

Privacy Camp 2020

Technology and Activism



PROGRAMME

Privacy Camp 2020

Technology and Activism

This 8th edition of Privacy Camp revolves around the topic of Technology and Activism.

In addition to panel discussions and workshops, this year, Privacy Camp also brings you a Critical Maker Faire. Below you can find out the details about each session as well as our famous after-party.

	ROOM ALICE	ROOM BOB
09:00-9:30	COFFEE & HI!	COFFEE AND HI!
9:30-10:30	Welcome and storytelling session: Stories of Activism	
10:30-12:00	Defending digital civic space: how to counter digital threats against civil society	Investigative journalism in South East Europe
12:00-13:00	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
13:00-14:30	How To Parltrack Workshop	The impact of surveillance on today's kids – tomorrow's human rights activists
13:30-15:45	EDPS civil society summit	
14:30-14:45	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
14:45-16:00	Access requests as a tool for activism	"Actually, In Google We Trust"? A 'Deconstructing' Conversation on Russian Internet
16:00-16:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
16:30-17:45	Activism and digital infrastructures	Internet for All – Silenced and Harassed No More!
17:45-17:50	Closing	
18:00-20:00	FOODTRUCK & CHATS	
20:00-24:00	AFTER PARTY AFTER	PARTY AFTER PARTY

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Welcome and storytelling session:

Stories of Activism

Focusing on stories, encounters as well as methodological reflections, our opening session will feature activists with diverse causes who will give us situated perspectives and tell us about their work, their engagement with technology and their stories of solidarity and resistance.

Jeff Deutch, Lead Researcher – [The Syrian Archive](#)

Sergey Boyko, co-founder – [Internet Protection Society](#)

Finn Sanders and Jan-Niklas Niebisch – [Fridays for Future Germany](#)

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Defending digital civic space: How to counter digital threats against civil society

As repressive governments increasingly curtail digital civic space, defending civil society against surveillance and offensive information controls has become ever more important. This panel provides insights into the risks and security needs of activists from authoritarian contexts and showcases efforts aiming to build resilience against digital threats.

The main objective is to shed light on successful interventions and key challenges in the field of information security for civil society: How to build long-term security support for activists, moving beyond one-off trainings? How to reduce dependency on tech experts and encourage holistic security behavior? What are effective strategies to collect and uncover evidence on surveillance and digital threats?

The panelists will discuss these and other questions in an open format, sharing their professional insights and experience. By soliciting questions and comments from the audience, the panel also aims to identify avenues for further collaboration and research across professional backgrounds, disciplines and geographies.

Moderator:

Marcus Michaelsen (LSTS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Speakers:

Rula Asad (Syrian Female Journalists Network)

Hassen Selmi (Access Now)

Alexandra Hache (Digital Defenders Partnership, Hivos)

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Investigative journalism in South East Europe

Incidents in the digital sphere in the South Eastern Europe used to occur only occasionally. Until a couple of years ago, there were no clear signs of organised attempts to dominate the public space by controlling the social discourse and using the techniques of information warfare. One of the recent [reports](#), related to Serbia, shows that journalists are one of the most endangered categories of human rights defenders.

The role of the digital space became vital for investigative journalism while on the other hand the digital environment is making journalists more vulnerable than ever. We'd like to enroll experts and investigative journalists into a panel discussion, from countries with rise of authoritarianism and grief on basic freedoms (Croatia, Hungary, Serbia), where the smear campaigns and online attacks are becoming a very powerful weapon for disabling public to enjoy their basic right to know, to discuss with them on:

- How it looks to be a journalist in CEE/SEE, focusing on their own countries and how they deal with challenges?
- Differences / similarities between investigative journalism practices in the CEE/SEE space and the rest of Europe?
- Who are the main players in spreading fake news and propaganda in SEE, and who are the "usual suspects" when it comes to attacks on professional journalism and digital rights in SEE?
- How does the relationship between SEE countries affect the nature of investigative journalism in this space?

