

Balancing privacy and transparency: to protect online freedom of expression and freedom of information

Tuesday 10 November, 11:00-12:00, Workshop room 7

- **Session Description**

The Session seeks to stimulate debate on how to balance privacy and transparency in the context of protecting online freedom of expression. Free expression includes freedom of information, which in turn has a bearing on the issue of transparency – which is often a condition for the public to access particular information. Transparency in turn, however, articulates directly with privacy in regard to the collection, storage, analysis and sharing of personal data. This is particularly relevant to the digital age, and is a different issue to the historical focus on transparency as applied to governments and corporations as an antidote to corruption.

UNESCO takes this opportunity to present the major research findings it has commissioned on the subject, and invites experts and diverse stakeholders to exchange views and good practices on how to find an appropriate reconciliation between the right of individuals to privacy versus public interests in transparency. This study has also been prepared as a contribution to UNESCO's comprehensive study titled "Keystones to Foster Inclusive Knowledge Societies: Access to information and knowledge, Freedom of Expression, Privacy and Ethics on a Global Internet as mandated by Resolution 37 of the UNESCO General Conference.

Firstly, the session will examine those national regimes on data protection which place conditions on the collection, use and storage of personal data and are directly relevant to the protection of privacy on the Internet.

Secondly, the session will also address the new challenges that in the digital age, the traditional way of applying FOI laws to public data and data protection laws to personal data need to be updated as a vast mixture of both personal and public data is collected, stored, processed and shared via the Internet, with the border between the public and private domains being blurred.

The Session will eventually develop policy recommendations on how to ensure sufficient safeguards in the online environment so as to ensure a balance of privacy and transparency as a dimension of the right to information.

- **Name of the organizer(s) of the session:**

University of Groningen (Commissioned Researcher of UNESCO research), Transparency International, OHCHR, Council of Europe, Google, ISOC

- **Names and affiliations of the panelists**

Chair: Xianhong Hu, UNESCO

Remote Moderator and Rapporteur: Guilherme Canela De Souza Godoi, UNESCO

Presentation of the research: Professor Joe Cannataci, UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Privacy

Panellists:

Joseph Cannataci, UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Privacy

Danilo Doneda, Advisor to the Consumer Office of the Ministry of Justice, Brazil

Lyad Kallas, Co-founder, Radio Souriali, Syria

Pedro Less Andrade, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy for Latin America, Google

Danny O'Brien, Co-founder, Open Rights Group

Carolina Rossini, Vice President, International Policy, Public Knowledge

- **Agenda**

10:45 Preparation meeting with panelists, 15 mins before the session	
11:00 Opening remarks from the Chair	
11:05 Presentation on research by Professor Canataci	
11:15 Remarks by panelists	
3'	Danilo Doneda, Advisor to the Consumer Office of the Ministry of Justice, Brazil
3'	Lyad Kallas, Co-founder, Radio Souriali, Syria
3'	Pedro Less Andrade, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy for Latin America, Google
3'	Danny O'Brien, Co-founder, Open Rights Group
3'	Carolina Rossini, Vice President, International Policy, Public Knowledge
11:30 Open floor to other stakeholders at present	
30'	Q&A
12:00 Closing	