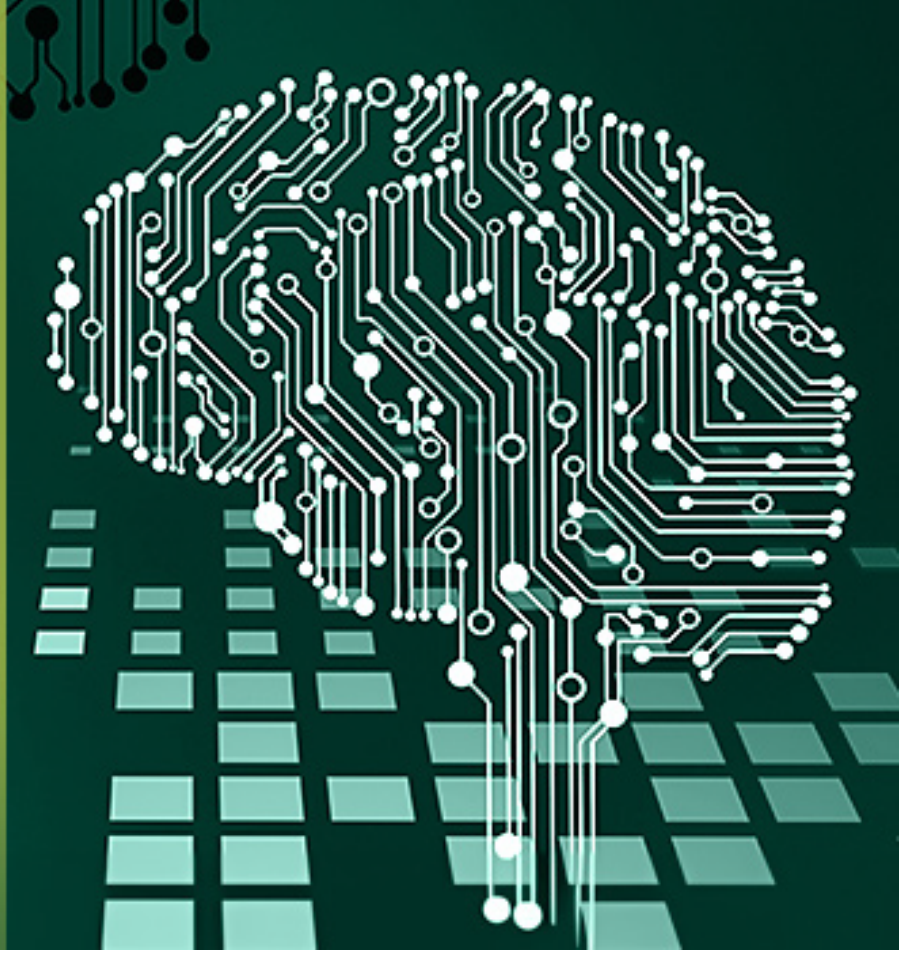
AI GOVERNANCE: New Tradeoffs for Sovereignty, Trust and Sustainability

May 11, 2026
Toronto, Canada



***Please note, this is a draft agenda with details still to be confirmed.*

Monday, May 11, 2026
12 – 6 p.m.
Donald K. Johnson Centre, First Canadian Place / Exchange Tower
130 King Street, Toronto, Ontario

Host
Ivey Business School, Western University, Ontario

Organizers
Erik Bohlin, Ivey Chair in Telecommunication Economics, Regulation and Policy, and Romel Mostafa, Director, Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management, Ivey Business School

Schedule

Time	Location
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	**Welcome Buffet Lunch**
1:00 – 1:10 p.m.	**Welcome and Introduction** Erik Bohlin, Professor and Chair in Telecommunication Economics, Policy and Regulation, Ivey Business School; and Romel Mostafa, Director, Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management, Ivey Business School
1:10 – 1:30 p.m.	**Opening Keynote: Internationalization vs. Sovereignty in AI Governance** Marc Rotenberg, Executive Director and Founder, Center for AI and Digital Policy, and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Law, Washington D.C.
1:30 – 1:50 p.m.	**AI Governance: The Challenges in Regulating AI** Nathalie Smuha, Professor, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law
1:50 – 2:30 p.m.	**Panel: The Limits of AI Governance: Innovation, New Big Tech and Trust** Moderated by Erik Bohlin, Ivey Business School Johannes Bauer, Professor and Director, Quello Center, Michigan State University; and former Chief Economist, Federal Communications Commission Vass Bednar, Managing Director, Canadian SHIELD Institute Philippe Lefebvre, Senior Advisor, FIPRA, Brussels
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	**Coffee Break**
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	**AI Governance: Will Both Industry and Regulators be Captured by AI?** *(video)* Martin Cave, OBE, former Chair of OFGEM and CMA; and Visiting Professor, London School of Economics
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	**Panel: Perspectives by Users** Moderated by Romel Mostafa, Ivey Business School Speakers to be confirmed

