

# Niels ten Oever MA

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## [Linkedin](#)

Singel 40 F  
1015 AB Amsterdam

## [Twitter](#)

+31 629051853  
[mail@nielstenoever.net](mailto:mail@nielstenoever.net)

## Objective

*Understanding the socio-technical orderings that invisible infrastructures provide to societies*

## Work Experience

### [European University Viadrina](#)

Fellow  
September 2019 - Now

- Post Doctoral Research fellow with the Centre for Internet and Human Rights with a specific focus on the politicals and inscription and subversion of power and values in digital information architectures

### [Fundação Getúlio Vargas](#)

Associated Scholar  
September 2019 - Now

- Researching the potential impact of the development and implementation of 5G on human rights with a specific focus on Brazil and South Africa
- Contributor to the [cyberBRICS project](#)

### [University of Amsterdam](#)

PhD Candidate  
October 2015 – present

- PhD candidate in the DATACTIVE Research Group at the Media Studies and the Political Science departments at the University of Amsterdam.
- Research focuses on the evolution of the notion of public interest in the Internet architecture and its governance using quantitative and qualitative methods

### [ARTICLE 19](#)

Head of Digital  
January 2014 –  
January 2018

#### *Strategy and management*

- Defining and implementing a global digital strategy for the International office
- Designing, fundraising, and managing Global Team Digital – consisting of six professionals around the world
- Supporting and liaising with ARTICLE19s eight global offices on digital issues

#### *Internet governance*

- Co-chairing Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANNs Accountability Workstream Two Human Rights Subgroup
- Co-chairing Research Group on [Human Rights Protocol Considerations](#) in the Internet Research Taskforce
- Chairing Cross Community Working Party on [ICANNs Corporate and Social Responsibility to Respect Human Rights](#)
- Participant in Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN's Accountability - WorkStream One
- Representing ARTICLE 19 and heading its contributions to NETmundial, Internet Governance Forum, ICANN, IETF and the ITU
- Co-developing [Internet Legislation Atlas](#)
- Representing ARTICLE 19 in the Web We Want advisory board and the ICANN Non-Commercial User Constituency
- Co-authoring ARTICLE 19 Response to UN Special Rapporteur's Call for Comments on Encryption and Anonymity Online
- Co-authoring two Internet Governance papers on ICANN Accountability and Transparency

#### *Security and surveillance*

- Fundraising and designing digital security upgrade and free software migration for Brazil and Mexico office
- Implementing [censorship measurement project](#) with Brazil, Bangladesh, Kenya and Tunisia office

- Fundraising and implementing [World Cup anti-surveillance project](#) with Brazil office

### [Internet Protection Lab](#)

Coordinator  
November 2012 -  
October 2013

- Establishing a network organization with eight relevant actors in the 'IT for Human Rights and Development' field
- Managing the implementation of Publeaks - an [anonymous leaking platform](#) for 30 Dutch media outlets
- Organizing integrated security trainings in digital, physical and psychosocial security in Ethiopia, Bahrain and Russia
- Developing a crowd contribution platform for software supporting the free, open and unfiltered web

### [Free Press Unlimited](#)

Programme Coordinator  
MENA & ICT  
February 2011 -  
October 2013

- Managing the development of the [Storymaker app](#) for Android
- Overseeing the implementation of the app and training of 600 journalist and citizen reporters in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Iraq. With spin offs in Zimbabwe and Libya
- Envisaging the app, writing the proposal, raising the necessary funds for a five year project

### [Press Now / Free Press Unlimited](#)

Programme Coordinator  
Horn of Africa  
May 2009 -  
February 2012

- Developing strategy for the Horn of Africa for Free Press Unlimited
- Establishing Somalia office and network of 15 Somali media outlets
- Managing and implementing freedom of expression projects in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia
- Training professional and citizen journalists in Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea and Afghanistan and Egypt in journalism and digital security
- Migrating Free Press Unlimited from a Windows environment to a Linux environment with improved digital security features

### [Mediation Foundation](#)

Director  
May 2007 -  
April 2009

- Establishing Ethiopia's first community radio station in Jimma
- Designing community radio guides in Amharic, Afaan Oromo and English
- Developing a localized Linux environment for community radio stations in Ethiopia
- Training the journalism staff, board of directors, volunteers and technician of the radio station

## Education

2004 - 2006  
2002 - 2004

2001 - 2002

- Research MA Philosophy - University of Amsterdam (cum laude)
- BA Philosophy - University of Amsterdam, Humboldt University Berlin
- Diploma in journalism - Hogeschool Windesheim in Zwolle

## Courses

2019  
2019  
2018  
2018  
2011

2010

2009

- Advanced Social Science Theory - University of Amsterdam
- Research Design Methods - University of Amsterdam
- Academic Writing - University of Amsterdam
- Research Methods and Design - University of Amsterdam
- Hostile Environment Safety Training (including First Aid) - Centre for Safety and Development
- Post doctoral course International Relations - Clingendael Diplomatic Institute
- Horn of Africa Course - Rift Valley Institute

