# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
# GIG-ARTS 2025

The rise of digital sovereignty:
ambiguities and challenges

University of Salerno, Italy

26-28 May 2025

UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI SALERNO

INTERNET &
COMMUNICATION
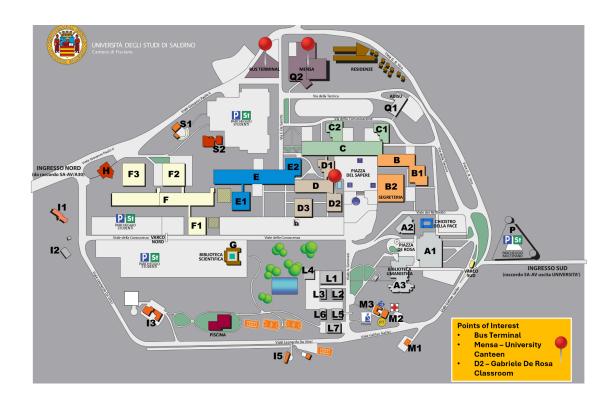POLICY CENTER

*internetpolicyresearch.eu*

# SYNOPSIS

The GIG-ARTS (Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies) conference is a European annual multidisciplinary academic venue to present and discuss developments in Global Internet Governance (GIG) and their implications in and beyond this field of research. The conference objectives are threefold: (1) to foster the enlargement and diversification of this academic community in order to increase its visibility; (2) to open more opportunities to young scholars, particularly from Europe and its neighbourhood; and (3) to anchor its discussions in the European context, providing a space where the scholarly community can address regional challenges and contribute to regional discussions.

Past editions have explored topics such as global internet governance as a diplomatic issue (Paris, 2017), inequalities in internet governance (Cardiff, 2018), Europe's role as a global player in governance (Salerno, 2019), online information governance (Vienna, 2021), and the intersection of governance and international human rights (Nicosia, 2022). More recent editions have focused on cybersecurity governance, resilience, and democracy (Padua, 2023) and reflections on thirty years of multistakeholderism in internet governance (The Hague, 2024).

The Ninth GIG-ARTS Conference, to be held at the University of Salerno, takes as its main theme "The rise of digital sovereignty: ambiguities and challenges". The concept of digital sovereignty has gained increasing attention and importance in recent years, driven by a complex mix of political and economic motivations, geopolitical tensions, and technological developments. The pursuit of digital sovereignty generates significant tensions, particularly between the desire for national control and the need for international and multistakeholder cooperation. Despite its growing prominence, digital sovereignty remains a deeply contested concept. This conference aims to foster critical dialogue on the rise of digital sovereignty, exploring its motivations, ambiguities, and contradictions.

# VENUE

GIG-ARTS 2025 will be hosted at the University of Salerno's main campus in Fisciano, approximately 15 kilometers from the city center of Salerno. The conference sessions will take place in the Aula delle Lauree Gabriele de Rosa, located in Building D2. For detailed directions and campus navigation, please refer to the underlined interactive map. A campus map highlighting key points of interest is provided below.



For additional practical information on transportation options, nearby airports, and accommodation in Salerno, please visit our website.

# OUTLINE SCHEDULE

## DAY 1 - Monday, 26 May

| | |
|---|---|
| 09:00-10:30 | Registration |
| 10:30-11:00 | Welcome |
| 11:00-12:30 | Paper Panel Session 1 - Conceptualizing Digital Sovereignty |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00-15:30 | Paper Panel Session 2 - Geopolitics of Digital Sovereignty |
| 15:30-16:00 | Break |
| 16:00-17:00 | Keynote Speech by Paul Timmers |
| 17:00-18:00 | Paper Panel Session 3 - Digital Sovereignty and Security |
| 18:00-18:30 | Transfer to Salerno |

## DAY 2 - Tuesday, 27 May

| | |
|---|---|
| 09:00-10:30 | Paper Panel Session 4 - Platform Sovereignty |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break |
| 11:00-12:30 | Roundtable: "Researching, Teaching and Practicing Digital Sovereignty" |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:30 | Paper Panel Session 5 - Decolonial and Indigenous Perspectives on Digital Sovereignty |
| 15:30-16:00 | Break |
| 16:00-17:00 | Keynote Speech by Frederick Douzet |
| 17:00-18:00 | Paper Panel Session 6 - Digital Sovereignty and EU regulation |
| 18:00-18:30 | Transfer to Salerno |

## DAY 3 - Wednesday, 28 May

| | |
|---|---|
| 09:00-10:30 | Paper Panel Session 7 - Data Governance and Data Sovereignty |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break |
| 11:00-12:30 | Paper Panel Session 8 - European Digital Sovereignty: Digital Constitutionalism, digital autonomy and normative power |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:30 | Paper Panel Session 9 - Infrastructural Sovereignty |
| 15:30-16:00 | Break |
| 16:00-17:30 | Paper Panel Session 10 - Digital Sovereignty in Wartime |
| 17:30-18:00 | Concluding remarks |
| 18:00-18:30 | Transfer to Salerno |

