

Rachel Griffin

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I am a PhD candidate and lecturer in law at Sciences Po Paris, focusing on EU social media regulation. My research draws on feminist legal theory, critical race theory, and law and political economy to analyse how EU law addresses structural social inequalities manifesting in online media. I have also worked as a research assistant on projects relating to AI regulation and platform labour.

Education

- 2021-present **PhD in Law at Sciences Po Paris**
- Working dissertation title: 'Social Media & Structural Inequality: A Critical Analysis of European Platform Regulation' (supervisor Prof. Séverine Dusollier, minor supervisor Prof. Beatriz Botero Arcila)
- 2019-2021 **MA in Public Policy at Sciences Po Paris and Hertie School, Berlin**
- Average grade: 16.8/20 (French), 1.3 (German)
 - Relevant modules: New Media, Democracy & Stability; New Technologies from a Legal Standpoint; Contentious Politics in a Digital World; The Network Economy; Politics of Global Regulation
 - MA thesis evaluated the effectiveness of Germany's NetzDG law against online hate speech. A revised version was published in *Telecommunications Policy*
 - Awarded DAAD and Entente Cordiale scholarships
- 2013-2017 **BA in Law with German Law at Trinity College, University of Oxford** (Erasmus year at **Universität Bonn**)
- First-class degree, with average grade 71.5% - achieved highest grades in the year in first-year exams and joint second highest in final-year exams
- 2008-2013 **Howell's School, Llandaff**
- A-levels: 4 A*s (English Literature, History, French, German)

Teaching & Research Experience

- Jan 2022-present **Lecturer at Sciences Po (Paris and Reims campuses)**
- Independently developed and taught the bachelor's-level courses 'The Law & Politics of Social Media' and 'Platform Regulation in the EU'
 - Led seminar on EU internal market case law for a two-week summer school
- Jun 2023 **Guest lecturer at Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam**
- Co-led (with Naomi Appelman) a workshop on online harms and access to justice at the IViR Summer Course on European Platform Regulation
- Sep 2022-Jan 2023 **Visiting Scholar at the Hertie School Centre for Digital Governance, Berlin**
- Research on EU social media policy
- Oct 2021-Jun 2022 **Research Assistant at Sciences Po Digital Governance & Sovereignty Chair, Paris** (part-time, 4 hours/week)
- Wrote and edited blog posts and communications materials
 - Assisted with organising conferences, seminars and calls for papers

- Jun 2020-Aug 2021 **Research Assistant** at the **Hertie School Governance of Work project, Berlin** (part-time, 6-20 hours/week)
- Provided research assistance on AI regulation and platform labour
 - Compiled a thorough bilingual literature review of empirical research on platform labour in Germany

Other Skills & Experience

- Languages: C1 German, B2 French
- Experience with legal and qualitative research methods (e.g. interviews, content analysis)
- Participated in the Law & Political Economy Project's 2021 AMRI Summer Academy, the University of Vienna's 2022 DigiGov Winter School on platform regulation, and the 2023 Law & Political Economy in Europe Summer Academy

Peer-reviewed publications

Griffin, R. (2023). Rethinking Rights in Social Media Governance: Human Rights, Ideology and Inequality. *European Law Open*, 2(1), 30-56. <https://doi.org/10.1017/elo.2023.7>

Griffin, R. (2023). From brand safety to suitability: advertisers in platform governance. *Internet Policy Review*, 12(3). <https://policyreview.info/articles/analysis/safety-to-suitability-advertisers-in-platform-governance>

Griffin, R. (2023). Public and Private Power in Social Media Governance: Multistakeholderism, the Rule of Law and Democratic Accountability. *Transnational Legal Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20414005.2023.2203538>

Griffin, R. (2022). The Sanitised Platform. *JIPITEC*, 13(1), 36-52. <https://www.jipitec.eu/issues/jipitec-13-1-2022/5514>

Griffin, R. (2022). New School Speech Regulation as a Regulatory Strategy Against Hate Speech on Social Media: The Case of Germany's NetzDG. *Telecommunications Policy*, 46(9), 102411. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.telpol.2022.102411>

