

AoIR Flashpoint

Symposium 2025

From Platform Governance to Generative AI
Concepts, Methods, and Data for Studying Tech Governance

3 & 4 June 2025

Bremer **Baumwollbörse**
Wachtstraße 17-24
28195 Bremen

Host: Lab Platform Governance, Media, and Technology, Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI), University of Bremen and DFG Research Unit 5656 Communicative AI



Co-funded by



AGENDA

Monday, 2 June 2025

19:00 Informal Get-Together

Tuesday, 3 June 2025

08:30—09:00 Registration and Coffee

09:00—10:00 Welcome and Keynote Conversation
Where Do We Stand, and How Did We Get Here?
Chair: Christian Katzenbach (University of Bremen)

- Natali Helberger (University of Amsterdam)
- Tarleton Gillespie (Microsoft Research)

10:00—11:30 Panel
Tech Companies & Discursive Work

11:30—11:45 Coffee Break

11:45—12:45 Panel
Generative AI

12:45—14:15 Lunch (Markthalle)

14:15—15:45 Panel
Trust & Safety

15:45—16:00 Coffee break

16:00—17:30 Panel
AI Governance

19:30 Evening Panel
Critical Times: Power and Politics in Tech Governance

- Prof. Thomas Poell (University of Amsterdam)
- N.N.
- N.N.

Wednesday, 4 June 2025

08:30—09:00 Registration and Coffee

09:00—11:00 Parallel Workshops
(Qualitative) LLM Methods **Digital Services Act Data Access**

11:00—11:15 Coffee break

11:15—12:45 Parallel Panels
Methods **Content Moderation**

12:45—14:15 Lunch (Markthalle)

14:15—15:45 Parallel Panels
Current approaches to platform governance **Disinformation**

15:45—16:00	Coffee break
16:00—17:00	Parallel Panels Digital Services Act Alternative Platforms - The Good, the Bad, the Ugly
17:00—18:00	Concluding Plenary Panel Where Do We Go From Here? <i>Chair: Rebecca Scharlach (University of Bremen)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah T. Roberts (UCLA) • Jilian York (Electronic Frontier Foundation) • N.N.
20:00	Informal Farewell, Karaoke (Place to be announced)

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

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- Tarleton Gillespie (Microsoft Research)

10:00—11:30 Panel
Tech Companies & Discursive Work

- Rebecca Scharlach (University of Bremen), CJ Reynolds (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Vasilisa Kuznetsova (University of Bremen), Christian Katzenbach (University of Bremen), Blake Hallinan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Value Frictions: Competing Priorities in the Public and Private Governance of Generative Artificial Intelligence
- Nicolas Suzor (Queensland University of Technology / ADM+S / DMRC), Lucinda Nelson (Queensland University of Technology / ADM+S / DMRC)
Beyond ‘toxicity’: Using large language models for power-sensitive automated content assessment
- Rasmus Kleis Nielsen (University of Copenhagen)
The Politics of ‘Big Tech’
- Laurens Naudts (University of Amsterdam), Natali Helberger (University of Amsterdam)
Authenticity Matters: Understanding the Epistemic and Democratic Risks of Generative AI

