International Online-Conference on

"Digital Fragmentations and Digital Sovereignty"

17 & 18 September 2021

This conference addresses the intricate interplay between digital sovereignty and fragmentations of Cyberspace and Internet governance. Recent developments show a significant increase in national regulations enacted to localize data, protect critical infrastructures, and control or censor online content as many states claim digital sovereignty over cyberspace. Experts warn of "Cyber-Balkanization" as a great challenge not only to institutions of global internet governance but also as threatening future interoperability of digital technologies. However, the meanings and implications of a growing multitude of digital fragmentations goes beyond concerns with the integrity of the global internet and regulatory governance. The growing worldwide prominence of digital sovereignty, which first began in China, indicates that the fundamental question of autonomy of societies, countries and individuals is attached with a new urgency and an unnerving drive for destabilization. Arguably, though, in an extremely interdependent technological civilization that is rendered even more interdependent by layers of digital infrastructures and algorithmic systems, not all implications of fragmentations are negative or destructive. Some forms of digital fragmentation maybe seen as a healthy correction, or at least in a neutral light with both negative and positive interpretations possible.

Raising topics such as Digital Connectivity, Internet Regulation, Data Infrastructure, Data Localization, Cyber Security, Polarization, Surveillance Capitalism, among other issues, the contributors to this volume explore a broader diversity of perspectives and contexts than usually discussed within popular and academic discourses on digital sovereignty and tech autonomy. Contributors offer fresh interpretations, theorizations and a set of practical examples of internet fragmentation trends – their political manifestations apparent in various policy fields such as technopolitics, international trade, European Law, data protection and bilateral relations.

Friday, 17th September 2021

14:00-19:00 PM (CEST) / 20:00PM-01:00 AM (Beijing Time) / 08:00AM-13:00 PM (EDT)

– Online –

Greetings 14:00 – 14:05 PM	**Prof. Dr. Thomas Dohmen**, *Speaker of the Transdisciplinary Research Area "Individuals, Institutions and Societies" of the University of Bonn*
Keynote 14:05 – 14:35 PM	**Prof. Dr. Milton L. Mueller**, *Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Public Policy* "Against digital Sovereignty? Cyber-Fragmentation and the contested future of cyberspace"
Discussion 14:35 – 14:50 PM	**Moderator:** **Prof. Dr. Maximilian Mayer**, *University of Bonn*

Panel 1: Digital Sovereignty and Varieties of Internet Regulation

Moderator: Dr. Ying Huang, *University of Bonn*

14:50 – 16:10 PM

Prof. Dr. Philipp Staab, *Humboldt University of Berlin*
"Technopolitics of AI made in Europe"

Prof. Dr. Yu Hong, *Zhejiang University*
"China's Globalizing Internet: Towards future politics of the cybersphere"

Dr. Lloyd G. Adu Amoah, *University of Ghana*
"Africa, Power and Global Internet Governance: A Ghanaian Perspective"

Prof. Dr. David Tyfield, *Lancaster University*
"Does the vision of a global, open Internet and state's digital sovereignty contradict each other?"

Dr. jur. Katharina Kaesling, *University of Bonn*
"EU Private International Law and Digital Sovereignty: Data Protection, AI and Underlying EU Policies"

Open Discussion
16:10 – 16:45 PM

Break
16:45 – 17:05 PM

Panel 2: Data Infrastructure, Data Localization, Cyber Security

Moderator: Denise Feldner, *Bridgehead Advisors*

17:05 – 18:25 PM

Prof. Dr. Yik-Chan Chin, *Beijing Normal University*
"A Comparative analysis of data sovereignty policies in China and the EU"

Dr. Sven Herpig, *Stiftung Neue Verantwortung*
"Cybersecurity and Digital Sovereignty"

Dr. Mischa Hansel, Dr. Jantje Silomon and **Emilia Neuber**,
IFSH in Hamburg
"Cybersecurity as a Global Public Good: Revisiting the Internet
Fragmentation Debate"

Dr. Scott Robbins, *University of Bonn*
"Data Localization. A bad solution to the urgent problem of re-gaining
digital sovereignty"

Yasmin Al-Douri, *TUM School of Governance*
"(Defect) Democracies in the Digital Age: Does Surveillance Capitalism
push Democracies to Digital Authoritarianism?"

Open Discussion
18:25 – 19:00 PM

Saturday, 18th September 2021

13:00-17:10 PM (CEST) / 19:00-23:10 PM (Beijing Time) / 07:00AM-11:10 AM (EDT)

– Online –

Panel 3: Territorializing and Securitizing Digital Applications

Moderator: Nicolas Huppenbauer, *University of Bonn*

13:00 – 14:05 PM   **Jasmin Haunschild** and **Prof. Dr. Christian Reuter**,
Technical University of Darmstadt
"De-Securitizing Critical Infrastructure with Volunteer Cyber Forces"

Prof. Dr. Iris Eisenberger, *University of Graz*
"Sovereignty through Digital Applications? The Example of Blockchain
Technology"

Dr. Daniel Lambach, *Goethe University Frankfurt*
"Don't Panic! Digital Sovereignty and the Everyday Fragmentation of
the Internet"

Dr. Laura C. Mahrenbach, *Technical University of Munich* and
Prof. Dr. Maximilian Mayer, *University of Bonn*
"Digital Polarity Theory"

Open Discussion
14:05 – 14:40 PM

Break
14:40 – 15:00 PM

Panel 4: Fragmentations of Global Internet Governance

Moderator: Dr. Mischa Hansel, *IFSH in Hamburg*

15:00 – 16:20 PM

Prof. Dr. Cuihong Cai, *Fudan University*
"The Fragmentation of Global Internet Governance: Features and Underlying Causes"

Dr. William J. Drake, *Columbia University*
"Internet Fragmentation and the Global Governance of Digital Trade"

Yen-Chi Lu, *University of Bonn*
"Results from the 2020 digital fragmentation index: emerging pattern within the landscape of data regulations"

Prof. Dr. Josephine Wolff, *The Fletcher School of Tufts University*
"The Broadening Scope of Digital Sovereignty: When National Laws Have Global Impact"

Dr. Graham Webster and **Katharin Tai**, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*
"The United States and China: Technology, Connectivity and Interdependence"

Open Discussion
16:20 – 16:55 PM

Closing Remarks
16:55– 17:10 PM

Zoom-Link:
https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/91330862334?pwd=Y3o0VzdBV2U3OFQzbnFWOThlOU5pZz09

Meeting ID: 913 3086 2334
Passcode: 469333

Contact: yhuang@uni-bonn.de