

The Tenth European Multidisciplinary Conference
on Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME GIG-ARTS 2026

**Digital Futures, Sustainable Freedoms:
Rights, Responsibilities and Governance**

Dublin City University

All Hallows Campus, Grace Park Rd, Drumcondra, Dublin, D09 N920

14-15th May 2026



SYNOPSIS

The European Multidisciplinary Conference on Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies (GIG-ARTS) gathers scholars and practitioners in an annual conference to debate the latest research on governing the global internet. Each conference highlights a main theme while also welcoming contributions on other aspects of global internet governance.

Earlier GIG-ARTS meetings have addressed themes such as “Global Internet Governance as a Diplomacy Issue” (Paris, 2017), “Overcoming Inequalities in Internet Governance” (Cardiff, 2018), “Europe as a Global Player in Internet Governance” (Salerno, 2019), “Online Information Governance” (Vienna, 2021), “Global Internet Governance and International Human Rights” (Nicosia, 2022), and “The Governance of Cybersecurity: Resilience, Human Rights and Democracy” (Padua, 2023), “Thirty Years of Multistakeholderism in Internet Governance: Assessments and Prospects” (The Hague 2024), “The Rise of Digital Sovereignty: Ambiguities and Challenges” (Salerno, 2025).

The Tenth GIG-ARTS Conference, to be held at the Dublin City University on 14th-15th May 2026, takes as its main theme “Digital Futures, Sustainable Freedoms: Rights, Responsibilities and Governance.” From artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructures to social media platforms and blockchain technologies, digital technologies are commonly presented as drivers of green strategies, economic growth and societal well-being. However, these systems also pose essential challenges to society and the environment. Indeed, the complex, resource-intensive supply chain of digital technologies has been underrepresented in dominant political narratives. Digital infrastructures demand high amounts of energy. The extraction of essential raw materials involved in the development of digital devices and the powering of data centres imposes further ecological burdens and creates geopolitical dependencies. Finally, the accelerated turnover of devices generates a concerning amount of e-waste on a global scale. These factors require us to consider whether the envisioned digital futures align with the pressing demands for ecological sustainability, democratic development, and the needs of future generations.

The Tenth GIG-ARTS Conference seeks to foster a multi-disciplinary discussion regarding the intersections of digital development, environmental concerns, and transnational governance. By gathering scholars and practitioners, the conference aims to enhance understanding of how digital futures can be created and governed in ways that conform with universal rights and values while addressing burning environmental challenges. It represents an appeal to revisit the equilibrium of rights and duties in our current digital society, and to devise governance approaches that can guarantee freedoms and wellbeing for future generations.

SCHEDULE

Day 1 - Thursday, 14 May

- 9.00 - 9.30 Registration
- 9.30 - 10.00 Welcome and institutional greetings
- 10.00-11.30 Panel 1 - Digital freedoms and ecological boundaries
- 11.30-12.00 Coffee break
- 12.00-13.00 Keynote speech
- 12.30-14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30-16.00 Panel 2 - Dark digital futures: authoritarian power and repression in global governance
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30-18.00 Panel 3 - Digital sovereignty in a multilevel order
- 18.00-22.00 Social event

Day 2 - Friday, 15 May

- 9.30-11.00 Panel 4 - AI governance and EU digital regulation
- 11.00-11.45 Poster session & coffee break
- 11.45-12.45 Roundtable - Data centres and sustainability
- 12.45-14.30 Lunch Break
- 14.30-16.00 Panel 5 - Mapping the future of digital governance: constitutions, contracts, and claims
- 16.00-16.30 Farewell
- 16.30-17.30 GIG-ARTS Next steps

FULL PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Thursday 14th May 2026

