



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Institute for Information Law

IViR LECTURE SERIES

Reconceptualising individual autonomy in an age of digital manipulation?

by Dr. Raphaël Gellert
(Radboud University)

Friday
27 June
REC A5.24



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Nowadays digital manipulation can take place through so called dark patterns which refers to deceptive digital interfaces which are designed to unduly influence consumers' decision-making process and nudge them into taking decisions that they would otherwise not have taken. This rise in digital manipulation has put a renewed focus on the concept of individual autonomy, which has translated into various new provisions adopted at EU level and which prevent practices that distorts or impairs individuals' ability to make free and informed decisions in a digital context (e.g., AI Act, Digital Services Act, Data Act).

This contribution links various literatures and disciplines (such as -EU- law and digital technology, legal theory, post-phenomenological philosophy of science, human-computer interaction). It takes existing critiques and discussions around the concept of autonomy and looks at how these play out in the context of new digital manipulative practice. By testing and unfolding these critiques in this context, this contribution aims to show that new digital manipulative practices might paradoxically shed a new light on what we understand as individual autonomy and further, what we understand as autonomy breaches and how we regulate these.



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Practical details:

Date: 27 June 2025

Time: 15:30 - 16.45

Place: REC A5.24,
Nieuwe Achtergracht
166, 1018 WV
Amsterdam & online via
Zoom.

