

ESRC Seminar Series

„Digital Policy: Connectivity, Creativity and Rights“

Vienna Seminar

„What digital Future?“

22. -23. November 2012

Digital policy is currently high on political, communications and commercial agendas. Controversial areas such as copyright infringement, the future and functions of public service content, the role of regulators and new notions of privacy are core issues. In the longer term the potential for economic transformations and growth through the digital economy, including the development of new skills, technological and industrial innovation and creativity, are at stake.

The Vienna seminar aims to bring together experiences and approaches from close and distant neighbours, asking what kind of *digital future might be envisaged?* Some of the areas to be discussed are related to defining rights and connections in relation to the governance of digital cultural production, intellectual property and creativity; strategies of social inclusion and citizens empowerment; digital economy and the future of public service communication; the future of human rights in the environment of digital social media.

The first day of the workshop will be dedicated to discussions in different national and regional settings, the second day aims at pointing out processes of policy diffusion and convergence that are experienced in Europe and in other parts of the world in the area of media policy making. Questions related to institutional developments and agendas and technological standardization will be included into the discussions, as well as the engagement and role of civil society in developing digital policies. The workshop will frame future policy directions and understandings of connectivity, creativity and rights in the light of technological innovation, and socio-cultural and political responses from national, regional and international perspectives.

Confirmed speakers include:

Lisa McLaughlin, Miami University Ohio, USA

Gillian Youngs, University of Brighton, UK

Katharine Sarikakis, University of Vienna, Austria

Andre Jansson, Karlstad University, Sweden

Leonhard Dobusch, Free University, Berlin

Andrey Rikhter, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Jakob Svensson, Karlstad University, Sweden

Lukas Feiler, Stanford-Vienna Transatlantic Technology Law Forum fellow

Andreas Ulrich, Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

Markus Huber, Transmediale Berlin

Rubina Möhring, Reporters without frontiers Austria

Ed McLuskie, Boise State University, USA

Anthony Löwstedt, Webster University Vienna, Austria

Giota Alevizou Design and Innovation Group at the Faculty of Maths, Computing and Media Technology at the Open University

Stefan Strauß, Institute of Technology Assessment, Austrian Academy of Sciences

The seminar forms part of the **UK Economic and Social Research Council Seminar Series** on digital policy which runs throughout 2011/2012. It brings together themes explored in previous sessions at the University of Wales, Newport and at the University of Oxford, UK. Academics and practitioners from Europe and overseas discuss pertinent questions to processes, contents and actors of digital policy shaping. The series aims to explore questions such as: What kind of digital future is envisaged in Britain and in other countries? Who continues to be left out or at risk in this digital future? What can be done to overcome major technical, knowledge and skills barriers to this? What new kinds of creativity and innovation are being unleashed by digital change and how can these be expanded? How is the public service ethos being tested and enhanced in the digital environment? The series will consider connectivity from social and skills-based as well as infrastructural and technical perspectives.

Katharine Sarikakis is co-applicant, together with William Dutton at the Oxford Internet Institute, Tracy Simmons at the University of Leicester for the seminar series Digital Policy, which is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) of the UK. The PI is **Gillian Youngs**, University of Wales, Newport.

For more information on the seminar series please visit the following websites:

- [ESRC: Details on the Seminar Series](#)
- [Digital Policy: An ESRC Research Series Seminar](#)
- University of Brighton <http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/staff/gillian-youngs>

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