

INTERNETLAB

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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WHO WE ARE IN 2020

New technologies are created all the time by our society – while also producing that very society. In that two-way process, fundamental rights are constantly affected, requiring political, legal and social solutions. InternetLab was founded in 2014 in São Paulo as a non-profit research center focused on producing knowledge about these issues and helping to build the foundations for actions aimed at raising awareness as well as creating and implementing public and legal policies, working as a coordinating element for the sectors involved in these debates.

As a result of the changes imposed by the pandemic, 2020 saw an increase in internet usage, accelerating behaviors in the digital environment. On the other hand, the health crisis caused a serious socioeconomic and political crisis in Brazil, challenging the fundamental rights agenda from different points of view. Therefore, the pandemic has pushed political discussions on technology and the internet into new directions.

The year was also marked by hyperdigitalized municipal elections, the coming into force of Brazil's General Data Protection Act (Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados, LGPD) in a context in which personal data were being used to combat the new coronavirus, and the speedy discussion on the "Fake News Bill" based on the idea that misinformation has important effects on health.

In this polarized context of multiple crises, InternetLab sought to connect the dots necessary to strengthen the public sphere and citizenship in the digital environment based on evidence. Therefore, 2020 was primarily dedicated to producing assessments and recommendations designed to detail each tension and issue in order to point out risks to rights and take advantage of the windows of opportunity for advancing democratic values and social justice.

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

For the internet policy field, 2020 was a few years in one. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated processes that were already underway: from possibilities – for those who have them – of working and relating at a distance to showing, to the utmost, how the inequalities that structure society are expressed in the digital environment. In a few words, 2020 opened a new cycle for those of us who have been working with internet policy for some time.

When the pandemic started, we actively tried to understand how our work could contribute to face these very challenging times for Brazil and for humanity. We began a new podcast – Antivírus – whose 13 episodes delved deeper into topics that the pandemic left widely exposed: open science practices; data privacy and proximity tracking apps; misinformation and the platform’s new policies to address it at this time; conspiracy theories and their relationship to social media architecture; and unequal internet access. On the Podcast, we launched our research on technologies and apps that started to be used to prevent and tackle the pandemic, in order to understand the risks to rights that should be considered.

When we asked ourselves about the relevance of law and technology research during the pandemic, the answer quickly emerged. We soon stopped looking for dilemmas – and they started to find us: in 2020, Bill 2630, known as the Fake News Bill, was introduced in Congress. It showed that internet regulation will take new directions in the coming years. For us, the strength with which this legislative proposal was processed and the way it was received by different segments of society is a strong sign of a new cycle of internet models, which will leave behind the regulatory stability that framed the emergence of our current digital experience. In this new cycle, questions on how to protect rights in content moderation held by internet platforms, the power that such companies have gained, and the promotion of a democratic digital public sphere were recast.

At the same time, 2020 also marked a new cycle at InternetLab, as a year of major renewal – from staff to research topics, including the organization’s institutional maturity. In the midst of the pandemic, we managed to write down a series of organizational policies, clarifying where we came from and where we are going. From the Board’s perspective, we have entered a new stage: we know that we closed this year no longer as a “young organization” but rather as a research center with its history, its own culture, its responsibilities and commitments to its team and the community with which we interact as well as in relations we establish to fund our research activities.

We know that the topics we work with have undergone changes that shift the directions we could have imagined in previous years. Because of the pandemic, the process of “internetization of life” was accelerated. It makes less and less sense to talk about cyberspace or even “digital Law.” We need to understand more and more how the internet impacts different branches of Law and regulation and, at the same time – even if it seems paradoxical – how internet platforms occupy new spaces that must be understood as such.



Marina Valente
Director



Francisco Brito Cruz
Director



**AREAS OF
WORK**

PRIVACY AND SURVEILLANCE

Rapid advances in technology have significantly affected the ability of States and companies to control individuals, with direct consequences for privacy. Along with new capabilities, controversial legal issues also arise, related to data collection, storage, exploration, and massive analysis.

As for the State, issues are raised about the massive use of surveillance technologies, the possibilities of using data for public policies and their impacts on social justice, the constitutionality of retaining data for investigative purposes, the extension of data access prerogatives, and the limits of cryptography-protected services' duty to assist law enforcement.

As for companies, questions are asked about the implementation of regulatory frameworks on data protection, the risks and possibilities of using artificial intelligence, and the potential impacts of data processing activities on social inequalities. This area of research aims to investigate and promote high-quality debate on these issues.