9.00-9.30 Registration

9.30-10.00 Welcome and institutional greetings

Prof Derek Hand, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, DCU

Dr Tetyana Lokot, School of Communications, DCU

Prof Mauro Santaniello, University of Salerno & UNU-CRIS

Dr Edoardo Celeste, School of Law and Government, DCU

10.00-11.30 Panel 1 - Digital freedoms and ecological boundaries

Chair: Edoardo Celeste

1. Innovation under Ecological Constraint: Balancing Proprietary Rights and Sustainable Design in the EU Green Transition
Jacopo Ciani Sciolla, Massimo Durante, and Ugo Pagallo (University of Turin)
2. AI for Unsustainability: A Legal Analysis of Environmentally Harmful AI Applications
Rachel Griffin (Sciences Po), Barrie Sander (Leiden University)
3. The Right to Be Lost: AI, Tourism, and the Limits of Sustainable Digital Futures
Soojung Paek (George Mason University)
4. High Mountain Digital Futures: 'For Someone Like Our Mothers, They Have No Choice'
Kunsang Choden (University of Washington)
5. Enlisting LLMs in Digital Governance Research: Interpreting Digital Bills of Rights at Scale
Dennis Redeker (University of Bremen), Vasilisa Kuznetsova (University of Bremen), Nicolas Suzor (Queensland University of Technology)

11.30-12.00 Coffee break

12.00-13.00 Keynote Speech: Prof Iris Eisenberger, Universität Wien

Chairs: Edoardo Celeste & Tetyana Lokot

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 Panel 2 - Dark digital futures: authoritarian power and repression in global governance

Chair: Tetyana Lokot

1. Measuring Digital Authoritarianism – The First Version of a Configurational Digital Authoritarianism Index (DAI)
Gergely Gosztanyi, Gergely Ferenc Lendvai (Eötvös Loránd University)
2. Platforming authoritarianism: assessing Chinese normative influence in ASEAN countries through infrastructuralised platforms
Riccardo Nanni (Centre Internet et Société)
3. Repression Without Borders: Digital and Legal Architectures of Control
Katsiaryna Pushkarova (Association Human Constanta International), Tatsiana Ziniakova
4. Digital Sovereignty as Neo-Militarisation: Weaponized Interdependence, AI and the Reconfiguration of Security Infrastructures
Adriano Cozzolino, Diego Giannone, Fabio Carbone (University of Campania L. Vanvitelli)
5. From Kremlin to Newsfeed: Russian Disinformation and the Framing of Ukraine's Anti-Corruption Efforts in Global Media
Olesia Zhytkova (DCU Business School)

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-18.00 Panel 3 - Digital sovereignty in a multilevel order

Chair: Chiara Spiniello

1. Talking at cross purposes: a research approach to untangle meanings of digital sovereignty

Jamal Shahin & Stephanie Teeuwen (Brussels School of Governance & UNU-CRIS)

2. When Energy and Ecology Enter the Debate: European Media Narratives of Digital Sovereignty
Mauro Santaniello (University of Salerno & UNU-CRIS), Natascia Tatiana Fera (University of Salerno)
3. Governing Interdependence: Digital Sovereignty, Supply Chains, and the EU's Strategic Response
Samuele Fratini (Centre Internet et Société)
4. From Digital Sovereignty to Bi-Regional Governance: Policy Transfer Pathways in the EU-LAC Digital Alliance
Karla Estephany Alvarado Romero (University of Heidelberg)
5. Public Key Infrastructures and the Denationalization of Authority Structures in Cyberspace
Milton L Mueller (Georgia Institute of Technology)

18.00- 22.00 Social event

Venue: Cat & Cage, 74 Drumcondra Rd Upper

Day 2 - Friday 15th May 2026

9.30-11.00 Panel 4 - AI governance and EU digital regulation

Chair: Mauro Santaniello

1. Does the EU really trust in trustworthy AI? Ambiguity and contradictions in the EU AI regulatory approach
Nicola Palladino (University of Salerno)
2. Data Sharing as a Green Public Service Obligation: Sustainable Digital Governance between Data Regulation and the AI Act
Chiara Castaldo (University of Turin)
3. The Digital Services Act as an Instrument of Decentralised Epistemic Pressure
Michael FitzGerald (European University Institute)
4. Governing AI Futures: Narrative Power, Over-Optimism, and the Limits of Sustainable Control
Katalin Feher (Ludovika University of Public Service)
5. Normative Power Meets Structural Power: Climate Accountability in EU Digital Governance
Caroline Colbert (Universite de Bordeaux)

