

GOVERNANCE OF DIGITAL MEDIA AND PLATFORMS

Regulation and the public interest

EuromediApp Dissemination Conference



Sala de Atos, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal
3-4 October 2022 | UTC Time +1 hour
Zoom: <https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/95252523406>

Organized in collaboration with the Euromedia Research Group Network and the Communication and Society Research Centre, University of Minho

The International Conference 'Governance of Digital Media and Platforms, Regulation and the Public Interest', organized by the EuromediApp Project (<https://euromediapp.org/>) in collaboration with the Euromedia Research Group (<https://www.euromediagroup.org/>) and the Communication and Society Research Centre (<https://www.cecs.uminho.pt/en/>), will take place at the University of Minho (<https://www.uminho.pt/En>), Braga, 3-4 October 2022.

The conference brings together experienced professors and early-career academics, being open to professionals and citizens concerned with the benefits and challenges of digital platforms in Europe and elsewhere. In addition to the analytical dimensions, this conference provides time and space for reflection on normative issues regarding the future of digital services governance.

Companies such as Google, Amazon, Meta, Apple and Microsoft are currently setting universal standards for online services but their practices not always comply with European values (e.g. openness, inclusivity, pluralism, transparency, privacy, cooperation, protection of data) and they largely ignore democratic struggles and public interest at large. Despite their critical impact on human wellbeing and on political regimes, little has successfully been done to counter-balance their massive power. Informative disorders are deepening, despite tentative regulatory efforts at national and international level.

The EuromediApp Braga Conference aims to address these and other fundamental questions in dialogue with previous and future Project's activities and outputs. In the project's website (<https://euromediapp.org/>), additional information can be found about these activities: workshops, conferences and dedicated schools for advanced students (Salzburg in February 2022 and Venice in April 2023). Before the 3-4 October conference, two dissemination conferences have already taken place (Leuven and Kaunas). Findings from different experiences, approaches and latitudes constitute the solid basis for the continuing work that will be developed at the University of Minho.

The Braga conference is designed around three Thematic Panels and one Round Table.

The first two Thematic Panels, on 3 October (Monday afternoon) bring to the fore two ongoing editorial projects: the first one, coordinated by Josef Trappel and Tales Tomaz, pays particular attention to the European Union; the second one, coordinated by Hannu Nieminen, Claudia Padovani and Helena Sousa, focuses on the global framework. Authors involved in the preparation of these Special Issues' articles will be debating their research with the conference participants.

On 4 October (Tuesday morning), special attention will be given to the Winter School Manifesto (<https://euromediapp.org/publications/>). Assuming a normative approach, the Third Thematic Panel is called 'Protecting freedom and fundamental human rights'. Presenters and discussants will address what is being done at the EU level and beyond, trying to explore how freedom and fundamental human rights can effectively be protected in the wider framework of weak regulation and powerful platforms with their profitable choices and opacities. What is being done in Europe and elsewhere to protect the public interest and with what concrete results? Is there a consistent role for the Public Service in the new digital context?

Finally, the intergenerational Round Table 'Building peace in face of democratic backsliding' aims to take further the debates around the Winter School Manifesto. Grounded on previous work, emerging scholars will engage on a conversation with experienced professionals (inside and outside the academy) to reflect about concrete problems regarding the implementation of the Manifesto. The forward-looking debate will attempt to incorporate creative alternatives, visions of the future, recognizing the realities of disinformation, climate crises and wars, whilst fighting for hope as a moral duty.



PROGRAMME

MONDAY 3 OCTOBER
(UTC Time Zone +1 hour)

14:15 | **Welcome Session:** Josef Trappel (University of Salzburg), Helena Sousa (University of Minho), Madalena Oliveira (University of Minho)

14:30-16:00 | **Thematic Session 1: Digital media platform governance in Europe**
Chairs: Josef Trappel (University of Salzburg) and Madalena Oliveira (University of Minho)

Isabella de Vivo (La Sapienza University of Rome)

João C. Magalhães (University of Groningen)

Discussants: Mariana Lameiras (University of Minho) and Tales Tomaz (University of Salzburg)

16:30 | **Coffee-break**

3

16:30-18:00 | **Thematic Session 2: Global challenges to digital media policy and regulation**

Chair: Helena Sousa (University of Minho)

Hannu Nieminen (University of Helsinki), Claudia Padovani (University of Padua) and Helena Sousa (University of Minho)

Tales Tomaz (University of Salzburg)

Victor Pickard (Annenberg School for Communication, via zoom)

Discussant: Luís António Santos (University of Minho)

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER

9:00-10:30 | Thematic Session 3: Protecting freedom and fundamental human rights
Chair: Leen d'Haenens (University of KU Leuven)

Tarlach McGonagle (University of Amsterdam)

Maria Michalis (University of Westminster)

Giuseppe Acconcia (University of Padua)

Discussants: Hanne Vandenberghe (University of KU Leuven) and Elsa Costa e Silva (University of Minho)

10:30-11:00 | Coffee break

11h30-13:00 | Round Table: Building peace in face of democratic backsliding
Chairs: Dora Mota (University of Minho) and Claudia Padovani (University of Padua)

Stefan Gadringer (University of Salzburg)

Inês Mendes (University of Minho)

Antonio Alaia (University of Padua)

João Pedro Figueiredo (ERC - Portuguese Media Regulatory Entity)

Discussants: Paulo Ferreira (University of Minho) and Joaquim Fidalgo (University of Minho)

4

CLOSING SESSION

13:00 | Josef Trappel (University of Salzburg) and Helena Sousa (University of Minho)

Organization: Helena Sousa, Josef Trappel, Tales Tomaz, Hannu Nieminen, Claudia Padovani, Luís António Santos, Elsa Costa e Silva, Mariana Lameiras, Francisco Conrado and Claudia Dominguez

Access: free upon [registration](#)

