



Annual Scientific Seminar on Innovation, Platforms and the Digital Economy 10th edition

Florence, 12-13 March 2020

The Communications & Media Area of the Florence School of Regulation (FSR C&M), the Florence Competition Programme (FCP) and the Centre for Media Pluralism and Freedom (CMPF) invite submissions to their Annual Scientific Seminar, which has now reached its 10th edition.

The digital economy is fundamentally changing the world in which we live. Innovations linked to the advent of 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), and the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to the rise of platform economy have a major impact on firms, consumers, and ultimately citizens. Hence, one of the greatest tasks we face today is to develop conceptual frameworks and policies that will prove adequate to the challenges of the Internet-based digital economy and society. In fact, from a global perspective, one can observe the emergence of widely different approaches towards the Internet revolution. Two polar views are represented by the US and China: the first follows its traditional laissez-faire approach based on the belief that market forces will resolve any relevant problem, while the latter is driven by its protectionist industrial policy and political willingness to control the public sphere. The EU appears to be caught in the middle, in search of a third route that could preserve the precious features of the Internet – its free and open character and innovative drive – but could also control the economic disruption and mitigate the risks for democracy and the fundamental rights of its citizens. In other words, the identification of effective policies require the careful balancing of innovation, competition and the protection of fundamental rights.

This complex balancing process raises a number of questions related to the regulation of networks, the centrality of platforms in the digital economy, the relationship between intellectual property and innovation, the role of competition policy in digital markets and the impact of technologies and new business models on the fundamental rights of the citizens and, in particular on democracy and plurality of media.

The Annual Scientific Seminar welcomes papers from legal and economic scholars, both theoretically and empirically oriented. Suggested areas include:

- The role of IP in fostering innovation
- Challenges and opportunities related to platform-based economy
- The role of competition policy in the Digital Economy
- Electronic communications networks, 5G and IoT
- Social Media, democracy and fundamental rights

POST-SEMINAR PUBLICATION: After the Scientific Seminar and subject to the agreement of the author, selected papers might be published either in special edition of a renowned academic journal or as EUI Working Paper.

SUBMISSION: Please submit an extended abstract (at least 8-pages long) or preferably an unpublished paper by **Sunday, 15 December 2019** to the following link: <https://rscas.eu/view-form/call-for-papers-annual-scientific-seminar-on-innovation-platforms-and-the-digital-economy/>. The final program will include 14-16 papers over a two-day Seminar.

Keynote Speaker: Joshua Gans



Joshua Gans is a Professor of Strategic Management and holder of the Jeffrey S. Skoll Chair of Technical Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto (with a cross appointment in the Department of Economics). Since 2013, he has also been Area Coordinator of Strategic Management. Joshua is also Chief Economist of the University of Toronto's [Creative Destruction Lab](#). Prior to 2011, he was the foundation Professor of Management (Information Economics) at the Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne and prior to that he was at the School of Economics, University of New South Wales. In 2011, Joshua was a visiting researcher at Microsoft Research (New England). Joshua holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University and an honors degree in economics from the University of Queensland. In 2012, Joshua was appointed as a Research Associate of the NBER in the Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program. He has also published [Information Wants to be Shared](#) (Harvard Business Review Press, 2012), and [The Disruption Dilemma](#) (MIT Press, 2016), and co-edited [The Economics of Artificial Intelligence: An Agenda](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2019). His most recent books is [Prediction Machines: The Simple Economics of Artificial Intelligence](#) (HBR Press, 2018).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: Marc Bourreau (Telecom ParisTech), Carlo Cambini (Polytechnic University of Turin), Jorge L. Contreras (University of Utah), Lisa George (Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY), Steffen Hoernig (Nova School of Business and Economics), Sandra Marco Colino (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Juan José Montero (EUI), Giorgio Monti (Tilburg University/EUI), Pier Luigi Parcu (EUI).

FEES: The cost of participating in the Scientific Seminar is EUR 150. This includes a shuttle bus between the city centre and the venue as well as meals and refreshments. Travel and accommodation costs are to be borne by participants.

LOCATION: European University Institute, Room "REFETTORIO" at BADIA FIESOLANA - Via dei Roccettini, 9 San Domenico di Fiesole – Firenze ITALY

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

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