

PRIVACY CAMP 2019

PLATFORMS, POLITICS
AND PARTICIPATION

 29 January 2019


 Brussels, Belgium

[#PrivacyCamp19](#)

<https://privacycamp.eu>

PROGRAMME

Time	Session 1	Session 2
09:00-9:30	Coffee	
9:30-10:30	Welcome and narrative session: User Stories	
10:30-12:00	Mapping the problem: News dissemination on online platforms	Platforms regulations – policy challenge for civil society advocates
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-14:30	Reimagining Data Futures: Data and Agency	Platform dominance and privacy harms: What role for civil society in competition policy
14:30-14:45	Coffee break	
14:00-16:15	EDPS civil society summit	
14:45-16:00	Platforms: the pouvoir exécutif of modern states?	Online Platforms and Automated Content Moderation
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-17:45	Let's see the evidence! Where algorithmic decisions are used in real life, and how we find out about them	Towards real safeguards: Data driven political campaigns and EU election
17:45-17:50	Closing	



9:30-10:30

Narrative session: User Stories

In order to start the day and give context to the discussions of the panels, three people will tell us their experience with a platform. We will hear their story on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Uber, Deliveroo...

The contributions will take the format of a short talk or a show-&-tell demonstration.

We're looking forward to the stories from

- Eduardo Carillo (TEDIC, Paraguay) -- The dangers of loving online: finding our similars in a surveilled world. Eduardo will talk about the double edge relationship that LGBTQ+ groups have with dating platforms. They have undoubtedly provided safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community to meet, but, at what cost?
- Ana Pop Stefanija – Hey algorithms, show me my data selfie! Ana will investigate how she is being datafied by platforms, what kind of (private) data they collect about her, how they collect it, what 3rd parties are they sharing the data with, and finally, what is the assumed “algorithmic identity” & “database of intentions” they assign to her.
- Jean-Bernard Robillard – Delivery riders. Challenges faced by “riders” of platforms, like Deliveroo, Uber etc.

10:30-12:00 - SESSION 1

Mapping the problem: News dissemination on online platforms

The online news ecosystem has been recently under the spotlight. News creation, dissemination and consumption have been influenced by online targeting as a business model, giving rise to a phenomenon coined as "online disinformation". Recently proposed solutions to online disinformation, such as algorithmic content curation and fact-checking, lack consideration for crucial elements of today's online news ecosystem.

What are the factors that enabled online news dissemination to take its current shape? How do we consume online news? What criteria defines a successful piece of online news?

The panel aims to answer these questions and further describe the rise of a business model based on targeted ads, the effects this business model has on the editorial criteria of quality and the relationship between governments and independent media.

In this context, the purpose of this panel is to outline different pillars of the complex online mis-information issue – often mis-understood and therefore mis-solved.

Moderator: [Andreea Belu](#) (Campaigns and Communication Manager – European Digital Rights)

Panel Participants:

- [Frederike Kaltheuner](#) (Data Exploitation Programme Lead – Privacy International, UK)
- [Filip Stojanovski](#) (Program Director – Metamorphosis, Macedonia)
- [Nathalie Marechal](#) (Senior Research Analyst – Ranking Digital Rights, USA)

This panel is a problem – oriented session, focusing on unveiling the different aspects of the disinformation issue. The discussion complements the afternoon solution – oriented "[Towards real safeguards: Data driven political campaigns and EU election](#)" – a talk emphasising current and future solutions to online disinformation in the electoral campaign context.

10:30-12:00 - SESSION 2

Platforms regulations – policy challenge for civil society advocates

This workshop will focus on the role of civil society to influence public policy regarding platforms – what are the challenges they face, what should they stand for.

The main goal is to map out cases when digital platforms interfere with our fundamental rights online – what areas of platforms activities shall be fundamental rights-proof (e.g. algorithmic decision making, transparency, content takedown). The workshop aims to have a closer look at certain answers on such situations on international, European and national levels (e.g. anti-terrorism laws, an interesting example of MoU between Fb and Polish government).

The goal of the workshop is also to frame a discourse on platforms regulation using more values-oriented narrative, not only economic-based arguments.

