

Reorienting International Economic Law for the Digital Economy: From Addressing the Digital Divide to Enabling Digital Development?

Organizers



Sponsors



Industrial Policy for Digital Development (IPDD) Project
Digitalization, Sustainability and National Security in the New Geoeconomic Order
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Conference description

This two-day conference will critically examine the evolving role of International Economic Law in the digital era, exploring whether it serves as an obstacle or enabler of digital development. Speakers will address topics such as the making and remaking of international economic law in the digital economy, the role of middle powers in the digital geoeconomic competition, and alternative approaches to bridging the digital divide.

Conference days

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Conference venue

Minaretein Building, Education City, Doha, Qatar – <https://venues.hbku.edu.qa/>

Conference website

For more information, please visit here: <https://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/CL-RIELDE?tab=home>

Registration

Please email Ms. Sandhya Monis, Graduate Programs & Special Events Coordinator, HBKU College of Law, at smonis@hbku.edu.qa

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Registration

8.30am – 9.00am

Welcome and Introduction to the Conference

9.00am – 9.15am

- **Susan Karamanian**, Dean, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Law
- **Mélida Hodgson**, Partner, Arnold & Porter and President, American Society of International Law (ASIL)
- **Georgios Dimitropoulos**, Associate Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research, HBKU College of Law
- **Neha Mishra**, Assistant Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute

Keynote Speech – *The Transnational Legal Ordering of Digital Economies: Opportunities and Constraints for a Development Focus*

9.15am – 10.00am

Gregory Shaffer, Scott K. Ginsburg Professor of International Law, Georgetown University Law Center

Chair: **Umar Azmeh**, Registrar, Qatar International Court & Dispute Resolution Centre

Panel 1 – *International Economic Law and Digital Development: From an Obstacle to an Enabler?*

10.00am – 11.00am

Chair: **Mélida Hodgson**, Partner, Arnold & Porter and President, ASIL

- **Neha Mishra**, Assistant Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute, *Enabling Digital Development in International Economic Law: Can a Human Rights Perspective Help?*
- **Rodrigo Polanco**, Senior Researcher and Lecturer, World Trade Institute Bern, *International Investment Law: a Constraint, an Enabler, or Irrelevant to Overcome the Digital Divide?*
- **Irma Mosquera Valderrama**, Full Professor Tax Governance, Leiden Law School, *International Tax Law, Digital Divides and Digital Development*

Coffee break

11.00am – 11.30am

Panel 2 – The Making and Re-Making of International Economic Law for Digital Development: Global and Regional Perspectives

11.30 am – 12.30pm

Chair: **Gregory Shaffer**, Scott K. Ginsburg Professor of International Law, Georgetown University Law Center

- **Mira Burri**, Professor of International Economic and Internet Law, Faculty of Law, University of Lucerne, *Regionalization and the Prospect of Economic Development*
- **Georgios Dimitropoulos**, Associate Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research & **Sehrish Javid**, S.J.D. Candidate and Fellow at the IPDD Project, HBKU College of Law, *Industrial Policymaking, New Economic Agreements and Digital Development*
- **Kehinde Olaoye**, Assistant Professor of Law, HBKU College of Law, *The Implications of the Competition between the United States and China on the Process of Digitalization in Africa: An International Law Perspective*

Lunch Break

12.30pm – 1.45pm

Panel 3 – The Making and Re-Making of International Economic Law in the Digital Economy: The Role of Emerging Powers

1.45pm – 2.45pm

Chair: **Clinton W. Francis**, Professor of Law, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law & Visiting Professor of Law, HBKU College of Law

- **Arindrajit Basu**, PhD Candidate, Leiden University and Member, Digital Democracy Network, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Emerging Powers and the Shaping of International Economic Law for Digital Development*
- **Raymond Gao**, Assistant Professor, Macau University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Law, *The Role of China in Shaping and Re-Shaping Digital Economic Law and Digital Economic Relations*
- **Han-Wei Liu**, Associate Professor of Law, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University & **Ching-Fu Lin**, Professor of Law, National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), *Supply Chain Control and the Digital Economy: The Roles of Emerging Economies in Shaping Global Semiconductor Governance*

Roundtable: Middle Powers in the Digital Geoeconomic Competition

2.45pm – 4.15pm

Chair: **Georgios Dimitropoulos**, Associate Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research, HBKU College of Law

- **Ahmed Al-Sulaiti**, Director, Office of the State of Qatar to the WTO, WIPO and

UNCTAD

- **Ahmet Aysan**, Professor of Islamic Finance and Associate Dean for Research, HBKU College of Islamic Studies
- **Amine Bermak**, Professor and Associate Dean, HBKU College of Science and Engineering
- **Ching-Fu Lin**, Professor of Law, National Tsing Hua University (NTHU)
- **June Park**, Senior Research Fellow, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore
- **Steven Wright**, Associate Professor of International Relations and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, HBKU College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Registration

8.30am – 9.00am

Panel 4: *New Digital Frontiers: Obstacles and Prospects for Economic Development*

9.00am – 10.15am

Chair: **Neha Mishra**, Assistant Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute

- **George Mikros**, Professor of Digital Humanities, HBKU College of Humanities and Social Sciences, *Socioeconomic Impacts and Opportunities for Digital Development with the use of Generative AI*
- **Kim Moloney**, Associate Professor, HBKU College of Public Policy, *Quantum Computing Divides in Asia*
- **Emmanouil Chatzikonstantinou**, Assistant Professor of International Economics, Georgetown University in Qatar, *Global Value Chains, Digital Development and Developing Countries*
- **Dalal Aassouli**, Assistant Professor of Islamic Finance, HBKU College of Islamic Studies, *Digital Transformation Strategies in the Financial Sector: An Assessment Framework*

Panel 5: *Digital Development in International Economic Law: A Rule or an Exception?*

10.15am – 11.30am

Chair: **Luigia Ingianni**, Commissioner, Employment Standards Office, Qatar Financial Centre Authority & Adjunct Professor, HBKU College of Law

- **Alexandros Bakos**, Post Doctoral Fellow, HBKU College of Law, *Digital Security as National Security: Not so Exceptional After All*
- **Hamoudah Al-Zaini**, Head of Compliance, Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA)

and S.J.D. Candidate, HBKU College of Law, *Servicification, International Trade Law and the Prospect of Digital Development*

- **Safaa Jaber**, S.J.D. Candidate, HBKU College of Law, *The Role of International Organizations in Digital Development*
- **Amna Zaman**, S.J.D. Candidate and Fellow at the IPDD Project, HBKU College of Law, HBKU College of Law, *Digitalization-Sustainability Nexus in the New Economic Internationalism: Prospects for Developing Countries*

Coffee break

11.30 am – 11.45pm

General Discussion and Conclusions

11.45am – 12.30pm

Chair: **Susan Karamanian**, Dean, HBKU College of Law

- **Mira Burri**, Professor of International Economic and Internet Law, Faculty of Law, University of Lucerne
- **Irma Mosquera Valderrama**, Full Professor Tax Governance, Leiden Law School
- **Neha Mishra**, Assistant Professor of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute
- **Georgios Dimitropoulos**, Associate Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research, HBKU College of Law

Lunch

12.30pm – 1.30pm

End of Conference