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ReSocial

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

PROJECT INFORMATION

RESOCIAL ('User vulnerabilities and Resilience on SOCIAL media platforms and the metaverse: a sociolegal and design perspective', an NWO-NWA Synergy Grant Project) seeks to identify, measure, and thereby mitigate human **vulnerabilities** on social media platforms (including the metaverse and immersive technologies), thereby fostering the **resilience** of their users.

THE PROJECT'S CO-APPLICANTS

RESOCIAL brings together an impressive team of co-applicants. This includes four members from **Leiden Law School** – Dr Michael Klos (Institute of Jurisprudence), Prof. Simone van der Hof (eLaw – Center for Law and Digital Technologies), Dr Carlotta Rigotti (eLaw – Center for Law and Digital Technologies), and Prof. Vanessa Mak (Institute of Private Law) – along with two other distinguished academics: Dr M. Birna van Riemsdijk, an Associate Professor of Intimate Computing at the **University of Twente**, and Dr Ben Wagner, an Associate Professor of Human Rights and Technology at both the **University of Delft** and **InHolland University**.



ASSOC. PROF.
GIANCLAUDIO MALGIERI
Main Applicant

Data Protection Law and
Vulnerability Theories

DR. CARLOTTA RIGOTTI

Women's Digital Rights



PROF.
VANESSA MAK

Vulnerable Consumer
Protection Law



ASSOC. PROF.
BIRNA VAN RIEMSDIJK

Intimate Computing and
Value-Sensitive Design

ASSIST. PROF.
MICHAEL KLOS

Social Media Regulation



PROF. SIMONE VAN DER HOF

Children's Rights Online

ASSOC. PROF.
BEN WAGNER

Human Rights in Technology Policy



In the coming months, RESOCIAL is moving from collecting and analysing survey responses to consolidating results into concrete project outputs. Building on the survey insights, the team is now integrating the empirical findings with our ongoing **legal analysis** and **design research** to develop a set of **policy guidelines** and best practices for addressing **vulnerability on social media**. Alongside this, we are further developing materials that support vulnerability-sensitive design and self-regulatory measures.

These outputs are intended for **policymakers, regulators, civil society organisations, industry partners, and users**. The aim is to translate RESOCIAL's research into practical directions: how to recognise situations of vulnerability as they arise in everyday platform use, which protections matter most for groups of users who experience vulnerability, and how platforms and public authorities can respond in a more consistent and appropriate way.

RESOCIAL JOINS THE DIGITAL PERIOD FOR SEASON 3



RESOCIAL will be collaborating with [The Digital Period podcast](#) for Season 3, which is currently in development. The season is being co-created with host Judith Zoë Blijden and the RESOCIAL team.

Season 3 will focus on social media and the ways social media platforms shape how we connect with each other, while also looking at how different forms of vulnerability and resilience emerge online, and what this means for platform governance and regulation. The new season is expected to be released in autumn 2026, so don't forget to subscribe to the podcast on your preferred streaming platform!

In the meantime, make sure to catch up on [Season 2](#), which explores vulnerability in the context of dating apps. You can also read more about this in *Apply Ever After* by Janneke Schokkenbroek, a former member of the RESOCIAL team.

MEET THE NEW RESOCIAL TEAM MEMBER

Marie-Therese Sekwenz is currently pursuing a PhD at TU Delft's Faculty of Technology Policy and Management. Her research examines how platform governance rules are implemented in practice. In particular, she studies auditing and compliance processes, how platforms generate and present evidence to regulators, and what these dynamics mean for transparency and oversight. With an interdisciplinary background across information systems, law, and economics, she contributes expertise at the intersection of digital regulation, governance, and socio-technical systems. In RESOCIAL, she supports the project's research by bringing a regulatory and empirical perspective on platform accountability and auditing under the EU Digital Services Act.



Over the coming months, RESOCIAL team members will be participating in several conferences and events, contributing to ongoing discussions on vulnerability, social media, and digital regulation.

RESOCIAL AT CPDP 2026

RESOCIAL will attend CPDP 2026 (Computers, Privacy and Data Protection), the annual conference that brings together researchers, regulators, civil society, and practitioners to discuss current developments in privacy, data protection, and digital regulation. CPDP 2026 will take place from 19-22 May 2026 in Brussels. At the conference, RESOCIAL will be organising the panel **Digital Wellbeing, Fairness and Vulnerability**.