This workshop will be highly participatory, based on groups work, brainstorming and other forms of active methods and will be also a great opportunity for participants of Privacy Camp to get to know each other.

Workshop Facilitators:

- Natalia Mileszyk, Public Policy Specialist, Centrum Cyfrowe
- Rocco Bellanova, Post-Doctoral Researcher at the University of Amsterdam (UvA)
- Visiting Lecturer at the Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles (USL-B)

13:00-14:30 - SESSION 1

Reimagining Data Futures: Data and Agency

Thinking about agency is an essential part of thinking about the distribution of data power. But how might we think about agency in its relation to data? Some scholars define agency with regard to the sense-making processes of individuals and communities based on how they understand and respond to their lived experience. For others, agency is much less reflexive considering that the digital platforms are enclosed spaces managed by corporations and the readily available tools are designed to sustain the highly commercial and unjust big data culture. Data subjects have their own agendas with data in some way but they are often caught up in power structures.

Can we talk about different experiences of datafication and a bottom-up data subjectivity? Covering a range of data practices and initiatives, this panel will discuss data and agency in the work of reimagining data futures.

Moderator: Imge Ozcan, LSTS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Speakers:

- Minna Ruckenstein, Consumer Society Research Centre at the University of Helsinki
- Mirko Tobias Schäfer, Utrecht Data School and New Media & Digital Culture at Utrecht University
- Stefania Milan, DATACTIVE project and New Media & Digital Culture at University of Amsterdam
- Jonathan Gray, Digital Humanities, King's College London (via video call)

13:00-14:30 - SESSION 2

Workshop: Platform dominance and privacy harms: What role for civil society in competition policy


There's a trend for digital platforms such as social media, search engines and online retailers to concentrate enormous powers due to their processing of vast amounts of personal data. The market powers of these corporations can cause both privacy and economic harms, including degradation of service quality, misuse of personal data and discrimination or exclusion from opportunities due to profiling technologies. Increasing exploitation of this data, combined with micro-targeting by corporations have also resulted in practices (for e.g. 'fake news') which have negative impact on the working of democratic institutions. As a result, there are calls for authorities to reform competition regulation to address the data protection implications and the societal challenges posed by these data-exploiting corporations.

This interactive workshop, after a briefing on the issues, will discuss the role of NGOs in the shaping of a competition policy that is capable to address such threats by corporate platforms.

Facilitator: Anna Fielder, Senior Policy Advisor, Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD)

Speakers:

- Orla Lynskey, Associate Professor of Law, LSE
- Agustin Reyna, Head of Legal and Economic Affairs, BEUC



14:00-16:15

EDPS civil society summit 2019

SESSION I

Introduction by Giovanni Buttarelli, European Data Protection Supervisor

Conversation with the Supervisor about ePrivacy, notably on protecting stored e-communication, in transit e-communication, Privacy-by-Design and Privacy-by-Default.

Input:

- Tomaso Falchetta (Advocacy and Policy Team Lead – Privacy International)
- Estelle Massé (European Policy Manager – Access Now)

SESSION II

Conversation with the Supervisor about upload filters, notably privacy and data protection issues, freedom of expression threats, privatised law enforcement.

Input:

- Anna Mazgal (EU Policy Adviser – Wikimedia)
- Evelyn Austin (– Bits of Freedom)
- Closing by Wojciech Wiewiórowski, Assistant Supervisor at the EDPS

This event will be moderated by Rossana Ducato, postdoctoral researcher in Law at the Université Catholique de Louvain and Université Saint-Louis de Bruxelles.

14:45-16:00 - SESSION 1

Platforms: the pouvoir exécutif of modern states?

In the past years, governments have been increasingly handing over state responsibilities to private actors (for instance for the purpose of fighting against alleged copyright infringements, hate speech or terrorism).

What does the predominance of a few powerful platforms mean for the enforcement of public policy goals? How are state responsibilities transferred to online platforms and what is the impact on society and human rights? How can we address this trend and ensure respect of the rule of law?

The goal of the session is to establish in which ways voluntary actions by private companies challenge core democratic principles.

The session will conclude with a constructive discussion of solutions that are respectful of fundamental rights and the rule of law.

