

News from the Information Society Project at Yale Law School

Information Society Project Newsletter -- Fall 2007

Upcoming Events

ISP Lunch Speaker Series, Yale Law School, Wednesdays 12:10pm-1:30pm

Following is the schedule for the fall 2007 ISP Lunch Speaker Series. Our guest speakers represent a diverse range of research related to the information society, including ethics and technology, artificial agents, ubiquitous computing, user-generated content, history of intellectual property of living organisms, race and bioscience, South African telecom policy, human rights and authorship norms, Internet censorship, and information ethics. Feel free to forward any suggestions for future speakers to Michael Zimmer (michael.zimmer@yale.edu).

Schedule:

10/17: Alondra Nelson, Sociology, Yale

10/31: Scott Edwards, Microsoft

11/7: Johannes Britz, Information Studies, UW-Milwaukee

11/28: Wendy Seltzer, Brooklyn Law School / Berkman

12/5: Roberta Kwall, DePaul College of Law, Center for Intellectual Property Law & Information Technology

12/12: Rob Faris, John Palfrey, Jonathan Zittrain, Berkman/ONI

12/19: Fran Grodzinsky, Computer Science, Sacred Heart University

Harvard-Yale-MIT CyberScholar Meetings

10/23 2:10pm, Yale Law School

Lea Shaver, "Defining and Measuring Access to Knowledge: Towards an A2K Index"

11/7 Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard Law School

12/12 or 12/13 TBA MIT

Fall 2007 Reading Group: Technological Standards as Regulation, Yale Law School, Tuesdays 6pm-8pm

The standards controlling information and communication technologies are increasingly emerging in the global information society as both enablers and barriers to innovation, trade, interoperability, and access to knowledge. These systems of rules are often invisible or perceived as neutral to users but have significant implications. Standards can make legal decisions about how citizens access knowledge, what civil liberties they have in the context of this knowledge, how governments serve and exchange information with constituents, and even how citizens vote. This reading seminar will examine the public policy implications of technological standards to individuals and in broader global economic and political contexts. The current debates over the intellectual property rights underlying standards will also be an important topic of discussion.

Other sessions will address the economic relationship between standards, innovation, and competition and technical barriers to trade, placing an emphasis on Chinese and American trade relationships. The group will also examine the literature addressing issues of democracy in the standards setting process and will directly interrogate important contemporary issues related to standards including: efforts to open cellular standards and wireless spectrum to promote greater interoperability and innovation; Internet search privacy standards; the open standards movement; electronic voting standards; and digital rights management (DRM) standards as interoperability constraints.

Schedule:

October 16: Internet Standards Governance and the Public Interest

October 30: Standards, Innovation Policy, and Global Trade

November 6: Open Standards

November 20: Intellectual Property Rights and Standards

November 27: Standards and Antitrust

December 4: Government Policies on Interoperability Standards

December 11: Adding Standards to the Net Neutrality Debate

Fall 2007 Symposium: Reputation Economies in Cyberspace and Beyond

The ISP will host a symposium, "Reputation Economies in Cyberspace and Beyond", from December 7-8. Reputation, which plays a key role in almost any economic or social system, is a fundamental aspect of any cyber-community that is not yet well understood. Because traditional modes of accreditation and prior acquaintance with participants usually do not apply to online communities, in recent years we have witnessed the development of alternative models for reputation management including ratings, stars, points, karma and others. These new models, which apply to people, goods, and services, challenge our accepted notions of identity, social capital, accreditation, expertise, and risk as they shift the reliance of reputation systems away from traditional social networks, educational backgrounds and institutional affiliations and towards the wisdom of the crowd. This shift, in turn, entails dramatic changes to information privacy, quality, ownership and the ability of groups and individuals to affect them. The symposium will seek to explore these themes, and their meaning to democracy. The symposium will bring together leading scholars from industry, academia and government to discuss the role of reputation in cyberspace and beyond. Proposed panels include: Making your Name Online!, Privacy and Reputational Protection. Reputational Quality and Information Quality, and Ownership or Cyber-reputation.

Projects and Activities

Eliot Pence attended the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Summer School in Geneva, Switzerland for two weeks with 50 other students and participated in events at WIPO including the plenary meetings on the

development agenda and the intergovernmental committee on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore. He also worked on laying the groundwork for the country study index in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is planning to write about the role of intellectual property in the international system: how it is structured globally and how it is applied in the majority of the world.

Julia Sonnevend visited Hungary in August to attend meetings in preparation for the Access to Knowledge course that she will teach in the Communications Department at ELTE University in Budapest in Spring 2008. She is also working with the Center for Media and Communications Studies at Central European University, Budapest about the possibility of about starting an Access to Knowledge course there as well.

Meetings, Events and Conferences

Shay David participated in the Annual Wikimania conference in Taiwan. He is working on a collaborative project with the Wikimedia Foundation.

Laura DeNardis is working with the Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards (DCOS) to organize a workshop at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which will take place November 12-15 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She will present "Interoperability and Democracy: A Political Basis for Open Document Formats" (co-authored with Eric Tam) at the 5th International Conference on Standardization and Innovation in IT (SIIT) on October 17-19 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The paper will be published in the proceedings in the *International Journal of Standards and Standardization*.

Laura DeNardis, Laura Forlano and **Michael Zimmer** will present at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada on October 10-13.

Laura Forlano was an invited guest at the Urban Media Salon in Berlin, Germany and presented, "Search and the City: A Comparative Analysis of the Use of WiFi Hotspots in New York and Budapest" at the Communications in the 21st Century: Towards a Philosophy of Telecommunications Convergence at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary in September.

