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WTO Public Forum 2021

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Copyright, Trade and a TRIPS Waiver for COVID
WTO Public Forum
"Trade Beyond COVID-19: Building Resilience"
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This session will discuss the elements of copyright policy that is needed to respond to the COVID pandemic and other emergencies, and how trade and international intellectual property law should accommodate such measures. Copyright is implicated in the treatment, prevention and containment of COVID and in the response to other emergencies. Many countries lack express rights in their copyright laws to enable remote and digital uses of works for education and scientific research, to repair medical devices requiring software, and for public health uses of tools, such as computational algorithms, needed to produce vaccines. This session will discuss how countries can respond to these challenges within the confines of the WTO TRIPS agreement and whether further clarifications of such flexibility is warranted to ensure that emergency action can be taken now and in the future. The objective will be to generate knowledge and insights that are relevant to the discussions of the scope of a TRIPS Waiver for COVID and to identify other international trade and intellectual property policy options for enhancing resilience beyond COVID-19.

Sean Flynn, Director, Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property

Sean Flynn teaches courses on the intersection of intellectual property, trade law, and human rights and is the Associate Director of the Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property (PIJIP). At PIJIP, Professor Flynn designs and manages a wide variety of research and advocacy projects that promote public interests in intellectual property and information law and coordinates PIJIP’s academic program. Prior to joining WCL, Professor Flynn completed clerkships with Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson on the South African Constitutional Court and Judge Raymond Fisher on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He also represented consumers and local governments as a senior associate with Spiegel & McDiarmid and as senior attorney for the Consumer
Project on Technology, served on the policy team advising then Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick, and taught Constitutional Law at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Patricia Diaz, Co-coordinator of the Data and Society Laboratory (Datysoc - Uruguay)

Patricia Diaz Charquero is Co-coordinator of the Data and Society Laboratory (Datysoc - Uruguay). Since 2014, she is a researcher at the Center for Open and Accessible Educational Resources of the University of the Republic and a Professor at the Academic Unit of Educational Technology of the Education Training Council of Uruguay. Since 2019 she is Professor of Ethics, technology and society in the Bachelor of Information at the Technological University of Uruguay (UTEC).

Teresa Hackett, Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager at EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries)

Teresa Hackett is Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager at EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries), an NGO that works with libraries in over 50 developing and transition economy countries to enable access to knowledge. With 20 years working in the area of public interest copyright law reform, Teresa supports a dynamic network of specialist librarians, many of whom have achieved success in improving national copyright laws, and has contributed to over 20 nations joining WIPO’s Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities. Prior to joining EIFL, Teresa held a number of policy and technical positions including Director of the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA), and consultant to the European Commission’s library research programme. In 2018, Teresa received the IFLA Medal for distinguished contribution to international librarianship in the field of copyright and in 2015, was recognized by the Shuttleworth Foundation as an agent of social change.

Dick Kawooya, Associate Professor at the School of Information Science (iSchool), University of South Carolina

Associate Professor at the School of Information Science (iSchool), University of South Carolina. 18 years of research, teaching and advocacy on intellectual property focusing on copyright and access to knowledge, IP and innovation, and IP and the informal economy in Africa. Between 2006 and 2010, served as Lead Researcher for the African Copyright and Access to Knowledge (ACA2K) Project. Between 2010 and 2014, he was part of the African Innovation Research and Training Project and network, Open AIR, under which he studied the role of Intellectual Property (IP) in the transfer of innovation between informal and formal sectors in Africa’s emerging informal economies. Consulted with the World Intellectual Property Organisation on the study of innovation and intellectual property in the developing countries, case study of Uganda. PhD in Communications and Information - University of Tennessee, Coordinator of Advocacy in Africa of the Arcadia Project (2021-2023).

Allan Rocha, Civil Law and Intellectual Property Law Professor at the UFRRJ Law School, Brazil

Allan Rocha Is a Civil Law and Intellectual Property Law Professor at the UFRRJ Law School (2010 to present); Copyright Professor and Researcher at the Graduate Program on Public Policy and Development (PPED/UFRJ)(2010 to present). He is Lawyer, holds
a PhD in Law, has 19 years of university teaching experience. Currently, he is the Vice Coordinator of the National Institute for Science and Technology (INCT) Proprietas and Scientific Director of the Brazilian Copyright Institute. His contemporary research focuses on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions in national, regional and international law, author remuneration systems and the relation between copyright protection and innovation.