Reports & policy papers

Botero Arcila, B. & Griffin, R. (2023). *Social media platforms and challenges for democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights*. European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOL_STU\(2023\)743400](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOL_STU(2023)743400)

Griffin, R. (2023). Feminist perspectives on Social Media Councils. In Kettemann, M.C. & Schulz, W. (eds.), *Platform://Democracy: Perspectives on Platform Power, Public Values and the Potential of Social Media Councils* (Hamburg, Verlag Hans-Bredow-Institut), pp.157-162. <https://doi.org/10.21241/ssoar.86524>

Darius, P. et al. (2023). *Implementing Data Access of the Digital Services Act: Collaboration of European Digital Service Coordinators and Researchers in Building Strong Oversight over Social Media Platforms*. Hertie School Centre for Digital Governance. https://hertieschool-f4e6.kxcdn.com...Implementing_Data_Access_Darius_Stockmann_2023.pdf

Conferences organised

Committee co-chair for Sciences Po Law School's 2022 Graduate Conference on Law & Technology, 16-17 June 2022, Paris and virtual.

Co-convenor of upcoming workshop 'The Promise and Perils of Human Rights for Governing Digital Platforms', 18-19 January 2024, Leiden and virtual.

Committee member for Junges Digitales Recht 2024, to be hosted at Sciences Po, Paris.

Conference presentations

Griffin, R. (2023, July 6). *Procedural Fetishism in the Digital Services Act*. Junges Digitales Recht, Vienna.

Griffin, R. & Vander Maelen, C. (2023, June 9). *Codes of Conduct in the Digital Services Act: Exploring the Opportunities & Challenges*. Law, AI & Regulation Conference, Rotterdam.

Griffin, R. (2023, April 3). *From Brand Safety to Suitability: Advertisers in Platform Governance*. Platform Governance Research Network Conference, virtual.

Griffin, R. (2023, January 12). *Procedural Fetishism in the Digital Services Act*. Content Moderation in the Age of DSA, Paris.

Griffin, R. (2022, November 1). *Rethinking Rights in Social Media Governance: Human Rights, Ideology and Inequality*. Radical Approaches to Platform Governance, Dublin.

Griffin, R. (2022, September 22). *Public and Private Power in Social Media Governance: Multistakeholderism, the Rule of Law and Democratic Accountability*. The Public-Private Challenge, Rotterdam.

Griffin, R. (2022, April 13). *Rethinking Rights in Social Media Governance: Human Rights, Ideology and Inequality*. GIG-ARTS, Nicosia.

Selected media publications

Griffin, R. (2023, July 11). What Does Digital Policy Have to Do with Climate? A Great Deal. *CIGI Online*. <https://dsa-observatory.eu/2023/06/12/twitters-retreat-from-the-code-of-practice-on-disinformation-raises-a-crucial-question-are-dsa-codes-of-conduct-really-voluntary/>

Griffin, R. (2023, March 24). TikTok's Confidence-Destroying Bold Glamour Filter is the Logical Product of Platforms Built for Consumerism. *Tech Policy Press*. <https://techpolicy.press/tiktoks-confidence-destroying-bold-glamour-filter-is-the-logical-product-of-platforms-built-for-consumerism/>

Vander Maelen, C. & Griffin, R. (2023, June 12). Twitter's retreat from the Code of Practice on Disinformation raises a crucial question: are DSA codes of conduct really voluntary? *DSA Observatory*. <https://dsa-observatory.eu/2023/06/12/twitters-retreat-from-the-code-of-practice-on-disinformation-raises-a-crucial-question-are-dsa-codes-of-conduct-really-voluntary/>

Griffin, R. (2022, June 23). Tackling Discrimination in Targeted Advertising. *Verfassungsblog*. <https://verfassungsblog.de/targeted-ad/>

Hendrix, J. (Host) (2022, June 2). Do We Really Want Sanitized Platforms? [Audio podcast]. In *Tech Policy Press: The Sunday Show*. <https://techpolicy.press/do-we-really-want-sanitized-platforms/>