

19-21
MARCH
2025

University of Luxembourg
Campus Belval
Maison du Savoir (MSA)



Humanities

International conference

Democracy and Youth in the Digital Age

PROGRAMME



UNIVERSITÉ DU
LUXEMBOURG



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11/2024 - 05/2025

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Livestreamings

Opening Ceremony: <https://youtube.com/live/ltbSHT-TQH0>



Friday: <https://youtube.com/live/hqw1nfGaG1c>



Wednesday, 19 March 2025

MSA 3.500

- 12.00 Registration
- 16.00 **Ceremonial opening of the conference**
 - Wilhelmus* by **Blechensemble Harmonie Clemency**
 - Welcome: **Prof. Dr. Georg Mein**, Director of the University of Luxembourg Institute for Digital Ethics
 - Speech: **Prof. Dr. Jens Kreisel**, Rector of the University of Luxembourg
 - Address: **His Royal Highness, the Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg**
 - Speech: **Stéphanie Obertin**, Minister for Research and Higher Education
 - Keynote: **His Excellency Alain Berset**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 - Address: **Clifton Grima**, Minister of Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (Malta)
 - Closing Words: **Claude Meisch**, Minister of Education, Children and Youth
- 17.15 Welcome reception

Thursday, 20 March 2025

6 parallel sections

- 8.30 Welcome
- 9.30 **Presentation 1**
- 10.15 **Presentation 2**
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Presentation 3**
- 12.00 **Presentation 4**
- 12.45 Lunch
- 15.00 **Presentation 5**
- 15.45 **Presentation 6**
- 16.30 **Presentation 7**
- 17.15 **Presentation 8**

Friday, 21 March 2025

- 9.30 Welcome
- 10.00 **Presentation and synthesis of the panels by the chairs and discussion of the results**
- 11.30 **Roundtable Discussion**
- 12.30 Final Reception

Thursday, 20 March 2025

Section 1

Fragmentation versus Participation: The Public Sphere in the Digital Age



Chair: Prof. Dr. Robin Samuel, Associate professor in Youth Studies

- 09.30

Youth, Social Media, and Democracy: The Influence of Digital Platforms on the Building of Opinions and Values.

• Dr. Hannes Käckmeister

• Laurent Langehegermann

• Dr. Sandra Biewers

University of Luxembourg
- 10.15

The Theatrical Public Sphere and Young Citizens in the Age of Climate Change and Health Crisis.

• Stephen Ogheneruro Okpadah

University of Warwick, UK
- 11.00

Coffee break
- 11.15

Silencing Falsehoods: Enhancing the EU’s Regulatory Approach to Online Gendered Disinformation.

• Valentina Golunova

Maastricht University, Netherlands
- 12.00

Access Creep: A Mixed Methods Approach Exploring Political Participation Among Adolescents in Luxembourg.

• Laurent Langehegermann

• Gilles Scheifer

• Robin Samuel

University of Luxembourg
- 12.45

Lunch break
- 15.00

Distinct Young and Old Interests? Age Differences in the Policy Preferences of Candidates and the Public.

• Clemens Nollenberger

University of Konstanz, Germany
- 15.45

Empowering Youth through Digital Sovereignty: A Framework for Political Participation in the Age of AI.

• Dr. Christian Filk

Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany

Section 2

Parliamentary Democracy versus Activism: Techniques of Engagement



Chair: Prof. Dr. Stefan Braum, Full professor

- 09.30** Astroturfing and Legitimacy Illusion – Harming Democratic Dialogue.
• Sahajveer Baweja
University of Cambridge, UK
- 10.15** Practicing Democracy - What's There to Learn? Following Young Activists' Media Practices in Institutional Politics”
• Alice Bergholtz
Södertörn University, Sweden
- 11.00** Coffee break
- 11.15** A Laboratory for Democracy: the FreeSZFE Protest and Reimagining Youth Political Participation
• Kyle Mares
Södertörn University, Sweden
- 12.00** Social Media Algorithms and Youth Political Participation: Analysing Segmentation, Polarization, and Engagement Strategies in the Digital Age.
• Ignacio Fornaris Valls
Royal University Institute for European Studies, CEU San Pablo University, Spain
- 12.45** Lunch break
- 15.00** Antisemitism in the protest communication of Fridays For Future.
• Prof. Dr. Olaf Gätje
• Dr. Felix Böhm
University of Kassel, Germany
- 15.45** Empowering Youth Through Digital Active Citizenship Workshops: Bridging Democratic Participation and Digital Activism.
• Efe Kayra Soylu
Schwarzkopf-Stiftung Junges Europa, Berlin, Germany
- 16.30** The postdigital city as networked civics classroom: future imaginaries of a global climate strike.
• Saralie Sernhede
Maastricht University, Netherlands