In 2020, the Privacy and Surveillance field reflected about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on surveillance technologies, the use of **facial recognition**, and social protection, gender and privacy in accessing the *Bolsa Família* welfare program. Our fourth annual congress on Fundamental Rights and Criminal Procedure in the Digital Age addressed personal data protection in the context of public safety and criminal investigations, contributing to the update of constitutional guarantees in light of technological advances.



2020 Projects

Business and Human Rights: Encouraging Adoption of Good Practices

The project aims to increase protection of and respect for human rights by technology companies. Coordinated by Global Partners Digital (GPD) in partnership with the Global Network Initiative (GNI), the study has partners in 5 other countries: Argentina, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria and Malaysia.

Under the project, we published **“Facial recognition and the private sector: a guide for the adoption of good practices”**, prepared with the Brazilian Institute for Consumer Protection (Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor, Idec). It provided an overview of the main issues related to risks, legal concepts and good practices for commercial use of facial recognition in Brazil. The project also conducted the fifth edition of **Who Defends Your Data**, which was held throughout the year. The study assesses telecommunications companies’ commitment to legal guarantees and good practices to defend their users’ privacy. The research is conducted as a partnership with the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF).

Contribution by InternetLab and Alana Institute to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy on risks to children’s privacy

In a joint contribution, institutions warned the UN about the risks to the privacy of vulnerable children and adolescents in Brazil.



Privacy and Public Safety: Reflecting on Criminal Guarantees

Thinking about criminal guarantees in accessing data for criminal investigations and public security is essential to avoid excesses and abusive requests by investigative agencies and the Judiciary. Since 2017, InternetLab has promoted the **International Conference on Fundamental Rights and Criminal Procedure in the Digital Age**, with support from USP Law School. Its fourth edition was held online in 2020, with participation of privacy and data protection experts, academics, State actors and representatives of the private sector and civil society. The third volume of **“Fundamental Rights and Criminal Procedure in the Digital Age: doctrine and practice in debate”** was also launched, including articles and contributions from the 3rd Conference.

Attention to Privacy in Social Protection Policies

This is a research cycle on the impacts of public social protection policies on privacy, conducted in partnership with Privacy International. The **Bolsa Família Program** was studied, stressing the vulnerabilities of beneficiaries – mostly women – regarding the use of their personal information. The study addressed problems related to lack of transparency in data processing as well as unequal monitoring and exposure of women beneficiaries.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The internet has revolutionized communication between people. As a powerful tool for numerous forms of expression, it opened new channels to produce and share content, with countless platforms and resources.

These changes raise new questions for freedom of expression. A major challenge is how to create and maintain a healthy digital environment that is open to everyone — and what the role of regulation is, with specific characteristics for each actor. This requires thinking about freedom of expression not only in terms of what we can say on the internet but also of the institutions we need to rely on for a democratic public sphere.

At the same time, the debate about what we can say is also impacted by the internet. When more people have access to spaces and possibilities to express their views, defining clear parameters for the limits of freedom of expression in Brazil becomes even more urgent.

Ensuring freedom of expression and access to information for users means allowing them to explore the internet's full potential and contribute to culture, critical thinking and free debate. With this commitment in 2020, in addition to keeping our Dissenso.org platform, we launched **"A single solution for the internet?"**, our policy paper with recommendations on regulation of knowledge platforms. We also participated in the debate on digital environment governance, as in our contribution to the **Brazilian case in the Oversight Board** created by Facebook.



2020 Projects

Promoting freedom of expression

This project focused on contributing to a culture of freedom of expression in Brazil. Through **Dissenso.org**, the field seeks to promote dialogue between academia, Law professionals and society by spreading information based on contributions from columnists. The portal includes Casoteca, a pioneering repository that maps court decisions on freedom of expression on the internet. The project also has an international dimension. Working with **Columbia Global Freedom of Expression**, a global repository of such cases, we analyzed important decisions in Brazil. Furthermore, under an effort led by the University of Palermo's **Centro de Estudios en Libertad de Expresión y Acceso a la Información (CELE)**, we listed and assessed federal laws and bills with potential impact on the exercise of freedom of expression, as a result of mapping work conducted in 2019-2020. The joint effort included an article published on CELE's blog.

Debating governance and content regulation on platforms

On this front, the area strives to contribute to the debate on platforms' content from the perspective of both government regulation and other governance and regulatory models, including content moderation tools.

