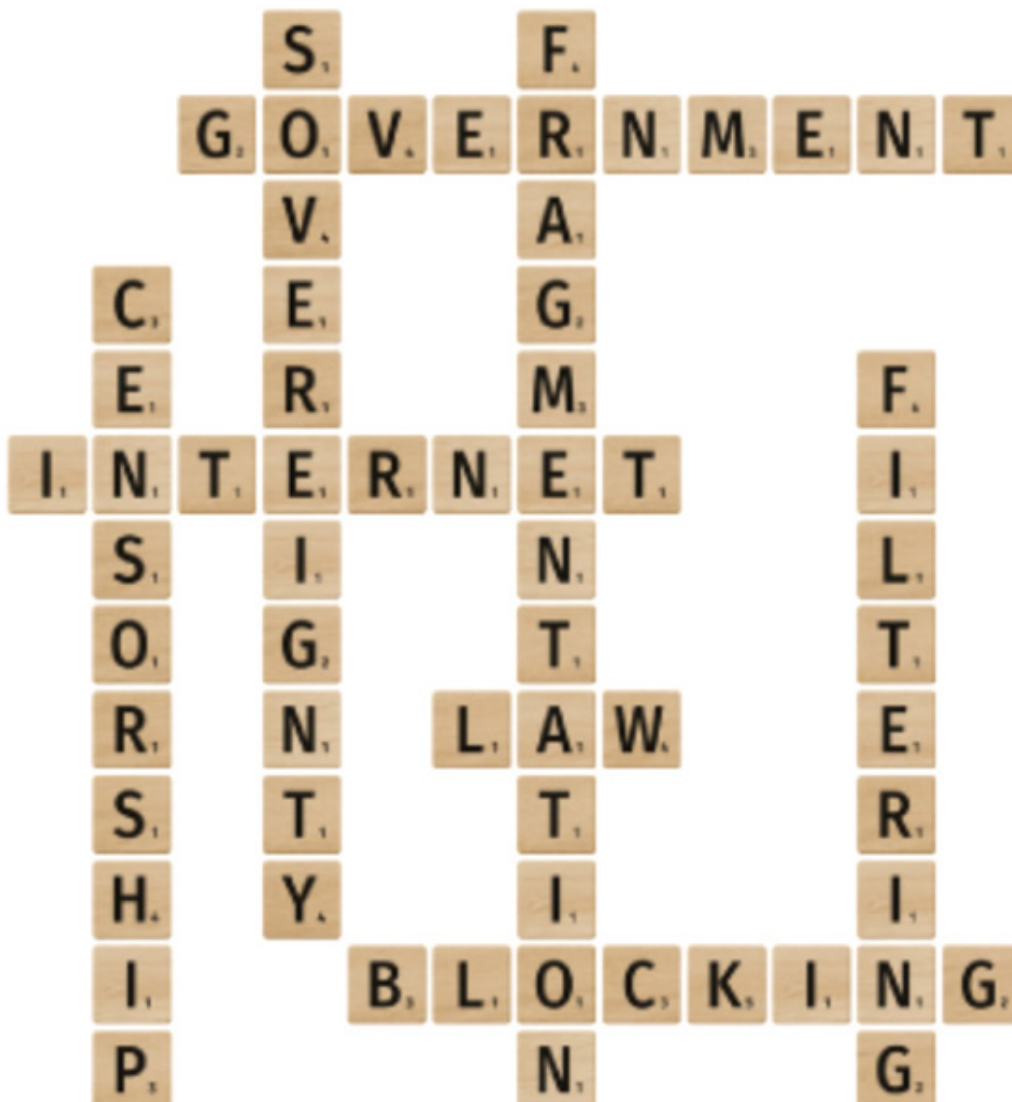


Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) Faculty of Law
in cooperation with University of Bucharest Faculty of Law and University of Zenica Faculty of Law

**Internet Fragmentation and Censorship.
Are we heading to Splinternet and Cyber Sovereignty?**
International Scientific Conference
March 22-23, 2024 Budapest, Hungary

CALL FOR PAPERS



Internet Fragmentation and Censorship. Are we heading to Splinternet and Cyber Sovereignty?

