



Harmful Online Activity and Private Law
The Federmann Cyber Security Center of the Hebrew University
and

The Centers for Law and Technology and for Cyber Law and Policy, Haifa University
Jerusalem and Haifa
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There has been no shortage of reports in recent years about harmful activity taking place in cyberspace and online platforms. These include dissemination of ‘fake news’, online hate speech, recruitment of terrorists, data theft, DDOS attacks, abuse of market power, setting exploitative conditions for consumers, and other harmful acts. Each of these harmful activities raises a unique set of policy problems, entailing distinct legal norms and legal institutions. At the same time, they raise common questions concerning liability and other forms of accountability, the interplay between law enforcement and technology, the role of insurance in mitigating risk, and the interplay between different laws and legal regimes.

The third annual Conference will look at the common and distinct responses of private law norms and institutions to harmful online activities. These include, inter alia, the role of contractual terms in allocating responsibility and risk, the role of tort law (including private competition law and privacy—related damage suits) in assigning liability across supply chains and between content providers, intermediary platforms and end users, the role of property and intellectual property law in assigning entitlements and protections, the role of insurance law in regulating online conduct and addressing harms, and the role of private international law in dealing with the cross-border features of many, if not most, online harmful activity. At a broader level, the conference seeks to explore whether, and to what extent, private law offers an adequate substantive and procedural legal framework for addressing new and emerging challenges posed by harmful activities online, and what, if any, reforms and new developments are warranted.

The Conference aims to bring together an international group of established and young scholars who are studying cyber law and policy, and are interested in the ramifications of new technology for human well-being, economic interests and social welfare. The conference will offer an opportunity to present cutting-edge research addressing these issues, to introduce new projects and thought-provoking initiatives, and to promote exchange among participants that will inform their ongoing research.

Scholars and researchers from all disciplines are invited to propose papers in the formats detailed below. We welcome submissions from various disciplines, using a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches. Proposals may be submitted for individual presentations, full sessions, roundtables and posters related to the conference theme. We also invite proposals for art exhibitions related to the conference’s theme.



Presentation Proposals should include title, presenter's name, institutional affiliation, keywords (ideally drawn from the list of topics below), and an abstract of up to 400 words. Abstracts should include a general description of the topic, as well as a description of methodology and research findings, if relevant at the present stage.

Panel Proposals should include the title, participants' names and institutional affiliations, keywords, a brief description of the panel, and a separate abstract for each presentation (up to 400 words each).

Round Table Proposals are suitable for informal presentations of research in progress and ongoing collaborative projects. Proposals should include title, participants' names and institutional affiliations, keywords, and an abstract not exceeding 400 words describing the research, the research methodology, findings where applicable, and questions that are emerging from the research.

Artistic Exhibition Proposals should include the title, presenters' names and institutional affiliations, keywords, and an abstract not exceeding 200 words. The Committee will consider artistic projects that are related to the conference theme.

Poster Proposals should include title, presenter's name, institutional affiliation, keywords and an abstract not exceeding 200 words. Posters should present work in progress or initial findings.

Suggested topics (other topics are welcome):

- Online agreements (including validity, enforceability, public policy exceptions, regulation through legal and technological means)
- Tort law as a framework for addressing online activity (including private enforcement of competition law, consumer law, and data protection laws)
- Insurance as a means of regulation of online conduct
- Defamation law and social media
- Private enforcement of intellectual property rights and property law relating to online conduct
- Private international law questions relating to litigation over online conduct
- Enforcement of private rights online.

Proposals should be submitted to the Academic Committee at cyber1.conference@gmail.com, with the applicant's name, affiliation, phone, and email information. The deadline for submitting proposals is August 15, 2019. The organizers are in a position to provide travel grants only to some of the oversea participants in the conference.

The Academic Committee :

Tamar Berenblum, Niva Elkin-Koren, Michal Gal, Eldar Haber, Yuval Shany and Michal Shur-Ofry