

Do humans have rights in the digital era?

A transatlantic dialogue

Wednesday, October 30, 2019, 6pm
Manny's, 3092 16th Street, San Francisco

[Please register](#)

Artificial intelligence, autonomous robots, social scoring, mass surveillance, and concentrations of power among corporate platforms and political states. Digitalization has stirred up huge challenges to our democratic rights, freedoms and values. Must we sacrifice these rights to digital progress?

Two major visions of the digital future currently dominate in the world: an anti-regulation Silicon Valley model which seemingly values profit over people, and China's digital totalitarian model, which seeks to monitor and track individuals in an unprecedented way. Both models dangerously undermine human rights as we know them. Is a third way possible? What should that model look like?

In recent years the European Union (EU) has been at the forefront of efforts to regulate internet-based

platform companies and their use of our private data. The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has become a blueprint for other countries or states, such as California's own Consumer Privacy Act.

Now, a group of renowned German net activists, civil society experts, lawyers and politicians have drafted a "Charter of Fundamental Digital Rights." It is based on one leading principle: Human dignity shall be inviolable (here's a link [in English](#)). Could this proposal shape our digital future for the better? How would *you* regulate our digital future?

Come join this dialogue between EU/German and US leaders, and be prepared to offer your own thoughts and ideas about digital rights, Big Tech and the challenges to ensure that society benefits from technology and innovation.

Speakers:

Rebecca MacKinnon is director of Ranking Digital Rights at New America in Washington DC, advancing global standards and incentives for companies to respect and protect users' digital rights. A 2019-2020 University of California Free Speech and Civic Engagement Fellow, she is the author of *Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom*, and was previously CNN's bureau chief in Beijing and Tokyo.

Malte Spitz is a German civil rights activist, author, politician and Secretary General of the German Society for Civil Rights. He is the author of "What are you doing with my data?" and "Data - The Oil of the 21st Century? Sustainability in the Digital Age." He is a member of the Federal Executive Board of the German Green Party and his TED talk "Your phone company is watching" has received 1.7 million views. Malte is one of the 27 co-authors of the Digital Charter initiative.

Heinz Bude is one of Germany's most renowned Sociologists. He holds the chair of Macrosociology at the University of Kassel. From 1997 till 2014 he headed the Department „The Society of the Federal Republic“ at Hamburg Institute for Social Research. In 2016 he received the Prize for Outstanding Achievements in the Field of Public Sociology by the German Sociological Society. In 2018 two of his latest books were published in English „Society of Fear“ and „The Mood of the World“. Heinz Bude is one of the 27 co-authors of the Digital Charter initiative.

Moderation: Heinrich Wefing (DIE ZEIT) / Daniel Oppen (ZEIT-Stiftung)

Please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/do-humans-have-rights-in-the-digital-era-a-transatlantic-dialogue-tickets-74581032877?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

The evening will be hosted by Manny's in cooperation with the ZEIT Foundation based in Hamburg/Germany.

The non-profit Zeit-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius supports projects in the fields of research and science, art and culture as well as education and society. It was established in 1971 by the publisher Gerd Bucerius, who co-founded the weekly newspaper "Die ZEIT".

For more information about the Digital Charter Initiative please visit www.digitalcharter.eu

www.welcometomannys.com

<https://www.zeit-stiftung.de/en>