The panel will examine how debates on minor protection, manipulative design practices, and platform responsibility connect to broader questions of wellbeing, fairness, and vulnerability in digital governance and regulation. It will also discuss what effective enforcement standards could look like across current and emerging EU framework.

The panel will include Gianclaudio Malgieri and Nina Baranowska, both members of the RESOCIAL team, alongside additional speakers from EU policy and academia.



RESOCIAL AT CHI 2026

RESOCIAL will be at the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, one of the main international conferences on Human-Computer Interaction, which brings together research and practice on how people interact with technology. CHI 2026 will take place in Barcelona, Spain, from 13-17 April 2026, at the Barcelona International Convention Centre.

Welcome to CHI 2026 in Barcelona!



leading international conference on Human-Computer Interaction. CHI 2026 will take place in Barcelona

The ACM
(Association of
Computing
Machinery) CHI
conference on
Human Factors in
Computing
Systems is the

First, RESOCIAL team member Lorena Sánchez Chamorro will co-organise the long-format workshop “Bridge Over Troubled Water: Aligning Commercial Incentives With Ethical Design Practice To Combat Deceptive Patterns” on Thursday, 16 April 2026. The workshop will bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss practical responses to deceptive design.

RESOCIAL team members Lorena Sánchez Chamorro and Maria-Lucia Rebrean will also be there to present a paper written by current and former RESOCIAL members on social media dependency and vulnerability. The paper observes how dependency may manifest on social media platforms and as a component of users’ experience of vulnerability, and discusses functional and psychological forms of platform reliance.

RESOCIAL team member Marie-Therese Sekwenz organised and moderated a panel discussion on AI regulation at TU Delft, hosted by Mondai | House of AI.



The panel brought together perspectives on responsible AI across research, system development, and education, with attention to how regulatory requirements translate into everyday work. The conversation covered the AI Act and the GDPR, ongoing challenges around interpretation and enforcement, and what accountability can look like when systems are designed, deployed, and used in fast-changing contexts.

The session also addressed the balance between accountability and innovation, including what compliance demands can mean, particularly for smaller organisations, and why practical guidance remains important alongside awareness of potential harm and misuse.

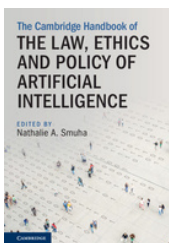
RESOCIAL READING LIST

Until the sun returns and the days begin to lengthen again, we have put together a small selection of books and films for the season ahead.



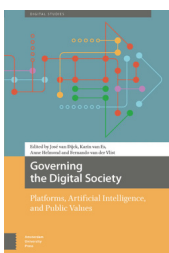
Architectures of Global AI Governance: From Technological Change to Human Choice - Matthijs M. Maas

This book examines how global AI governance is taking shape across institutions, standards, and policy processes. It connects rapid technological change to concrete choices about cooperation, oversight, and accountability at the international level.



The Cambridge Handbook of the Law, Ethics and Policy of Artificial Intelligence - edited by Nathalie A. Smuha

This handbook offers a wide-ranging guide to the legal, ethical, and policy issues raised by AI and algorithmic systems, with a strong focus on Europe. It brings together expert chapters on how governance tools operate across sectors, and what they mean for rights, institutions, and everyday uses of AI.



Governing the Digital Society: Platforms, Artificial Intelligence, and Public Values - edited by José van Dijck, Karin van Es, Anne Helmond & Fernando van der Vlist

This volume focuses on how platforms and AI shape digital societies, and how governance can be organised around public values. It links closely to RESOCIAL themes such as misinformation, discrimination, polarisation, and unequal impacts, and the challenge of building accountability into platformed environments.

When do you feel vulnerable on social media?



Whether it's navigating privacy concerns, encountering harmful design patterns, or feeling the pressure of constant online engagement, **we'd love to hear your story.**

Your story might even be featured in our newsletter in order to highlight real issues.

Send your submissions to: resocialproject@law.leidenuniv.nl



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The RESOCIAL Project

User Vulnerabilities and Resilience on SOCIAL
Media Platforms and the Metaverse: a Sociolegal
and Design Perspective



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