The result was an article by InternetLab researchers published in an international journal about the **impacts on drag queens' discourse in automated content moderation systems testing "Perspective"**, a popular solution developed by Jigsaw (part of the Alphabet conglomerate). We also focused on the structure of the committee created by Facebook as an instance in independent control over the company's content moderation. As part of this effort, we submitted a **contribution about the first Brazilian case addressed by the committee**.



INFORMATION AND POLITICS

The internet has had a profound impact on the way we communicate about politics. The dynamics of information production, distribution and consumption have changed, and political campaigns were reshaped. New actors joined the game while others have lost their standing. In parallel, new tools and technologies became part of the communication and political propaganda repertoire. While digital technologies can foster participation and engagement, they also enable new ways to twist and manipulate public debate. This area investigates the impact of digital communications on democratic practices and their legal-regulatory implications, addressing topics such as misinformation, data protection in elections, electoral regulation, among others.

In 2020, the area focused on integrity and protection of rights in municipal elections, among other topics. Engaged in the debate about the role of influencers in elections, we produced the **“Guide for Digital Influencers in the 2020 elections”**. In parallel, we organized a working group on protection of personal data in the electoral scenario, launching the **first reference material on the subject in Brazil**. Furthermore, **we mapped the legal scenario for the use of personal data in political campaigns in Latin America**.



2020 Projects

Informing regulatory debates on misinformation

In 2020, bills aimed at fighting misinformation had their proceedings in Congress accelerated, signaling the need to strengthen the debates on the best legal strategies to address that phenomenon in Brazil. InternetLab sought to contribute to the debates on the proposed “Brazilian Internet Freedom, Responsibility and Transparency Act” through **opinion pieces** and recommendations based on evidence collection, analysis and systematization.

In **“Strategies to Protect Democratic Debate on the Internet”**, we advocated a regulatory approach to confront abusive or inauthentic behavior rather than establishing mechanisms to filter social media content. In **“Tracking the Viral: Privacy Risks of the Bill “to Fight Fake News”**”, we interviewed experts to discuss the privacy risks of the bill’s proposal for regulation of private messaging apps. Finally, in **“A Single Solution for the Entire Internet? Risks of the regulatory debate for the operation of knowledge platforms”**, we provided insights and considerations about the dynamics of “knowledge platforms,” stressing the risks of not considering them in regulation to fight misinformation.



Digital Influencers and Politics: Towards a Democratic Public Debate

With wide reach and high credibility among their followers, digital influencers are increasingly relevant actors when it comes to public debate in Brazil. Carried out in partnership with Redes Cordiais and funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, the project seeks to raise awareness of digital influencers and content producers about the impact of their voices and foster their ability to contribute to a democratic and fair public debate.

With the **“Guide for Digital Influencers in the 2020 Elections”**, we sought to clarify principles and rules, and provide tools for influencers and content producers on social media to participate in the electoral process in democratic, safe and ethical ways. The document was released in October 2020 at a workshop organized by Redes Cordiais, which was attended by several digital influencers.

Building bridges between Personal Data Protection and Electoral Law

The sensitivities and particularities of the electoral process require building a bridge between protection of personal and electoral matters. InternetLab, together with organizations and researchers in the field of digital rights and electoral law, organized a **Study Group on Data Protection and Elections** to discuss sensitive issues about protection of personal data in electoral contexts. In light of the coming into force of Brazil’s General Data Protection Act (LGPD) in the year of the municipal elections, the group published **“Data Protection in Elections: Democracy and Privacy”**, to organize the debate on the topic. Based on the document, a unit on personal data protection and elections was organized for the Course on **Digital Electoral Law of the Judiciary Electoral Schools of the Supreme Electoral Court and the Regional Electoral Court of Rio Grande do Sul state**. In parallel, to further understand how issues related to protection of personal data in elections are being debated and addressed around the world, we conducted a comparative study on the legal-regulatory scenario in Latin America. Funded by CYRILLA, the study will be published in 2021.