## Courses taught

2016

2016

- Networks and Protocols - European Summer School on Internet Governance - Meissen, Germany
- Digital Methods Winter School - University of Amsterdam
- European Summer School on Internet Governance - Meissen,

- 2015 Germany
  - 2007 - 2013
    - Introduction to journalism - Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Morocco, Iraq, Afghanistan
    - Introduction to Digital Security for Human Right Defenders and Journalists – Ethiopia, Netherlands, Somalia,
    - Mobile Content Production & Digital security - Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Morocco, Iraq
    - Radio journalism - Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan
  - 2012 - 2013
  - 2011 - 2013
  - 2007 - 2011
- Software & Hardware**
- **BigBang:** Python based tool for quantitative documents analysis of mailinglists <http://dataactive.github.io/bigbang/>
  - **Refugee Hotspot:** Raspberry Pi based wireless router providing Internet access, aimed at refugee populations <https://refugeehotspot.net/>
  - **Ononymous:** Gamified interactive digital security tutorial <http://game.ononymous.org/>

## Publications

### Peer Reviewed

- Ten Oever, Niels. Forthcoming. "'This is not how we imagined it' - Technological Affordances, Economic Drivers and the Internet Architecture Imaginary" *New Media & Society*.
- Ten Oever, Niels. 2018. "[Productive Contestation, Civil Society, and Global Governance: Human Rights as a Boundary Object in ICANN](https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.172)" *Policy & Internet*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.172>
- Ten Oever, Niels, and Corinne Cath. 2017. "[Research into Human Rights Protocol Considerations](https://doi.org/10.17487/RFC8280)." *RFC8280*. <https://doi.org/10.17487/RFC8280>
- Milan, Stefania, and Niels ten Oever. 2016. "[Coding and Encoding Rights in Internet Infrastructure. Sociotechnical Imaginaries and Grassroots Ordering in Internet Governance](https://doi.org/10.14763/2017.1.442)." *Internet Policy Review* 6 (1). <https://doi.org/10.14763/2017.1.442>.

### Editorial

- Ten Oever, Niels, and Davide Beraldo. 2018. [Routes to rights: internet architecture and values in times of ossification and commercialization](https://doi.org/10.1145/3220561). *XRDS: Crossroads, The ACM Magazine for Students – Pseudonymity and Anonymity* Volume 24 Issue 4, Summer 2018 Pages 28-31. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3220561>

### Book Chapters

- Ten Oever, Niels., Beraldo, Davide, and Milan, Stefania. (forthcoming). 'Internet Protocols and the Public Interest: Methods for Studying Discourse'. In eds. D. Cogburn, L. DeNardis, N. Levinson and F. Musiani, *Research Methods in Internet Governance*. MIT press.
- Frank Jørgensen, Rikke., Bloch Veiberg, Cathrine., and Ten Oever, Niels (forthcoming). 'Information and communication technologies (ICT): Exploring the human rights impact of the ICT sector',

### Reports

- Cath, Corinne, Niels ten Oever and Dan O'Maley, 2017. [Media Development in the Digital Age: Five Ways to Engage in Internet Governance](#)

## Blogposts

- [Assessing the human rights impacts of Internet registries](#) December 2017
- [Internet protocol community has a new tool to respect human rights](#) November 2017
- [Combating Censorship and Highlighting the Politics of Protocols at IETF99](#) August 2017
- [Status Code 451: An Internet Governance Standard to Expose Censorship](#) April 2017
- [#InternetOfRights: Creating the Universal Declaration of Digital Rights](#) March 2017
- [Freedom of Expression Unfiltered: How blocking and filtering affect free speech](#) December 2016
- [Corporate actors must not facilitate human rights violations through new Chinese rules](#) December 2016
- [Freedom of Expression and the role of the telecommunications and Internet access sector](#) December 2016
- [Making the Internet truly global: The IANA transition](#) September 2016
- [ICANN Board agrees to human rights commitment](#) February 2016

## Film

- [Net of Rights](#) March 2016

## Reviewing

- Article reviewer for New Media & Society
- Book reviewer for MIT Press - Information Policy Series

