

# Transatlantic Digital Debates

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# | Transatlantic | Digital Debates

## Call for Applications

The Transatlantic Digital Debates (TDD) is a joint initiative of the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) and New America's Open Technology Institute that brings together young professionals from Germany and the United States to work on key challenges at the intersection of technology and policy. We are seeking 18 participants from civil society, academia, politics, media, and business who are willing to engage with and challenge each other's ideas concerning the societal implications of technological change.

The fellows will have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts with leading experts and practitioners from different sectors. By the end of the program, they will have gained a broader understanding of the issues that will define tech policy and transatlantic relations in the coming years as well as new ideas for how to tackle the respective challenges. We hope that they will form a strong network of future decision-makers in the US and Germany.

Over the course of 2022, the fellows will meet for two dialogue sessions – first virtually (June 13 to 17) and then in either the US or Germany in fall of 2022. The second session, which is tentatively planned for November 2022 (exact dates to be determined), may also be hosted virtually depending on public health limitations. Their discussions will tackle two main issue areas:

- **Regulation of Online Platforms:** Online platforms like social media, digital marketplaces, and sharing economy services are an increasingly important part of the global economy. But the speed by which these platforms are evolving poses challenges for consumers and regulators in areas such as data protection, disinformation, targeted digital advertising, and antitrust concerns. Policies such as the German network enforcement law effectively shift the responsibility for enforcing freedom of speech onto platforms, which can lead to censorship. These challenges can also contribute to an erosion of trust in democracy. Given that the most influential online platforms are based in the US and that Germany/Europe are at the forefront of regulatory efforts in a swiftly evolving digital space, transatlantic cooperation on platform regulation is essential.

- **Data Governance:** There is a critical need to understand how different data governance regimes intersect and interact. As Europe and the US construct their respective data governance regimes, they need to consider how these regulatory efforts may impact the state, corporations, individuals, international competition, and innovation as well as how to balance data protection concerns with individual liberty and national security. Transatlantic cooperation on these issues is essential in order to build and promote a set of global data norms as a counterweight to authoritarian models such as those pursued by China and Russia.

## Application Requirements

Interested applicants must:

- Be a citizen of Germany or the United States;
- Have at least three years of professional experience;
- Be 35 or younger as of June 30, 2022;
- Demonstrate a strong interest in internet and technology policy as well as in addressing emerging global challenges;
- Have an excellent command of English;
- Demonstrate commitment, motivation and leadership;
- Be able to attend both sessions of the program (successful candidates will be asked to provide written confirmation from their employers agreeing to the time commitment).

Please submit your application package as a **single PDF file**. It must include:

- Your **curriculum vitae** (maximum three pages; including date of birth, nationality, professional experience, academic background, language skills, and extracurricular activities);
- A **letter of motivation** (maximum one page) explaining why you want to join the Transatlantic Digital Debates. Please refer to instances in which you have demonstrated an interest in and/or examples of your professional experience in the program's topics, and state how your participation in the program would further your professional and personal development.

Please send your application materials in a single PDF file to [tdd@gppi.net](mailto:tdd@gppi.net) by **Sunday**,

**March 20, 2022 at 23:59 Central European Time (CET).** Interested applicants (and their employers) are welcome to contact the program team with questions at the email address stated above. For additional information on the program, including past rounds, please visit the [TDD 2022 website](#).

The selection process will be administered by GPPi in close consultation with New America's Open Technology Institute and the project steering committee. Telephone interviews will be held between March 28 and April 01, 2022, and applications of short-listed candidates will be sent to the steering committee for final selection. Successful candidates will be notified by Friday, April 15, 2022.

Please note that we are not able to discuss unsuccessful applications.

The program covers costs for travel, accommodation and meals during the duration of the sessions. Each fellow must pay a one-time participation fee of €200. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to a carbon offset pool for emissions incurred as a result of travel to and from the locations where the sessions take place.

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