

Niels ten Oever, PhD

[Linkedin](#)

Groenmarktkaade 5 III
1016 TA Amsterdam

[Twitter](#)

+31 629051853
mail@nielstenoever.net

Objective

Examine how transnational communication infrastructures can be aligned with human rights

Work Experience

[University of Amsterdam](#)

Postdoctoral Researcher
December 2020 - present

- Researcher for the IN-SIGHT.it project on the topic of citizenship and standard-setting in digital networks – with a particular focus on co-designing for public values in standards-making and governance of 5G networks

[Simon Fraser University](#)

Affiliated Faculty
October 2020 - present

- Affiliated faculty with the Digital Democracies Institute
- Contributor to the Cyberwar Topologies project
- Member of the Critical Infrastructures study group under the lead of Dr. Svitlana Matviyenko

[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, inscription, and subversion of norms 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](#)

[Texas A&M University](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
March 2020 – March 2021

- 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

[Polis180](#)

Residency
November –
December 2020

- Three week residency with artists, scientists, and practitioners to co-design Data Policy and Cross-sector Collaborations in the EU.
- The resulting white paper serves as input for the German Federal Foreign Office.

[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 28th 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

- Research MA Philosophy – University of Amsterdam (cum laude)

2004 - 2006
2002 - 2004

- BA Philosophy – University of Amsterdam, Humboldt University Berlin
- Diploma in journalism – Hogeschool Windesheim in Zwolle

2001 - 2002
Courses

2019
2019
2018
2018
2011

- 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

2010

2009

Courses taught

2022

- Data Futures Lab on Digital Urban Futures, 200-level “intensive” Social Sciences course designed and taught at Amsterdam University College

2020

- Research Skills Methodology Tutorial, Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam

2016

- Networks and Protocols - European Summer School on Internet Governance - Meissen, Germany

2016

- Digital Methods Winter School – University of Amsterdam

2015

- European Summer School on Internet Governance - Meissen, Germany

2007 - 2013

- Introduction to journalism - Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Morocco, Iraq, Afghanistan

2012 - 2013

- Introduction to Digital Security for Human Right Defenders and Journalists – Ethiopia, Netherlands, Somalia,

2011 - 2013

- Mobile Content Production & Digital security - Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Morocco, Iraq

2007 - 2011

- 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/>
- **Ononymous:** 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](#)" *Policy & Internet*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.172>
- ten Oever, Niels, and Corinne Cath. 2017. "[RFC8280 -Research into Human Rights Protocol Considerations.](#)" *RFC-Series. RFC Editor*. <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.](#)" *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>
- ten Oever, Niels., and Katheen Moriarty (eds). 2020. [The Tao of the IETF](#). IETF Trust

Book Chapters

- ten Oever, Niels. 2021. 'The metagovernance of internet governance'. In: eds. B. Haggart, N. Tusikov, and J.A. Scholte, *Power and Authority in Internet Governance: Return of the State?*. Routledge Global Cooperation Series
- ten Oever, Niels. 2021. 'Covid-19 and the stripping of power from the edges'. In: eds Stefania Milan, Emiliano Treré, Silvia Masiero, [Covid-19 from the Margins](#). Institute for Network Cultures.
- ten Oever, Niels., Beraldo, Davide, and Milan, Stefania. 2020. '[Studying Discourse in Internet Governance through Mailing-List Analysis](#)'. In eds. D. Cogburn, L. DeNardis, N. Levinson and F. Musiani, [Researching 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: eds Nora Götzmann, *Handbook on Human Rights Impact Assessment*, 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

- ten Oever, Niels. 2020 The Internet infrastructure and its governance. In: [Gesellschaftliche Technikgestaltung: Orientierung durch eine Metaperspektive auf Schlüsselemente](#). Karoline Krenn, Jens Tiemann, Fraunhofer Fokus
- 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