4:00 – 4:45 p.m.	**Panel: The Challenges for Canadian AI Policy** Speakers to be confirmed
4:45 – 5:15 p.m.	**Conclusions and Outlooks: Implications for Canada** Speakers to be confirmed
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	**Networking Reception with Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres**

Speakers

Johannes Bauer is a researcher, writer, teacher, and academic entrepreneur. He is interested in the digital economy next-generation media. His position as Quello Chair for Media and Information Policy facilitates the pursuit of rigorous and actionable research. From September 2023 through December 2024, he was on leave from MSU to serve as the Chief Economist in the Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA) of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC. Educated as an engineer and social scientist, he obtained advanced degrees in economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria. Michigan State University has been his home institution since 1990. He had the privilege to spend extended times affiliated with Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands (2000-2001), the University of Constance, Germany (Summer 2010), and the University of Zurich, Switzerland (2012).

Vass Bednar is the Managing Director of SHIELD. Recognized as one of Canada's sharpest policy minds, she is known for cutting through corporate jargon and bureaucratic inertia to ask the questions others won't. With a career spanning think tanks, government, academia and media, Vass has built a reputation as a fearless and independent voice on the policies that shape our daily lives. In 2020, she co-founded the Master of Public Policy in Digital Society program at McMaster University, where she also taught courses on policy design. Vass is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, a Fellow at the Public Policy Forum and an advisor to both the Canadian Anti-Monopoly Project and Social Capital Partners. She is the co-author of *The Big Fix: How Companies Capture Markets and Harm Canadians* and writes for the *The Globe and Mail*'s Report on Business where she focuses on the policies, technologies, and corporate forces that shape our everyday lives and economic futures.

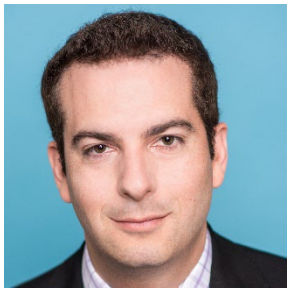
Erik Bohlin is Professor and Chair in Telecommunication Economics, Policy and Regulation at the Ivey Business School. He is an expert in telecommunications policy, an inter-disciplinary topic concerned with the impact of digitalization in the economy and society. He is Editor-in-Chief of *Telecommunications Policy*, a premier journal in the field. He is on leave as Professor at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden. His graduate degree is in Business Administration and Economics at the Stockholm School of Economics (1987) and his Ph.D. is from Chalmers University of Technology (1995). He is a Member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering, and Past Chair of the International Telecommunications Society, an inter-disciplinary professional society convening conferences on the evolving digital society and policy needs.

Martin Cave is an economist specializing in competition issues and the regulation of network industries. He was BP Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics in 2010/11 and Professor at Warwick Business School from 2001 to 2010. Prior to that he was Professor of Economics and Vice-Principal at Brunel University. He is now Visiting Professor at Imperial College Business School. He has undertaken several independent reviews for the UK government, into spectrum policy, the regulation of social housing and competition and innovation in the water sector. He has also advised governments and regulators throughout the world on competition and regulation in a number of sectors. He was a member of the Competition Commission from 1996 to 2002. Martin is also a specialist utility panel member. He was awarded an OBE for public service in 2009.

