

Trauma in the Age of Social Media in Africa: Narrative and Representation

Call for Book Chapter Abstracts

Proposal Submission Deadline: **31 August, 2023**

A book edited by

Nick Mdika Tembo

Associate Professor – Department of Literary Studies, University of Malawi

Introduction

The potential that social media is doing to society, both good and bad, is unimaginable. On the gains of social media, researchers agree that it has a pedagogical function in society, whether through people's participation in ongoing discussions, cautionary tales or calling people out for bullying and circulating inappropriate posts. Secondly, social media facilitates new possibilities for interaction and communication (Salzmann-Erikson 2016), as people discuss and share their vulnerabilities and stories with one another. Finally, social media provides an opportunity to engage in social contact and to give and receive help by means of online social networks. This form of social support, even in a virtual community, has the potential to reduce feelings of helplessness and isolation through exchange of online messages. (Levaot et al. 2021). Even though these are some of the benefits of social media use, its detrimental effects are also worth reflecting upon. The circulation and consumption of information on social media platforms exacerbate mental health issues, and many users experience various forms of trauma unique to them (Scott et al., 2023; Goodwin et al., 2013). Part of the reason is that a lot of information posted on social media is seldom regulated.

Trauma in the Age of Social Media: Narrative and Representation seeks to provide relevant theoretical frameworks and the latest empirical research findings on the effects of social media on the mental health of its consumers. The need for this volume has emerged due to the lack of understanding on how the circulation and consumption of texts and stories on social media may be detrimental to one's mental health. Focusing on psychotraumatology, emotional contagion and media amplification, the book promises to bring together a unique blend of scholarly research that interrogates social media-induced trauma in Africa.

Recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Violent social media content
- Social media and campus forms of trauma – student suicides or social media-induced accidents; dysfunctional homes and relationships, economic hardships, struggling to cope with studies; Artificial Intelligence and mental health, etc.
- Trolling/doxing content on social media
- Parody/humour content on social media
- Commodification of the female body on social media
- Social media, wokeism and cancel culture

- Social media-induced perpetrator trauma

Submission Procedure

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit a 300-word abstract on or before **August 31, 2023**. Authors should also clearly state the title of the proposed chapter, their name(s), affiliation(s) and email address. All submitted chapters will be double-blind peer-reviewed. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this book project.

Important Dates

August 31, 2023:	Abstract Submission Deadline
September 22, 2023:	Notification of Acceptance
December 15, 2023:	Draft Chapter Submission Deadline
April 30, 2024:	Reviewer Feedback Returned to Authors
June 7, 2024:	Submission of Revised Chapters
July 30, 2024:	Final Acceptance Notification
August 30, 2024:	Final Chapter Submission
September 30, 2024:	Submission of Book to Publisher

About the Editor

Nick Mdika Tembo is an Associate Professor in the Department of Literary Studies at the University of Malawi. His teaching and research interests are in trauma and memory studies, holocaust and genocide studies, childhood studies, and African life writing. He has extensively published book chapters and journal articles in these areas. Dr Tembo holds a Ph.D. in English Studies from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He also holds Master of Arts in Literature and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Malawi.

Inquiries and abstract submissions should be sent **electronically** (in Word document) to ntembo@unima.ac.mw

Works Cited

- Goodwin, Robin et al. 2013. "In the Eye of the Storm or the Bullseye of the Media: Social Media Use During Hurricane Sandy as a Predictor of Post-traumatic Stress." *Journal of Psychiatric Research* 47 (8): 1099–1100.
- Levaot, Yael et al. 2021. "Making and Receiving Offers of Help on Social Media Following Disaster Predict Posttraumatic Growth but Not Posttraumatic Stress." *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* 15 (4): 484-490.
- Salzmann-Erikson, Martin and Duygu Hiçdurmaz. 2016. "Use of Social Media Among Individuals Who Suffer from Post-traumatic Stress: A Qualitative Analysis of Narratives." *Qualitative Health Research* 27 (2): 285-294.
- Scott, Carol F. et al. 2023. "Trauma-informed Social Media: Towards Solutions for Reducing and Healing Online Harm." CHI '23: Proceedings of the 2023 CHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, April 23-28. Article No. 341.
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