11.00-11.45 Poster session & coffee break

Venue: SG10 and SG11, All Hallows Senior House

Students of the Digital Constitutionalism Network Teaching Partnership 2026

11.45-12.45 Roundtable - Data centres and sustainability: building the infrastructure for the twin transitions

Chair: Victor Henriquez Diaz and Trish Morgan

Thomas Le Goff (Télécom Paris)

Alba Perez Victorio (European University Institute)

Lochlann Walsh (Equinix)

Sara Marcucci (AI + Planetary Justice Alliance)

13.00-14.30 Lunch (All Hallows Restaurant)

14.30-16.00 Panel 5 - Mapping the future of digital governance: constitutions, contracts, and claims

Chair: Karolin Rippich

1. Platform governance as customary law: "Lex Mercatoria" and internet co-regulation
Adriann N Anderson (University of Illinois at Chicago)
2. Constitutional Minimum Standards as a Governance Framework for Data-Driven Public Services
Cesaria Claudia Losito & Francesco Porcelli (University of Bari Aldo Moro)
3. Constitutional Protection of the Environment and the Digital Transition: Can Environmental Clauses Operate as Justiciable Constraints?
Chiara Spiniello (University of Salerno and University of Bremen)
4. The Politics of Digital Manifestos and the European Grassroots Construction of Claims for Justice
Sara Concetta Santoriello (University of Naples)
5. Digital Governance by Contract: Introducing a New Longitudinal Corpus of Digital Contracts, 1999-2025
Tim R Samples (University of Georgia), Katherine Ireland (University of Georgia), Kaspar Beelen (University of London)

16.00-16.30 Farewell

16.30-17:30 GIG-ARTS Next Steps (*invitation only*)

Supporting Institutions

DCU Law and Tech Research Cluster, <https://lawandtech.ie/>

European Master in Law, Data and Artificial Intelligence, <https://emildai.eu/>

DCU Institute for Future Media, Democracy and Society, <https://fujomedia.eu/>

ADAPT Centre for AI-Driven Digital Content Technology, <https://www.adaptcentre.ie>

Digital Constitutionalism Network (DCN), <https://digitalconstitutionalism.org>

Internet & Communication Policy Center, <https://www.internetpolicyresearch.eu>

DCU Anti-Bullying Centre (ABC), <https://www.dcu.ie/antibullyingcentre>

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
(ICANN), <https://www.icann.org/>

Programme Committee

Carolina Aguerre, Berna Akcali Gur, Stanislav Budnitsky, Mauro Calise, Olga Cavalli, Edoardo Celeste, Jean-Marie Chenou, Laura DeNardis, Goran Dominioni, Dmitry Epstein, Tamara Favaro, Marianne Franklin, Orsolya Gulyas, Blayne Haggart, Victor Henriquez Diaz, Sophie Hoogenboom, Xianhong Hu, Min Jiang, Hortense Jongen, Matthias C. Kettemann, Thomas Le Goff, Joanna Kulesza, Nanette Levinson, Tetyana Lokot, Robin Mansell, Meryem Marzouki, Francesca Musiani, Riccardo Nanni, Fortunato Musella, Nicola Palladino, Claudia Padovani, Clément Perarnaud, Julia Pohle, Dennis Redeker, Michele Rioux, Karolin Rippich, Mauro Santaniello, Yves Schemeil, Jan Aart Scholte, Jamal Shahin, Niels ten Oever, Nadia Tjahja, Natasha Tusikov, Christopher Tyler West

