

Paul-Olivier DEHAYE

Paul-Olivier Dehaye is the founder of PersonalData.IO, a nonprofit focused on making data protection rights effective for all.

He was originally trained as a mathematician, with a MSc from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and a PhD from Stanford. He has held academic positions at Merton College, Oxford, ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich. He has also been PI in OpenDreamKit, a Horizon2020 Infrastructure Project building a Virtual Research Environment in Mathematics Research. He has published peer-reviewed academic publications on topics as wide-ranging as number theory, combinatorics, computer graphics, crowdwork, political philosophy and academic ethics.

Dehaye's interest in data protection was cemented around 2013 by the arrival of Massive Open Online Courses, and the general lack of foresight at the time regarding the handling of student data. Since, he has been systematically mapping out the personal data economy, through the filing of hundreds of Subject Access Requests. He has also pursued around 15 Safe Harbor/Privacy Shield complaints with American arbitrators.

Dehaye has been investigating the Cambridge Analytica and Facebook scandal since December 2015, following a first report in the Guardian. His practical data protection experience and understanding of the jurisdictional issues has proved useful in working with dozens of journalists all over the world.