A divergence between cyber libertarianism and cyber paternalism characterised discussion topics related to internet governance in the 1990s. Decisions on content regulation issues seemed to have been settled in the US with the Communication Decency Act Section 230 and Europe with the notice-and-takedown system of the E-commerce Directive. However, the era of privatised freedom of expression (Balkin, 2018) faced several challenges from the mid-twentieth century onwards, from Christchurch and troll farms to the Cambridge Analytica scandal. For a few years now, internet regulation has become a vital issue on the political agenda in all parts of the world, characterised in the US by the need to amend CDA230 (Snider, 2023) and the ‘dragging’ of giant tech mammoths before the Senate; in Europe, the process of adopting the DSA-DMA-EMFA package of regulations (Barata, 2022), while in China, for example, it is characterised by the ongoing development of the Golden Shield and the Great Firewall based on cyber-sovereignty (Schultz, 2021), and in Russia by the wish to disconnect from the international internet network (Nachbar, 2022). The increasingly undemocratic practices of these latter rogue States can be attractive to many other countries, and the export of such solutions started (Bennet - Naim 2015).

Governments around the world are increasingly resorting to restricting the internet (Bischoff, 2023), often for illegitimate purposes and always with disproportionate impacts on the public (UN 2020), while global norms have shifted dramatically towards greater government intervention in the digital sphere (Freedom House, 2021). The technical and legal solutions to these can range from denying user access through filtering technologies and unlawful bandwidth throttling to collateral, excessive and wholesale blocking by States (Gosztanyi, 2023). Independent observers and States gave very different reasons for the restrictions of access to content (AccessNow, 2023; NetBlocks, 2023).

On this basis, the conference will examine governmental and other policies and actions that constrain or prevent certain uses of the Internet to create, distribute, or access information resources. In this context, the examination of the social impact of the issue will be part of the programme, in addition to legal and technological solutions.

CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Joan Barata** (Cyber Policy Center, Stanford University)
- **David Frautschy** (Internet Society)
- **András Koltay** (Pázmány Péter Catholic University)

This conference is intended to provide a forum for scholars, researchers, and practitioners from diverse disciplines to share insights and perspectives on current trends in their research and work. The organisers welcome submissions from scholars and researchers from all disciplines, including but not limited to law, communication, political science, computer science, sociology, psychology, and ethics.

The organisers also welcome proposals by doctoral students and early career post-doctoral researchers from all over the world and will organise a separate panel for them if there is enough interest.

The conference seeks submissions that address a wide range of topics related to internet shutdowns and Splinternet, including but not limited to:

- **Internet shutdowns around the world**
- **Internet connectivity and the right to know**
- **Internet access as a basic human right**
- **Internet censorship**
- **Network sovereignty, digital sovereignty, cyber sovereignty**
- **Internet governance and legislation: questions of the Splinternet**
- **Fragmentation of the network and the law**
- **Filtering and blocking websites by governments**
- **Legal and illegal reasons for content restrictions**
- **The views of technology companies**
- **Internet content moderation**
- **Options for resistance to restrictions**
- **Tech literacy and cyber awareness.**

The organisers encourage all to submit original research papers, case studies, and critical reviews that draw upon rigorous scientific theory and methodology and offer new insights and perspectives on this pressing issue. By bringing diverse perspectives and expertise together, organisers hope to foster a more comprehensive and detailed understanding of internet content restrictions.

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We look forward to your submissions and fruitful discussions at the conference.

ABSTRACT PROPOSAL

Abstracts should be between 200 and 500 words in length. One should also submit the following information: name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, and a brief bio (max. 100 words). Abstracts should be sent to the following e-mail address:

gosztonyi@ajk.elte.hu

FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

Papers should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length, including references and appendix. References must conform to the [APA 7th edition](#). All papers will be peer-reviewed, and accepted papers will be - after presenting at the conference - published in a special issue of [ELTE Law Journal](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for abstract submission: **December 15, 2023**

Notification of acceptance for the conference: **January 10, 2024**

Submission of final paper: **March 15, 2024**

Conference dates: **March 22-23, 2024**

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

English

CONFERENCE VENUE

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE)

Egyetem tér 1-3.

1153 Budapest, Hungary

CONFERENCE FEE

The conference fee is 70€.

This includes two-day refreshments and dinner on Friday (23 March 2023). The conference fee is 35€ for doctoral students and early career post-doctoral researchers. Please note that the conference fee does not include any accommodation and travel expenses.

Information regarding registration and logistic will be communicated after acceptance notifications.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr. Gergely Gosztonyi, PhD (gosztonyi@ajk.elte.hu) or

Dr. Elena Lazar, PhD (elena.lazar@drept.unibuc.ro)