Mentions in the Press

- Special Feature in New York Times covering my research and work in IETF "['Master,' 'Slave' and the Fight Over Offensive Terms in Computing](#)", April 2021
- Interview Internet Society Netherlands '[Het fundament van het Internet waar niemand omheen kan en weinigen iets vanaf weten](#)', March 2021
- Interview in Elektor Magazine: '[How Infrastructure Shapes Our Society](#)' (English) and '[Hoe infrastructuur onze samenleving vormt](#)', November 2020
- Extended quotes in '[Help, het internet breekt in tweeën](#)' in NRC,

September 2020

- Extended quotes in '[La Chine exacerbe la bataille pour le contrôle d'internet](#)', April 7 2020
- Extended quotes in '[Inside China's controversial mission to reinvent the internet](#)' in the Financial Times, March 27 2020

Reviewing

- Article reviewer for Social Movement Studies
- Article reviewer for Internet Histories
- Article reviewer for M/C – A Journal of Media and Culture
- Article reviewer for New Media & Society
- Article reviewer for Ethics and Information Technology
- Book reviewer for MIT Press - Information Policy Series
- Book reviewer for Rowman & Littlefield International Press
- Project reviewer for [NGI Pointer](#)
- Project reviewer for SIDN fonds

Presentations and talks

- May 2021
 - The quantum state of topological infrastructure reconfigurations: the case of 5G - Digital Democracy Institute at Simon Fraser University
- April 2021
 - Norms and governance in digital transnational communication infrastructures - Federmann School of Public Policy and Hertie School of Public Policy
- April 2021
 - Two emerging communication governance regimes - University of Amsterdam Institute for Information Law
- March 2021
 - Digital technical standards: Strengthening the Multi-stakeholder System – Chatham House and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport of the United Kingdom
- January 2021
 - The Standardization of 5G and its discontents - Dutch Platform for Internet Standards
- January 2021
 - The hidden norms of the Internet and Human Rights – Virtual School for Internet Governance
- December 2020
 - The role of norms in the Internet infrastructure: the infrastructural norm of interconnection and human rights - Oxford University and the University of Johannesburg – PCMLP Global Media Policy Seminar Series
- November 2020
 - Norm conflict in the governance of complex, transnational, and distributed infrastructures: the case of Internet routing – Giganet, Internet Governance Forum
- September 2020
 - Norms and Human Rights in Internet governance - Leiden University, the Hague Campus
- August 2020
 - Masterclass Netpolitics – Waag Society & Internet Society
- July 2020
 - Surging Demand and the Global Internet Infrastructure – panelist on webinar of the Netgain Partnership
- April 2020
 - Protocols, Values, and Power - University of Amsterdam Institute for Information Law
- February 2020
 - Protocols, Values, and Power - University of Amsterdam Institute for Information Law
- February 2020
 - Wired Values – Platform Internet Standards, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
- November 2019
 - Human Rights and Protocols – Leiden University, the Hague Campus
- November 2019
 - Values in the Internet infrastructure – presentation in session 'Public Values' – Dutch platform society (ECP) annual meeting
- October 2019
 - Introduction into Internet Governance – Internet Society Masterclass at De Waag in Amsterdam
- October 2019
 - Taking the High Route - Infrastructures and Inequalities: Media industries, digital cultures and politics workshop of the European Communication and Research Association (ECREA) in Helsinki
- October 2019
 - Cyberwar, cyberpower, 5G – Kyiv Biennial