Philippe Lefebvre is Senior Advisor at FIPRA, Brussels. He has built a career combining strategic leadership and engineering roles spanning the telecommunications and financial sectors, with experience in both the private sector and public policy at the EU level. Since July 2024, he has been working as an independent consultant, specialising in digital and telecommunications strategy, as well as advising clients in the fields of payments and decentralized finance (DeFi). From 1995 to 2024, Philippe held various middle management positions at the European Commission. In his most recent role, he was responsible for the Commission's 5G deployment strategy, including policy development and investment incentive actions to achieve the connectivity targets of the EU Digital Decade Programme. Earlier in his career at the Commission, he held positions with responsibilities covering broadcasting regulation, radio spectrum policy, electronic commerce, and EU strategic research in the field of financial technologies and digital euro.

Prior to joining the European Commission, Philippe began his career at Belgium's Générale Bank, now Fortis Group, from (1983-1986). He then held management roles in the international payments industry, serving as Vice President, Technology Programmes at Eurocard, then Europe's arm of Mastercard (1987-1991) and later as Director of Debit Products at Visa International in the U.S. (1992-1995). Born in Luxembourg, Philippe Lefebvre holds a MSc degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and an BA in Economics, both from the Brussels University.

Romel Mostafa is an Assistant Professor of Business, Economics and Public Policy at the Ivey Business School. Romel's areas of research and expertise include strategy & capability development in new firms, innovation & competitive dynamics, industrial evolution & policy, as well as behavioural decision-making. He has published in several leading academic journals, including Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Behavioral Decision Making, Journal of Risk & Uncertainty, Organization Science and Management Science. His research and commentaries have been featured in global media outlets such as CNN, NPR and the New York Times. Romel has taught both at graduate and undergraduate levels, and received several teaching awards. He obtained his PhD and MSc from Carnegie Mellon University, and BA from Lawrence University. As the Director of Ivey's Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management, Romel spearheads the Centre's research, outreach and teaching initiatives. The Centre advocates for sound policy and corporate action towards unlocking national competitive advantage, by focusing on critical challenges and opportunities around digital, trade and social infrastructural pillars.



Jonathan Obar's research focuses on communication policy and the relationship between digital technologies, civil liberties, and the inclusiveness of public cultures. Recent research addresses corporate AI transparency, consumer behaviours, and online consent protections (visit www.ainfocus.net and www.biggestlieonline.com for more information). He is currently co-editing a special issue of *Telecommunications Policy* entitled "Policy Responses to Generative AI".

Marc Rotenberg is Executive Director and Founder of the Center for AI and Digital Policy. He is a leading expert in data protection, open government, and AI policy. He has served on many international advisory panels, including the OECD AI Group of Experts. Marc helped draft the Universal Guidelines for AI, a widely endorsed human rights framework for the regulation of Artificial Intelligence. Marc is the author of several textbooks including the *2020 AI Policy*

Sourcebook and *Privacy and Society* (West Academic 2016). He teaches privacy law and the GDPR at Georgetown Law. Marc has spoken frequently before the US Congress, the European Parliament, the OECD, UNESCO, judicial conferences, and international organizations. Marc has directed international comparative law studies on *Privacy and Human Rights, Cryptography and Liberty,* and *Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values.* Marc publishes widely in academic journals. Marc is a graduate of Harvard College, Stanford Law School, and Georgetown Law. He is a Life Member of the American Bar Foundation, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the European Law Institute.

Nathalie Smuha is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Toronto. Her research and teaching focus on the intersection of law, philosophy and technology, with particular attention to the impact of digital technologies on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. She is the author of *Algorithmic Rule By Law: How Algorithmic Regulation in the Public Sector Erodes the Rule of Law*, and the editor of the *Cambridge Handbook on the Law, Ethics and Policy of Artificial Intelligence* (both published with Cambridge University Press, 2025). Previously, she was Assistant Professor and FWO Postdoctoral Fellow at the KU Leuven Faculty of Law, and the academic coordinator of the KU Leuven Summer School on the Law, Ethics, and Policy of AI. She has also taken up Adjunct Professorships at NYU School of Law and Columbia Law School, and she held visiting positions at the University of Oxford, the University of Chicago and the University of Birmingham. Besides her academic activities, Professor Smuha regularly advises governments and international organizations on AI policy and regulation. She coordinated the work of the European Commission's High-Level Expert Group on AI and acted as a scientific expert in the Council of Europe's (Ad Hoc) Committee on AI. She also assisted the OECD and UNESCO with the development of AI policy.