11:30—11:45 Coffee Break

11:45—12:45	<p>Panel Generative AI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Gekker (University of Amsterdam) <i>Towards hybridised media: Governance of and through GenAI interfaces</i> Kate M. Miltner (University of Sheffield), Tim Highfield (University of Warwick) <i>Generative AI and the creative industries: Bridging governance and opportunity?</i> Soorya Balendra (McGill University) <i>Challenges of Platform and Generative AI Governance Research in the Global South</i> Stefan Luca (University of Glasgow, CREATE) <i>Listening for GenAI across a Chorus of Podcasting Platforms</i> Tom Divon (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) <i>GenAI in Digital Activism - Rethinking Palestinian Advocacy and Platform Governance</i>
12:45—14:15	Lunch (Markthalle)
14:15—15:45	<p>Panel Trust & Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Gorwa (WZB Berlin), Clara Iglesias Keller (Weizenbaum Institute / WZB Berlin), João C. Magalhães (University of Manchester) <i>Varieties of Trust and Safety: An Institutional Perspective on Platform Governance Regimes</i> Tomás Guarna (Stanford University) <i>Tracing the Social Construction of Technological Harms: Ethnography in the Trust & Safety Field, from Platforms to Generative AI</i> Kyooeun Jang (University of Southern California) <i>Mediating AI's Possibilities and Risks: The Role of Trust and Safety Intermediaries in the Shaping of Online Child Safety Frameworks</i> Robert Gorwa (WZB Berlin), Michael Veale (University College London) <i>Analytically Ambiguous: Conceptualizing Hard Technical Problems for Trust and Safety</i>
15:45—16:00	Coffee break
16:00—17:30	<p>Panel AI Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason Kalathas (University College Dublin) <i>New Governance Challenges for AI in Platforms: The Case of Adversarial Machine Learning as Co-Governance Mechanism</i> Bradley McNeil (McMaster University) <i>Power and Hegemony in Global AI Governance: A Poststructuralist Discourse Analysis of the UN's Global Digital Compact</i> Vincent Obia (University of Sheffield) <i>Concepts and Strategies for Studying AI Regulation and Tech Governance in Africa</i> Adio Dinika (Distributed AI Research Institute) <i>Decolonizing AI: Resisting Data Colonialism and Platform Extractivism in the Global Majority</i> Hengyi Yang (Maastricht University) <i>Regulatory Beliefs in Transition: Understanding China's Policy Changes in Generative AI Through Advocacy Coalition Framework and Discourse Network Analysis</i>
19:30	<p>Evening Panel Critical Times: Power and Politics in Tech Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Thomas Poell (University of Amsterdam) N.N. N.N.

08:30—09:00	Registration and Coffee	
09:00—11:00	Parallel Workshops (Qualitative) LLM Methods <i>Chair: Rebecca Scharlach</i> <i>(University of Bremen)</i>	Digital Services Act Data Access <i>Chair: Taylor Annabell</i> <i>(University of Utrecht)</i>
11:00—11:15	Coffee break	
11:15—12:45	Parallel Panels Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guy Banim (College of Europe/Build Up), Helena Puig Larrauri (Build Up) <i>The Polarization Footprint, a framework to measure societal divides on social media and advocate for algorithmic change</i>• Jiahui Xing (University of Sydney) <i>From data barriers to insights: Algorithmically Mediated Semiotic-Discourse Analysis (AM-SDA) as a multi-scalar LLM-assisted framework for AI-governed cultural research</i>• Kaushar Mahetaji (University of Toronto), David Nieborg (University of Toronto) <i>Corporate mapping as method: A holistic systematic approach to study platform companies and AI</i>• Jeanette D'Arcy (University of Liverpool), Jessica Crosby (Newcastle University), Rachel Franklin (Newcastle University), Simeon Yates (University of Liverpool), Elena Musi (University of Liverpool) <i>Researcher access to data: Insights from the Smart Data UK Strategic Advice Team</i>• Yarden Skop (University of Paderborn), Marcus Burkhardt (University of Paderborn) <i>Personal Data Governance in the European Market: Repurposing Article 15 GDPR as a Research Tool</i>	Content Moderation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stefan Baack (Mozilla Foundation) <i>Leveraging generative AI's open source communities: A critical analysis of Common Crawl</i>• Paddy Leerssen (University of Amsterdam) <i>From Murdoch to Musk: Social Media Ownership and the Political Economy of Platform Content Moderation</i>• Yannis Theocharis (Technical University of Munich), Spyros Kosmidis (University of Oxford), Friederike Quint (Technical University of Munich), Jan Zilinsky (Technical University of Munich), Franziska Pradel (Technical University of Munich) <i>Balancing Free Speech and Safety: How Target Characteristics Shape Demand for Content Moderation</i>• Emillie de Keulenaar (University of Groningen) <i>Content Moderation, from Adjudication to Consensus-building</i>
12:45—14:15	Lunch (Markthalle)	

Current approaches to platform governance

- Mia Nahrgang (University of Konstanz), Nils B. Weidmann (University of Konstanz), Friederike Quint (Technical University of Munich), Sebastian Nagel (University of Konstanz), Yannis Theocharis (Technical University of Munich), Margaret E. Roberts (University of California, San Diego)
Written for Lawyers or Users? Mapping the Complexity of Community Guidelines
- Esteban Morales (University of Groningen, NL), Ludmila Lupinacci (University of Leeds, UK)
Don't be a d!: Vibe-check as governance of platformized violence*
- Mai Van Tran (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Tuwanont Phattharathanasut (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Haymarn Soe Nyunt (Notes of Workers), Nalinthip Ekapong (Independent Researcher), Lewis Young (Intellectum Research Consortium)
Pro-democracy platform advocacy: Resisting Big Tech-mediated authoritarianism in Southeast Asia
- Simran Agarwal (Sorbonne Paris Nord University, France), Diyi Liu (University of Oxford)
Theorising governance through platforms: recentring the role of the states