# DETAILED SCHEDULE

09:00-10:30    Registration

10:30-11:00    Welcome Session

**11:00-12:30  Paper Panel Session 1 - Conceptualizing Digital Sovereignty**
Chair: Dennis Redeker (Bremen University - ZIMKI)
- From sovereignty to relational autonomy: a conceptual contribution from the Southern Cone
  *Lucia Bosoer (Universitat Pompeu Fabra/European University Institute)*
- Theorizing Rogue Digital Sovereignty
  *Marwan Kraidy (Northwestern University)*
- From internet freedom to digital sovereignty: The politics of global norm contestation
  *Tetyana Lokot (Dublin City University); Mariëlle Wijermars (Maastricht University)*
- Teaching Digital Sovereignty: how many bridges to cross?
  *Jamal Shahin (BSoG (VUB)/UvA/UNU-CRIS)*

12:30-14:00    Lunch Break

**14:00-15:30  Paper Panel Session 2 - Geopolitics of Digital Sovereignty**
Chair: Carlos Fonseca (Ghent University/UNU-CRIS)

- Informational sovereignty: Website infrastructure dependency and geopolitical risk in Latin America
  *Juan Ortiz-Freuler  (Annenberg/USC)*
- Processing Digital Sovereignty in Western Balkan States: Sovereignty Deficiencies Amid EU Accession and US-China Digital Technology Rivalry
  *Ana Bojinović Fenko; Anastas Vangeli; Faris Kočan, (University of Ljubljana)*
- Digital Sovereignty and Central and Eastern Europe: Thinking Digital Politics from a Semi-Periphery
  *Jakub Eberle; Linda Monsees (Institute of International Relations Prague)*
- Kings vs Giants: Mapping the Struggle for Sovereignty in the Digital Age
  *Sara Concetta Santoriello; Giuseppe Borriello (University of Naples "Federico II")*

15:30-16:00    Break

**16:00-17:00  Keynote Speech by Paul Timmers**
**"Europe in the battlefield of geopolitics and technology"**
Chair: Nicola Palladino  (University of Salerno)

**17:00-18:00 Paper Panel Session 3 - Digital Sovereignty and Security**
Chair: Francesco Amoretti (University of Salerno)

- How emerging security communities moderate cybersecurity governance: an EU case study
  *Hannah-Sophie Weber (University of Oxford)*
- Digital Sovereignty and European Cybersecurity Policy: Shaping a Unified Future

*Giuseppe Borriello, Gaia Fristachi  (University of Naples "Federico II")*
- Private Actors in Law Enforcement and Digital Sovereignty in the EU
  *Ryoko Arakawa (KU Leuven)*

18:00-18:30    Transfer to Salerno

## DAY 2 - Tuesday, 27 May

### 09:00-10:30 Paper Panel Session 4 - Platform Sovereignty
Chair: Fortunato Musella (University of Napoli Federico II)

- Digital sovereignty and local governance: Social media, public order, and the challenge of platform content regulation
  *Willem Bantema, Laura Postma,  Denise de Boer (NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences)*
- Decentralised Social Media Initiatives within European Public Service Media. Towards a Public Service Social Media?
  *Joan Pla (Østfold University College)*
- Towards a "federated sovereignty"? Mobilizations of decentralized platforms for (European) digital autonomy
  *Ksenia Ermoshina; Francesca Musiani (CNRS Centre Internet et Société UPR)*
- A case of 'strategic hedging'? Contestation and adoption of norms in social media governance in Indonesia
  *Treviliana Eka Putri (University of Groningen)*

10:30-11:00    Break

### 11:00-12:30 Roundtable: "Researching, Teaching and Practicing Digital Sovereignty"
Chair: Claudia Padovani (University of Padova)
Participants: *Julia Pohle, Jamal Shahin, Ksenia Ermoshina, Jakub Eberle, TBA*

12:30-14:00    Lunch break

### 14:00-15:30 Paper Panel Session 5 - Decolonial and Indigenous Perspectives on Digital Sovereignty
Chair: Jan Aart Scholte (Leiden University)

- Can We Decolonize the Internet?
  *Henna Zamurd Butt (University of Chicago) and M.I. Franklin (University of Groningen)*
- Reclaiming Sovereignty or Reinforcing Marginalisation? Anti-Gender Movements, Digital Sovereignty, and the Framing of 'Gender Ideology' as Neocolonial Imposition
  *Karolin Rippich (Dublin City University)*
- Digital Pan-Africanism: An Alternative to Digital Sovereignty?
  *Dennis Redeker, Adio-Adet Dinika (Universität Bremen - ZeMKI)*
- Indigenous Data Sovereignty (movement): connecting visions and digital futures.
  *Claudia Padovani & Enes Abanoz (University of Padova)*

