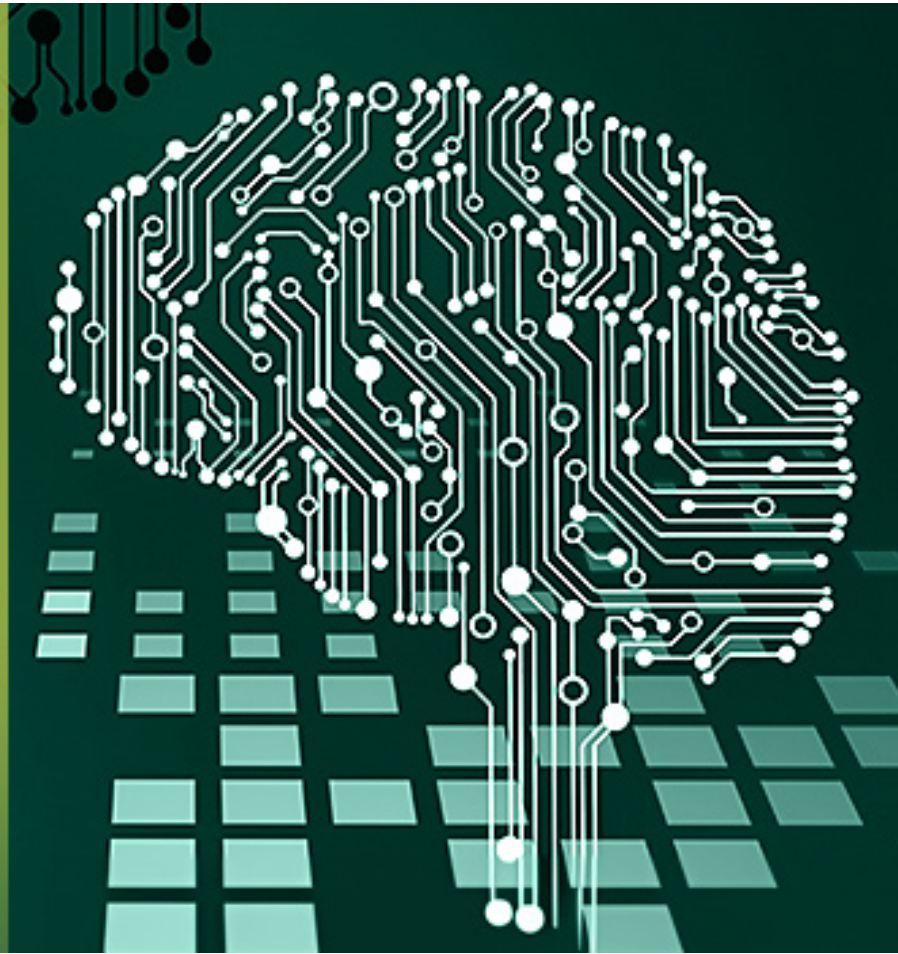


# AI GOVERNANCE:

New Tradeoffs for  
Sovereignty, Trust  
and Sustainability

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May 11, 2026  
Toronto, Canada



**Monday, May 11, 2026**

**12 – 6 p.m.**

[New Donald K. Johnson Centre, 100 King St W, Suite 129, First Canadian Place](#)

## **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 *\*subject to change*

Time	Location
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Buffet Lunch</b>
1:00 – 1:10 p.m.	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>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</p>
1:10 – 1:30 p.m.	<p><b>Opening Keynote</b></p> <p>Ima Okonny, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Data Officer, Employment and Social Development Canada</p>
1:30 – 1:50 p.m.	<p><b>Internationalization vs. Sovereignty in AI Governance</b></p> <p>Marc Rotenberg, Executive Director and Founder, Center for AI and Digital Policy, and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Law, Washington D.C.</p>
1:50 – 2:10 p.m.	<p><b>AI Governance: The Challenges in Regulating AI</b></p> <p>Nathalie Smuha, Professor, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law</p>
2:10 – 2:30 p.m.	<p><b>The Economics of the Emerging AI Ecosystem</b></p> <p>Johannes Bauer, Professor and Director, Quello Center, Michigan State University; and former Chief Economist, Federal Communications Commission</p>
2:30 – 2:55 p.m.	<b>Coffee Break</b>
2:55 – 3:40 p.m.	<p><b>Panel: The Limits of AI Governance: Innovation, New Big Tech and Trust</b></p> <p>Moderated by Erik Bohlin, Ivey Business School</p> <p>Kevin Chan, Public Policy Director, Meta</p> <p>Matthew da Mota, Senior Research Associate, Canadian SHIELD Institute</p> <p>Jonathan Obar, Associate Professor, York University</p> <p>Philippe Lefebvre, Senior Advisor, FIPRA, Brussels</p>
3:40 – 4:10 p.m.	<p><b>Panel: Perspectives by Users</b></p> <p>Moderated by Romel Mostafa, Ivey Business School</p> <p>Jennifer Curtiss, Chief Data Officer, Scotiabank</p> <p>Michael Page, Interim Senior Director, Data Science and Advanced Analytics, Unity Health Toronto</p>

