

Public International Law Conference

Empowering Through Digital Technologies

Speakers, Moderators, and Presenters Profiles

WELCOME REMARKS AND PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS



Dr. Elena Pribytkova

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Dr. Elena Pribytkova received a Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) degree from Columbia Law School and is a Habilitation candidate at the Faculty of Law of the University of Basel. Her main research areas are Human Rights Law, Public International Law, Digital Technologies, Environmental Law, Sustainable Development, Comparative Law, and Legal and Political Philosophy. In particular, she focuses on the role of international law and human rights in reducing poverty and inequality as well as in promoting social, global, digital, and environmental (including climate) justice and sustainable development. Elena has held various research and teaching appointments at leading universities and research institutes all over the world, including Columbia Law School, New York University School of Law, University of Oxford, European University Institute, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg University, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, University of Basel, University of Michigan Law School, and National University of Singapore.

PANEL 1: HOW INTERNATIONAL LAW SHOULD REGULATE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES?



Mr. Benjamin Ang (Moderator)

Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security and Head of Digital Impact Research at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Mr. Benjamin Ang is a Senior Fellow at RSIS, where he heads the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), Future Issues in Technology (FIT), and Digital Impact Research (DIR). He leads work on cyber and national security, hybrid threats, social resilience, and the policy implications of AI, space, quantum, smart cities, and biotechnology. He has testified at the UN Open-Ended Working Group on cyber issues and before Singapore's Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods, and lectures at the UN–Singapore Cyber Fellowship. A former litigator, technology lawyer, IT director, and lecturer, he holds an LL.B. (NUS) and MBA/MS-MIS (Boston University). He is Co-Chief Data Officer at AI Singapore and serves on the Internet Society Singapore Chapter's Executive Committee.



Mr. Tony Oweke

Multilateral Negotiator on AI at the United Nations and Advisor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

Mr. Tony Oweke is a diplomat at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, where he serves as a negotiator for the Group of 77 and China (134 countries) on artificial intelligence. In the Global Digital Compact process, he championed the International Independent Scientific Panel on AI and the AI Governance Dialogue, and is currently negotiating G77 positions on their structure, mandate, and functions through the modalities resolution. Beyond digital policy, Mr. Oweke has chaired negotiations on UN macroeconomic resolutions and Executive Board decisions, represents Kenya in the Second Committee, and advances governance reforms across multiple UN agencies' boards. Strengthening institutional accountability, strategic oversight, and cross-regional collaboration for sustainable development.



H.E. Anita Ashvini Wahid

Indonesian Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

H.E. Anita Ashvini Wahid is Indonesia's Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) for 2025–2027. A human rights and digital-democracy advocate, she focuses on countering disinformation, strengthening civic resilience, and advancing inclusive governance. Within AICHR, she contributes to regional dialogues on conflict prevention, the right to peace, and victim protection in trafficking. She is also an Australia Awards scholar pursuing a PhD at the Australian National University. She has served as Chair of the Democracy & Human Rights Desk at Jaringan GusDurian and as a member of TikTok Asia Pacific's Safety Advisory Council.



Mr. Dimitri Gugunava

Head of Digital Governance and Cyber Security Strategic Planning and Analytical Unit, LEPL Digital Governance Agency Ministry of Justice of Georgia; Head of the Georgian Delegation in the Committee on Artificial Intelligence of the Council of Europe

Mr. Dimitri Gugunava is Head of the Digital Governance and Cybersecurity Strategic Planning and Analytical Unit at Georgia's LEPL Digital Governance Agency with more than fifteen years of public service experience in digital governance cybersecurity and personal data protection. Internationally he leads the Georgian delegation to the Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence since March 2022 and has served as a member of the Committee Bureau since September 2024 and he was elected co-chair of the Georgian Cybersecurity Public-Private Partnership in 2023 and again in 2024. He is also active in international work on artificial intelligence and cybersecurity governance advancing collaborative rights respecting and ethics informed digital policy. Beyond government service he teaches personal data protection law as a visiting lecturer at several universities in Tbilisi and has published several papers on digital governance, cybersecurity and privacy. He holds an LLB and an LLM from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Faculty of Law and is currently pursuing a PhD.



