Foreword

This edited volume has its roots in the Law Schools Global League (LSGL).[1] In bringing together 24 law schools from around the world, the LSGL serves as a platform for sharing knowledge and stimulating debate on the globalization of law and its implications for legal education, research and practice.

Every year, the LSGL organizes a number of academic activities, centred on themes within the domain of law and globalization. It was during one of the first LSGL events in July 2014 at Koç University in Istanbul that the LSGL working group on 'Digital Democracy' decided to co-author an edited volume on this topic. In producing a preliminary joint paper, the working group drew on valuable insights from all over the world regarding the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on democracy. This joint paper became the starting point for more in-depth research, and this book is the ultimate result. The exercise has been truly inspiring, integrating the knowledge and expertise of 25 different authors from four continents and 15 countries, including contributors from both LSGL member and non-member schools.

The editors of the book are all affiliated with law schools that actively participate in the debate on globalization of law. Corien Prins is a Dean and Professor of Law and Informatization at Tilburg Law School, where her colleague and co-editor Colette Cuijpers is Associate Professor in Law and Technology. Tilburg Law School is one of the founding members of the LSGL and has been a pioneer in global legal education, most recently through its international Bachelor's program in Global Law.[2] Peter Lindseth has previously served as visiting professor at Tilburg Law School under the auspices of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and is currently the Olimpiad S. Ioffe Professor of International and Comparative Law at the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Law. Among its several masters programs for international lawyers, UConn recently added an LLM in Intellectual Property and Information

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[1]   <https://lawschoolsgloballeague.com/>.
[2]   <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/education/bachelors-programs/global-law/>.

Governance. Mônica Rosina is a Professor at Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) Law School in São Paulo, where she also coordinates the Research Center on Law and Innovation. Digital Democracy has been at the centre of FGV's research and teaching agendas for the past years. The course on Digital Democracy – offered within the Global Law Program – has been a fertile forum for innovative and international discussions on the impacts of ICTs on democracy.

The editors are grateful to all authors for their kind co-operation and valued contributions to this volume. A special word of thanks goes to Mara Paun, junior researcher at the Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology and Society at Tilburg Law School, for her outstanding work in helping to produce this book. The editors would also like to express their deep thanks to the external referees for undertaking, together with the editors, the process of peer reviewing and commenting on each of the chapters: Lucca Belli, Paul de Hert, Eran Kaplinsky, Els Kindt, Bram Klievink, Klaus Lenk, Miriam Lips, Francesca Musiani, Siddharth Narrain, Charles Raab, Fabro Steibel and Yang Xiongwen. Without their commitment and valuable feedback, this book would not have been possible.

Our hope is that this collection will continue to foster debate and inspire even more engagement with the topic of digital democracy. As the several contributions to this volume suggest, the topic is clearly worthy of further research and analysis, whether locally, nationally or globally. It will be a worthy continuation of the work initiated by the LSGL in Istanbul in 2014.