4:10 – 4:40 p.m.	<p><b>Panel: Perspectives by Service Providers</b></p> <p>Moderated by Sohayla Praysner, Independent Advisor  Mark Graham, Senior Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, BCE  Alexandre Guilbault, Vice President, AI Enablement, TELUS</p>
4:40 – 5:00 p.m.	<p><b>Closing Keynote: AI Diplomacy for Mid-size Powers: Implications for Canada</b></p> <p>Mark Daley, Chief AI Officer, Western University</p>
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	<p><b>Networking Reception with Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres</b></p>

## 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).



**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.



**Kevin Chan** is a Public Policy Director at Meta, focusing on the future of the internet including artificial intelligence and wearables. In 2024, he was elected Chair of the Board of MediaSmarts, Canada's digital literacy centre. A former government executive and university administrator, Kevin launched Facebook's Canadian policy function and spent 7 years as its Head and then Director of Policy. He has driven impact in areas as diverse as platform integrity and the promotion of Indigenous languages online. His work fighting white nationalists made NOW Magazine's 2019 Year In Review, and his efforts leading Facebook's Canadian Election Integrity Initiative were recognized with a Harvard Technology and Democracy Fellowship. In 2023, UNESCO named his effort translating Facebook into Inuktitut an initiative of "digital empowerment driving the International Decade of Indigenous Languages". A Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, Kevin was awarded the Quest Medal in 2025 for contributions to the discovery of Quest, Shackleton's last ship, and laying the groundwork for digital immersive experiences that explore this discovery. He is also a recipient of Canada's Meritorious Service Medal, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the King's Coronation Medal.



**Jennifer Curtiss** has been the Chief Data Officer at Scotiabank since 2025. In this role, she is responsible for enterprise data strategy, data governance, and the advancement of data-driven decision-making across the organization. Prior to joining the bank, Jen held senior data roles at American Express, Freddie Mac, Citi and Moodys, leading large-scale data initiatives, modernized data platforms, and built high-performing teams. Jen is recognized for a pragmatic and collaborative leadership approach, with a strong track record of translating complex data challenges into clear, actionable outcomes. She is a committed advocate for data quality, responsible data use, and building a strong data culture that empowers teams and enables sustainable growth.



**Mark Daley** was appointed to the as Western's first-ever Chief AI Officer for a five-year term in October 2023. A respected researcher in the field of neural computation, Mark's career includes a tenure as Vice-President Research at CIFAR, a world-renowned institute supporting AI research and leading Canada's national AI strategy. Additionally, Mark is a multidisciplinary scholar and has held cross-appointments in several departments across campus, including Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics & Actuarial Sciences, Biology, Electrical & Computer Engineering, and Epidemiology & Biostatistics. Western is the first university in Canada to create an AI leadership role within its senior executive, and Mark is uniquely qualified for this exciting new role that will help propel Western to the forefront of AI research and application. Most recently Mark served as Western's Chief Digital Information Officer leading Western Technology Services (WTS). In this capacity he brought together the distributed IT community with a collaborative, respectful and federated approach through the

creation of the Strategic Technology forum, drafted the Agile IT Governance framework, and co-created a service-oriented set of strategic objectives guiding the work of WTS.



**Matthew da Mota** is Senior Research Associate at the Canadian Shield Institute. His research examines how emerging technologies and shifting geopolitical dynamics reshape governance, knowledge, and sovereignty — with a particular focus on the national security implications of AI and digital infrastructure. Matt previously held a post-doctoral fellowship jointly between the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and the University of Toronto's Media Ethics Lab, where he studied AI's transformation of research and knowledge production. Prior to that, he worked at CIGI's Digital Policy Hub on international AI governance. His Ph.D. research examined the relationship between historical narrative, written evidence, and political power. He currently serves on multiple international standardization technical committees and leads research projects on trust, governance, and epistemology.



**Mark Graham** is Senior Vice President, Legal & Regulatory at Bell and oversees the teams responsible for all regulatory, competition, commercial, corporate development and M&A, litigation, and privacy / cybersecurity legal matters. Prior to joining Bell, Mark was a member of the Competition, Antitrust, & Foreign Investment and Communications groups at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP obtained an honours joint specialist degree in Economics & Philosophy from the University of Toronto (2006) and J.D. at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law (2009).



