



**SWING**  
SCHOOL ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

## FACULTY

**20-24 April 2026**  
**Bruges, Belgium**



## **SWING 2026 Faculty**

### **Azadeh Akbari**

*Center for critical computational studies, Goethe University Frankfurt*

Azadeh Akbari is Professor of Critical Data & Surveillance Studies at the Center for Critical Computational Studies (C<sup>3</sup>S) and a faculty member in the Institute for Human Geography at Goethe University Frankfurt. Her research focuses on the geopolitics of digital transformation, digital authoritarianism, data justice, and ICTs for development. Azadeh Akbari is a director of Surveillance Studies Network and the founder and director of Surveillance in the Majority World Research Network. She is an associate editor at the journals *Surveillance & Society* and *Information Technology for Development*. Azadeh Akbari was formerly Assistant Professor of Digital Transformation at the University of Twente, in the Netherlands, and an EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Actions fellow with a project on authoritarian smart cities. She appears frequently in international media and consults policymakers and civil society on issues of surveillance and digital repression.

### **Berna Akçalı Gür**

*Queen Mary University of London; UNU-CRIS*

Berna Akcali Gur is an Associate Research Fellow at UNU-CRIS (Digital Governance Cluster) and the LL.M. module convenor for Outer Space Law at CCLS, Queen Mary University of London. She also serves as Chair of the International Institute of Space Law's Working Group on the Interplanetary Internet. Her work examines how evolving ICT and space-based infrastructures transform global governance, data flows and jurisdictional authority across public international, trade and EU law. She has led major work on space-based broadband connectivity, including *Global Governance of Satellite Broadband*, *Satellite Internet: Trust and Data Governance*, and *Disaster Zones and Satellite Internet*, serving as co-principal investigator for all three projects and examining data governance frameworks, jurisdictional challenges and digital sovereignty issues related to mega-satellite constellations. Previously, she held research posts at King's College London and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London), and a lectureship at Kadir Has University in Istanbul. Before academia, she practised law in Istanbul, New York and London. She holds an LLB (Ankara University), an LLM (University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School) and a PhD from King's College London (2014). She serves as Chair of GigaNet's Membership Committee and sits on its Annual Symposium Programme Committee, and is admitted to the Istanbul Bar Association.



## **Gemma Carolillo**

*European Commission*

Gemma Carolillo is Deputy Head of the Future Internet at the European Commission, where she works on internet technologies, in particular on open source software, including the Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative, and internet governance policies - including multistakeholder dialogue, .eu top level domain name regulatory framework, internet security, resilience and openness. Previously, she contributed to several policy priorities of the EU Digital Single Market, her most recent experience being in the area of cybersecurity (policy and regulation) at the European Commission. Gemma has an education background in business management, a field where she holds a PhD.

## **Virgilio D'Antonio**

*University of Salerno*

Virgilio D'Antonio is Rector of the University of Salerno and Full Professor of Comparative Private Law, where he teaches Comparative Information and Communication Law and Advertising Law. He has been a visiting fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Haifa, Universitat Estatal de Barcelona (Spain), and the Universidad Católica de Colombia. In 2010, he served as the national reporter on Copyright and Intellectual Property at the 18th International Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law (George Washington University Law School). His research interests include Comparative and European Private Law, Information and Communication Law, Economic Analysis of Law, Tort Law, Copyright Law, Patent and Trademark Law, and Antitrust Law. He is admitted to practice before Italy's Supreme Courts and serves as national advisor to TP – Associazione Italiana Pubblicitari Professionisti. He has authored and edited numerous books and articles in Italian and international journals.



## **Philippe De Lombaerde**

*UNU-CRIS*

Philippe De Lombaerde has been Director of UNU-CRIS since 1 January 2022. He is also an Associate Professor of International Economics at NEOMA Business School (Reims–Rouen–Paris) since January 2016 (currently on leave). He previously held multiple senior roles at UNU-CRIS, including Acting Director (2020–21), Associate Director (2008–16), and Research Fellow (2002–08). Earlier appointments include Associate Professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá (1997–2004), researcher and lecturer at the University of Antwerp (1985–93; 1999–2002), and researcher at Thailand’s National Institute of Development Administration (1993–94). He holds a PhD from RWTH Aachen and studied economics, econometrics, and political science across several European universities. He has led policy research and consultancy for various national governments and major international organisations, including UN agencies, the World Bank, and the European Commission. He has co-authored and co-edited numerous books on regional integration, multilateralism, and global governance, and has published in leading journals such as the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Review of International Studies*, and the *European Law Journal*.

