

McCourt Institute Spotlight Event at Unfinished Live

« [The Future of Digital Governance](#) »

Wednesday September 21, 2022

1:00pm – 6:00pm

The Shed, New York City

The internet of today hardly resembles the ideals on which the World Wide Web was founded. Power has been stripped from individual users and consolidated in corporate giants; trust is diminished by the spread of misinformation, heavy polarization, and rising inequity. That's partly because **the applications and algorithms that shape our economies, democracies, and public discourse were developed with few legal restrictions or commonly held ethical standards**. Regulators around the world have started to explore ways to fix these problems through legal means, and many other people are working to develop a new internet architecture built on an equitable foundation—one that is focused on empowering users and created with appropriate governance structures. **These parallel movements** will redefine the relationship between tech and society—but how do we ensure it's for the better?

On **Wednesday, September 21, 2022**, as part of Unfinished Live 2022 taking place on September 21-24, 2022 in New York City, and hosted in partnership with the Aspen Institute, the [McCourt Institute](#) will host an exclusive spotlight event dedicated to **"The Future of Digital Governance," to positively shape the next digital era and anticipate how tech will be regulated in the Web3 generation.**

Some of the key topics that will be addressed include:

- Digital governance: why and how do ground rules, safeguards, and ethical standards need to be integrated into the technology development process?
- The internet of the future: what are the unique opportunities and challenges presented by Web3?
- Global perspectives: anticipating the future of Web3 around the world
- Competition, privacy, online content: how will tech be regulated in Web3?

Founded in 2021 with partners Sciences Po in Paris and Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., the McCourt Institute **aims to ensure that digital governance is prioritized in the development of new technology and embedded in the next generation of the web.**

Unfinished Live is a multifaceted event committed to harnessing the future of digital technology to build a more equitable world. During the week of the United Nations General Assembly, and in one of the most forward-looking cultural centers in New York, [The Shed](#), Unfinished Live will convene over 2,000 technologists, journalists, thought leaders, artists, and changemakers to imagine and craft civic solutions for our digital world together.

Media partner: **POLITICO**

Founding partners: **GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY** **SciencesPo**

1:00pm – 1:05pm

Welcome remarks

- **Shéhérazade Semsar-de Boissésou**, Inaugural Executive Director, McCourt Institute

PART I: WEB GOVERNANCE IN 2022: STATE OF PLAY AND WEB3 PERSPECTIVES

The first part of the program will inform participants and establish a common understanding of the current global context of digital governance and tech regulation.

1:05pm – 1:50pm

Panel discussion – Digital governance and the state of democracy: why does it matter?

The data surveillance economy is fueling inequity, eroding trust, and threatening democracies worldwide. How did we get here, and how do we chart a better path forward? Why and how ground rules, safeguards, and ethical standards need to be integrated into the technology-development process?

Moderator:

- **Justin Hendrix**, Editor, Tech Policy Press

Speakers:

- **Erik Brynjolfsson**, Jerry Yang and Akiko Yamazaki Professor and Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI (HAI); Director, Stanford Digital Economy Lab
- **Maggie Little**, Director, Ethics Lab, Georgetown University
- **Eli Pariser**, Co-Director, New_Public
- **Eric Salobir**, Chair of the Executive Committee, Human Technology Foundation

1:50pm – 2:35pm

Outlook – Read, write, own: Towards the future internet, opportunities and challenges of a decentralized web

How could Web3, a decentralized internet based on blockchain technology and where users control their own data, positively address today's problems with new governance structures? What are some of the opportunities and challenges presented by decentralized network governance? What relevance does the so-called "metaverse" have within this paradigm?