**Alexandre Guilbault** is Vice President of AI Business Enablement at TELUS. He also leads the TELUS AI Accelerator, a team of over 120 professionals within the Chief Information Office, responsible for guiding the company's AI transformation strategy. The team takes a strategic consulting approach to AI adoption, working closely with leaders across TELUS Business, Consumer, Digital, Health, Agriculture & Consumer Goods (TAC) and the Office of the CTO to modernize business operations and deliver practical, measurable value using applied, generative and agentic AI. Under Alexandre's leadership, the AI Accelerator has grown from 15 people to over 120 and generates more than \$100M in annual business value, validated through A/B testing and signed off by the business. The team maintains under 10% attrition in a market where the industry average exceeds 28% and achieved a 97% engagement score. With 15 years of experience in the technology industry, Alexandre brings a deep background in software engineering, machine learning and entrepreneurship. He holds a Master of Business Administration from HEC Montréal and a Bachelor of Engineering from Polytechnique Montréal.



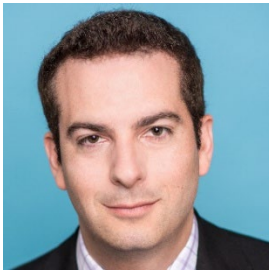
**Philippe Lefebvre** is Senior Advisor at FIPRA, Brussels. He has built a career combining strategic leadership and engineering roles spanning the telecommunications and financial sectors, with experience in both the private sector and public policy at the EU level. Since July 2024, he has been working 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** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and Media Studies at York University. His 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](http://www.ainfocus.net) and [www.biggestlieonline.com](http://www.biggestlieonline.com) for more information). He is currently co-editing a special issue of *Telecommunications Policy* entitled "Policy Responses to Generative AI". He has served as Associate Director of the Quello Center at Michigan State University, Research Fellow with the New America Foundation and Free Press, and as Senior Advisor to the Wikimedia Foundation's Wikipedia Education Program.



**Ima Okonny** is Assistant Deputy Minister and the Chief Data Officer at Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), where she leads enterprise-wide initiatives advancing Data Science, Data Management, and Data Sharing. Her work directly supports the department's policy development, service delivery, and results reporting, strengthening the use of evidence across the organization. Over a 26-year career in the data and analytics domain, Ima has driven significant enhancements to the federal evidence base. She has successfully designed and implemented Data Literacy programs, Data Strategies, and enterprise policies, and has led the development of Artificial Intelligence and Data Ethics Frameworks, along with core tools for assessing and managing data-related risks in complex operational environments. Prior to joining ESDC, Ima served in an executive role at the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), where she led a team responsible for the effective collection, governance, and management of data from federally regulated financial institutions and pension plans.



**Michael Page** is the interim Senior Director of Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA) at Unity Health Toronto. In this capacity, he leads a high-impact team dedicated to deploying AI solutions and optimizing hospital workflows to enhance patient outcomes and health system efficiency. Mike also serves as the Director of AI Commercialization at Unity Health, where he bridges the gap between technical AI development and scalable, real-world healthcare applications. A committed educator and strategist, Mike is an Instructor for Ivey Executive Education and an Advisor and Lecturer for WatSPEED at the University of Waterloo. His academic background includes serving as a Sessional Lecturer for the Executive MBA program at the Ivey Business School. Additionally, he provides strategic mentorship to emerging startups through the Lab2Market program at Toronto Metropolitan University and McMaster University. With over 15 years of experience, Mike has held senior leadership tenures at the Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence and the University of Toronto. His expertise lies at the intersection of innovation, R&D, and corporate strategy, with a focus on translating

complex technology into social and economic impact. Mike holds an MBA from the Ivey Business School and a BA from the University of Toronto. He remains an active mentor to students and professionals navigating the fields of business, innovation, and social impact.



**Sohayla Praysner** is a customer-focused industry leader who has built partnerships with Canadian Service Providers throughout her career. Most recently, Sohayla was Country Manager, Canada at Intelsat, who operates the world's largest integrated satellite-terrestrial network. Prior to that, Sohayla held several leadership roles at Cisco Canada, Alcatel-Lucent and Nortel Networks. Her telecom career began at Bell Canada as a Network Engineer, and she has

since led significant initiatives enabling large scale deployments of transformational technologies across Canada. Sohayla is a Professional Engineer and a graduate of the University of Toronto's Electrical Engineering program. She enjoys being involved with leading edge communication technologies that allow people to live, work and interact seamlessly across multiple, integrated terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks. Sohayla remains engaged with Engineering and Business programs and students at Canadian universities, as a coach and mentor to the next generation of professionals who will shape the future of the country.



**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.