As technologies change, so must law. The digital revolution caused by the evolution of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has given birth to a new field of law: the law of the information society. The Internet, as a network of networks that ICTs have dynamized, is regulated through a process of Internet Governance. In both the law of the information society and that of Internet Governance, human rights play a central role.

The Institute of International Law and International Relations of the University of Graz, Austria, has a strong tradition of innovative research and teaching and a convincing track record of covering emerging issues of international law. Since 2001, the Institute has committed resources specifically to the international normative instruments regulating the evolving international information order.

While other institutes of the Law Faculty of the University of Graz focus on subjects as European legal development and ICTs, civil law and ICTs, intellectual property and ICT and cybercrime, the Institute of International Law and International Relations broaches more fundamental issues: How can (and how should) the Internet be ruled in a way that is both effective and sensitive to human rights?

Research on this far-reaching question has been conducted by Professor Wolfgang Benedek, head of the Institute of International Law and International Relations, and a team of young researchers in the framework of three projects funded by the Austrian Science Fund. The projects have led to five workshops, numerous publications, including two books, and have enabled the researchers from Graz to reach an established position in the international research community, namely with regard to human rights in the information society.

Wolfgang Benedek and the members of the Focal Point have been present and active during the most important moments of the evolution of the information society in the last seven years: from the WSIS process and selected ICANN International Public Meetings to all Internet Governance Forums held until today. Members of the Focal Point are further active in several Dynamic Coalitions, including those committed to furthering human rights, and the freedom of expression, on the Internet. Focal point members Professor Wolfgang Benedek and Matthias C. Kettemann are also members of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet) and contributors to its workshops. Both publish widely on Internet Governance and human rights, both offline and online.
I. The team of the focal point

Presently, a team of two scholars is actively involved in research on the legal dimensions of the information society:

**Professor Dr. Wolfgang Benedek**

Head of the Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz and director of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC) of the University of Graz. Wolfgang is member of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network, the Internet Rights and Principles Coalition and the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus.

**Dr. Matthias C. Kettemann, LL.M. (Harvard)**

Post-doc research fellow and lecturer, Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz; Co-Chair of the Internet Rights and Principles Coalition. Matthias blogs on issues of international law, technology, human rights and the Internet at [http://internationallawandtheinternet.blogspot.co.at](http://internationallawandtheinternet.blogspot.co.at) and writes regularly on Internet and human rights for online and offline audiences. He is reviewer for contributions related to the Internet for *Political Communication*, *First Monday* and *Masaryk Journal of Law and Technology*. He is a member of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network and the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus. He is further affiliate of the Network of Excellence in Internet Science and rapporteur of the Internet & Jurisdiction Observatory.
II. Projects and key activities on Internet Governance law

2012
- Matthias C. Kettemann selected as affiliate of the Network of Excellence in Internet Science and as national rapporteur of the Internet & Jurisdiction Observatory
- Wolfgang Benedek selected as expert for the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Rights of Internet Users (MC-DUI)
- Council of Europe charges Wolfgang Benedek, Matthias C. Kettemann and Paul Gragl with providing a human rights assessment of new gTLDs
- Matthias C. Ketteman named thematic lead of the 5th initiative on human rights and the Internet of the Internet&Society Co:llaboratory
- Wolfgang Benedek named co-rapporteur by the Asia Europe Foundation for the 2012 Annual Informal EU/ASEAN Human Rights Workshop

2011
- Together with a team of scholars, Wolfgang Benedek developed the Charter on Internet Rights and Principles for the Internet Rights and Principles Coalition
- Matthias C. Kettemann named Co-Chair of the Internet Rights and Principles Coalition

2010
- Council of Europe contracts Wolfgang Benedek and Matthias C. Kettemann with writing a book on freedom of expression on the Internet

2005-2008

2003-2005
- Human Rights in the Information Society (Project leader: Wolfgang Benedek; research fellow: Catrin Pekari)

2001-2003
- ICANN, OECD and WTO in the evolving international regulatory regime of the Internet (Project leader: Wolfgang Benedek; research fellow: Catrin Pekari)

III. Teaching and training activities

- Units on human rights and the Internet at the annual Internet Governance Summer School in Meißen (Wolfgang Benedek)
- Austria’s first seminar on International Law and the Internet (Matthias C. Kettemann)
- Co-teaching a course on human rights aspects of IT for students of all faculties (Matthias C. Kettemann)
- Brown Bag Lunches on human rights and Internet law for students and the public (Matthias C. Kettemann)
- Unit on the law of the information society in the general course on international law (Wolfgang Benedek)
• Units on human rights aspects of the information society in the “Human Rights Debate Club” (Wolfgang Benedek/Matthias C. Kettemann)
• “Debate Club on Legal Questions of the Information Society” (Wolfgang Benedek/Matthias C. Kettemann)
• Workshops for teachers on the dangers and opportunities for children on the Internet
• Regular lectures for highs school students on the right to privacy on the Internet

IV. Publications

Books

• Benedek/Kettemann, Freedom of Expression on the Internet, Council of Europe, Strasbourg 2013 [in preparation].


Reports

• Benedek, Gragl, Kettemann, Liddicoat, van Eijk, Comments relating to Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Association with regard to New Generic Top Level Domains, study on behalf of the Council of Europe, DG-I (2012) 4 of 12 October 2012

• Benedek/Rao, Background paper and seminar report of the 12th Informal Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights: Human Rights in Information and Communication Technology (27-29 June 2012, Seoul, Republic of Korea)

Recent Articles

2012


- Kettemann, Menschenrechte 2.0: UN-Menschenrechtsrat bestätigt Geltung der Menschenrechte im Internet [Human Rights 2.0: UN Human Rights Council Confirms Applicability of Human Rights Online], jusIT 3 (2012), 161-164


Focal Point on Internet Governance and Human Rights


2011


2008-2010


V. Contacting the Focal Point

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