Moderator:

- **Divya Siddarth**, Founder, Collective Intelligence Project; Political Economist, Microsoft

Speakers:

- **Camille Canon**, Founder, carrae Labs
- **Primavera De Filippi**, Director of Research, National Centre of Scientific Research (CNRS)
- **Alison McCauley**, Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer, Unfinished Labs; Founder, Unblocked Future

2:35pm – 2:55pm

Networking break

2:55pm – 3:40pm

Panel discussion – Global perspectives: shaping and anticipating the future of Web3 governance and regulation

How do regional approaches to digital governance—in the US, China, Europe, G7, and others—compare? And how are they anticipating the arrival of Web3? Are Europe’s forward-looking tech regulations—like the Digital Markets Act (DMA), Digital Services Act (DSA), AI Act, and Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MICA)—actually futureproof? Will they set the standard for the rest of the world? Does Web3 represent an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation and build alignment on digital governance and regulation? Which regulatory architecture should be built to sustain the adoption of Web3 technologies?

Moderator:

- **Mark Scott**, Chief Technology Correspondent, POLITICO

Speakers:

- **Stefan Berger**, Member of the European Parliament; Rapporteur of the EU crypto-assets regulation
- **Karen Kornbluh**, Senior Fellow and Director, Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative, German Marshall Fund of the United States; Former US Ambassador to the OECD
- **Cédric O**, Former Minister for Digital, France
- **Andreas Schwab**, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur of the Digital Markets Act
- **Jeremy West**, Senior policy analyst, Division for Digital Economy Policy, OECD

3:40-3:45pm

Short break

 PART II: TECH REGULATION IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE INTERNET

The second part of the program will be structured around group conversations. The objective is to connect participants with one another so that they stay in touch and continue to debate the ideas generated during the event.

3:45pm – 5:00pm

Simultaneous thematic discussions – Competition, Privacy and Online Content: How will they be regulated in Web3?

How will lawmakers approach these critical issues in Web3?

COMPETITION <i>Led by 3 co-chairs</i>	PRIVACY & IDENTITY <i>Led by 4 co-chairs</i>	ONLINE CONTENT <i>Led by 3 co-chairs</i>
<p><i>To what extent are traditional definitions of competition and market control relevant to a Web3 paradigm? Are new policies needed to ensure a healthy economy in this paradigm, and if so, what might they look like? Although decentralization is one of its core tenets, Web3 has already seen some consolidation around major platforms; How can consolidation and "winner-takes-all" outcomes be avoided as technologists and policy-makers architect this new era of digital exchange?</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy Pham, Senior Advisor, Mozilla; Fellow, Harvard Shorenstein Center <p>Co-chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anupam Chander, Scott K. Ginsburg Professor of Law & Technology, Georgetown University • Cory Doctorow, Special Advisor, Electronic Frontier Foundation; Science fiction author, activist & journalist • Andreas Schwab, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur of the Digital Markets Act 	<p><i>Web3 proponents often celebrate the crypto economy for supporting anonymous exchange. Although this may be a win for privacy advocates, it naturally presents legal and ethical challenges. How might policy-makers anticipate and navigate the issues arising from this dimension of Web3?</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Schulman, Senior Fellow, Decentralization, Electronic Frontier Foundation <p>Co-chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Cohen, Mark Cluster Mamlouk Professor of Law & Technology, Georgetown Law Center • Alex Feerst, CEO, Murmuration Labs; Co-Founder, Digital Trust & Safety Partnership • Isedua Oribhabor, Business & Human Rights Lead, Access Now • Kai Wagner, Chief of Advocacy, Jolocom; Board member, International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA) 	<p><i>How might the traditional process of moderating content and behavior online look in a truly decentralized Web3 world? A shared protocol might be harder to edit than a central codebase; distributed data might be harder to change. However, new capabilities (like smart contracts) might improve aspects of moderation work. How might the theory and practice of integrity in Web3 compare to the systems we are accustomed to today?</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sahar Massachi, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Integrity Institute <p>Co-chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Owono, Executive Director, Internet Sans Frontières; Executive Director of Content Policy and Society Lab, Stanford University • Jen Schradie, Digital Sociologist, Sciences Po Paris • Jonathan Wolfe, EVP Engineering, MeWe

5:00pm – 6:00pm: Networking drinks