WORKSHOP

DIGITAL DICTATORSHIP OR DIGITAL REPUBLIC? LAW AND ETHICS OF CHINA’S SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM

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Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

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INTRODUCTION

China’s effort to build and implement its so-called Social Credit System (SCS) offers a fascinating case of a technological ecosystem designed for social control. Driven by public-private partnerships, it combines public policy and law making with data-driven solutions to monitor and control citizens’ actions and identities. Underlying systems such as the SCS are notions of ‘good citizens’, the type of citizen that optimally contributes to a flourishing political community, and of ‘civic virtues’, the state of character that contributes to a desirable kind of civic life.

The workshop will examine China’s emerging SCS from different disciplines: political theory, social science, legal jurisprudence, and moral philosophy. It aims at improving our understanding of the system—examining its functions, goals, and feasibility—investigating the ethics of the social credit system, and exploring its legal implications and the regulatory regimes that should govern it.

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PROGRAMME

09.00 - 09.15 Registration

09.15 - 09.30 Welcoming Remarks
Liav Orgad | European University Institute, WZB, IDC
Wessel Reijers | European University Institute

09.30 - 10.45 Keynote Address
Rogier Creemers | Leiden University

10.45 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.45 Session I: Contours of the SCS: Present and Future
Chair: Johanna Hase | WZB
Martina Francesca Ferracane | European University Institute
Adam Knight | University of Oxford
Igor Rogelja | European University Institute

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.45 Session II: The Ethics of the SCS
Chair: Jelena Dzankic | European University Institute
Liav Orgad | European University Institute
Wessel Reijers | European University Institute
Jens Van ‘t Klooster | European University Institute

15.45 - 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 - 17.45 Session III: The SCS as a New Legal Paradigm
Chair: Athina Sachoulidou | European University Institute
Joshua Fairfield | Wilfrid Laurier University and EUI
Giovanni Sartor | European University Institute
Mathias Siems | European University Institute

17.45 - 18.00 Coffee Break

18.00 - 18.45 Roundtable