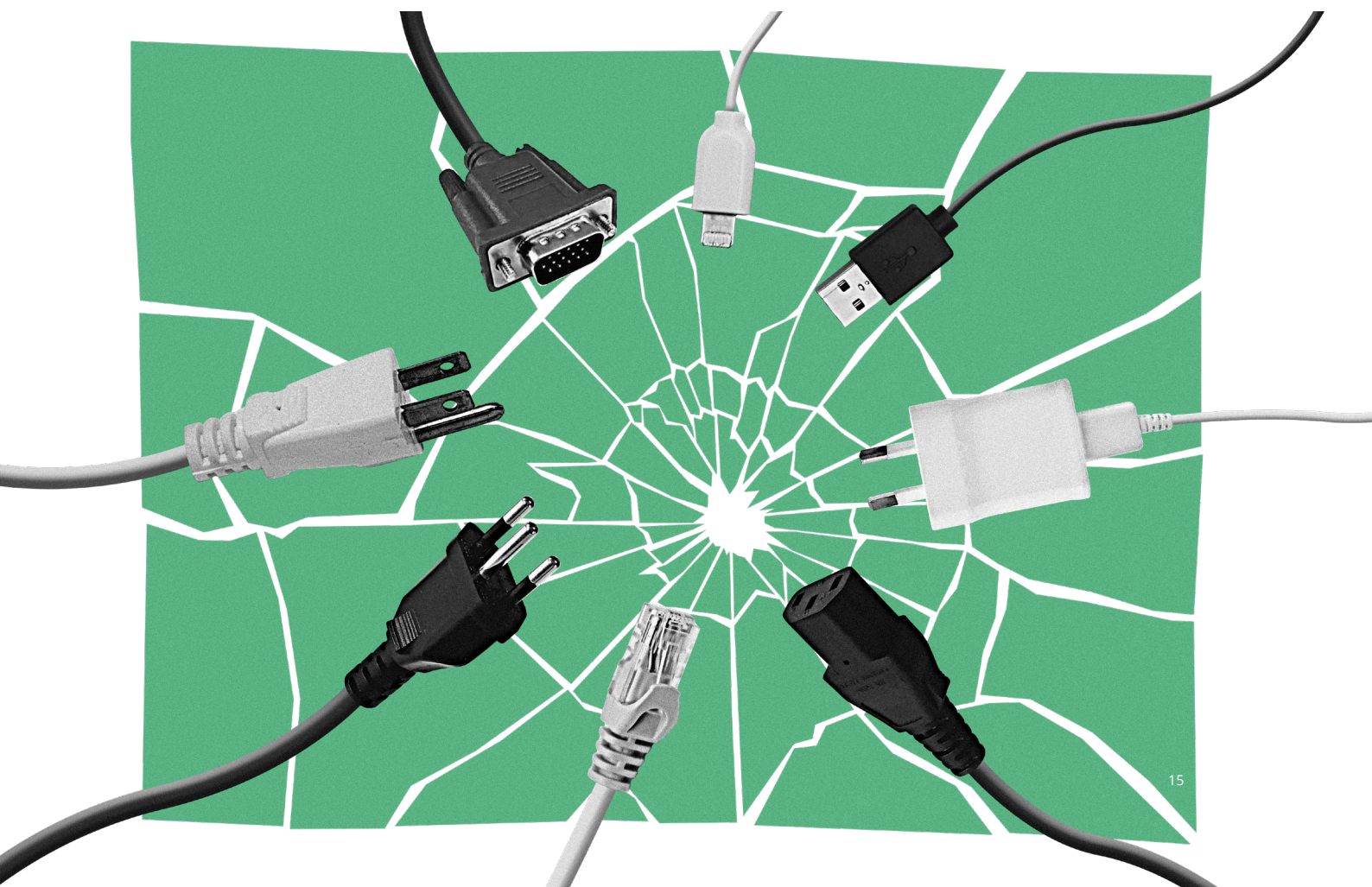


INEQUALITIES AND IDENTITIES

The internet has different meanings for different social groups. Social markers of difference such as gender, race, sexual orientation, social class, regionality and disability inform how distinct social actors appropriate technology and use it for social, cultural and political participation.

This area investigates, from an intersectional perspective, how issues that are important for technology and internet policies, such as access, privacy, the sharing economy, algorithmic bias, mobilization and activism, online participation and freedom of expression, are established from social processes linked to production of social hierarchies – overlapping, strengthening or combatting structural inequalities.

In 2020, to broaden our knowledge about online gender violence, we studied the phenomenon of political violence against female candidates during municipal elections. With Az-Mina magazine, we collected and analyzed data retrieved from Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Furthermore, we started a jurisprudence survey on how online hate speech against women has been addressed in Brazilian courts. We also sought dialogue with young people in a participatory research that resulted in educational projects focused on hate speech.



