

# Niels ten Oever MA

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## Objective

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

## Work Experience

### [Texas A&M University](#)

Postdoctoral Scholar (abd)  
March 2020 - present

- Postdoc with prof. dr. Sandra Braman on the evolution of global telecommunications regimes, with a specific attention to the 3GPP and the development of 5G

### [European University Viadrina](#)

Research Fellow  
September 2019 - present

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

### [Fundação Getúlio Vargas](#)

Associated Scholar  
September 2019 - present

- 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 -  
October 2020

- PhD dissertation: 'Wired Norms: inscription, resistance, and subversion in the governance of the Internet infrastructure'.
- PhD defense October 28<sup>th</sup> 2020
- 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 Work Stream 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](#)
- Member of the General Principles Committee for the [IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems](#)
- Participant in Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN's Accountability - Work Stream 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 10+ 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, fundraising and implementing strategy and projects for Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia
- Establishing Somalia office in Hargeisa, Somaliland and network of 15 Somali media outlets
- 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

- 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

2009

- Horn of Africa Course – Rift Valley Institute

## Courses taught

2020

2016

2016

2015

2007 - 2013

2012 - 2013

2011 - 2013

2007 - 2011

- Research Skills Methodology Tutorial
- 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, Germany
- 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

## 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 and migrant populations <https://refugeehotspot.net/>
- **Anonymous:** Gamified interactive digital security tutorial <http://game.ononymous.org/>
- **Publeaks:** anonymous whistleblowing site for 10+ Dutch media <https://publeaks.nl/>
- **Storymaker:** an open source Android app that enables (citizen) journalists to create better stories and share them securely on their mobile telephones <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/projects/storymaker-make-your-story-great>

## Publications

### Under Review

- ten Oever, Niels. "Norm conflict in the governance of transnational and distributed infrastructures: the case of Internet routing" *Globalizations*

### Peer Reviewed

- ten Oever, Niels. Forthcoming 2020 "'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. 2020. '[Cybernetica, dataficatie en surveillance in de polder](#)' in: *Ni Dieu, Ni Maitre. Festschrift for Ruud Kaulingfrek. Waardenwerk, Journal for Humanistic Studies*, SWP. Pages 44-46.
- ten Oever, Niels, and Davide Beraldo. 2018. [Routes to rights: internet architecture and values in times of ossification and commercialization](#). *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. Forthcoming. 'The metagovernance of internet governance'. In eds. B. Haggart, N. Tusikov, and J.A. Scholte, *Contested Power and Authority in Internet Governance: Return of the State?*. Routedledge Global Cooperation Series
- ten Oever, Niels., Beraldo, Davide, and Milan, Stefania. Forthcoming 2020. '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 2020. 'Information and communication technologies (ICT): Exploring the human rights impact of the ICT sector' in: *Handbook on Human Rights Impact Assessment*. Edited by. Nora Götzmann, Elgar Publishing

## Book

- Uhlig, Ulrike., Knodel Mallory., Cath, Corinne., ten Oever, Niels. Forthcoming 2020. *How the Internet Really Works: An Illustrated Guide to Protocols, Privacy, Censorship, and Governance*. No Starch Press

## 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

- [Private equity firm procures .org from the Internet Society, or: How the public interest got sold-out \(again\)](#) November 2019
- [Off the Beaten Path: Human rights advocacy to change the Internet infrastructure](#) September 2019
- [Please Hum Now: Decision Making at the IETF](#) May 2019
- [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
- Project reviewer for [NGI Pointer](#)

## Presentations and talks

- July 2020
  - April 2020
  - February 2020
  - February 2020
  - November 2019
  - November 2019
  - October 2019
  - October 2019
  - October 2019
  - October 2019
  - October 2019
  - August 2019
  - July 2019
  - July 2019
  - June 2019
  - June 2019
  - May 2019
  - April 2019
  - March 2019
  - October 2018
- Surging Demand and the Global Internet Infrastructure – panelist on webinar of the Netgain Partnership
  - Protocols, Values, and Power - University of Amsterdam Institute for Information Law
  - Protocols, Values, and Power - University of Amsterdam Institute for Information Law
  - Wired Values – Platform Internet Standards, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
  - Human Rights and Protocols – Leiden University, the Hague Campus
  - Values in the Internet infrastructure – presentation in session 'Public Values' – Dutch platform society (ECP) annual meeting
  - Introduction into Internet Governance – Internet Society Masterclass at De Waag in Amsterdam
  - Taking the High Route - Infrastructures and Inequalities: Media industries, digital cultures and politics workshop of the European Communication and Research Association (ECREA) in Helsinki
  - Cyberwar, cyberpower, 5G – Kyiv Biennial
  - A Route Not Taken – St. Petersburg University
  - What Does the Internet Do to You – Trinity College Dublin
  - Live in the Layers – Global Partners Digital London
  - Discussant at workshop 'Return of the State? Contests for Power and Authority in Internet Governance' - Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research
  - Cybernetica, dataficatie en surveillance in de polder - Afscheidssymposium Ruud Kaulingfreks, Universiteit van Humanistiek
  - The Net That Won: a little history repeating - Research Infrastructure for the Study of Archived Web Materials (RESAW) 2019 – Univeristy of Amsterdam
  - Transmetropolitan Revisted: Why the Present-Future is Boring – GIKII - TILTING 2019 at Tilburg University
  - Taking the High Route – an approach to value based routing – RIPE78 Reykjavik, Iceland
  - The (dis)content of Internet infrastructure consolidation, Networks With an Attitude Workshop – Constant, Antwerp
  - The Inscription and Subversion of Values in Transnational Internet Infrastructure Governance - Privacy and Sustainable Computing Lab of the Vienna University of Economics and Business