Disinformation

- Thales Lelo (Federal University of Minas Gerais/INCT-DSI)
Critical Challenges in Regulating Generative AI's Use in Disinformation Campaigns
- Rita Gsenger (Weizenbaum Institute/ Freie Universität Berlin)
Governing AI-generated content and misinformation on online platforms: The influence and effect of the Digital Services Act
- Manuel Tonneau (University of Oxford), Dylan Thurgood (University of Oxford), Diyi Liu (University of Oxford), Niyati Malhotra (World Bank), Ralph Schroeder (University of Oxford), Scott A. Hale (University of Oxford), Samuel Fraiberger (World Bank), Victor Orozco-Olvera (World Bank), Manoel Horta Ribeiro (Princeton University), Paul Röttger (Bocconi University)
Assessing global hate speech moderation on Twitter
- Christian Katzenbach (University of Bremen), Vasilisa Kuznetsova (University of Bremen), Daria Dergacheva (University of Bremen), Adrian Kopps (University of Bremen), Andrea Roca (University of Bremen)
The Emergence of Misinformation in Platform Governance: A longitudinal study of social media platforms' misinformation policies
- Kamile Divon (Yale/KU Leuven)
Guardians of disinformation? How social media platforms define and regulate disinformation, 2006 to 2025.

Digital Services Act

- Clément Le Ludec (CERSA/ Université Paris Panthéon Assas), Benjamin Loveluck (CERSA/ Université Paris Panthéon Assas)
A Shared Oversight on the Digital Public Space? Confronting the DSA Transparency Requirements with Actual Content Moderation Practices
- Alessia Zornetta (University of California Los Angeles/UCLA ITLP)
The DSA Database as a Tool for Meaningful Transparency
- Elizabeth Farries (University College Dublin), Eugenia Siapera (University College Dublin)
Enforcing the Digital Services Act: Positioning and Powerflows Between Stakeholders

Alternative Platforms - The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

- Paloma Viejo Otero (University of Bremen), Rebecca Scharlach (University of Bremen)
'We do not marshal your feed': How Alt Tech platforms (re)conceptualise safety
- Bjorn Beijnon (University of Amsterdam)
From Data Subjects to Digital Citizens: The Fediverse as a Model for Civic-Oriented Platform Governance and Algorithmic Resistance
- Mathilde Sanders (Utrecht University)
Democratizing the Ownership of Public Decentralized Social Media Platforms

17:00—18:00	Concluding Plenary Panel Where Do We Go From Here? <i>Chair: Rebecca Scharlach (University of Bremen)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah T. Roberts (UCLA) • Jilian York (Electronic Frontier Foundation) • N.N.
20:00	Informal Farewell, Karaoke (Place to be announced)

Registration

Please register under the following link to participate in the Symposium. Registration fees are tiered and relatively low. At the registration site, you can also become a member of AoIR. The fees are: AoIR Member Student: €10.00; Student Non-member: €20.00; AoIR Member Professional & Post-Doc: €25.00; Professional & Post-Doc Non-member: €50.00.

<https://members.aoir.org/event-6113333>

Please direct questions with regard to registration to ac@aoir.org.

Venue

The symposium will take place at the *Baumwollbörse*, located in the city centre. The train station *Bremen Hbf* and the *Bremen International Airport (BRE)* are well-connected to the location of the symposium (Baumwollbörse). Hotels we heard good things about:

- Radisson Blu, close to venue
- H+ Hotel Bremen, close to venue
- Grand Hotel Atlantic, close to venue
- MotelOne Bremen
- InterCity Hotel, near station
- Courtyard by Marriott Bremen, near station
- John & Will Silo-Hotel by Guldsmeden, just opened

Conference Organisation

Daria Dergacheva, Kim Ermler, Christian Katzenbach, Dennis Redeker, Luisa Runge, Rebecca Scharlach

Lab Platform Governance, Media, and Technology (PGMT)

Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI), University of Bremen

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<https://platform-governance.org/aoir-flashpoint-symposium-2025/>



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