Prof. Başak Çalı

Head of Research, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford

Professor Başak Çalı is Head of Research and Professor of International Law at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford, and is affiliated with Mansfield College and the Law Faculty. Previously a professor of international law and founding director of the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School in Berlin, she also holds a permanent visiting professorship at the University of Copenhagen's I-Courts and is a fellow of the University of Essex Human Rights Centre. Her work spans the authority of international law, standards of review, and European, UN and comparative human rights law; she co-founded the European Implementation Network and has served as an expert and practitioner on the European Convention on Human Rights.

PANEL 2: HOW TO ENSURE INCLUSIVENESS IN THE DIGITAL CONTEXT?



Prof. Jason Allen Grant (Moderator)

Associate Professor of Law, SMU Centre for Digital Law

Dr. Jason Grant Allen is an Associate Professor of Law at Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law and Director of the SMU Centre for Digital Law. Jason studied at the University of Tasmania, Universität Augsburg, and University of Cambridge and was a Humboldt Foundation post-doctoral fellow at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Jason has published widely in the area of emerging technology law and regulation. He has an enduring interest in the intersections of law, economics, and technology, and his research combines public law and private law theory lenses with a growing interest in political economy.



Mr. Robert Opp

Chief Digital Officer and Director of the Digital, AI and Innovation Hub, United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Robert Opp is the Chief Digital Officer and Director of the Digital, AI and Innovation Hub at the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations' global sustainable development organization working across 170 countries globally. Under his leadership, the Digital, AI & Innovation (DAI) Hub brings together UNDP's cutting-edge capabilities across digital, data, AI, bottoms-up innovation, and systems transformation to improve the lives of those furthest behind. Through this integrated approach, UNDP is able to drive dynamic and agile transformation at scale, helping to deliver both immediate solutions as well as long-term systems change in countries. Central to the Hub's work is UNDP's second Digital Strategy, which sets out a vision to create a world in which digital is an empowering force for people and planet. Rob leads the agency's digital transformation, an organization-wide effort, to harness the power of new technologies and data. Prior to this role, Robert served as Director of the Innovation and Change Management Division within the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) where he established an in-house 'Zero Hunger' innovation accelerator and created an award-winning crowdfunding smartphone app, ShareTheMeal.



Ms. Helen Magata

Executive Director, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), Philippines

Ms. Helen Biangalen-Magata is Executive Director of Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) in the Philippines. A member of the Kadaclan people of Paracelis, Mountain Province, she has dedicated 15 years to Tebtebba's work at the intersection of Indigenous peoples' rights, climate change, community development, and climate finance. She previously coordinated the Climate and Biodiversity Programme, where her leadership helped secure the adoption of the Green Climate Fund's Indigenous Peoples Policy. As Executive Director, she advances research, education, and strategic advocacy to embed Indigenous rights in global climate finance and policy processes. She holds a master's degree in development communication from the University of the Philippines Open University.



Prof. Rangita de Silva de Alwis

Member of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law and Global Leadership at University of Pennsylvania Law School

Professor Rangita de Silva de Alwis is the Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law and Global Leadership at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Wharton Business School. She is the Hillary Rodham Clinton Global Fellow at Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security, visiting faculty at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Senior Fellow at the Center for the Legal Profession at Harvard Law School. She is an expert on the UN treaty body to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Co-Chair of the WPS Agenda where she drafted the new international framework on Women Peace and Security and is the Chair of the Individual Complaints. She is also the Gender Adviser to the President of the UN General Assembly and Vice Chair of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute. She has been a Visiting Fellow at Oxford and Leader in Practice at Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Women in Public Policy Program. She has published widely in leading law journals including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Penn, Chicago, Berkeley, Duke, NYU, Michigan, Virginia, and UCLA. Her casebook on Global Gender Justice: A Commentary will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2026.