- April 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 – Workshop on Future Imaginaries at Humboldt Institut fuer Internet und Gesellschaft
- March 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
- December 2017 • Quantitative Analysis of Mailinglists – Internet Engineering Taskforce
- December 2017 • A Net of Rights: Human Rights Impact Assessments for the Future of the Internet - IGF2017
- October 2017 • Protocols and Freedom of Expression - University of California, Irvine, School of Law.
- July 2017 • Mensenrechten en internetinfrastructuur: Human Rights Impact Assessments – NLIGF2017
- March 2019 • Internet Protocols and Human Rights – Technical Plenary at 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

- December 2020 • Programme Committee Global Internet Governance Academic Network November 2021 meeting
- September 2020 • Programme Committee ACM Information-Centric Economic, Societal and Governance Workshop 2020
- 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
- June 2019 • Programme Chair for session ' 'Society rebooted: Digital infrastructure and its governmentality' at Dutch Day of Sociology – Nederlandse Sociologische Vereniging
- 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                                          |
|            | Basic skills                                          |

French

## IT Skills

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

## Boards and committees

<a href="#">SIDN Fund</a>	Advisory Board member	November 2019 - present
<a href="#">Digital Rights and Responsibilities Catalonia</a>	Advisory Board member	August 2019 - present
<a href="#">SOMO</a>	Board member	November 2015 - present
<a href="#">Ranking Digital Rights</a>	Board member	July 2016 - present
<a href="#">On Our Radar</a>	Advisor	September 2014 - present
<a href="#">Internet Society NL</a>	Board member	November 2015 - December 2017

## Awarded Grants

	Individual grants
2020 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Open Technology Fund - Research Project on Human Rights Implications of 5G (128.000 USD research project contract)</li></ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis PhD finishing fellowship (one year 0.5 FTE)</li></ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>RIPE academic travel grant (flight, hotel, conference attendance)</li></ul>
2019 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ford Foundation (50.000 USD research project grant)</li></ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (800 EUR grant covering interview transcription costs)</li></ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ford Foundation (20.000 USD), Harvard Kennedy School (20.000 USD), ARTICLE19 (10.000 USD), Amsterdam School for Globalisation Studies (2500 EUR), MacArthur Foundation (2500 USD) for workshop 'Future Paths for a Public Interest Internet Infrastructure' at the Harvard Kennedy School)</li></ul>
	Institutional project grants
2015 - 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>United States State Department, Department of Human Rights and Labor (multiyear project funding &gt;1m USD)</li></ul>
2016 - 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MacArthur Foundation (multiyear project funding &gt; 1m USD)</li></ul>
2016 - 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ford Foundation (multiyear project funding &gt;100k USD)</li></ul>
2011 - 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Human Rights Fund of the Governments of the Netherlands (multiyear project funding &gt;700k EUR)</li></ul>
2010 - 2011, 2017 - 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Endowment for Democracy (multiyear project funding &gt;100k USD)</li></ul>
2008 - 2009, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stichting Dijkverzwaring (multiyear project funding &gt;50k USD)</li></ul>

## Memberships

International Studies Association  
Society for Social Studies of Science  
International Communications Association

## References

Prof. Dr. Sandra Braman, Texas A&M University, [braman@tamu.edu](mailto:braman@tamu.edu)  
Wei Fan, Open Technology Fund, [wei@opentech.fund](mailto:wei@opentech.fund)  
Prof. Dr. Marlies Glasius, Universiteit van Amsterdam, [M.E.Glasius@uva.nl](mailto:M.E.Glasius@uva.nl)