

# Conference: Power, media pluralism, and democracy Regulatory, legal, or extra-legal responses



16–17 November 2023

Faculty of Management of University of Warsaw,  
ul. Szturmowa 1/3, Aula C

Thursday 16 Nov, 9:00 – 17:00

8:45 – Registration

9:00 – Conference welcome

(**Maciej Bernatt**, CARS WZ UW, **Anna Gerbrandy**, Utrecht University, **Grzegorz Karasiewicz**, Faculty of Management, University of Warsaw, **Małgorzata Kozak**, Utrecht University)

9:30 – 11.30 – **MEDIA PLURALISM AND DEMOCRACY: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES**  
(**Marta Kupczak-Strzelecka**, SKS; **Anna Gerbrandy**, Utrecht University)

- **Ricardo Ribeiro Ferreira**, University of Edinburgh & **Alexander Mesarovich**, Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, 'Speaking Power to the People: Brazilian and Serbian Media Systems in Populist Times'
- **Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska**, SWPS University, 'Counteracting SLAPPs in Central Europe – an EU missed opportunity'
- **Annika Stohr**, Ilmenau University of Technology, 'The Bertelsmann-saga: Creating „national media champions“ for the sake of competition and media pluralism?'
- **Marcin Mrowicki**, University of Warsaw, 'Using Media in Judicial Resistance Against Democratic Backsliding – Powerful Tool For or Against Judicial Independence?'
- **Valeria Caforio**, Bocconi University, 'Media Pluralism and Competition in the Media Sector: The Italian Experience'

COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 12.45 – **MEDIA IN DIGITAL WORLD: RECOMMENDER SYSTEMS**  
(**Paweł Czajkowski**, Agora; **Pauline Phoa**, Utrecht University)

- **Oliver Budzinski & Annika Stohr**, Ilmenau University of Technology, 'Regulating Recommender Systems? – A Comparative Analysis of Regulatory Options'
- **Max van Drunen**, University of Amsterdam, 'Datasets as a condition for the development of diversity-aware recommender systems'

LUNCH

## 14:00 – 15.15 – DISCURSIVE POWER AND MEDIA PLURALISM

(Bartosz Turno, WKB; Joanna Mazur, University of Warsaw)

- **Pauline Phoa & Anna Gerbrandy**, Utrecht University, 'Unveiling the Discursive Power of Big Tech: Implications for EU Competition Law and Beyond'
- **Stanislaw Piasecki**, University of Amsterdam, 'Contractual counter-power: improving the conditions for journalistic AI adoption from external providers'
- **Marcin Rojszczak**, Warsaw University of Technology, 'The case of Sanchez v France: Between fighting hate speech and creating a chilling effect on freedom of expression,

### COFFEE BREAK

## 15:30 – 16.30 – NEWS AND POWER (Maria Luisa Stasi, Article19.org)

- **Theresa Seipp**, University of Amsterdam, 'The Great Reset: News organisations' Efforts to Regain (Opinion) Power, Break Dependency, and Form a "Counterpower"'
- **Lidia Dutkiewicz**, KU Leuven, 'Safeguarding news content on online platforms: the incoherencies between the regulatory approaches'
- **Małgorzata Kozak & Baskaran Balasingham & Tais Ruiz Palacios**, Utrecht University, 'Competition between News Papers and Digital News Aggregators: Media Plurality versus Access to News'

**Speakers Dinner Interventions: Maria Górka** (Sestry.eu), **Yustyna Samahalska** (Ivano Franko University), **Tadeusz Kowalski** (KRRiTV)

# Friday 17 Nov, 9:30 – 16:00

## 9:30 – 10.30 – JOURNALISTS ROUNDTABLE (Maria Luisa Stasi, Article19.org)

**Bogusław Chrabota** (Rzeczpospolita), **Sylwia Czubkowska** (Tok FM), **Adam Jasser** (CARS WZ UW), **Anna Gilewska** (Fundacja Reporterów)

### COFFEE BREAK

## 11:00 – 13:00 – REGULATORY APPROACHES TO MEDIA SECTOR:

(Mirosław Wyrzykowski, University of Warsaw)

- **Katarzyna Klafkowska – Waśniowska**, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, "Media privilege", imbalance of power and institutional guarantees for media pluralism'
- **Konstantina Bania**, Brunel University, 'The EU regime for media pluralism (and how to fix it)'
- **Baskaran Balasingham & Sofia Minichova**, Utrecht University, 'The DSA's Crisis Response Mechanism: Social Media Networks as Essential Facilities?'
- **Kati Cseres**, University of Amsterdam & **Judit Bayer**, Budapest Business School, University of Münster, 'Independent media between state capture, systematic non-compliance and mutual distrust across national and supranational actors'
- **Małgorzata Kozak & Dionysios Pelekis**, Utrecht University, 'EU State aid and public broadcasters: severability and public value tests'

### LUNCH

## 14:15 – 15:30 – COMPETITION LAW AND MEDIA PLURALISM

(Robert Gago, Greenberg Traurig, **Maciej Bernatt**, CARS WZ UW)

- **Jan Polański**, Utrecht University, 'Free Speech is Incomplete? Big Tech in a Distant Mirror'
- **Marta Sznajder**, University of Warsaw, 'European Media Freedom Act and its implications for both merger control and media pluralism: the Polish perspective'
- **Michalina Kowala & Miłosz Malaga**, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, 'Competition law to remedy media pluralism concerns?'

## 15:30 – 16:00 – Conference conclusion (Pauline Phoa, Utrecht University)



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