2020 Projects

MonitorA – preliminar results

From September to November 2020, the **gendered political violence observatory** promoted by InternetLab with AzMina Magazine mapped the social media profiles of 175 male and female candidates running for city councilor, deputy mayor and mayor. Preliminary results were released on the institution's digital channels.



Hate speech: Recognize, Resist and Remedy

Carried out in partnership with It for Change and funded by IDRC (International Development Research Center), the **Recognize, Resist and Remedy** project was based on the understanding that while hate speech as a phenomenon is considered by different agencies, institutions and researchers, there are significant gaps in our knowledge of it and our ways of mitigating it when we think about its effects on women as a collective subject.

Based on the project, we developed action fronts such as **Jurisprudence: Online hate speech against women**, a jurisprudence survey conducted with state courts in all Brazilian regions, which showed that “hate speech” has not been adopted as a concept by Brazilian courts for cases involving misogyny; action-research workshops on hate speech against women with young people from urban outskirts – a joint effort with Rede Conhecimento Social and Instituto Brasileiro de Estudos e Apoio Comunitário – focusing on denaturalizing hate speech against women and developing projects to fight that social issue; and, finally, the **“Mari Ferrer Case”**, – a study to understand Twitter users’ reactions to the leaked video showing the trial of the rape charge made by influencer Mari Ferrer.



Action-research workshops on hate speech against women with youth from urban outskirts. A joint effort with Rede Conhecimento Social and Instituto Brasileiro de Estudos e Apoio Comunitário.

CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE

The internet has a profound impact on the production, distribution and consumption of cultural and knowledge goods. While some markets have been replaced, others are being reshaped, and alternative forms of creation, such as digital commons, gain centrality. At the same time that digital technologies favor access to culture and knowledge, they also allow for new forms of control and, above all, drive changes that shift the balance between the various actors that are part of networks or industries. The “Culture and Knowledge” area researches these changes and how norms and institutions relate to them, such as copyright law, industry-specific regulations – e.g. audiovisual and telecommunications – competition law, as well as internet policies that impact platforms and digital business models.

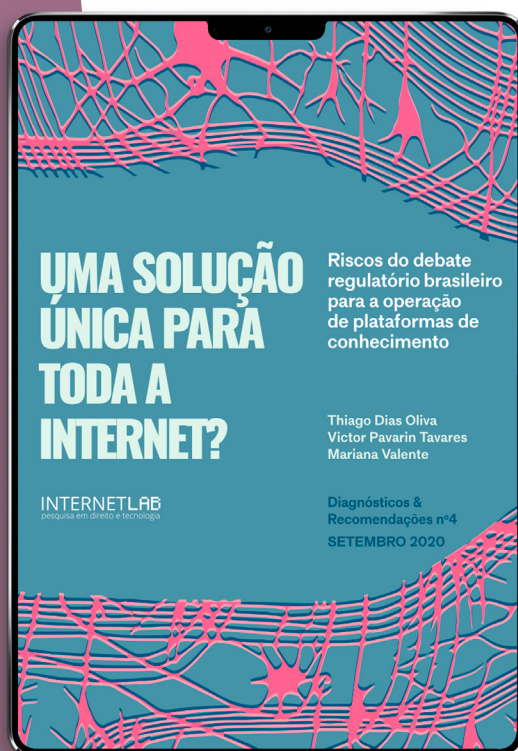
In 2020, Culture and Knowledge – InternetLab’s newest area – gained momentum as the debates on remuneration and funding of cultural and journalistic organizations in the digital environment heated up and as bills that would have direct impact on online culture and knowledge were introduced. We published a report on the regulation of VoD (Video on Demand, or audiovisual streaming platforms) and a policy paper on the potential impacts of Bill 2630/20 (the so-called Fake News Bill) on what we call knowledge platforms. As a response to the emergency scenario of social isolation and the worsening of inequalities in access to cultural and educational goods, we worked with partners and carried out educational activities and coordinated efforts towards open access and towards the digitization of collections.



2020 Projects

Imagining promoting multiple spaces on the internet

Some regulatory proposals in the field of internet policy are focused on large commercial platforms and may have unwanted effects on other online spaces that are governed by different logics of knowledge production and moderation. In the report **“A Single Solution for the Entire Internet?”**, we discussed alternatives to the dominant moderation model, such as those adopted in collaborative projects like Wikipedia and GitHub. Outlining and stressing these differences is essential to envision regulatory solutions that increase the diversity of content and the possibilities for experimenting and encouraging collaborative rationales.



