**GENEVA ACADEMY**
Académie de droit international humanitaire et de droits humains
Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

## GENEVA ACADEMY WEDNESDAYS
## SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS: THE NEW GATEKEEPERS OF FREE SPEECH?

VILLA MOYNIER I RUE DE LAUSANNE 120B I GENEVA | **WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER, 18:30 - 20:00**

Social media platforms are under considerable pressure from states to be more proactive in both preventing and eliminating hate speech as well as 'terrorist' and 'violent extremist' content. As a result, many social media companies have stepped up efforts, jointly and individually, to spot such content in a more efficient manner, thereby becoming the de facto regulators of online content and the 'gatekeepers' of freedom of expression and interlinked rights in cyberspace.

Having corporate entities carry out such quasi-executive and quasi-adjudicative tasks, effectively outsourced to them by governments under the banner of self- or co-regulation, raises a series of difficult questions under human rights law.

## MODERATION

- **Sandra Krähenmann,** Research Fellow, Geneva Academy
- **Tom Gal,** Teaching Assistant, Geneva Academy

## PANELISTS

- **Professor Sheldon Leader,** Director of the Essex Business and Human Rights Project, Member of the Human Rights, Big Data and Technology project, University of Essex
- **Dr Krisztina Huszti-Orban,** Senior Research Officer, the Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

## ABOUT GENEVA ACADEMY WEDNESDAYS

Geneva Academy Wednesdays are a platform coordinated by Geneva Academy researchers and teaching assistants to foster debate and discussion between academics and practitioners on different aspects of international law or international relations.

## HUMAN RIGHTS, BIG DATA AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

The Geneva Academy is a partner of the Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project (HRBDT), based at the University of Essex's Human Rights Centre.

HRBDT maps and analyzes the challenges and opportunities presented by the use of technology and big data from a human rights perspective. Drawing on the wide range of expertise of its interdisciplinary researchers, the project considers whether fundamental human rights concepts and approaches need to be adapted to meet the rapidly evolving technological landscape. The work brings together practitioners in the fields of human rights, technology and Internet governance, the United Nations, technology industries and academics, to assess existing regulatory responses and the need for reforms in order to maximize effective human rights enjoyment and protection.