- October 2019
- August 2019
- July 2019
- July 2019
- June 2019
- June 2019
- May 2019
- April 2019
- April 2019
- March 2019
- October 2018
- April 2018
- April 2018
- March 2018
- March 2018
- December 2017
- December 2017
- October 2017
- July 2017
- March 2019
- April 2017
- December 2016
- November 2015
- November 2015
- November 2015
- September 2014
- October 2013
- March 2012 and May 2013
- June 2013
- August 2013
- 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 Inscripton and Subversion of Values in Transnational Internet Infrastructure Governance - Privacy and Sustainable Computing Lab of the Vienna University of Economics and Business
- This is not how we imagined it' - Technological Affordances, Economic Drivers and the Internet Architecture Imaginary' Plenary talk at RIPE77
- The Architecture Imaginary and its Ossification – Workshop on Future Imaginaries at Humboldt Institut fuer Internet und Gesellschaft
- 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
- Internet Infrastructure, Architecture, Ossification – Alan Turing Institute
- Quantitative Analysis of Mailinglists – Internet Engineering Taskforce
- A Net of Rights: Human Rights Impact Assessments for the Future of the Internet - IGF2017
- Protocols and Freedom of Expression - University of California, Irvine, School of Law.
- Mensenrechten en internetinfrastructuur: Human Rights Impact Assessments – NLIGF2017
- Internet Protocols and Human Rights – Technical Plenary at IETF98
- Human Rights and Internet Infrastructure - SHA2017
- Internet Architecture & Human Rights: ICANN & IETF – CPDP2016
- Implementing Core Principles in the Digital Age – IGF2015
- Human Rights on the Internet – IGF2015
- Zero-rating and net neutrality policies in developing countries – IGF 2015
- ICANN, Transparency, Accountability and Human Rights
- Best practices in Digital Security – 3TU – Delft Technical University
- Supporting Freedom of Expression Globally - Utrecht University College
- Citizen journalism secured: Storymaker - Freedom Online Tunis
- Storymaker: Open source mobile reporting in MENA - approaches, challenges and first findings – OHM2013

Workshop Organizing and Programme Committees

- December 2021
- Workshop convener Internet Architecture Board workshop: 'Show me the numbers: Workshop on analyzing IETF data'

- September 2021
 - December 2020
 - September 2020
 - January 2020
 - September 2019
 - June 2019
 - June 2019
 - April 2019
- Workshop co-organizer Workshop on Internet Standards-Setting Research Methods
 - Programme Committee Global Internet Governance Academic Network November 2021 meeting
 - Programme Committee ACM Information-Centric Economic, Societal and Governance Workshop 2020
 - Programme Committee of 2020 Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency in Barcelona (FAT* 2020)
 - Workshop Co-Organizer of 'Future Paths to a Public Interest Internet Infrastructure' - Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University
 - Programme Committee for Workshop: Engineering Accountable Information Systems at ECIS 2019, Stockholm University
 - Programme Chair for session 'Society rebooted: Digital infrastructure and its governmentality' at Dutch Day of Sociology - Nederlandse Sociologische Vereniging
 - Workshop Host and Co-Organizer 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, HTML CSS, SugarCRM, CiviCRM, MySQL, Wordpress, Drupal, Penetration Testing, Digital Security, gnuradio, Android development, Networking, Wireless Mesh, LaTeX, LibreOffice, Markdown, Git, Github.

Non-Academic Boards and committees

Platform Internet Standaarden	Academic representative	February 2021 - present
SIDN Fund	Advisory Board member	November 2019 - present
Digital Rights and Responsibilities Catalonia SOMO	Advisory Board member	August 2019 - present
Ranking Digital Rights On Our Radar	Board member	November 2015 - present
Internet Society NL	Board member	July 2016 - October 2020
	Advisor	September 2014 - October 2020
	Board member	November 2015 - December 2017

Awarded Grants

	Individual grants
2021 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Digital Cultures grant (29.224 EUR with Maxigas and Paul Groth)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amsterdam Center for European Studies (13.356 EUR for hiring student assistant for six months)
2020 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Technology Fund - Research Project on Human Rights Implications of 5G (128.000 USD research project contract)
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis PhD finishing fellowship (one year 0.5 FTE)
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIPE academic travel grant (flight, hotel, conference attendance)
2019 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ford Foundation (50.000 USD research project grant)
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amsterdam Center for European Studies (800 EUR grant covering interview transcription costs)
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)

- 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 Dijkverzwareing (multiyear project funding >50k USD)

Memberships

Amsterdam Center for European Studies (ACES)
International Studies Association (ISA)
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
International Communications Association (ICA)
The Global Internet Governance Academic Network (Giganet)

References

Prof. Dr. Marlies Glasius, Amsterdam University, M.E.Glasius@uva.nl
Dr. Stefania Milan, Amsterdam University, S.Milan@uva.nl
Dr. Tatiana Tropina, Leiden University, t.tropina@fgga.leidenuniv.nl