This summer, the SHARE Foundation and BIRN have started a joint regional project to monitor digital threats and trends, raise awareness about violations of digital freedom and provide policy recommendations on how to improve the state of human rights in the digital environment. The database aims to document and to show the amount the frequency of these attacks on various groups, including journalists. The database is part of BIRN Investigative Resource Desk – an innovative interactive platform created for journalists who want to keep up-to-date with the fast-changing world of technology without sacrificing their ethics or the standards of professional journalism.

This panel will serve as a platform for investigative journalist from SEE and field experts to share their experiences and to discuss useful practices for combating threats and pressures which are mainly happening in the digital environment.

Moderator:

Sofija Todorovic – [BIRN](#), Project Coordinator (Serbia)

Speakers:

Andrej Petrovski – [Share Foundation](#), Director of Tech (Serbia)

Marija Ristic – [BIRN](#), Regional Director (Serbia)

Peter Erdelyi – [444.hu](#), Senior Editor (Hungary)

Tatjana Lazarevic – [Kossev](#), Editor in Chief (Kosovo)

Domagoj Zovak – [Prime Time](#), Editor and Anchor (Croatia)

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How to Parltrack workshop

The Parltrack workshop will make you understand Parltrack and help you use it and its data more efficiently – be you a policy geek or a data-mining programmer.

Parltrack is a European initiative to improve the transparency of legislative processes. It combines information on dossiers, representatives, vote results and committee agendas into a unique database and allows the tracking of dossiers using email and RSS. Most of the data presented is also available for further processing in JSON format. Through using Parltrack, it's easy to see at a glance which dossiers are being handled by committees and MEPs.

Check out Parltrack here: <https://parltrack.org>

Please note that in order to make the most out of this workshop, we advise to bring your laptop. However, you can attend even if you don't have one.

Workshop organiser:

stef

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The impact of surveillance on today's kids – tomorrow's human rights activists

Every child is a potential extremist under school surveillance measures. Police are monitoring #FridaysForFuture climate protests. Kids' data is massively being collected and used for profiling purposes. Climate activists are being put in preventive detention.

This panel will discuss examples from research, real life, court cases and regulation. We want to have a look at government surveillance measures impacting children and discuss their chilling effect on them. We want to find out how the defense of today's child rights and freedoms is vital to our future fight against global mass surveillance.

Moderator:

Kirsten Fiedler, Policy Advisor at the European Parliament

Speakers

Jen Persson, Director of [DefendDigitalMe](#)

Gracie Bradley, Policy and Campaigns Manager at [Liberty](#)

Daniel Carey, Solicitor and Partner at [Deighton Pierce Glynn](#)

Gloria González Fuster, Research Professor at [LSTS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#)

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Access requests as a tool for activism

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – and the right of access in particular – show considerable promise for the protection of fundamental rights in a data-driven environment. The scope and mechanics of these opportunities are starting to be explored by a variety of actors in civil society, academia, journalism and industry.

In this panel we will discuss the practices and potential for the use of the right of access as a tool for activism with the broader Privacy Camp community. What are the conditions that enable a successful access request? What are the common obstacles and how can the community work together to overcome these obstacles?

The objective of the session is to strengthen the access request community by sharing best practices and increasing awareness about the different ways the right of access is used in a activist context.

Moderator:

Joris van Hoboken (LSTS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Speakers:

Karolina Iwanska (Panoptikon Foundation)

René Mahieu (LSTS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

TBC

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“Actually, In Google We Trust”?

A 'Deconstructing' Conversation on Russian Internet Activism

Russia is currently a zone of high tension between globalized digital freedoms and national internet management policies, officially justified on grounds of network security. Since the early 2000s, Russia has seen the simultaneous development of a relatively unfiltered and constraint-free web, and of an important set of challenges to civil liberties. Starting in early 2018, the research project ResisTIC (*NetResistants: Criticism and circumvention of digital borders in Russia*), funded by the French National Agency for Research, has undertaken an extensive investigation of online resistance in Russia that reveals lesser-known social practices and techniques for circumventing online constraints, in particular those related to privacy, security and surveillance.

