Regulating Cyberspace: Proposals for New Regulatory Regimes

October 3-4, 2019
Stanford, CA
The Program on Democracy and the Internet (PDI) fosters scholarship, convenings, and courses on the unique challenges digital technologies pose to democracy. The internet and social media are having a profound impact on democracy in the United States and around the world. New communication platforms allow established political actors to speak like never before in an unmediated voice to the citizenry. The same technology that gives voice to the previously voiceless, however, empowers foreign actors seeking to undermine democracy, trolls who silence journalists and minority groups through threats and hate speech, and “bots” that attempt to manipulate search engines and flood social media. Concerns about viral deception, anonymity, echo chambers, and platform information monopolies pose new challenges for democracy in the digital age.

PDI brings together leaders in industry and the academy to share research, engage in productive dialogue, and grapple with these problems. Scholars doing work under the umbrella of PDI come from the Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford Law School, the Graduate School of Business, and the Stanford Departments of Engineering, Education, Economics, Political Science, and Communication. PDI also hosts the Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age. The Commission includes members from civil society and government, the technology sector, academia and media who examine and review the opportunities and challenges for electoral integrity created by technological innovations.

The program is led by Principal Investigators Nathaniel Persily, James B. McClatchy Professor of Law at Stanford Law School and Faculty Co-Director of the Stanford Cyber Policy Center, Francis Fukuyama, Director of the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute, and Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Faculty Co-Director and Professor of Political Science, Rob Reich.

PDI is hosted at the Stanford Cyber Policy Center, part of the Freeman Spogli Institute, in collaboration with the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society and the Stanford Law School.

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AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

4 – 4:15 PM  OPENING REMARKS
Nathaniel Persily, Stanford University
The Stanford Faculty Club
439 Lagunita Dr. Stanford, CA

4:15 – 6 PM  CROWDSOURCED FACTCHECKING: CAN THE ONLINE COMMUNITY COLLECTIVELY ADDRESS DISINFORMATION?
Panel Chair: Nathaniel Persily, Stanford University
Amber Heffernan, Facebook
Joshua Tucker, New York University
David Rand, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Adam Berinsky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

6 – 6:30 PM  COCKTAIL RECEPTION

6:30 – 8:30 PM  WELCOME DINNER & PANEL DISCUSSION
ALTERNATIVE MODELS FOR REGULATING TECH
Panel Chair: Jamie Susskind, Author, Future Politics: Living in a World Transformed by Tech (Oxford, 2018)
Rob Reich, Stanford University
Heather Moore, Facebook
Timothy Garton Ash, University of Oxford, Stanford University

Conference held under the Chatham House Rule
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

8:30 - 9 AM  BREAKFAST
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS)
75 Alta Road, Stanford, CA

9 - 10:30 AM  DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND MARKET CONCENTRATION
Panel Chair: Francis Fukuyama, Stanford University
Barry Lynn, Open Markets Institute
Roberta R. Katz, Stanford University
Martin Schallbruch, ESMT Berlin, Stanford University

10:30 - 10:45 AM  BREAK

10:45 - 12:15 PM  THE LAW AND POLICY OF ONLINE PRIVACY
Panel Chair: Jennifer King, Stanford University
Kenneth A. Bamberger, University of California, Berkeley
Julie Cohen, Georgetown University
Priscilla M. Regan, George Mason University
Neil Richards, Washington University in St. Louis

12:15 - 1:15 PM  LUNCH
Keynote Speaker: Marietje Schaake, Dutch member of the European Parliament (2009-19)

1:15 - 2:45 PM  CONTENT MODERATION: REGULATING PLATFORM PRACTICES AND DISCLOSURES
Panel Chair: Daphne Keller, Stanford University
Benoit Loutrel, French Digital Affairs State Department
Jeff Jarvis, Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY
Clement Wolf, Google
Jennifer Urban, University of California, Berkeley

2:45 - 3:00 PM  BREAK

3 - 4:30 PM  REGULATING ONLINE POLITICAL ADVERTISING
Panel Chair: Nathaniel Persily, Stanford University
Ian Vandewalker, Brennan Center at NYU School of Law
Erika Franklin Fowler, Wesleyan Media Project, Wesleyan University
John Samples, Cato Institute
Allen Dickerson, Institute for Free Speech

4:30 - 4:45 PM  CONCLUDING REMARKS
Nathaniel Persily, Stanford University

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