Moderator: Kirsten Fiedler, Senior Policy and Campaigns Manager at EDRi

Speakers:

- Owen Benett, Internet Policy Manager at Mozilla
- Jan Ellermann, Senior Specialist at Europol
- Joe McNamee, EDRi volunteer
- Aleksandra Kuczerawy, Postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for IT & IP Law at KU Leuven

14:45-16:00 - SESSION 2

Online Platforms and Automated Content Moderation

Recent policy initiatives at the EU level and industry actors anticipate the increased use of automated content moderation tools. This panel will engage the audience in a discussion of current developments and expectations with respect to these tools, the state of the art in the field of abusive language detection and the implications of the developments of these tools for fundamental rights, including privacy, freedom of expression, non-discrimination and due process.

What is the current state of the art of application of automated tools in the online platform industry? What is anticipated for the future? We will place a specific emphasis in discussing the potential entry points for civil society to engage with the development and application of these technologies. What are the 'ingredients' of these technologies and can, and if so how, can their development and application be democratized and organized in ways that stay connected to the marginalized and vulnerable communities they aim to protect?

Moderator: Joris van Hoboken, Vrije Universiteit Brussel and University of Amsterdam

Panelists:

- Zeerak Waseem, University of Sheffield
- Marcel Boulogne, European Commission, DG Connect
- Dia Kayyali, WITNESS

16:30-17:45 - SESSION 1

Let's see the evidence! Where algorithmic decisions are used in real life, and how we find out about them

Systems for automated decision-making are already widely used around Europe. But how algorithms are used and controlled differs widely. The newly launched report "Automating Society – Taking Stock of Automated Decision-Making in the EU" by AlgorithmWatch and Bertelsmann Stiftung assesses a wide variety of uses, pointing to regulatory gaps and suggesting better European coordination on the issue.

In the first part of the workshop, experts involved in the report will present excerpts of their research and discuss the substance of it. In the second part, they will share their experience in regard of how they researched the issue and will discuss these experiences. Together with the session participants, they will begin to develop best practices and discuss how to disseminate these lessons across civil society.

Workshop facilitators:

- Matthias Spielkamp, Executive Director AlgorithmWatch
- Brigitte Alfter, Journalist and research network coordinator for the Automating Society report

16:30-17:45 - SESSION 2

Towards real safeguards: Data driven political campaigns and EU election

Scandals such as Cambridge Analytica's have brought into the public eye an important issue: electoral results can be manipulated through social media microtargeting, often causing waves of disinformation.

The issue has been addressed by civil society, individual politicians, private entities, national and EU bodies in an attempt to safeguard future elections.

As the 2019 EU election campaign approaches, it is important to understand what solutions do we have at hand, evaluate them and decide whether they suffice or need improvement in order to correctly address the complex problem of online disinformation.


This panel aims to evaluate potential preventive mechanisms such as [Facebook algorithmic transparency](#) around online political targeting, [EU Commission's Action Plan against Disinformation](#), awareness raising on current and [future campaigning practices](#), as well as efforts to protect [media pluralism and freedom](#).

Moderator: Eleonora Nestola (lawyer specialised in the digital sector)

Panel Participants:

- [Fanny Hidvegi](#) (European Policy Manager – Access Now)
- Elda Brogi (Scientific Coordinator – Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom / Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies / European University Institute)
- Claudio Agosti (Lead Developer for Facebook Tracking Exposed and Founding Member & Vice-President Hermes Center)
- Josh Smith (Researcher, Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, Demos)

This panel discusses current and future solutions to online disinformation in the electoral campaign context. As a solution – oriented session, it complements the problem – oriented morning discussion: "[Mapping the problem – News dissemination on online platforms](#)".



19:30->

After-party

Our after-party will be the real alternative to surveillance capitalism. More importantly, we will have the opportunity to continue the discussions started during the day around a drink or two.

The official after-party is going to take place at [ViaVia Brussels](#) (Quai aux Briques 74), starting at 19:30.

Entrance only with a conference badge!

Line-up:

- 8pm: DJ Soeur Veillance
- 10pm: kik1

KEEP IN TOUCH!

#PrivacyCamp19

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The video recordings of the sessions will be made available online:

<https://privacycamp.eu/>

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