15:30-16:00    Break

### 16:00-17:00  Keynote Speech by Frederick Douzet
Chair: Edoardo Celeste (Dublin City University)

**17:00-18:00  Paper Panel Session 6 - Digital Sovereignty and EU regulation**
Chair: Julia Pohle (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

- Governance mechanisms for EU digital sovereignty: The case of the Artificial Intelligence Act
  *Evangelia Psychogiopoulou (University of the Peloponnese)*
- The Digital Services Act in Action: Platform Governance, Regulatory Adaptation, and the Future of EU Digital Sovereignty
  *Thi Ngoc Anh Nguyen (University of Padova)*
- Norms of Digital Sovereignty and Altercasting: The European Union and Artificial Intelligence Governance
  *Sophie Hoogenboom (UNU-CRIS)*

18:00-18:30    Transfer to Salerno


**DAY 3 - Wednesday, 28 May**

**09:00-10:30 Paper Panel Session 7 - Data Governance and Data Sovereignty**
Chair: Marianne Franklin (University of Groningen)

- Practices of Ordering and Bordering in Sovereign Cloud Projects
  *Andreas Baur (Universities of Amsterdam and Tübingen)*
- Data Sovereignty in India: Balancing Restriction and Accumulation of Data through Digital Public Infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence
  *Jyoti Panday (Georgia Institute of Technology - Internet Governance Project, School of Public Policy)*
- Converging Frictions: The Unexpected Alignment of Secure Messaging and Digital Sovereignty in Switzerland
  *Samuele Fratini (University of Padua / Università della Svizzera Italiana)*
- Towards substantive digital sovereignty in e-government: Tensions between power, responsibility, and control as evident from an empirical study on the perspectives of citizens, experts, and administrative staff in Germany
  *Robin Preiß, Christian Herzog (University of Lübeck)*


10:30-11:00    Break

**11:00-12:30  Paper Panel Session 8 - European Digital Sovereignty: Digital Constitutionalism, digital autonomy and normative power**
Chair: Daniela Piana (University of Bologna)
- The European Third Way: the EU's strategic narrative of a value-based digital order and its global impact
  *Julia Pohle, Leo Thüer, Milan Schröder, Christian Rauh (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)*
- The geopolitics of semiconductors – How digital sovereignty helps legitimize geoeconomic measures
  *Linda Monsees (Institute of International Relations Prague)*
- EU digital sovereigntism: the risks of strategic autonomy
  *Edoardo Celeste, Alba Perez Victorio, Victor Henriquez Diaz (Dublin City University - School of Law and Government)*

- Digital Sovereignty vs. Digital Constitutionalism: between the EU and Its Member States
  *Chiara Spiniello (Università degli Studi di Salerno)*

12:30-14:00    Lunch break

**14:00-15:30  Paper Panel Session 9 - Infrastructural Sovereignty**
Chair: Jamal Shahin *(BSoG (VUB)/UvA/UNU-CRIS)*
- Digital Sovereignty for Industrial Competitiveness – the case of Manufacturing-X in Germany
  *Max Münßinger (Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg Institute of Geography)*
- The Liverpool Civic Data Cooperative: A Participatory Approach to Building Regional Digital Sovereignty and Data Stewardship
  *Gary Leeming, Emily Rempel, Iain Buchan (University of Liverpool - Civic Data Cooperative)*
- Unlocking digital sovereignty: open source software in connectivity architecture. A perspective on Chinese companies in O-RAN
  *Riccardo Nanni (Fondazione Bruno Kessler)*
- Infrastructural Power: How governments are managing internet points of control
  *Juan Ortiz Freuler (USC Annenberg)*

15:30-16:00    Break

**16:00-17:30  Paper Panel Session 10 - Digital Sovereignty in Wartime**
Chair: Mauro Santaniello (University of Salerno)

- Lessons from Ukraine: Examining the Policy Implications of the Multi-stakeholder Environment Found in Digital Open Source Investigations During Violent Conflicts
  *Magdalene Karalis (Chatham House - Russia Eurasia Program)*
- Digital and technological sovereignty of the emerging powers with some industrial capabilities. Russia's cooperation with the Global South since the beginning of its war against Ukraine.
  *Ewa Dabrowska (Freie Universität Berlin)*
- Digital sovereignty wartime: 'Infrastructure power' and post-2022 Ukraine dealing with a twofold digital dependency
  *Julien Nocetti (University Paris 8)*
- Civilizational Claims in Cyberspace Governance: Russian Case Study,
  *Liliya Khasanova (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University - Hitachi Center for Technology and International Relations)*

17:30-18:00    Concluding remarks

18:00-18:30    Transfer to Salerno