## **Ksenia Ermoshina**

*CNRS (France)*

Ksenia Ermoshina is a senior researcher at the Center for Internet and Society of the CNRS (France). She holds a PhD in Science and Technology Studies from Mines ParisTech (École des Mines de Paris), where her thesis examined civic hacking and the development of mobile apps to address social and political challenges in Russia and France, from corruption to police violence and discrimination. Bridging academia and practice, she is an interdisciplinary researcher affiliated with the Citizen Lab, and is also working on software projects as a UX researcher at Delta Chat and eQualitie. Her research focuses on the geopolitics of internet infrastructures - especially routing - and how conflicts and political events affect connectivity. She has extensively documented the political economy of Russian surveillance and censorship technologies, and explores the potential of decentralized tools to circumvent internet fragmentation. An internet freedom and privacy advocate, she also organized a series of “Transcyberian” cryptoparties in Paris and abroad.



## **Marianne Franklin**

*University of Groningen*

Marianne Franklin is full Professor and Chair Media, Cultural Industries and Society at the University of Groningen (NL). With degrees (Majors in History, Music; Master and PhD in International Relations) and research funding from the Arts and Humanities (Australian Research Council) as well as the Social Sciences (Social Science Research Council - USA), she deploys multidisciplinary and multi-sited ethnographic methodologies in her research. The aim is twofold: (1) to demystify the techno-economic determinism underpinning public and policy debates that put digitalization - the role of “Big Tech”, “Big Data”, and R&D into Artificial Intelligence - as the driving force of all sociocultural, political and economic transformations. (2) to challenge the Global North settings in which these debates take place and their implications for public policy, public culture and the arts. Former Chair of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet), the UN-based Internet Rights and Principles Coalition of the Internet Governance Forum, founding Editor on OpenDemocracy of the Human Rights and the Internet series, and member of the Digital Constitutionalism Network/Teaching Partnership, Marianne has been active for some years in negotiating human rights priorities in internet and technology policy-making spaces. Internet Decolonized, edited with Henna Zamurd Butt, is due out this year with Oxford University Press.

## **Orsolya Gulyas**

*Brussels School of Governance (BSoG)*

Orsolya Gulyás is a researcher and lecturer at the Brussels School of Governance. Her current research in critical policy studies focuses on discourses in EU and global digital policymaking, examining the assumptions underlying policy strategies and what these mean for conceptualisations of democracy, sovereignty, and power relations in the digital domain. As part of the VUB's large research group on sustainability, she is also looking at the intertwining of the green and digital transitions. Apart from lecturing on digital policy and politics, Orsolya teaches a course on Intercultural Communication and is part of the organising and coordinating team of the BSoG's Summer and Winter Schools on EU Policy Making. She holds a research MA in Media Studies from the University of Amsterdam and an MA in Public Policy from Central European University. Previously she has worked at the European Commission, the European Broadcasting Union and the European Future Innovation System Centre on various topics including the governance of online platforms, freedom of expression, the future of journalism, public service media in the digital age, as well as research and innovation policy. Combining her backgrounds, she is interested in issues at the intersection of technology and society.



## **Sophie Hoogenboom**

*Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB); UNU-CRIS*

Sophie Hoogenboom is a doctoral researcher primarily situated within the Research Cluster on Digital Governance at UNU-CRIS in Bruges. She is also affiliated with the Research Centre for Digitalisation, Democracy, and Innovation at the Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Additionally, Hoogenboom collaborates with the Chair on Digital Sovereignty, a joint initiative between the Brussels School of Governance and the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS). Her doctoral research is centered on the concept of sovereignty in the digital domain, with a particular focus on the roles assumed by state and non-state actors in the evolving digital ecosystem. Her research examines the relevance and application of Symbolic Interactionist Role Theory to better understand the dynamics of digital sovereignty.

## **Chris Mondini**

*ICANN*

Chris Mondini is Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement, Europe and Managing Director for Europe, stationed in the Brussels, Belgium office. In his role, Mondini oversees ICANN org's operations in the region and leads ICANN org's Global Business Engagement initiatives worldwide. Christopher began his professional life as a United States diplomat and later became a corporate investigator with Deloitte. He has investigated the world's largest corporate corruption cases, while working with NGOs and business organizations on ways to mitigate corruption risks. He also led grant-making teams for the Full Circle Fund, an engaged philanthropy organization addressing economic development challenges. Christopher holds degrees from Georgetown and Johns Hopkins Universities. Throughout his career in Washington and Silicon Valley, he has dedicated his career to bridging communications gaps that occur among diverse sectors -- public, private and nonprofit -- and across international borders.



