

# CALL FOR PAPERS

"Privacy 2.0 – interdisciplinary perspectives on privacy in the digital age"  
Scientific conference of the doctoral students of the  
Hans Böckler Foundation

April 6–8, 2022, Dresden



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In a digitalised Covid-19 age, the protective barriers between state and economy on the one hand and a society of individuals on the other are threatening to come further apart at the seams. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the categories 'public' and 'private' are subject to a socially conditioned process of change and mutual influence. Both spheres are deeply affected by this because the permanent presence and everyday use of digital technologies for work, consumption and surveillance influence both the democratic public sphere and individual privacy. What is still 'private' when social media, service and entertainment programs from Amazon, Google, Netflix and co. permeate our own four walls and when computers and smartphones blur the boundaries between work and private life? A critical attitude toward the digitalisation of all areas of life reveals that it is ostensibly accompanied by optimisation and a sense of relief but that, behind the scenes, it is based on immense data collection and surveillance structures that subtly undermine the individual's supposedly autonomous ability to act. For example, common processes in digital spheres often use sensitive data in the form of complex data processing mechanisms, pass them on to third parties and thus commercialise our personal information – a threatening development for privacy.

Last but not least, the pandemic-related state of emergency evokes risk policies that restrict fundamental rights and cause socio-psychological upheavals but also leads us further in the direction of digital and media mobilisation. This transformation process, which is open-ended, is completely readjusting the fragile inter-relationship between state and society, the public and the private. For example, profit-oriented private companies are confronted with data protection guidelines at federal level and in Europe, the stringency of which emphasises the necessary role of the state. States, on the other hand, justify the use of video surveillance and facial recognition systems, state Trojans and database comparisons by saying that they want to combat the dangers posed by terrorism and crime. The associated control options structure the social order and operate along the lines of nuanced behavioural control. This affects almost all areas including the system and the living world, the working and the private spheres, state and society. Insofar as society does not accept the dystopian prognosis of a post-privacy era based on a lack of privacy and data protection regulations, far-reaching questions about the design of a balanced relationship between informational self-determination and a surveillance-based security system appear more topical than ever.

What might such a balanced relationship look like? How decisive in this context is the impact of the newly established work platforms and models resulting from digital structural change and the potential delimiting flexibilisation of our professional and private spheres? In what way do trade union efforts towards data protection, economic and labour law come into tension with this new world? We would like to discuss these and other questions at the annual conference of the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, to be held in April 6–8, 2022 in cooperation with the Center for Open Digital Innovation and Participation (CODIP), Technische Universität Dresden.

With this in mind, we would like to attract contributions from different disciplines which tie in with the thematic range of privacy. The conference is primarily intended to be an interdisciplinary platform for doctoral students across all funding organisations aimed at the promotion of young talent and young academics from all disciplines who are conducting research on the topic of privacy and surveillance and the problems arising from it. We cordially invite these groups of people from Germany and abroad to participate with a contribution that opens up the discussion. Submissions on empirical and theoretical work are welcome. Presenters will be allowed twenty minutes plus a further ten minutes for discussion. Proposals for papers should be submitted in the form of abstracts (max. 500 words) with a short CV by 17 February 2022.

**Keynotes:**

Prof. Dr. iur. Tobias Keber, Professur für Medienrecht und Medienpolitik in der digitalen Gesellschaft, Hochschule der Medien (HdM) Stuttgart

Priv.-Doz. Dr. Janne Mende, Forschungsgruppenleiterin am Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht, Heidelberg

Dr. Paula Helm, Internationales Zentrum für Ethik in den Wissenschaften (IZEW), Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

**Submissions should include the following aspects:**

- Title of the paper
- Epistemic interest and research questions
- Socio-political relevance
- Brief CV and scientific discipline

We are looking forward to a lively and critical participation of all young scientists interested in the range of topics covered by the conference. The conference venue will be the Technische Sammlung, Dresden. Notification of acceptance of papers will be made at the end of February. A conference fee will not be charged. Accommodation and catering costs will be covered by the Hans Böckler Foundation. Travel costs will also be covered for Hans-Böckler-Stiftung doctoral students. Questions are welcome at [WT2022@boeckler.de](mailto:WT2022@boeckler.de)