

Digital rights activism – an academic summary of the conference

The conference held on June 10th 2018 and examined digital rights activism. The conference began with raising three main issues for discussion. The boundaries of digital rights from access to the internet to the right to control our image post mortem, the meaning of digital rights activism as a mean for changing the mediated informational and cultural environment as determined by media organizations and governments and finally the definition of what constitutes as digital rights activism now days.

Each session in the conference dealt with different aspects of the topic. The first session explored rights such as the right to information through the case studies of fake news and the decay of the web. The discussion that evolved during this session touched upon topics such as the definition of fake news, the virality of fake news, the role of journalism and fact checking practices and mechanisms as a solution to fake news, the problems associated with regulation and the importance of transparency and accountability in the process of dealing with fake news.

The second session of the conference dealt with the challenges of advocating for the right to privacy. The discussion highlighted the problem of trust as a key component in advocating for privacy, the possible positive influence of the GDPR in the evolution of privacy regulation, hacktivism as a way of interacting with politicians, the problem of litigation as a solution in dealing with privacy violations and what is the meaning of being a digital rights activist.

The final session explored the right to maintain and construct our image through a triple perspective: the legal right not to be indexed, the unique problems associated with children's rights in this context and the right to control our legacy post mortem.

The conference concluded with stressing the role and challenges of digital rights advocacy while highlighting the issue question of who is a social right activist and the importance of providing accurate data for decision makers in matters of internet policy as well as the need to better educate them on the technology and the way it operates.