals)
- Make a rough calculation of the project budget and start of the process of project inclusion on crowd funding platforms

3. **Projects** presentation and **leaders**, questions and discussion of each proposal

4. **Collaborators** presentation

5. **Team building**

6. **Conceptualization** of each project and planning of development (during the workshop). Critical meetings with facilitators

7. Practical introduction to the development of **websites** (blogs). Discussion of a digital strategy (especially in social media). Development of a website for each project: design, architecture of information, contents

8. Development of conceptual projects, prototypes and/or materials for communication. Critical meetings with facilitators. Public presentations of developments of each project

9. Rough calculation of a budget for future and complete development of each project. Critical meetings with facilitators

10. Introduction to crowd funding as an alternative for funding projects. Practical introduction to goteo.org

11. Final presentation and discussion of the results obtained by each project and team during the workshop. Discussion on future developments and planning.

The following chronology is a summary of the activities developed during the workshop by the whole group and by each team / project. The activities and dynamics of each team could have small

variations in respect to this general description.

November 28th:

- The first day was devoted to CoLAB presentation, the team of facilitators, the first presentations of projects by its proponents, the collaborators presentation and a general dissuasion of the goals of the workshop and of each project.
- At the end of the day teams were built and a working plan for the following 3 days was outlined.
- The main common needs of the different projects were identified: development of conceptual projects and prototypes to be used to test their proposals and as communication materials; website creation and a digital strategy (especially in social media) for each project; rough calculation of a budget and search for funding. For all these needs special working sessions were planned for the following days.

November 29th:

- Blogs were identified as the basic management systems for the development of websites for each project. Karla Brunet held a general practical introduction to *wordpress* (using the free, commercial service *wordpress.com*) and each team developed a first draft of a blog customizing themes, designing the organization of the information and publishing the basic information about the project (proposal, participants, previous materials and information...).
- Each team discussed its project to update the proposal and the objectives. The facilitators met with every team several times to help them to advance in the work and solve problems and doubts.

November 30th:

- Production of materials for the conceptual projects, prototypes and/or communication materials of each project. This activity was very different in each case depending of the state of previous development and characteristics and goals of each project. In summary the main activities carried out were: fieldwork (filming, interviewing people), editing materials (photos and videos), writing and revision of texts; publication of materials in websites ...
- Facilitators discussed with each team to identify needs and restrictions for then to suggest alternatives or ways to solve them. During these meetings a general review of the project was made to prepare all the components needed for the final presentation at the end of the workshop.

December 1st:

- The teams worked to finish the first prototype and/or the final proposal of each project. Besides specific topics of each team, in this last day attention was paid to develop a preliminary realistic budget for the future development of the complete projects.
- For all the projects, and given the difficulties for local funding and the potential international interest of the projects, crowdfunding was identified as a adequate strategy to get funding and to communicate the proposals. Due to the origin of the CoLAB and the professional activities of facilitators, it was clear that the public from Spain should be a primary objective. Facilitators propose to make presentations of CoLAB in Spain (i.e., in Medialab Prado as partner) and to disseminate the projects using their social networks. For this reason *goteo.org* was identified as a potential platform for crowdfunding of the projects. Goteo is a platform developed in Spain with an international scope (and version in English). Juan Freire did a practical introduction to Goteo and

facilitators opened a discussion to analyze the ways to include their projects on the platform and help participants to start this task after the workshop.

- The last session of the workshop was devoted to the presentation of each team of their projects: goals, planning, materials available, funding ... and to discuss them with the group.

3. Analysis of the projects and the workshop



The five projects shared some elements in common related to their thematic. Basically participants showed two main concerns: development of local cultural production (especially audiovisual) and social activism. In this sense projects try to develop platforms for media activism and documentaries. Also, one project proposed to create a digital platform for project development giving, thus, continuity to the Colab initiative.

Besides thematic, all the projects and participants shared some common main needs:

- Interdisciplinary collaboration and team building (participants were aware of this need but the workshop represented an opportunity for team building)
- Prototyping and communication
- Development of websites
- Funding

Each project during the workshop generated a series of products:

- The proposal of each project was revised in depth in order to enable their development (including a preliminary budget).
- A website (blog) including information about the proposal, team, materials, complementary information...
- In some cases, the complete project was considered a long-term goal (for instance the development of a film festival or a new media platform) and the proposal was decomposed in two parts: a short term conceptual project and/or communication products (i.e., an specific documentary about bleaching cream as an example of the kind of materials to be developed in the media platform) and a long-term complete project.
- Budgets were detailed for the short-term proposal and this budget could be included in crowd funding platforms.

