November 10, 2026

Digital Regulation in the Public Interest: 4th Annual Virtual Symposium

Call for proposals

On behalf of the Brock University Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Blayne Haggart (Professor of Political Science, Brock University) and Dr. Natasha Tusikov (Associate Professor, Department of Social Science, York University) are pleased to invite you to submit a proposal for the fourth annual Brock University Faculty of Social Science virtual symposium, Digital Regulation in the Public Interest, to be held on **Thursday, March 11, 2026**.

As in our previous three symposia in this series, the purpose of this event is to reach across disciplinary boundaries to bring Brock faculty working on digital-policy issues together with colleagues from around the Golden Horseshoe to share and/or provide updates on their work in a collegial and constructive environment. Our overriding objective is to foster a greater sense of community among scholars working in this area. We particularly invite doctoral students and early career researchers to apply.

We invite research focused on public and private governance, widely defined, in our increasingly (commodified) knowledge-driven digital society, again, widely defined. In particular:

- The political economy of data, intellectual property, and digital systems
- Critical approaches to digital policies, including platform governance, social media, and artificial intelligence
- Social and environmental justice (broadly defined) in the digital/knowledge-driven era
- Power and control in the digital society
- Indigenous digital/knowledge-policy issues
- State and non-state, domestic and transnational governance
- Artificial intelligence (however defined) regulation
- Who benefits in and from the knowledge-driven society? Who loses out?

This symposium is likely to interest faculty and student researchers who conduct research focused on the policy side of these issues, primarily within a framework that prioritizes issues of social/environmental justice, rather than on their technical or commercialization sides.

The goal of the symposium, beyond introducing the audience to a wide range of views on these issues, is to help make researchers aware of each other's work and to identify potential future collaborators. It is also designed to offer a welcoming environment for doctoral students to gain experience in presenting their research to, and to gain constructive feedback from a professional audience.

This year we are interested in taking concrete steps in two areas. First, toward creating an association of Brock-based researchers interested in digital-policy issues, widely defined. Second, toward

creating a network of Ontario-based digital-policy researchers willing to coordinate on engaging with federal and provincial digital-policy issues through policy briefs, media interviews and op-eds. Our closing session will invite a discussion on these proposals. Presenting in this symposium does not commit the presenter to a long-term project. Future participation in an association and/or network is optional.

If you would like to participate in the symposium, PLEASE USE THIS FORM to submit a 200-word abstract describing what your presentation would address by **January 15, 2027**. We also invite you to circulate this call for proposals to any colleagues you think might be interested in participating.

A dedicated section of the Faculty of Social Sciences website has been created for this series. The site serves as a repository for associated resources, such as presentations and recordings (with permission), links to presenter profiles, and information on related courses and programs available at Brock University.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Blayne (bhaggart@brocku.ca) or Natasha (ntusikov@yorku.ca).

Kind regards,

Blayne Haggart and Natasha Tusikov