

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL-INDUSTRIAL DIVIDE IN THE LAW ON GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS

Maastricht University, [Kapoenstraat 2, 6211 KW, Maastricht](#)

5-6 June 2025

This workshop aims to address the intersection of the industrial and digital dimension in value chain research. It brings together scholars interested in and working at the intersection of value chains and digitalisation from different angles of inquiry. By bringing in conversation different seemingly separate theoretical approaches, the workshop combines research on the increasing importance of technology in the governance of industrial chains, both for the organisation of production and for achieving broader goals of sustainability, and related industrial transformations.

Discussions in digitalisation and technology will be also put in relation with scholarship that ponder the use of imaginaries and concepts of the value chain to reveal specific patterns in digital organisation and the constitutive role of the law therein. In digitalisation discourses, the term of the value chain may return as a helpful conceptual tool to make sense of the organisation of the digital economy and for emphasising the industrial underpinning of our digital technologies. These are extremely relevant and needed conversations, but they still lack a common basis for conversation and attempts of systematisation.

The aim of this workshop is therefore to build on these evolving discourses in the different fields and start a conversation with researchers that are interested in digitalisation and value chain research from a legal perspective. Therefore, during the two days the following themes will be addressed:

- the implications of an increasing digitalisation of global value chains for research on the governance, regulation and responsibility in industrial chains, theoretically and conceptually;
- the relevance of legal and technological tools (such as blockchain, DAOs, artificial intelligence) for value chain governance;
- the importance of actors and techniques discussed in digitalisation discourses for the legal constitution of industrial chains, including possible invisible dominances and power positions;
- the usefulness of the imaginary or concept of the value chain for making sense of organisational patterns in the digital economy;
- the interrogation of the invisible industrial backbone of digitalisation in terms of the production systems that they rely on and exploit and the relevance of legal rules on sustainability;
- the broader conceptual, theoretical and practical possibilities of ‘twinning’ the industrial and digital through similar or comparable regulatory approaches and mechanisms of responsibility, accountability and liability.

To get this conversation started, we invite you to embark with us on the endeavour of discussing how much industry is soaked up by digital organisation but also how the digital organisation ends up being increasingly focused on industrial images and regulations.

To attend the workshop please register [here](#). Participation is free of charge and in person attendance is limited.

PROGRAMME

| 5 June Room KAP2 0.028 (Spiegelzaal) | |
|---|---|
| 13.00-13.45 | Registration |
| 13.45-14.00 | I. Introduction <i>Anna Beckers (Maastricht University - CHAINLAW PI)</i> |
| | II. Digitalisation in industrial GVCs Chair: <i>Rodrigo Vallejo (Copenhagen University/University of Amsterdam)</i> |
| 14.00-14.15 | DigiChain: Digital Infrastructures of Sustainability Regulation <i>Antoine Duval (Asser Institute) & Klaas Eller (University of Amsterdam)</i> |
| 14.15-14.30 | Digital worker feedback infrastructures in value chains – Empirical Observations <i>Christian Scheper (Universität Duisburg-Essen)</i> |
| 14.30-14.45 | Digital Surveillance, Sensors & Solutionism in Agrarian Supply Chains <i>Matthew Archer (Maastricht University)</i> |
| 14.45-15.45 | Discussion |
| 15.45-16.15 | Break |
| | III. The Industrial behind digital and algorithmic value chains Chair: <i>Anna Beckers (Maastricht University - CHAINLAW PI)</i> |
| 16.15-16.30 | Feeding the Machine: Workforce and AI Supply Chains <i>James Muldoon (University of Essex)</i> |
| 16.30-16.45 | Ecologies of Data: A Conceptual and Regulatory Framework for Data Centres <i>Marta Maroni (Maastricht University)</i> |
| 16.45-17.00 | Infrastructural laws & digitalised GVCs <i>Alon Jasper (NYU / Tel Aviv University (online))</i> |
| 17.00-18.00 | Discussion |
| 6 June Room KAP2 0.009 | |
| | IV. Contours of a Common Legal Framework for Digital and Industrial Value Chains Chair: <i>Daniel On (Maastricht University)</i> |
| 9.15-9.30 | Standardisation in Digital and Value Chain Regulation <i>Hans-W. Micklitz (European University Institute)</i> |
| 9.30-9.45 | Liability Law for Algorithmic & Industrial Value Chains <i>Rónán Condon (Dublin City University)</i> |
| 9.45-10.00 | Law in the Political Economy of AI and Value Chains <i>Petros Terzis (King's College London)</i> |
| 10.00-11.00 | Discussion |
| 11.00-11.30 | Break |
| | V. Digitalisation in CHAINLAW Chair: <i>Sarah Gove & Gian Luca Traverso (Maastricht University, affiliated with CHAINLAW)</i> |
| 11.30-11.40 | Introduction: Digitalisation in GVC Laws <i>Anna Beckers & Rebecca Ravalli (Maastricht University - CHAINLAW)</i> |
| 11.40-11.50 | Materiality of Documents and Technology in Value Chains <i>Blessing Eze (Maastricht University - CHAINLAW)</i> |
| 11.50-12.00 | Digitalisation of agrarian value chains and competition law <i>Daria Kotova (Maastricht University - CHAINLAW)</i> |
| 12.00-13.00 | Discussion |