4. Annex 1: Dynamics of the Storytelling workshop



Program

- How to tell a story
- Pre-production
- Documentation
- How to analyze an event
- Synthesis
- Learn how to film according to a conceptual program

Day 1.

Meeting of Áurea Martínez with the participants in this workshop to know their profiles and previous knowledge about screenplays and making of audiovisuals. The filming team was composed by Mohamed Salih Fawi and Idris Abdalla El Hassan, that will be working with a camera from the Department of Image of the Goethe Institut.

The first phase of the work consisted in the narration of the CoLAB experience, the keys to document and make it and the development of a recording plan and edition for the days of the CoLAB. Lastly, the team started to film the activities of the workshop.

Day 2.

A screenplay was designed for the interviews with professors, leaders and projects and collaborators. The recording of the interviews and of the resources needed for edition (reference and general shots, transitions, inserts ...) starts.

Day 3.

During the morning the recording continue with interviews, the activities of the project teams and shots to be used as resources during the postproduction. During the evening the complete recorded materials are revised in the production room of the Goethe Institut to structure and define the lines of the screenplay for post-production. The team decides that Mohamed Salih Fawi and Idris Abdalla El Hassan will post produce the video after the end of there CoLAB working online with Áurea Martínez to discuss the details of the work.

Day 4.

Recording of the final presentations of the projects and of the last interviews about the evaluation of the participants of the experience of the workshop and their expectatives.

5. Annex 2: More information about the projects and workshop



Preparation of the workshop

- Selected projects:

http://medialab-prado.es/article/colab_icpl_jartum_proyectos_seleccionados

- Forums for discussion of each project:

<http://foros.medialab-prado.es/viewforum.php?id=27>

CoLAB's participants and Websites of each project (developed during the workshop)



Project *New Direction* URL: <http://ndbleachingcream.wordpress.com/>



1. **Wael Saifuldin Ali** Leader wa2el.S.Ali@gmail.com




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3. **Waleed Mohamed Saeed** Leader dremacol_2010@hotmail.com




4. **Rhea Schmitt** Collaborator schmittreha@gmail.com

5.  **Rebecca Glade.** Collaborator rmglade@gmail.com

Project *Two Niles Film Forum* URL: <http://2nilesfilmforum.wordpress.com/>

6.  **Sadam Siddig Bashir.** Leader Mail: SadamSiddig@gmail.com


7.  **Mohamed Elmugtaba Amer.** Collaborator Mail: almugtaba10@hotmail.com


8.  **Yasir Faiz** Collaborator Mail: alboragyasir@gmail.com

9.  **Salah Mohamed Taha Ali** Collaborator Mail: salahaltoot@hotmail.com


10.  **Mohammed Adam Adam.** Collaborator Mail: alb_aw@hotmail.com

Project *Sexual harassment in Sudan.* URL:
<http://harassmentinsudan.wordpress.com/>

11.  **Sojoud Elgarrai** Leader. Mail: Sojoudphoto@gmail.com

12.  **Maaz Idris Alnugomi** Collaborator Mail: maaz.alnugomi@gmail.com

Project Wake up Sudan URL: <http://wakeupsudan.wordpress.com/>

13.  **Hisham Elhaj**. Leader. Mail: hishphoto2011@hotmail.com

14.  **Samah Salih Araki** Collaborator Mail: samah90do@hotmail.com

Project Nile Festival. URL: <http://nilefestival.wordpress.com/>


15.  **Elamin Jadallah Ismail** Leader. Mail: themusic_club@yahoo.com

Project: CoLAB storytelling

16.  **Mohamed Salih Fawi** Collaborator mo.fawi@hotmail.com

17.  **Idris Abdalla El Hassan** Collaborator of video idris.alhassan@gmail.com

Facilitators (Professors, coordinators and Partners)

18.  **Javier Arbizu** Spanish Embassy CoLAB Coordinator
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19.  **Karla Schuch Brunet** CoLAB professor. Universidade Federal da Bahia. (UFBA, Brazil). Mail: email@karlabru.net URL: <http://karlabru.net/> Travels' web: <http://errante.com.br/en>; website: www.karlabru.net ; twitter@ksbrunet

20.  **Aurea Martínez Fresno** CoLAB professor. Spanish filmmaker & scriptwriter. Mail: aureamartinez@hotmail.com



21. **Juan Freire** CoLAB professor. Universidade da Coruña (UDC, Spain)
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