Dr. Elena Pribytkova

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Dr. Elena Pribytkova received a Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) degree from Columbia Law School and is a Habilitation candidate at the Faculty of Law of the University of Basel. Her main research areas are Human Rights Law, Public International Law, Digital Technologies, Environmental Law, Sustainable Development, Comparative Law, and Legal and Political Philosophy. In particular, she focuses on the role of international law and human rights in reducing poverty and inequality as well as in promoting social, global, digital, and environmental (including climate) justice and sustainable development. Elena has held various research and teaching appointments at leading universities and research institutes all over the world, including Columbia Law School, New York University School of Law, University of Oxford, European University Institute, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg University, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, University of Basel, University of Michigan Law School, and National University of Singapore.

PANEL 3: FROM DISABLING TO EMPOWERING (SPECIAL ISSUES)



Ms. Celine Lange (Moderator)

Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Ms. Celine Lange is leading the development of the International Dispute Resolution programme at CIL. She graduated in 2019 with a LLM from the National University of Singapore, where she specialised in International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution. Celine also holds a Master's Degree in Law from Strasbourg University, France, specialising in International Human Rights Law, and a Master's Degree from the Paris Institute of Political Studies (IEP Paris). Prior to joining CIL, Celine worked in private practice, at the Arbitration Chambers Singapore, and previously at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Celine has lived in New York as well, where she worked at Columbia University Law School to assist a Professor of Human and Constitutional Rights.



Dr. Mikiko Otani

Member of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists International Commission of Jurists; Former Chair of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child; President of Child Rights Connect

Dr. Mikiko Otani is a former Chair of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child. She is an international human rights lawyer and a practicing lawyer of family law in Japan since 1990, with a focus on women's and children's rights. Dr. Otani is currently President of Child Rights Connect, a Geneva-based global network of child rights civil society organizations. She is also a Commissioner and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists, a member of the Executive Committee of the Asian Society of International Law. She holds a Bachelor of Law in international legal studies from Sophia University in Tokyo, a Master of International and Public Affairs in human rights and humanitarian affairs from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs in New York, a Master of Law in public international law from University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Law and Politics in Tokyo, and Doctor of Law in public international law from Aoyama Gakuin University, Graduate School of Law in Tokyo. For the academic year 2023-2024, Ms. Otani was a visiting professor at Leiden University Law School, as the Chair in Enforcement of Children's Rights.



Prof. Sun Sun Lim

Vice President (Partnerships and Engagement), Lee Kong Chian Professor of Communication & Technology, Singapore Management University

Professor Sun Sun Lim is Vice President (Partnerships & Engagement) and Lee Kong Chian Professor of Communication and Technology at Singapore Management University's College of Integrative Studies. Her research examines the social impact of technology, spanning technology domestication in families, the future of work, and AI ethics and data governance and she has authored over 100 publications, including *Digital Parenting Burdens* (2024) and *Transcendent Parenting* (2020). A Fellow of the International Communication Association and the Singapore Computer Society, she serves on Singapore's Media Literacy Council, the Skills Future Research Advisory Panel, and the Singapore Environment Council, and previously served as a Nominated Member of Parliament (2018–2020). Recognised among the 2024 Top 50 Asia Women Tech Leaders and the 2020 Singapore 100 Women in Tech, she is also a regular commentator in international media and writes a monthly technology column in *The Straits Times*.



Prof. Surya Deva

U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development; Professor at Macquarie Law School, Australia

Professor Surya Deva is Professor at the Macquarie Law School and Director of Macquarie University's Environmental Law Research Centre. He is also the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development. He is an internationally recognised scholar in the field of business and human rights and he is a former member of the U.N. Working Group on Business and Human Rights (2016-22). Deva researches in the areas of business and human rights, comparative constitutional law, international human rights law, sustainable development, climate change, and gender equality. He is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the *Business and Human Rights Law Journal* and is an elected Vice President of the International Association of Constitutional Law (2022-26).



Dr. Jon Truby

Lead AI & Technology Law, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Professor Jon Truby is Visiting Research Associate Professor in AI & Technology Law at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, where he leads research on AI law, sustainability, and the application of AI governance to the SDGs; he chairs the International Law Association's Committee on AI & Technology Law and serves as a participating expert to the OECD.AI Expert Group on AI Compute and Climate. Previously Director of the Centre for Law and Development at Qatar University, he has been an Academic Visitor at Oxford's Institute for Ethics in AI and a Visiting Fellow at Newcastle University Law School. He holds a PhD and an LLB (First Class) from Newcastle Law School and practiced in a top global law firm in London before academia.

