



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Regulation of Markets in Defence of Democratic Principles

*19-20 March 2026,
University of Warsaw*

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 19 MARCH

15.00-15.45	Registration
16.00-16.20	Welcome
16.20-17.30	KEYNOTE SPEECH Democracy and technology - love or hate, crash or synergy? Can democracy as we know it survive digital platforms and AI? VERA JOUROVA <i>Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency 2019-2024</i> Discussants: Eleanor Sharpston KC (Cambridge, Advocate General CJEU 2006-2020), Michał Boni (Aspen Institute CEE)
17.30-18.00	coffee break

IRENA WISZNIEWSKA-BIAŁECKA PRIZE 2024

The session will introduce the namesake of the prize and announce the winners of the first edition of the Irena Wiszniewska-Białecka prize for best scholarly works in IP, competition or antitrust law.

18.00 -18.15	An introduction to Irena Wiszniewska-Białecka Prof. Annette Kur (Max Planck, Munich)
18.15-19.00	Fireside chat with the winners of the IWB prize on the prize and how to be a great academic Prize winners, moderated by Ruairi O'Neill
19.00	Drinks Reception

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

09.00-09.30	KEYNOTE SPEECH "The Dilemma of Liberal Democracy in the History of the Market - A Tribute to Giuliano Amato" MARC VAN DER WOUDE <i>President of the General Court of the European Union</i>
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<p>09.30-11.30</p>	<p>PANEL 1 Regulatory tools for protecting democracy: Antitrust and beyond</p> <p>The panel will focus on regulatory responses to threats to democracy existing in digital markets. It will scrutinise to what extent the classic instrument, i.e. competition law, is fit for this purpose, particularly with respect to digital platform practices that stifle the democratic process. The discussion will then move to newer regulatory regimes, in particular the Digital Markets Act, the Digital Services Act and the European Media Freedom Act. The overall question will be whether the current regulatory regime is sufficient to address existing risks. In this context, institutional limitations, coordination challenges between Member States and the Commission, as well as the role of non-institutional stakeholders in shaping the enforcement of digital regulations, will be examined.</p> <p>Speakers (listed alphabetically):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Or Brook (Oxford University) • Mark Dempsey (Article 19 Brussels) • Ilene Knable Gotts (Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, NYC) • Krystyna Kowalik-Bańczyk (EU General Court) <p>Chair: Maciej Bernatt (CARS UW)</p>
<p>11.30-12.15</p>	<p>coffee break</p>
<p>12.15-14.15</p>	<p>PANEL 2 Shaping the digital commons</p> <p>This panel will explore the regulatory responses to ‘gatekeeper’ platforms in the EU. The concentration of data and power raises urgent questions: how do we protect individual rights and foster fair competition when a small number of companies exert outsized societal and economic influence? This panel will dissect the power of gatekeepers and explore the regulatory and societal responses needed to reclaim our common digital future.</p> <p>Speakers (listed alphabetically):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kati Cseres (University of Amsterdam) • Małgorzata Kozak (Utrecht University) • Klaudia Majcher (EUI Florence) • Antoni Napieralski (University of Warsaw) • Laura Zoboli (IE Madrid) <p>Chair: Agata Jurkowska-Gomułka (WSliZ)</p>
<p>14.15-15.15</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>

<p>15.15-17.15</p>	<p>PANEL 3 Harnessing the power of AI for the benefit of humanity: AI, markets and human rights</p> <p>This panel will explore the use of AI to filter communication or control communication with the risk of restricting fundamental rights (freedom of expression versus censorship of copyright), undermining democratic values (spreading disinformation, impairing free elections) or affecting society in various ways (consumer disinformation, affecting mental health). It will reflect on possible mechanisms to implement to strengthen the fairness of the digital environment.</p> <p>Speakers (listed alphabetically):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orit Fischman-Afori (College of Management Academic Studies, Tel Aviv)• Viktoria Kraetzig (Goethe University, Frankfurt)• Eleonora Rosati (Stockholm University)• Peter Slowinski (UAM, Weizenbaum Institute)• Joanna Wiśniowska (Nottingham University) <p>Chair: Lavinia Brancusi (INP PAN)</p>
<p>17.15-18.00</p>	<p>Conclusions and closing remarks</p>



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