YOUNG & RESILIENT RESEARCH CENTRE

Y&R 2024 SEMINAR SERIES

18 June: Visiting Scholar
Dr Ingrida Milkaite

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The Profiling of Children through Voice Assistants: Implications for Children's Rights



This presentation examines children's use of voice assistants, the implications of voice data processing, and an evaluation of the European Union (EU) legal framework's adequacy in safeguarding children's data protection rights. Through a descriptive-interpretative approach, Dr Milkaite will present an evaluation informed by principles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the EU Artificial Intelligence Act.

The presentation will include evidence that profiling children for commercial purposes via voice assistants can negatively impact their rights, including privacy, non-discrimination, development, and freedom of expression. Ultimately, the presentation proposes these recommendations: specific protections for children under the GDPR, and the application of a precautionary approach to potential harm from children's interactions with voice assistants, balancing the benefits with the protection of their rights and best interests.

Biography

Ingrida Milkaite is a postdoctoral researcher at the Law & Technology research group, the faculty of Law and Criminology, Ghent University, Belgium. Her research interests cover human rights law, privacy, data protection, contemporary developments in the field of law and technology, and children's rights issues arising in the digital environment. Ingrida is affiliated with the department of Interdisciplinary Study of Law, Private Law and Business Law.