ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

Building Youth Digital Futures: Regulation, Design and Governance

Thursday 12 November 2026

09:00–17:45 · Brussels, Belgium

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Learning and Innovation Center · Room LIC.4.05

Interested in attending? Send a message to BrusselsPrivacyHub@vub.be

09:00–09:15 Welcome and introduction

09:15 **OPENING KEYNOTE**



Giuseppe Abbamonte

European Commission

The future of children's online protection: EU regulatory initiatives and the Digital Fairness Agenda

10:00 Platform responsibility, age assurance and recommender systems



Chair: Henry Pearce

Speakers: Eva Lievens · Suay Ergin · Valerie Verdoodt · Nimrod Mike · František Kasl · Giulia Bassini · Omayma Brahmi · Andrea Palumbo · Julian Morgan

11:20–11:40 Coffee break

11:40 Digital education and socio-technical governance



Chair: Barbara Lazarotto

Speakers: Ayça Atabey · Kim Ringmar Sylwander · Sonia Livingstone · Caroline Stockman · Arianna Rossi · Denise Amram

12:45–13:35 Lunch

13:35 AI products, harmful design and emerging forms of abuse



Chair: Federica Paolucci

Speakers: Silvia Martinelli · Desara Dushi · Giulia Formici

14:40 Autonomy, identity and family governance



Chair: Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon

Speakers: Karolin Rippich · Nicoletta Patti · Jacopo Fortuna · Veronica Greco

16:10–16:30 Coffee break

16:30 **CLOSING KEYNOTE CONVERSATION**

The Future of Children's Digital Rights: Beyond Age-Based Protection



Michael Veale

UCL Faculty of Laws



Leanda Barrington-Leach

5Rights Foundation

17:30–17:45 Closing remarks

ORGANISERS

Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon, Federica Paolucci and Henry Pearce.

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VUB BRUSSELS PRIVACY HUB

The conference is organized within the framework of the FIS21 research project entitled 'Digital Constitutionalism: Rights, Remedies and Policy in the Algorithmic Society' (Project No. FIS00003134, CUP J53C23002620001).

MORNING

Building Youth Digital Futures · Detailed programme

Thursday 12 November 2026 · VUB, Room LIC.4.05

TIME	PAPER	AUTHORS	DISCUSSANT
09:00–09:15	**Welcome and introduction**	Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon, Federica Paolucci, Henry Pearce	
09:15–10:00	**Opening keynote: Giuseppe Abbamonte, The Future of Children's Online Protection: EU Regulatory Initiatives and the Digital Fairness Agenda** (chair: Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon)		Oreste Pollicino (online)
10:00–11:20	**Panel: Platform Responsibility, Age Assurance and Recommender Systems** (chair: Henry Pearce)		
(1)	Do children have the right (not) to use social media? Shining a new light on social media restrictions	Eva Lievens, Suay Ergin, Valerie Verdoodt	Nicoletta Patti
(2)	Below the Giants: How EU Platforms Handle Age Assurance across Three Stages of the User Journey	Nimrod Mike, František Kasl	Desara Dushi
(3)	Online protection of minors under the DSA in the context of recommender systems	Giulia Bassini, Omayma Brahmi	Ayça Atabey
(4)	From affordances to addiction: The Commission's enforcement of the DSA at the intersection of science and policy	Andrea Palumbo, Julian Morgan	Giulia Formici
11:20–11:40	Coffee break		
11:40–12:45	**Panel: Digital Education and Socio-Technical Governance** (chair: Barbara Lazarotto)		
(1)	(Un)fairness by design: what an Age Appropriate Design Code audit reveals about GenAI in EdTech	Ayça Atabey, Kim Ringmar Sylwander, Sonia Livingstone	Julian A. Morgan
(2)	Are Tech-Free Schools in the Best Interest of the Child?	Caroline Stockman	Eva Lievens
(3)	Socio-Technical Appraisal of the Legal Protections and Safeguards for Children in the Digital Environment	Arianna Rossi, Denise Amram	Karolin Rippich
12:45–13:35	Lunch		

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AFTERNOON

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Thursday 12 November 2026 · VUB, Room LIC.4.05

TIME	PAPER	AUTHORS	DISCUSSANT
13:35–14:40	**Panel: AI Products, Harmful Design and Emerging Forms of Abuse** (chair: Federica Paolucci)		
(1)	Fair Design, Dark Patterns and Child Protection: Towards a Child-Centred Regulation by Design in the European Digital Rulebooks	Silvia Martinelli (online)	Andrea Palumbo
(2)	Talking Toys: AI Companions, Children's Safety and Data, and the Limits of the New EU Toy Safety Regulation	Desara Dushi	Omayma Brahmi
(3)	Playing by the Rules: Governing AI Toys in the European Union and the United States	Giulia Formici	Jacopo Fortuna
14:40–16:10	**Panel: Autonomy, Identity and Family Governance** (chair: Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon)		
(1)	Queer Children's Digital Rights and Commission v Hungary	Karolin Rippich, with possible participation by Edoardo Celeste	Caroline Stockman
(2)	Parental Responsibility in the Digital Age: A Comparative Analysis between UK, Italy and Australia	Nicoletta Patti, Jacopo Fortuna	Arianna Rossi
(3)	Parents' Duty to Govern Children's Digital Lives	Veronica Greco (online)	Giulia Bassini
16:10–16:30	Coffee break		
16:30–17:30	**Closing keynote conversation: The Future of Children's Digital Rights: Beyond Age-Based Protection** (moderator: Federica Paolucci)	Michael Veale, Leanda Barrington-Leach (5Rights)	
17:30–17:45	**Closing remarks**	Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon, Federica Paolucci, Henry Pearce	

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