

**Global Network of Interdisciplinary Internet & Society Research Centers**

*Events Series on the Future of Internet Governance*

**The Evolution of the  
Internet Governance Ecosystem**

Host:

Nexa Center for Internet & Society at Politecnico di Torino (DAUIN)

October 1, 2014 | Academic Symposium

October 2, 2014 | Public Conference

**Location:**

October 2

Politecnico di Torino  
Aula Magna / Lecture Hall

Corso Duca degli Abruzzi, 2014  
10129 Torino (Italy)

## Introduction

This meeting on “**The Evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem**”, which is being hosted by the Nexa Center for Internet & Society at Politecnico di Torino, is part of an ongoing Network of Centers (NoC) events series on the future of Internet governance.<sup>1</sup> The event will mark an important milestone in the NoC’s globally coordinated research effort aimed at examining existing and potential models of distributed and collaborative governance with the goal of informing the evolution of—and current debate around—the Internet governance ecosystem in light of the NETmundial Roadmap and the work of various forums, panels, and committees. Initial findings from the NoC’s Internet governance research initiative, in partnership with the Governance Lab at NYU and individual researchers from around the globe,<sup>2</sup> will be presented and discussed.

The symposium will serve as the conclusion of the first phase of a global, collaborative Internet governance research effort within the NoC and is also intended as an initial contribution to the NETmundial Initiative—a partnership between the World Economic Forum, ICANN, and key governmental, industry, academic, and civil society stakeholders. In addition, the event marks the two-year anniversary of NoC’s operation. At this point, in accordance with the foundational principles, the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG) hands over the administrative leadership of the Network to the Nexa Center for Internet & Society.

On October 2, a **public conference** is being held to discuss both research in progress and, more broadly, the role of academia in the debate about the next generation Internet governance ecosystem. We will present draft case studies, discuss the overarching themes, and identify directions for future research.

This milestone event is an exciting opportunity to reemphasize the NoC’s commitment to openness, by inviting colleagues and friends to join us who have not been part of our collaboration so far. In the spirit of open collaboration and knowledge sharing, on October 2 we are inviting the wider academic community, and the public at large, to join us for an engaging and thoughtful discussion about academic contributions to the important debate around Internet governance.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/node/8395>

<sup>2</sup> Please share statements of interest with the NoC coordinator, Dr. Mayte Peters, at [mayte.peters@hiig.de](mailto:mayte.peters@hiig.de)

## About the Network of Centers

The NoC is a collaborative initiative among academic institutions with a focus on interdisciplinary research on the development, social impact, policy implications, and legal issues concerning the Internet. This collective aims to increase interoperability between participating centers in order to stimulate the creation of new cross-national, cross-disciplinary conversation, debate, teaching, learning, and engagement regarding the most pressing questions around new technologies, social change, and related policy and regulatory developments. For more information, including announcements of events on the future of Internet governance, please visit [this site](#).

## Agenda | Thursday, October 2 | Public Conference

*red = [not yet confirmed to attend]*

*black = [confirmed to attend and confirmed role]*

**8:00 - 9:00**

**Registration**

**9:00 - 9:30**

**Introduction and Framing**

*The public symposium kicks off with welcoming remarks and a framing of the event, at which current research on distributed and collaborative Internet governance will be discussed, but also used as an example and “placeholder” to examine more broadly the role academia can or should play as we work towards the next generation Internet ecosystem.*

**Welcoming Remarks**

*Juan Carlos De Martin, Nexa Center for Internet and Society, Politecnico di Torino, Italy*

**Framing the (Research) Challenge: In Search of A Concept of Distributed and Collaborative Internet Governance**

*Urs Gasser, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University, USA*

**9:30 - 10:30**

**Top-Down: Architecting Distributed Governance Systems -**

## **Theories, Approaches, and Designs**

**[\[Email Template with Format Information\]](#) - *invitations sent***

*The NETmundial Roadmap and subsequent reports and events, including the recently launched NETmundial Initiative, emphasize the importance of “distributed and collaborative Internet governance.” Exploring theories, approaches, and designs from within and outside the field of Internet governance, this panel addresses the question what it means conceptually to design and architect such distributed systems.*

