



# **VIU WINTER SCHOOL DIGITAL RIGHTS: THEory and Practice**

**Digital Rights: Theory and Practice**

**January 26-30, 2026**

**Venice International University  
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**

# VIU Winter School

## Digital Rights: Theory and Practice

January 26-30, 2026

Venice International  
University

Scientific Coordinators:

Costanza Margiotta  
University of Padova

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Ca' Foscari University of  
Venice

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University of Milano  
Bicocca

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IUSS Pavia

The Winter School on Digital Rights covers cross-sectoral dimensions related to the rights that are emerging from the access to and the use of data as well as digital services by multiple actors. It offers an integrated approach to innovation based on different methodologies, topics and areas involved in the legal field. The subject-matters include, among others, IT technologies and human rights, law & ethics of AI, AI and decision-making, data governance, the role of digital platforms, the transformation of labor, digital slavery, digital citizenship, the social impact of big data.

The impact of technologies on fundamental rights and democratic societies is as wide-ranging as it is multifaceted and fragmented. The School aims to cover cross-sectoral dimensions related to the rights that are emerging from the access to and the use of data and digital services by multiple actors. It offers an integrated approach to innovation based on different methodologies, topics and areas involved in the legal field. With a view of reconciling theoretical issues and practice at an interdisciplinary layer – involving Legal Philosophy, Legal Theory, Human Rights, IT Law, Private Law, Political Science and Sociology – the Winter School aims at drawing the attention of Master and PhD students to the most relevant issues related to technological innovation. The broader objective is to make legal theory available for the analysis of societal issues, providing a legal and theoretical framework to understand the most relevant issues for the access, use, and sharing of information and data among private and public actors. The school also aims at orienting students towards specialized educational programs on legal theory and digital rights practice.

Given the relevance of the topics addressed, it represents a cutting-edge initiative for its interdisciplinary character as well as for its capacity to attract international students and an audience coming from various curricula.

### Faculty

Costanza Margiotta, University of Padua  
Xenia Chiaramonte, Ca' Foscari University of Venice  
Lorenzo Passerini Glazel, University Milano Bicocca  
Amedeo Santosuosso, University School for Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia

Laura Drechsler, KU Leuven  
Anne Christine Fornage, University of  
Lausanne  
Giovanni Sartor, University of Bologna and  
European University Institute  
Damiano Canale, Bocconi University  
Devi Sacchetto, University of Padua  
Mariavittoria Catanzariti, University of Padua  
Federico Tomasello, University of Messina  
Federica Casarosa, European University Institute  
Nicola Ferro, University of Padua

### **Who is it for?**

Applications are open to Master's Degree  
Students who intend to pursue doctoral studies  
and PhD Students in Law; Human Rights;  
International Relations; Political Science;  
Philosophy; Sociology.

### **Topics**

- The impact of Information Technologies on  
Fundamental Rights
- Data Protection and Information Security
- AI and Public Decision-Making
- Law and Ethics of AI
- The Right to Digital Memory
- Data Archives and the Right to Be Forgotten
- Data Governance and Data Regulation
- The Power of Platforms in the Digital Democracy
- Digital Labor
- Digital Citizenship

### **Learning outcomes for participants**

The course aims at developing the capacity  
building of students in different areas of current  
transformations at the crossroads of Law and  
Innovation. It lasts one working week (5 days).  
In order to stimulate interest in discussing topics,  
working in team and developing structured ideas  
within papers and oral presentations, lectures are  
structured into different sessions: theoretical  
lectures by experts, to provide an overview of  
literature, categories and emerging issues;  
practical laboratories carried out by lawyers,  
sociologists, philosophers and political scientists,  
where hypothetical cases are discussed with a  
problem-solving approach; seminars on specific  
topics; workshops that convey different  
approaches to digital rights to stimulate an  
integrated knowledge; roundtables following up  
lectures to summarize the main conclusions and  
special guests' lectures; students' presentations  
with a final discussion.

### **Credits**

A Certificate of attendance will be issued at the  
end of the course.

Number of ECTS credits allocated: **2**

The Program will admit 25 participants.

### **Fees**

Students of VIU member universities:  
€ 400,00 incl. VAT.

Students of other universities:  
€ 800,00 incl. VAT.

The fees will cover tuition, course materials,  
lunches in the VIU cafeteria and social events.  
Student participants will be responsible for  
covering their own travel expenses to and from  
Venice, accommodation and local transportation.  
VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

PhD candidates and post-docs from universities in  
EU universities may be eligible for Erasmus+  
mobility grant support. Candidates should consult  
the International Office in their own university for  
information about the calls for applications for  
funding as well as for possible scholarships. VIU  
will provide any supporting documentation  
requested for such applications. Contact VIU  
Erasmus office: [erasmus@univiu.org](mailto:erasmus@univiu.org)

### **Accommodation on campus**

In shared rooms (triple/quadruple) with other  
participants: € 308 VAT included for 6 nights with  
breakfast (municipal tax included). Further  
information will be available in the Application  
form.

### **Applications**

**August 1– October 20, 2025**  
**via the VIU website**

Students will be notified shortly after the  
submission of their application and asked to pay  
the tuition fee and accommodation fee (if applied  
for) within ten days after being advised.

Applicants must submit the application form, a  
letter of motivation – which should include a  
brief description of the candidate's research  
interests, a curriculum vitae and a photo.

**Venice International University** is a consortium of 23 institutions, representing 14 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member universities may participate in selected academic programs. The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

#### **Location**



#### **Venice International University**

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