## **Linda Monsees**

*Institute of International Relations Prague*

Linda Monsees is associate researcher at the Institute of International Relations Prague. Her expertise lies in the study of international security and how digital technologies impact not only security practices but also wider society. Linda has worked on disinformation, surveillance and digital security. At the moment, she conducts research about the idea of digital sovereignty, the politics of semiconductors and broader questions about the role of private companies in this field. She is a member of the Center for Governance of Emerging Technologies at the institute. She joined IIR in May 2021 after working at Ecole Normale Supérieure Paris, Queen Mary University of London and Goethe University Frankfurt. Linda received her PhD at the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences with a thesis on the politics of digital encryption (2017) and has taught in Reims, Frankfurt, Bremen and Erfurt.

## **Claudia Padovani**

*University of Padova*

Claudia Padovani is Associate Professor in Political Science and International Relations at the Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy). She is former co-chair of the Working Group on Global Media Policy of the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), where she co-edited the Palgrave-IAMCR book series “Global Transformations in Media and Communication Research” between 2014 and 2022. Padovani is a funding member of the Digital Constitutionalism Network and co-chair of the UNESCO UniTWIN Network on Gender Media and ICT. Her research interest site at the crossroad of global communication governance and gender issues in media and communication, with a focus on communication rights and social justice. Her publications cross disciplinary domains, in an attempt to engender the fields of media policy and communication governance.



## **Nicola Palladino**

*University of Salerno*

Nicola Palladino is Assistant Professor of Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Salerno within the Internet & Communication Policy Center. Additionally, he serves as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Trinity College Long Room Hub in Dublin. At Trinity College he also worked as a Marie-Curie Fellow, carrying out the project: “Hybrid Governance for Trustworthy and Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence: From Principles to Practices”. Nicola Palladino is also a founding member of the Digital Constitutionalism Network, a collaborative initiative supported by the Center of Advanced Internet Studies in Bochum, and he’s serving as an expert in some of the AI standard-setting initiatives carried out by the NSAI Scientific Committee on Artificial Intelligence, the ISO/IEC JTC1 SC 42 on Artificial Intelligence, and CEN/CLC JTC on Artificial Intelligence. He recently published “Legitimacy, Power, and Inequalities in Multistakeholder Internet Governance: Analyzing IANA Transition” and “The Content Governance Dilemma: Digital Constitutionalism, Social Media, and the Search for a Global Standard” for the Palgrave Information Technology and Global Governance book series. His primary areas of research expertise encompass Global Internet Governance; Digital constitutionalism; Digital Sovereignty; Digital Policies; AI Ethics, Regulation and Governance; Platform Governance.

## **Julia Pohle**

*WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Brussels School of Governance (BSoG), CNRS France*

Julia Pohle is co-lead of the research group “Politics of Digitalisation” at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and an Associated Researcher at the Center for Digitalisation, Democracy and Innovation at the Brussels School of Governance (BSoG) and the Centre Internet et Société of the CNRS in Paris. Her research focuses on discourses, actors and power relations in international and national digital policy debates, and on the shifting role of nation states in shaping global communication governance. She currently serves as chair for communication policy and technology at the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and as academic editor of the journal Internet Policy Review.



## **Kavé Salamatian**

*Polytech Annecy-Chambéry*

Kavé Salamatian is Professor of Computer Science at Polytech Annecy-Chambéry. His main areas of researches has been Internet measurement and modeling, network security, and networking information theory. He was previously reader at Lancaster University, UK and associate professor at University Pierre et Marie Curie. Kavé has graduated in 1998 from Paris SUD-Orsay university where he worked on joint source channel coding applied to multimedia transmission over Internet for his Phd. In a former life, he graduated with a MBA, and worked on market floor as a risk analyst and enjoyed being an urban traffic modeler for some years. He is currently distinguished visiting professor at the Chinese Academy of Science and working closely with the Castex CyberStrategy Chair at the French National Defense Institute. He has been the recipient of a Chinese academy of Science Presidential Award in 2018.