*Panelists:*

*Herbert Burkert, Research Center for Information Law, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland*

*William Drake, Institute of Mass Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, Switzerland*

*Italian Government Representative*

*Malavika Jayaram, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University, USA & Centre for Internet and Society Bangalore, India*

*Carolina Rossini, Public Knowledge, USA*

*Moderator: Raimondo Iemma, Nexa Center for Internet and Society, Politecnico di Torino, Italy*

**10:30 - 10:45**

**Coffee Break**

**10:45 - 12:00**

**Bottom-Up: Insights and Inspiration from Real-World Case Studies**

**[\[Email Template with Format Information\]](#) -- *Invitations sent***

*Still focusing on the concept of “distributed and collaborative Internet governance,” the second panel will look at the phenomenon—complementary to the first one—from a bottom-up angle: What are real-world examples of governance models and mechanisms that might inform, inspire, or even guide the evolution of a distributed and collaborative Internet governance ecosystem? What are the lessons learned from ongoing research on such models, but also what are the limitations and knowledge gaps?*

*Panelists:*

*Daniel Benoliel, Haifa Center of Law and Technology (HCLT), University of Haifa, Israel*

*Ryan Budish, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University, USA*

*Jeanette Hofmann, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), Germany*

*Leyla Keser, IT Law Institute, Bilgi University, Turkey*

*Marília Maciel, Center for Technology and Society (CTS), Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) School of Law, Brazil*

*Anne Salim, iHub Research, Kenya*

*Moderator: Wolfgang Schulz, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), Germany*

**12:00 - 13:15**

**Building Blocks and Toolkits for Distributed IG Models**

**[\[Email Template with Format Information\]](#)**

*Moving from conceptual to practical issues, this session will highlight in a series of brief statements, followed by open discussion, a number of tools, platforms, and best practices that are aimed at supporting the formation, operation, and performance of distributed and collaborative Internet governance models, groups, and mechanisms.*

***Issue-to-solution mapping tool***

*Stefaan Verhulst, GovLab, New York University, USA*

***Clearinghouse Proposal***

*William Drake, Institute of Mass Communication and Media Research, IPMZ, University of Zurich, Switzerland*

***IGF Best Practice Models***

*Constance Bommelaer, Internet Society, Switzerland*

***The Geneva Platform***

*Jovan Kurbalija, Diplo Foundation, Switzerland*

*Moderator: Mayte Peters Schomburg, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), Germany*

**13:30 - 15:00**

**Lunch**

**15:00 - 16:45**

**Linking it Back: The Role of Academia vis-a-vis the Quest for a Next Generation Internet Governance Ecosystem - Research, Education, Capacity Building**

*Reflecting on the previous sessions and linking it back to the framing of*

*the day, this final panel takes two steps back and explores the role of academia in the discussion about the future Internet governance ecosystem. Issues to cover include not only questions related to research, but also related aspects such as teaching and educating about Internet governance, or capacity building in the Global South.*

*Chinmayi Arun, Centre for Communication Governance (CCG), National Law University, India*

*Juan Carlos De Martin, Nexa Center for Internet & Society, Politecnico di Torino, Italy*

*Venancio Massingue, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique*

*Carolina Rossini, Public Knowledge, USA*

*Moderator: Elena Pavan, Nexa Center for Internet & Society, Politecnico di Torino, Italy*

**16:45 - 17:00**

**Coffee break**

**17:00 - 18:00**

**Keynote**

*In lieu of a conclusion, Science Fiction Author Bruce Sterling will share in a keynote speech his reflections on the topics covered during the day.*

*Bruce Sterling, Science Fiction Author, USA*

**Final remarks**

*Juan Carlos de Martin, Nexa Center for Internet and Society, Politecnico di Torino, Italy*

**18:00 - 19:00**

**Drinks/Networking**