Julia Sonnevend participated in the Open Education 2007 conference in Logan, Utah on September 26-28, where she gave a presentation on "The Digital Education and Information Policy Initiative: Localizing Open Educational Resources in a Copyright Era." She is helping the ISP to organize a *workshop*, "The Digital Education and Information Policy Initiative: Exceptions to and Limitations on Copyright in the Realm of Digital Education" at the IGF. The workshop intends to launch a dynamic coalition that effectively advocates for a better copyright environment for digital education all around the globe. The co-

sponsors of the workshop are the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the Ministry of Education, Chile, the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement, IP Justice, Fundação Getulio Vargas School of Law in Rio de Janeiro, the American Society of Plant Biologists, and the Intel Corporation.

Michael Zimmer participated in a National Science Foundation workshop on Data Confidentiality Research in September, which was co-sponsored by Microsoft. The workshop brought together about 50 people from academia, industry, and government to map out an interdisciplinary research agenda to address emerging challenges and problems in data access, confidentiality, and privacy. He also presented at the "[Forum on Quaero: A Public Think Tank around the Politics of the Search Engine](#)" on September 29-30 at the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht, The Netherlands and gave an invited talk, "Privacy, Contextual Integrity, and the Quest for the Perfect Search Engine," at the Institute for Information Law at the University of Amsterdam.

Publications

Laura Forlano published an article, "Generation Mesh," in [Vodaphone receiver](#) in October 2007.

Julia Sonnevend published an excerpt of her paper "Google Earth as Hyperpanorama: the Aesthetization of Geography" in Hungarian in *Elet es Irodalom*, one of the leading weekly papers in Hungary. She also published a paper, "Let's talk about sex, baby!," on contemporary feminist debates in *Jelenkor*, a Hungarian cultural studies journal.

Announcements

Laura Forlano received a grant from the Urban Communication Foundation for her project "Understanding the Users of WiFi Networks in Urban Spaces." The award will be presented at the National Communication Association conference in Chicago in November.

Job and Fellowship Postings

Executive Director, Information Society Project at Yale Law School

The Information Society Project at Yale Law School seeks applications for the position of executive director. The Information Society Project was founded in 1997 to study the effects of new information technologies on law and society. The ISP currently hosts a number of resident and visiting fellowships for recent graduates of law and graduate programs interested in careers in teaching and public policy. It maintains a network of global fellows and partnerships with institutions in many different countries around the world. Its signature initiative in recent years has been the promotion of Access to Knowledge. The ISP has also maintained research initiatives in biotechnology, computer security, privacy, freedom of speech, civil liberties and democracy both in the United States and

around the world. It holds conferences, reading groups and seminars and produces research on the key issues and challenges of the Information Society.

The Executive Director oversees all aspects of the Information Society Project's programs-- including the ISP's Access to Knowledge (A2K) Initiative. The Executive Director helps select ISP fellows and directs their activities and research, maintains connections with global partners around the world, plans conferences and special events, and assists in fundraising efforts. There are also opportunities for co-teaching and clinical teaching under the supervision of the ISP Director, Professor Jack M. Balkin. The executive director also helps the director develop J.D. and LL.M. students who seek careers in teaching, government service and policy activism related to Information Society and Access to Knowledge issues.

The ISP is looking for applicants who will make a commitment of between three and five years. Qualifications include a graduate of a law school or a Ph.D program who has a distinguished academic record; administrative talents; knowledge about Information Society issues, including in particular issues concerning intellectual property, telecommunications, and Internet regulation; ease and enjoyment in writing, demonstrated through publications, research papers, dissertations, briefs, or other materials authored by the applicant; public speaking ability and the ability to represent the ISP in conferences and in networking and fundraising efforts; the ability to work with students, alumni/ae; faculty, staff, and lawyers and policy activists working outside the University. Prior teaching and or litigation experience is helpful but not required. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Applicants can find out more details about the ISP's work by visiting the ISP website at www.law.yale.edu/isp/. Applicants should provide a resume, lists of references (including at least one academic reference and at least one reference with whom the applicant has worked closely within the last two years); examples of written work (including copies of relevant publications, reports, research papers, essays or briefs); and a law school or graduate school transcript.

Please send all materials (by email and hard copy) to Deborah Sestito, Administrative Assistant for the Program, at Yale Law School, by October 25, 2007. For further information, please contact Ms. Sestito at deborah.sestito@yale.edu who will route your inquiries promptly.

Information Society Project Resident Postdoctoral Fellowships for 2008-2009

The ISP resident fellowship is designed for recent graduates of law or Ph.D. programs who are interested in careers in teaching and public service in any of the following areas: Internet and telecommunications law, intellectual property

law, access to knowledge, first amendment law, media studies, privacy, cybercrime, cybersecurity, social software, standards and technology policy, cultural evolution, bioethics, biotechnology, and law and technology generally.

Fellows receive a salary of approximately 42,250 USD plus Yale benefits. Fellows are expected to work on an independent scholarly project as well as help with administrative and scholarly work for the Information Society Project at Yale Law School. A small number of special ISP visiting fellowships are also available for persons who provide their own sources of funding.

More information on the ISP is available at: <http://www.law.yale.edu/isp/>

Application materials should include the following:

- (1) A brief (one to five page) statement of the applicant's proposed scholarly research;
- (2) A copy of the applicant's resume;
- (3) A law school (or graduate school) transcript;
- (4) At least one sample of recent scholarly writing (samples in English are strongly preferred);
- (5) Two letters of recommendation.

Applications for the 2008-9 ISP fellowship must be postmarked no later than Feb. 1, 2008. Awards will be announced at the end of March 2008. For additional information please contact Deborah Sestito at deborah.sestito@yale.edu

Application materials should be sent (in hard copy) to:

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