



Technological Realignment

Protecting liberal discourse and values on the internet

German Federal Ministry for Justice and Consumer Protection

Speakers:

Keynote:

- **Christine Lambrecht**, German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection

Interview:

- **Věra Jourová**, Vice President, European Commission
- **Moderator: Paul Twomey**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation (Global Solutions Fellow)

Panelists:

- **Paul Nemitz**, Principal Adviser, European Commission
- **Rebecca MacKinnon**, Founding Director, Ranking Digital Rights
- **Kate O'Regan**, Director of the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights
- **Dennis Snower**, President, Global Solutions Initiative

Moderator:

- **Uwe Jean Heuser**, Journalist, DIE ZEIT, Germany

Session description:

Our culture, norms and values from the offline, real world oftentimes do not translate into the online world, which is by nature remote and lacks actual physical encounters. Online platforms provide a space in which individual opinions can be easily published and receive traction. This becomes problematic if these opinions are misleading or malicious, especially if combined with anonymity and social echo chambers of likeminded users. Ultimately, this misleading, manipulative and often false information can endanger markets and democracies. Currently, it is unclear who is responsible for the content on digital platforms, and its deletion when it is illegal. Originators cannot be prosecuted in many jurisdictions.

The European Union presented encompassing legislation to tackle these problems: the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act. Both laws regulate global platforms by addressing their transparency, accountability and responsibility. Besides a problem of responsibility for platform content and the need to hold platforms accountable to some extent, there is a deeper problem arising from the non-transparent and non-accountable collection and usage of user data by the platforms. This session discusses new approaches to regulate platforms



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and online content, as well data privacy, so that culture and values can also be adequately protected on the internet.

Objectives:

- Describe European approach to protect culture and values on the internet.
- Compare with US and China's approaches.
- Determine where there is common ground. How can regulatory fragmentation be avoided?
- Determine how new approaches to data privacy and user rights limit the problem.

Literature:

Policy briefs (forthcoming on T20italy.org):

- Fay & Medhora. A Global Governance Framework for Digital Technologies , forthcoming
- Kuzev. Levelling the Data Playing Field, forthcoming

Further readings:

- Snower, D., Twomey, P., & Farrell, M. (2020). Revisiting Digital Governance. <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/publications/revisiting-digital-governance>
- Lohani, Archit (2021). Countering Disinformation and Hate Speech Online: Regulation and User Behavioural Change. Occasional Paper No. 296. Observer Research Foundation, India. https://www.orfonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ORF_OccasionalPaper_296_DisinformationHate_NEW.pdf
- Catherine O'Regan, Hate Speech Online: an (Intractable) Contemporary Challenge?, *Current Legal Problems*, Volume 71, Issue 1, 2018, Pages 403–429, <https://doi.org/10.1093/clp/cuy012>
- Natalie Alkiviadou, Jacob Mchangama and Raghav Mendiratta (2020). Global Handbook on Hatespeech Laws. https://futurefreespeech.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Report_Global-Handbook-on-Hate-Speech-Laws.pdf