PANEL 4: GOOD PRACTICES OF EMPOWERING



Dr. Samuel White (Moderator)

Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

Dr. Samuel White is Senior Research Fellow in Peace and Security at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. A scholar-practitioner of military and public law, he is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, an Editor of West Point's Articles of War and the Adelaide Law Review, and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian Defence Force Academy (2023–2025) and the Australian War Memorial (2024–2027). His military service spans the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and the Australian Army Legal Corps, with postings from platoon command to strategic legal roles. His doctorate examined constitutional limits on military responses to foreign interference. He authored *Keeping the Peace of the Realm* (LexisNexis, 2021), edits *The Laws of Yesterday's Wars* (Brill Nijhoff), and is admitted in Australia and New Zealand.



Dr Zeynab Malakouti (Moderator)

Visiting Researcher, National University of Singapore

Dr. Zeynab Malakouti is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore. She completed her postdoctoral research on Energy Law and Policy at the University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour, CNRS, France. She previously served as Assistant Professor and Director of the Human Rights Department at the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Peace, and Democracy in Iran. She holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Leeds, UK, and an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Reading, UK.



Ms. Yu Ping Chan

Head, Digital Partnerships and Engagement at United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Yu-Ping Chan is Head of Digital Partnerships and Engagement at UNDP's Digital, AI and Innovation Hub, driving global partnerships and thought leadership on digital development. She previously led the Rising Nations Initiative Secretariat at the Global Center for Climate Mobility, and earlier headed the Office of the U.N. Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology after roles in UNOCT, the UN's Department of Political Affairs, and UNODC; before joining the U.N. Secretariat, she served in Singapore's Foreign Service. She holds a BA (magna cum laude) from Harvard and an MPA from Columbia SIPA.



Mr. Kishore Babu G.S.C. Yerraballa

Area Representative, Southeast Asia & other Member States in Asia and the Pacific, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Kishore Babu Yerraballa joined ITU in 2023 as Area Representative, ITU Jakarta Office. He has led national and global initiatives in technology, policy, operations, and international relations in Indian Administration. He contributed to the development of ICTs in next generation technologies including 5G, Quantum, IoTs, and innovative solutions for socioeconomic verticals. He enabled the creation of a national platform for technology and innovation engagement with key stakeholders including technology companies, service providers, government, standards bodies, Centres of Excellence, and academia. He holds a master's degree in public policy and management from the Indian Institute of Management (IIMB-Bangalore), Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs (Syracuse, NY), and a bachelor's degree in electronics and communication engineering.



Mr. Gyan Prakash Tripathi

Strategic Advisor, Forum on Information & Democracy

Mr. Gyan Tripathi is an India-qualified lawyer and public policy researcher working at the intersection of AI governance, information integrity, and digital rights. He is a Strategic Advisor at the Forum on Information & Democracy and a member of the Advisory Board of NetMission.Asia. He holds an MA in Public Policy from the Central European University, Vienna. Gyan’s work focuses on the geopolitics of AI, platform and data governance, and the institutional design of democratic oversight over digital infrastructures. He has contributed to several high-impact policy reports and is a co-author of a new book, “Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy” published by Nordicom at the University of Gothenburg. Active in global Internet governance spaces, he serves as an Internet Society Youth Ambassador 2025 and frequently engages in multistakeholder forums on encryption, media freedom, and the governance of large platforms. Across these roles, he works to embed rights-centric, Global South perspectives into evolving AI and platform governance regimes.