## **Mauro Santaniello**

*University of Salerno; UNU-CRIS*

Mauro Santaniello is an Associate Professor at the University of Salerno, where he teaches Internet Governance, Digital Policy, and International Relations. He is also an Associate Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS), within the Digital Governance Cluster. Mauro is Director of the Internet & Communication Policy Center (ICPC) and Co-Director of SWING - School on Internet Governance. He is Principal Investigator of the PRIN project "Digital Sovereignty in Comparative Perspective: State Authority, Corporate Power and Fundamental Rights in Cyberspace", funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, and coordinates the GIG-ARTS international conference series. He is currently serving as the elected secretary of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network (Giganet).



## **Jan Aart Scholte**

*Leiden University*

Jan Aart Scholte is Chair of Global Transformations and Governance Challenges at Leiden University (since 2020). Across four decades, his research has examined how we live in and govern a global world, including landmark work such as *Globalization: A Critical Introduction* and the co-edited *Encyclopedia of Globalization* (with Roland Robertson). A key thread is polycentric governance, developed in *Polycentrism: How Governing Works Today* (OUP, 2023), alongside analyses of nonstate actors and multistakeholder arrangements. He currently coordinates the NWO-funded project “Multistakeholder Global Governance: Capacity, Effectiveness, Legitimacy” (2025-2028) and has published widely on democracy, civil society, and legitimacy in global governance. His work on internet governance has covered ICANN, RIRs, and the IANA Stewardship Transition, with edited volumes such as *Power and Authority in Internet Governance* (Routledge, 2021) and *Global Digital Data Governance* (Routledge, 2024). He has previously held posts at institutions including LSE, Warwick, Gothenburg, Duisburg-Essen, ISS, and Sussex, and maintains long-standing practitioner engagement with governance actors worldwide.

## **Jamal Shahin**

*Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), University of Amsterdam, UNU-CRIS*

Jamal Shahin works as a part-time Professorial Fellow at UNU-CRIS on the GREMLIN project (Global and Regional Multistakeholder Institutions). He is also a part-time Research Professor at the Institute for European Studies (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and a part-time Assistant Professor at the University of Amsterdam, where he teaches in the BA and MA European Studies programmes. He holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Hull (2004) and lectures on EU governance, political participation, and the value of connecting theory and practice to improve research and policymaking, with a strong interest in innovative teaching methods. His research focuses on global internet governance, EU governance and participation, and the impact of the internet on policymaking. He is a member of the European Studies Board of Studies and serves as Co-Director of School on Internet Governance (SWING).



## **Niels ten Oever**

*University of Amsterdam*

Niels is an Assistant Professor in the Department of European Studies and Co-Principal Investigator of the critical infrastructure lab at the University of Amsterdam, and a visiting professor at the Centro de Tecnologia e Sociedade (Fundação Getúlio Vargas) in Rio de Janeiro. His research examines communication infrastructures through the lenses of Science and Technology Studies (STS) and International Political Economy (IPE), tracing their evolution from the telegraph to today's internet, submarine cables, 5G, and satellite networks. He focuses on how norms, values, and ideologies are inscribed, contested, and subverted in these socio-technical systems through transnational governance, and how “invisible” infrastructures shape information societies and the distribution of wealth, power, and possibilities. His recent work investigates the infrastructural ideologies embedded in industrial policies for the production and standardisation of the internet in China, Russia, and the European Union. Beyond academia, he has extensive experience in internet governance and human rights, including leading ARTICLE19's digital programme and contributing to standards and policy processes across bodies such as the IETF, ICANN, IEEE, and ITU. He is also co-author of “How the Internet Really Works” and has held long-standing roles in the IRTF and related research communities.

## **Paul Timmers**

*KU Leuven; European University Cyprus*

Paul Timmers is professor at KU Leuven and European University Cyprus, former research associate at Oxford, and partner at WeltWert®. He works on geopolitics and technology, strategic autonomy, cybersecurity, advises the Netherlands' National Digitalisation Strategy. He was Director at the European Commission for cybersecurity, e-ID, digital health, smart cities, and e-government, and cabinet member.



## **Grace X. Yang**

*Freie Universität Berlin*

Grace X. Yang is a doctoral researcher in International Relations at Freie Universität Berlin and a Research Assistant at the Internet & Communication Policy Center (ICPC), where she contributes to the PRIN project on digital sovereignty. Her research examines norm contestation and global cyber governance, with a focus on China and Russia and the political dynamics surrounding digital sovereignty. Her recent work includes research on China's open-source AI strategy within the framework of cyber sovereignty.

