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**Jindal School of Government
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Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

cordially invites you to an

Open Lecture

on

**Can Cyborgs be free? Feminist Perspectives on
Privacy, Data Protection and
Surveillance in the Digital Age**

by



Dr. Anja Kovacs
Director, Internet Democracy Project

Abstract

In 1985, Donna Haraway ended her famous 'Cyborg Manifesto' with the line 'I'd rather be a cyborg than a goddess'. This reflected Haraway's firm belief in the liberatory potential of our bodies becoming increasingly technological. More than thirty years later, at a time when so many of us have reached that very state in some form or the other, is there still reason for such optimism? Certainly, over the past two years, in large part due to controversies around the Aadhaar project, debates around privacy and data protection have come increasingly to the fore, making clear that all is not necessarily well as yet in cyberland. But are the proposed solutions sufficient? And if not, what else needs to change? In this lecture, I will first survey the harms of surveillance through a feminist lens. Then, taking feminist thinking around the body as my starting point, I will demonstrate that the age of dataveillance in fact constitutes a paradigm shift in how bodies are conceptualised, urgently requiring new approaches to privacy and data protection if equality and freedom for all are to remain within reach in the digital age

Profile of Speaker

Dr. Anja Kovacs directs the Internet Democracy Project in Delhi, India, which works for an Internet that supports free speech, democracy and social justice in India and beyond. Anja's research and advocacy focuses especially on questions regarding freedom of expression, cybersecurity and surveillance and the architecture of Internet governance. She has been a member of the of the Investment Committee of the Digital Defenders Partnership and of the Steering Committee of Best Bits, a global network of civil society members. She has also worked as an international consultant on Internet issues, including for the Independent Commission on Multilateralism, the United Nations Development Programme Asia Pacific and the then UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, Mr. Frank La Rue. Prior to focusing her work on the information society, Anja researched and consulted on a wide range of development-related issues. She has lectured at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, and Ambedkar University, Delhi, India, and has conducted extensive fieldwork throughout South Asia. She obtained her PhD in Development Studies from the University of East Anglia in the UK.

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T2, Global Conference Room

O.P. Jindal Global University

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