Organising Committee

Chairs: Edoardo Celeste, Tetyana Lokot, Mauro Santaniello

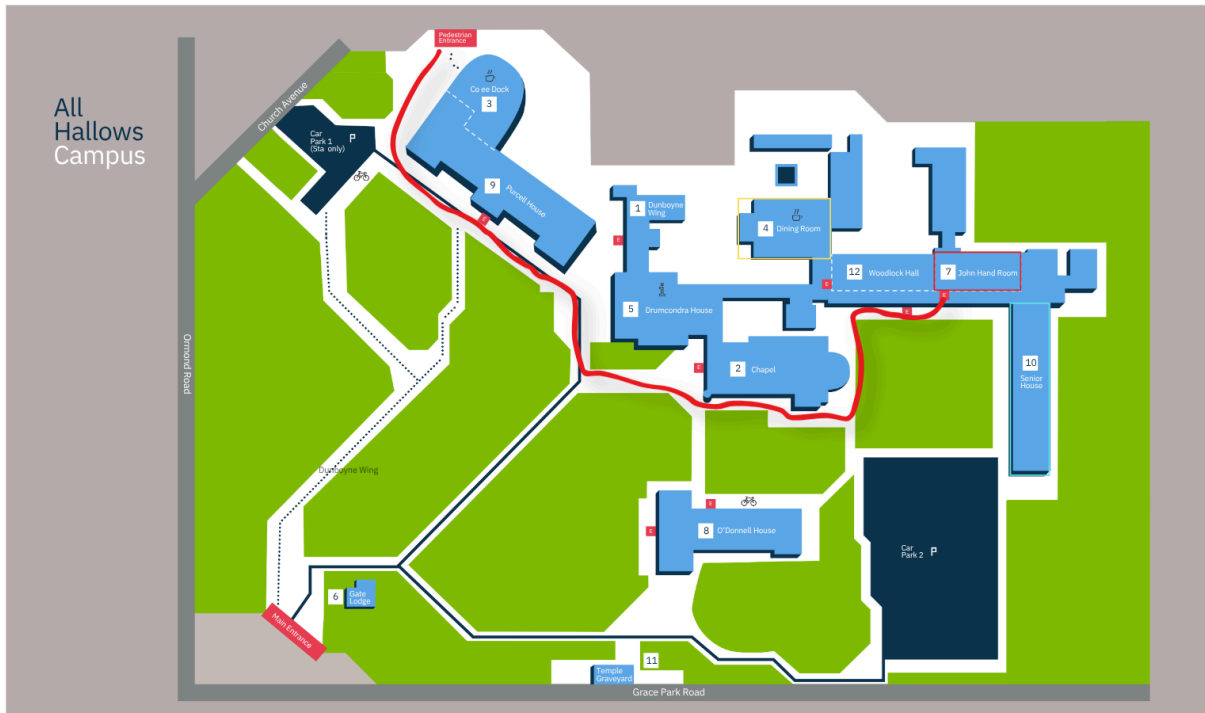
Local Team: Karolin Rippich, Victor Henriquez Diaz

GIG-ARTS Team: Carlos Fonseca Diaz

Venue

All Hallows Campus, Dublin City University, Grace Park Rd, Drumcondra, Dublin, D09 N920, Ireland.

Rooms: John Hand Room (AHC.SG05), All Hallows Senior House (SG10 and SG11)



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Dunboyne Wing | 7 John Hand Room |
| 2 Chapel | 8 O'Donnell House |
| 3 Co-see Dock | 9 Purcell House |
| 4 Dining Room | 10 Senior House |
| 5 Drumcondra House | 11 Temple Graveyard |
| 6 Gate Lodge | 12 Woodlock Hall |

Entrance

Car Park

Café

Information


Bike Shed


..... Pedestrian Access

— Vehicle Access



 John Hand Room

 All Hallows Restaurant

 Senior House

For detailed directions and campus navigation, please refer to the [DCU multi-campus map](#). Additionally, information on how to get to campus is provided on the [DCU Commuting and Travel site](#).