Big Tech as an Actor of Global Security and Geopolitical Conflicts
May 2nd-3rd, 2024
May 2nd

10:00-10:45  The Privatization of Covert Operations: Insights from the Research of the Citizen Lab. A keynote lecture by Ronald DEIBERT (University of Toronto)

10:45-11:15  Coffee break @ Salle Goullencourt (salle des professeurs)


Big Tech on the World Stage: Corporate or Foreign Affairs?
Zoe Jay HAWKINS (Australian National University)

Cloud Wars on the Sea Floor? Explaining Submarine Cable Investments by Big Tech Companies
Olivier CHATAIN and Madhulika KAUL (HEC Paris)

QUIC, or the battle that never was: a case of re-infrastructuring control over Internet traffic
Clément PERARNAUD (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Francesca MUSIANI (Centre internet et société, CNRS)

Techno-Nationalism or Techno-Internationalism? The Development Pathway and Surviving Strategy of Huawei in Europe after the 5G Technology Turbulence
Zhan ZHANG (University of Nottingham Ningbo China)

The GIFCT hash-sharing database as Global Security Infrastructure
Gavin SULLIVAN (University of Edinburgh)

13:15-14:15  Lunch break

14:15-15:00  Big Tech and Civil Society - Friends or Foes?
A keynote lecture by Natalia KRAPIVA (Esq., Senior Tech Legal Counsel, AccessNow)

15:00-15:30  Coffee break

15:30-17:30  Panel 2 - Dealing with “Dangerous” Speech, between Surveillance and Censorship. Chaired by IRSEM

Big tech platforms, digital transnational repression, and the globalized security risks of human rights defenders
Siena ANSTIS and Marcus MICHAELSEN (Citizen Lab, Munk School, University of Toronto)

Big Tech and Russian wartime censorship: Comparing state platform conflict dynamics of Russia’s platform bans
Mariëlle WIJERMARS (Maastricht University)

Security from a distance. The role of Big Tech in the fight against violent extremism in Iraq
Anne BELLON (UTC Compiègne)

Big Tech, Algorithmic Content Moderation and the War of Terror
Valentine CROSSET (Université de Genève) and Benoît DUPONT (Université de Montréal)

Social Media Censorship and Repression in Palestine and Israel
Nadah FETEIH (Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University)

17:30-19:30  Cocktail
May 3rd

9:30-10:15 The New Axis of Evil? Big Tech as Diplomatic Actors
A keynote lecture by Ilan MANOR (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)

10:15-10:45 Coffee break @ Salle Goullencourt (salle des professeurs)

10:45-12:45 Panel 3 - The Global Geopolitics of Big Tech
Chaired by Zhao Alexandre HUANG (Paris Nanterre University)

The Great Game: How video game servers map Eastern Europe
Françoise DAUCÉ (CERCEC, EHESS)

Content delivery platforms’ data storage practices' unintended spillovers on emerging countries’ Internet resilience: the case of Pakistan
Nowmay OPALINSKI (GEODE, Paris 8)

Jerusalem contested: Israel, Palestine and U.S Big Tech in the Holy City
Margherita MONTI (Università di Bologna) and Davide BLOTTA (Università di Urbino “Carlo Bo”)

Normative dislocation: how Brazilian militarism was left (un)moderated throughout the Brazilian elections of 2022
Emilie V DE KEULENAAR (University of Groningen) and Marcelo ALVES DOS SANTOS JUNIOR (Pontíficia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro)

12:45-13:45 Lunch break

13:45-14:30 Mediating Operational Images : Visibilizing the ‘Invisual’ in the Ukrainian War
A keynote lecture by Anna LEANDER (Geneva Graduate Institute)

14:30-15:00 Coffee break

15:00-17:30 Panel 4 - Big Tech as an Actor of Contemporary Warfare
Chaired by Julien NOCETTI (Centre for analysis, planning and strategy, French MFA)

Analysing the growing “infrastructural” role of platform corporations within warfare
Jasper VAN DER KIST (University of Antwerp)

Platform Wars: Big Tech, the Power of Metaphors and the Future of Warfare
Marijn HOIJTINK (University of Antwerp)

Software as Warfare: Humanitarian Action in the Age of AI
Sarah W SPENCER (DoveTail & University of Cambridge)

Platforms in war: A comparative analysis of the digital platforms in transnational conflicts
Matti POHJONEN and Mervi K PANTTI (University of Helsinki)

Big Tech at war: Reconfiguring public-private relations through infrastructural power
Tobias LIEBETRAU (University of Copenhagen) and Jeppe JOCOBSEN (Royal Danish Defence College)
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