



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Institute for Information Law

IVIR LECTURE SERIES

Intellectual Monopoly amid the AI and Cloud Age

by Dr. Cecilia Rikap
(University College London)

Friday
22
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REC A5.24



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The world's largest corporations are knowledge and information predators. They turned these intangibles into assets and craft narratives that further enable them to capture value from society at large. They capture knowledge co-produced with other organizations and shape the pathways of science and technology. These intellectual monopolies continuously garner intellectual rents and stifle innovation as they curtail knowledge diffusion.

Among intellectual monopolies, Amazon, Microsoft and Google control the whole AI value chain from the required datasets and research networks to the start-ups producing AI applications. It all runs on their clouds, depends on their models, relies on their funding or is indirectly influenced by their control of the field. Mushrooming AI startups, sooner or later, integrate these three giants' spheres of control, depend on their corporate venture capital investments or simply rely on their clouds to code and offer computing services.

As organizations from around the world adopt the cloud and AI, these cloud giants solidify their intellectual monopolies. Are we still on time to build another digital stack that puts the people and planet ahead of corporate profits?



Speaker



Dr. Cecilia Rikap is an Associate Professor in Economics and the Head of Research at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose of the University College London (UCL).

Her most recent work focuses on artificial intelligence and the cloud, Big Tech companies' dominance of these technologies, their interplay with other multinational corporations and the effects of Big Tech's extended intellectual monopolization on digital sovereignty.

Practical details

Date: 22 November 2024

Time: 15:30 - 16:45 CET (Amsterdam)

Place:

- REC A5.24, Nieuwe Achtergracht 166, 1018 WV Amsterdam.

- Online via Zoom (you will receive the Zoomlink via e-mail on the morning of the lecture).