Sometimes, these practices border on counter-intuitive — for example, as our research team was discussing at length methods and best practices to properly protect the privacy of our Russian activist interviewees for the project, several of them candidly stated to us that they were actually privileging Google or Facebook Messenger as their primary online communication tools. This is because they were much more willing to place their trust that no sensitive information would be disclosed in the 'giant', centralized, United States-based platforms with clear ownership and responsibility mechanisms, than in alternative and a priori more "activist-looking" systems where accountability was supposedly less clear due to their very openness and decentralization. Furthermore, as Ethan Zuckerman's "Cute Cat Theory of Digital Activism" pointed out, due to their activist aspect these platforms risk to attract the attention of governmental censors, whereas centralized platforms offer some form of camouflage to activist users and are harder to block without contention from general user audiences.

This panel seeks to engage in a "deconstructing" and interactive discussion about Russian digital activism, especially its most surprising aspects such as the one described above. The session will start with short pitches (5 minutes each) on the different strands of research conducted by the ResisTIC team, with particular attention paid to ongoing fieldworks and collected empirical material, including:

- the uses of tools such as Telegram, and legal constraints applied to it, in the Russian context;
- the role of digital security trainers in fostering specific models and tools of privacy protection and in adapting to the Russian context a set of "universal" recommendations elaborated by international digital security NGOs;
- the tension between global and local dimensions in the Russian Wikimedia;
- the intense use of Russia's first social network, VKontakte, in grassroots environmental protests;
- the mimicry of Russian (VKontakte, Yandex) and foreign tools (Facebook, Google) facilitating mixed uses of them.

Building on these pitches focused on the Russian context, we hope to engage in a discussion on how digital activism unfolds in other parts of the world, as different political regimes and notions of privacy, encryption, threat-models, adversaries co-construct one another.

Our objective for the session is to put our research-based insights on Russian digital activism to the test of Privacy Camp's diverse audience of developers, NGOs and activists worldwide. We also hope that such insights may be of use to them in their daily practices of activism and/or technology.

Moderator:

Francesca Musiani, Centre for Internet and Society of CNRS, France

Speakers:

Ksenia Ermoshina, Centre for Internet and Society of CNRS, France

Sergey Boyko, co-founder of the Internet Protection Society, Russia

Daniel Lipin, human rights lawyer, intellectual property and digital rights specialist, holistic security trainer, Russia

Perrine Poupin, Telecom Paris, France

Anna Zaytseva, LLA CREATIS, University Toulouse 2 Jean Jaurès, France

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Activism and digital infrastructures

This panel will problematise the use of data-driven tools and corporate-owned platforms by activist organisations. We will discuss how the goals and values of these tools and platforms align with the goals and values of activist organisations. We aim to discuss questions such as how activists can put their ideas and values into practice while still being able to protect the privacy of their peers and supporters and how can organisers reach large audiences while retaining a quality of participation for their supporters.

The panel will be moderated as a participative discussion between the panelists and the audience, and a dedicated team will take notes, which will be summarised and published afterwards. The long-term objective is to develop a guideline with critical questions on the use of communication technologies and practices for activists.

Moderator:

Jan Tobias Muehlberg, ICT Security Researcher at KU Leuven

Speakers:

Amber Macintyre, Tactical Tech

Glyn Thomas, Digital Strategy Consultant working with NGOs

Friedemann Ebel, Digitalcourage

Michael Hulet, Extinction Rebellion Belgium

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Internet for All – Silenced and Harassed No More!

According to a recent report, 20% of young women in the European Union have experienced sexual harassment online while one of four LGBTQIA people experience hate speech. Recent research found that filtering machines were more likely to flag tweets from black people than white people as offensive. Abusers look for images of people with visible disabilities on Facebook to create memes or jokes. Hate speech and current racist, sexist, and generally discriminatory content moderation practices should be taken into account when we discuss what community rules and online content regulation we want to advocate for.

While the debate on freedom of expression and hate speech is resurfacing, it is overwhelmingly framed and overcrowded by voices who hold a privileged position in society. However, some of the first to be concerned are women, LGBTQIA groups, people with disabilities and especially migrants and minority ethnic groups who are more likely subject to online harassment and violence, arbitrary content takedowns and massive campaigns of intimidation. This leads these groups to self-censor, restrict their freedom of expression and their meaningful participation online.

