



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Institute for Information Law

IVIR LECTURE SERIES

'Big Speech' by Prof. Kate Klonick

Friday
31 May
REC A5.24



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The massive scale of Big Tech platforms is widely viewed not just as a threat to market efficiency or consumer welfare, but to the integrity of the public sphere and democracy itself. This is especially true when it comes to Big Speech—the firms who control and profit from large user-generated content platforms. With regulation stymied in the United States, structural break-up under antitrust law has emerged as an alternative means to address Big Speech’s power over the democratic public sphere.

In addition to these domestic regulatory efforts, the European Union has stepped up to regulate content moderation, most imminently through its Digital Services Act (DSA), which places different regulatory burdens on platforms based on the number of monthly average users in the EU, thereby disincentivizing Big Speech in Europe.

Drawing from the empirical literature of online speech governance, this lecture offers a novel description of what speech platforms do and how they operate, before outlining a series of observations about the relationships between a platform’s size, its composition, and its content moderation practices.

Speaker



Kate Klonick is an Associate Professor at St. John's University Law School, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, Yale Law School's Information Society Project, Harvard Berkman Klein Center and a Distinguished Scholar at the Institute for Humane Studies. For the 2023-2024 academic year, she is a Fulbright Schuman Innovation Scholar in the EU where she is a Visiting Professor at SciencesPo and UvA researching and writing about the DSA and DMA.

Practical details

Date: 31 May 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).