Dr. Eric J.W. Orlowski

Research Fellow at AI Singapore, National University of Singapore

Dr. Eric J. W. Orlowski is an anthropologist and technologist serving as a policy-focused Research Fellow in AI Governance at AI Singapore, where he leads research on AI ethics and governance. His work examines the societal and cultural impacts of emerging technologies through a human-centric lens, with current projects on cultural alignment in AI models, mapping Singapore’s AI ecosystem, and reframing governance beyond risk management. He holds a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from University College London; his thesis – on techno-optimism and techno-utopianism in Sweden – was defended in September 2024 after 18 months of fieldwork. He is affiliated with NUS’s Centre for Computational Social Science and Humanities, is a vetted consultant to UNDP, an affiliated researcher at Uppsala University, and has collaborated with AI Sweden and Malaysia’s National AI Office through expert working groups on AI governance.



Mr. Hakim Norhashim

Research Assistant at AI Singapore, National University of Singapore

Mr. Hakim Norhashim is a Researcher at AI Singapore, where his work centres on AI governance and alignment. His research investigates how large language models reflect and engage with local cultural contexts, developing frameworks for cultural alignment that guide AI governance practices. He focuses on how such practices can be operationalised through both human-centred and technical measures, while accounting for the social contexts in which AI systems operate. His AIES 2024 paper, “Measuring Human-AI Value Alignment in Large Language Models”, introduces a novel metric for assessing how well models align with human values, taking into account the inherent non-determinism of LLMs.



Ms. Helen Magata

Executive Director, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education, Philippines)

Ms. Helen Biangalen-Magata is Executive Director of Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education) in the Philippines. A member of the Kadaclan people of Paracelis, Mountain Province, she has dedicated 15 years to Tebtebba’s work at the intersection of Indigenous peoples’ rights, climate change, community development, and climate finance. She previously coordinated the Climate and Biodiversity Programme, where her leadership helped secure the adoption of the Green Climate Fund’s Indigenous Peoples Policy. As Executive Director, she advances research, education, and strategic advocacy to embed Indigenous rights in global climate finance and policy processes. She holds a master’s degree in development communication from the University of the Philippines Open University.



Ms. Aizhan Kapysheva

Partnerships Analyst, United Nations Development Programme

Ms. Aizhan Kapysheva is a Partnerships Analyst at UNDP's Talent Development Unit, based in Copenhagen, Denmark. Previously, she spent five years with UNDP Kazakhstan, where she led innovation and digital programming within the governance portfolio. During this time, she managed interagency project implementation and stakeholder engagement for the award-winning Digital Family Card initiative. Before joining UNDP, Aizhan served as a Senior Policy Analyst at the UAE federal government's SDG Office, where she developed tools to assess international competitiveness reports and inform national social policy. She holds a Master of Public Administration in Development Practice from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (USA) and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan). Outside of work, Aizhan enjoys hiking, diving, and playing the piano.



Mr. Keith Detros

Program Manager, Tech for Good Institute, Singapore

Mr. Keith Detros is a programme lead at the Tech for Good Institute, where he works at the nexus of technology and public policy with a focus on the digital economy and cyber resilience. He brings nearly a decade of experience in government affairs, evidence-based policy research, and stakeholder engagement, and previously served as a Digital Economy Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. His recent work includes authoring "Towards a Resilient Cyberspace in Southeast Asia" and contributing commentary and talks across regional platforms.



Mr. Hong Sen Chia

Trainer and Consultant, Guide Dogs Singapore, Singapore

Mr. Hong Sen Chia is Trainer and Consultant in Guide Dogs Singapore. He has experience in conducting IT training for vision-impaired people since 2016. He also has experience in software development and accessibility design for web and mobile applications. He obtained his Bachelors of Science (Honours) in Management and Digital Innovation from the University of London, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, in 2019. He also holds a Diploma in Information Technology from Temasek Polytechnic.



Mr. Nahid Jubair

Deputy Director Programs, Digital Empowerment Foundation, India

Mr. Nahid Jubair Barbhuiya is an accomplished development professional from India with over 17 years of experience advancing digital inclusion, education, gender equity, and ICT for Development (ICT4D). As Deputy Director at the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), he leads strategic programs that harness technology to empower marginalized communities and promote sustainable livelihoods. Nahid has successfully collaborated with governments, corporations, and global development agencies to bridge the digital divide and strengthen community resilience. An alumnus of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois, USA, he integrates global perspectives with grassroots innovation to drive equitable digital transformation.