Section 3

Truth versus Trust: Affective Politics after the End of Argument



Chair: Prof. Dr. Anna-Lena Högenauer, Associate professor

- 09.30** Are the Public and the Political Elite Living in the Same Information Bubble? A Comparison of Uses from an Intergenerational Perspective in Luxembourg.
• Dr. Stéphanie Lukasik
• Dr. Raphaël Kies
University of Luxembourg
- 10.15** Trump Dancing. Mimesis, Music and Politics on Social Media.
• Dr. Stefan Börnchen
University of Luxembourg
- 11.00** Coffee break
- 11.15** Fact-Checking and Opinion Making: A Crisis of Deliberation?
• Dr. Dominic Harion
University of Luxembourg
- 12.00** Language use and democracy. Language use and democracy: pedagogical implications.
• Prof. Dr Birgit Huemer
University of Luxembourg
- 12.45** Lunch break
- 15.00** The Mediality of Post-Truth: A Heterarchy of Realities in the Digital Age.
• Alexander Mellin
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- 15.45** New Generation, Lower Trust? Media Use and Political Trust of Dutch Adolescents.
• Prof. Dr. Marc Verboord
Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 16.30** The New Apostolic Reformation: U.S. Religious Movements and Digital Democracy.
• Dr. Andrew Mackey
Creighton University, USA

Section 4

Memory versus History: Imagined Identities and Ethical Claims



Chair: Prof. Dr. Andrea Binsfeld, Associate professor

- 09.30** I Am Fed Up with the Conflict in Ukraine: The Interplay of Young Europeans’ Crisis Memory, Social Media Use, and Their Democratic Disposition.
• Dr. Eva Tamara Asboth
• Dr. Andreas Schulz-Tomančok
Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of Vienna
- 10.15** Digital Nostalgia: PASOK’s Governmental Past as a Consumerism Utopia during the Greek Economic Crisis.
• Dr. Nikolaos Gkionis
Min. of Digital Governance, Greece Advisor at Hellenic Parliament
- 11.00** Coffee break
- 11.15** Inequalities in Youth Development: Social Origin, Developmental Tasks, and Socio-Political Attitudes in Switzerland.
• Prof. Dr. Andreas Hadjar
• Prof. Dr. Dirk Baier
University of Fribourg, Switzerland & Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- 12.00** Public Online Space and Gift Economy.
• Prof. em. Mag. Dr. phil. Marc Ries
University of Luxembourg
- 12.45** Lunch break
- 15.00** Transforming Education Through Technology: How Blockchain and Tokenization of Identity Capital Can Shift the Paradigm of Learning for Youth.
• Dr. Igor Dunayev
V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine
- 15.45** Digitization of World War II and Holocaust Remembrance in the Context of the Russo-Ukrainian War.
• Prof. Dr. Hedwig Wagner
Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany
- 16.30** The Politics of Enjoyment and the Crisis of Deliberative Democracy.
• Assistant Prof. Oliver Kohns
University of Luxembourg

Section 5

Gaming versus Explaining? The Future of Political Education



Chair: Prof. Dr. Pedro Cardoso Leite, Associate professor in Cognitive Science and Assessment

- 09.30** Learning history through serious games - The example of „The Migrants’ Chronicles: 1892“
• Dr. Johannes Pause
• Marie-Paule Jungblut
University of Luxembourg
- 10.15** Empowering Play: Bridging Technology and Democratic Engagement.
• Irena Medina Sanchez Vilar
Fundación Cibervoluntarios, Spain
- 11.00** Coffee break
- 11.15** Gamifying Political Education: Bridging the Digital Divide.
• Prof. Dr. Andreas Hadjar
• Dr. Juliette Torabian
University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- 12.00** Holographic Historical Personalities as Democracy Teachers: Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality as Catalysts for Civic Education.
• Dr. Cringuta Pelea
Titu Maiorescu University, University of Bucharest, Romania
- 12.45** Lunch break
- 15.00** Civic Participation in the Era of Gamification and New Technologies.
• Chenet Marie Joseph Vérane
University of Luxembourg
- 15.45** School Mock Elections in the Early Digital Age: Teaching Parliamentary Democracy in 1980s-90s Britain.
• Dr. Helen Sunderland
University of Oxford, UK

Section 6

Cultures of Democracy: Political Narratives and Forms of Representation



Chair: Matjaž Gruden, Director for Democracy at the Council of Europe

09.30 Digital Democracy and Cultural Narratives: Navigating Nationalism and Representation in the Digital Age.

• Pedro Abrantes Martins
Paraná State Court of Appeals, Brazil

10.15 Web Literary Criticism and Digital Literacy: On the Fundamentals of Political Ethics in the Digital Society.

• Prof. Dr. Thomas Ernst
University of Antwerp, Belgium

11.00 Coffee break

11.15 Education for Democracy: From Communitarian Participation to Public Discourse Participation.

- Dr. Jean-Marie Weber
University of Luxembourg
- Christiane Meyers
University of Luxembourg
- Andreas Vuori
SNJ

12.00 The Crisis of Liberal Democracies.

• Dr. Harry Lehmann
University of Luxembourg

12.45 Lunch break

15.00 Digital Diplomacy in Wartime: Narrative Framing of Sexual Violence in the War in Ukraine.

- Valeria Găvoază
- Prof. Dr. Miruna Butnaru Troncotă

SNSPA Bucharest, Romania

15.45 What role do AI and disinformation play in BEE SECURE's working practices?

• Dr. rer. nat. Debora Plein
BEE SECURE/SNJ, Luxembourg

16.30 'I Believe That Democracy Is Connected to Citizenship'. Young Danes and Informed, Democratic Citizenship.

- Associate Prof. Dr. Gitte Bang Stald
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Notes

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