## Presentations and talks

- September 2019
  - A Net of Rights? - The Inscription and Subversion of Values in Transnational Internet Infrastructure Governance - 4S 2019 New Orleans - Society for Social Studies of Science
- June 2019
  - The Net That Won: a little history repeating - Research Infrastructure for the Study of Archived Web Materials (RESAW) 2019 - Univeristy of Amsterdam
- June 2019
  - Transmetropolitan Revisited: Why the Present-Future is Boring - TILTING 2019 Tilburg University
- May 2019
  - Taking the High Route - an approach to value based routing - RIPE78 Reykjavik, Iceland
- April 2019
  - The (dis)content of Internet infrastructure consolidation, Networks With an Attitude Workshop - Constant, Antwerp
- March 2019
  - The Inscription and Subversion of Values in Transnational Internet Infrastructure Governance - Privacy and Sustainable Computing Lab of the Vienna University of Economics and Business
- October 2018
  - This is not how we imagined it' - Technological Affordances, Economic Drivers and the Internet Architecture Imaginary' Plenary talk at RIPE77
- April 2018
  - The Architecture Imaginary and its Ossification - Humboldt Institut fuer Internet und Gesellschaft
- April 2018
  - Internet Infrastructure, Architecture, Governance, and Values in times of Ossification and Commercialization - Internet Governance and Human Rights Conference - School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg
- March 2018
  - Internet Infrastructure, Architecture, Ossification - Alan Turing Institute

- March 2018 • Quantitative Analysis of Mailinglists - Internet Engineering Taskforce
- December 2017 • A Net of Rights: Human Rights Impact Assessments for the Future of the Internet - IGF2017
- November 2017 • Protocols and Freedom of Expression - University of California, Irvine, School of Law.
- October 2017 • Mensenrechten en internetinfrastructuur: Human Rights Impact Assessments - NLIGF2017
- July 2017 • Internet Protocols and Human Rights - IETF98
- April 2017 • Human Rights and Internet Infrastructure - SHA2017
- December 2016 • Internet Architecture & Human Rights: ICANN & IETF - CPDP2016
- November 2015 • Implementing Core Principles in the Digital Age - IGF2015
- November 2015 • Human Rights on the Internet - IGF2015
- November 2015 • Zero-rating and net neutrality policies in developing countries - IGF 2015
- September 2014 • ICANN, Transparency, Accountability and Human Rights
- October 2013 • Best practices in Digital Security - 3TU - Delft Technical University
- March 2012 and May 2013 • Supporting Freedom of Expression Globally - Utrecht University College
- June 2013 • Citizen journalism secured: Storymaker - Freedom Online Tunis
- August 2013 • Storymaker: Open source mobile reporting in MENA - approaches, challenges and first findings - OHM2013

### Workshop Organizing and Programme Committees

- January 2020 • Programme Committee of 2020 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency in Barcelona (FAT\* 2020)
- September 2019 • Workshop Co-Organizer of 'Future Paths to a Public Interest Internet Infrastructure' - Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University
- June 2019 • Programme Committee for Workshop: Engineering Accountable Information Systems at ECIS 2019, Stockholm University
- April 2019 • Workshop Co-Organizer and Host of '4th global HTTP implementers workshop' - University of Amsterdam

### Languages

Dutch	Native language
English	Fluent in speaking and writing
German	Fluent in speaking, proficient in reading and writing
Portuguese	Basic skills
French	Basic skills

### IT Skills

Debian/Linux (desktop and server), Bash, Python, R, Java, HTML, HTMLS CSS, SugarCRM, CiviCRM, MySQL, Wordpress, Drupal, Penetration Testing, Digital Security, Android development, Networking, Wireless Mesh, LaTeX, LibreOffice, Markdown, Git, Github.

### Boards and committees

[Digital Rights and Responsibilities Catalonia SOMO](#)  
[Ranking Digital Rights On Our Radar](#)  
[Internet Society NL](#)

Advisory Board member	August 2019 - present
Board member	November 2015 - present
Board member	July 2016 - present
Advisor	September 2014 - present
Board member	November 2015 - December 2017

### Awarded Grants

- 2020 - 2021 Individual grants
  - Open Technology Fund - Research Project on Human Rights

- 2019 Implications of 5G (128.000 USD research project contract)
- 2019 • Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis PhD finishing fellowship (one year 0.5 FTE)
- 2019 - 2020 • RIPE academic travel grant (flight, hotel, conference attendance)
- 2019 • Ford Foundation (50.000 USD research project grant)
- 2019 • Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (800 EUR grant covering interview transcription costs)
- 2019 • Amsterdam Centre for Globalisation Studies (2500 EUR grant for workshop 'Future Paths for Public Internet Infrastructures')

Institutional project grants

- 2015 - 2018 • United States State Department, Department of Human Rights and Labor (multiyear project funding >1m USD)
- 2016 - 2018 • MacArthur Foundation (multiyear project funding > 1m USD)
- 2016 - 2018 • Ford Foundation (multiyear project funding >100k USD)
- 2011 - 2013 • Human Rights Fund of the Governments of the Netherlands (multiyear project funding >700k EUR)
- 2010 - 2011, 2017 - 2018 • National Endowment for Democracy (multiyear project funding >100k USD)
- 2008 - 2009, 2016 • Stichting Dijkverzwaring (multiyear project funding >50k USD)

**Memberships**

International Studies Association  
Society for Social Studies of Science