This session will explore the various forms of violence encountered online by these vulnerable groups: hate speech and harassment, but also discriminatory restrictions of political speech. It will provide a space for discussing the political use of social media from the perspective of the targets of online hate and moral policing and censorship.

Moderator:

Chloé Berthélémy, Policy Advisor , European Digital Rights

Speakers:

Alejandro Moledo, Policy Coordinator, European Disability Forum

Pamela Morinière, Head of Campaign and Communication department and Gender officer, International Federation of Journalists

Oumayma Hammadi, Project Manager, Rainbow House Brussels

Štefan Balog, Educational Activities Coordinator, Romea

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#PrivacyCamp20: After-partey

Technology and Activism and chats and drinks and a cool DJ line-up. You can have all of them by joining us at the Privacy Camp after-party from 20h onward.

Note that from 18h – 20h we will have a food truck feeding us and pre-party chats.

The party location is the same one in which we'll be all day, but with a rather different atmosphere. Four talented DJs will take us through their selected work. Expect to hear great sets, mixes and live coding!

DJ LINE-UP

20h – 21h [fukami](#) – Soul and jazz, bit of groove and beats

21h – 22h [ki:ki](#) – Some intergalactic electro with hints of upload filter tech3hand a dash of new wave

22h – 23h [Indidjinous](#) – post-apocalyptic, sci-fi inspired techstep jungle/drum & bass. Expect the unexpected

23h – 24h [Dago Sondervan](#) – live coding, algorave

24h – ... Still partying? Cool! Then we did a good job. While we'd love to continue the partying until next year, this is when we start turning the lights on, put on some goodbye music and give each other hugs that last us until the next edition of Privacy Camp. See you soon!

Entrance to the party will be possible only with a #PrivacyCamp20 conference badge.

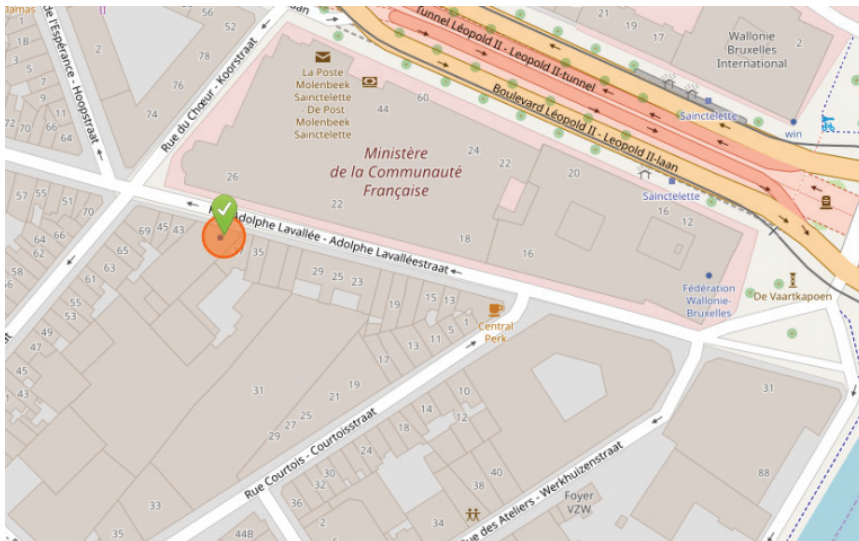
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Practical info

Location

La Vallée, Rue Adolphe Lavallée 39, 1080 Bruxelles



Public transport

Bus: Ribaucourt (lines 20, 89, 129, 620); Sint-Jans-Molenbeek Ourthe (lines 213, 214, 355)

Tram: Ribaucourt (line 51); Saintelette (line 51)

Metro: Ribaucourt or Yser (lines 2, 6); Comte de Flandre (lines 1 and 5)

Train: Gare de Bruxelles-Nord (Station Brussel-Noord)

Villo: Station no. 52 (Saintelette); station no. 50 (Ribaucourt); station no. 7 (Noville).

More information on www.stib-mivb.be, www.belgianrail.be and www.villo.be.