Open collections for access to culture and knowledge

InternetLab is a member of Creative Commons Brazil and has fostered and supported several activities, focusing on policies for opening data collections as well as on specific culture and knowledge dissemination projects, especially from a legal perspective. In 2020, we supported Goethe Institute's **Abre-Te Código** project, which organized training events and a hackathon for the development of cultural initiatives based on museum databases. In addition to participating in the event's opening and conducting the educational unit on copyright and databases together with Creative Commons Brazil, we contributed to the publication of the project's e-book (which included an article by our director Mariana Valente). Throughout the year, we also led a series of virtual events on the digitization of **collections, open access, education and culture**, which were focused on access to knowledge, especially in the context of the pandemic. The events were held at USP Agency, UNESP, Moreira Salles Institute, Internet Forum, UN Internet Governance Forum, among others.

Internet Regulation, Copyright and Entertainment Markets

It is increasingly necessary to foster debates across the fields of copyright and internet policies. With this in mind, we co-organized the **4th edition of the Global Congress on Intellectual Property and the Public Interest**, which was held online. We led the thematic line on Digital Rights and we organized and moderated the main panel on **Protection of Press Publications and the fight against disinformation**, featuring professors Rob Nicholls and Neil Netanel, and former member of the European Parliament Julia Reda. We also published **"Bits and Film"**, a report on the regulation of audiovisual streaming in Brazil. The research project was part of a network of projects that studied the impacts of platformization on specific sectors in several countries around the world. In Brazil, we examined the audiovisual industry and, through interviews and data analyses, we explored the conflicts involving regulation of Video on Demand in the country, actors' stances, and the issues behind regulatory challenges.



A large, stylized white 'X' shape is centered on a red background. The 'X' is formed by two thick, slightly irregular diagonal lines that intersect in the middle. The red background has a subtle, wavy texture.

**OUR
WORK
IN 2020**

WITH INSTITUTIONS

Working with institutions requires understanding how to build space for dialogue and exchange between researchers and administrators, alongside decision makers. In our experience, this space has to encompass not only obstacles and dilemmas that emerge from practical experience but also assessments and arguments engendered in research. It must be used to produce research that is both informed and grounded, on the one hand, and to provide a stronger focus on rights and on the improvement of decisions and public policies, on the other.

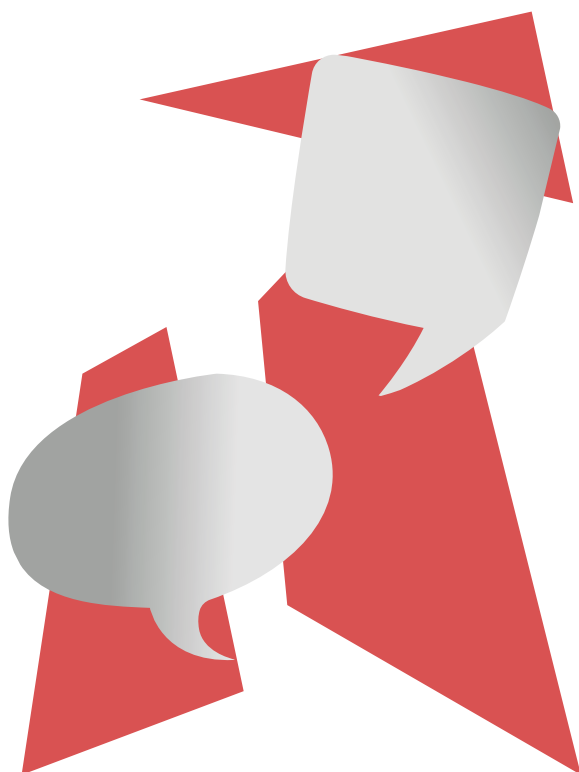


In 2020, we used the consolidation of InternetLab's institutional recognition to build productive spaces for exchange between researchers and members of different institutions – such as actors in the Judiciary branch interested in data protection and federal agencies in charge of social policies and regional development. At the same time, we contributed to national and international processes to prepare documents and strategies on the digital environment – such as the public consultation on the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence – and submitted contributions to special rapporteurs associated to international organizations.

WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

When we sustain that our research has to be grounded, it means that it must be constantly informed by exchanges with social movements and community organizations. This bond was essential to build assessments which were crucial in our trajectory, and which still serve as references to develop new agendas, such as in the book “O corpo é o código”, released in 2016 as the result of extensive field work.

This year, such effort was once again the hallmark of several of our projects. We worked with groups of young people

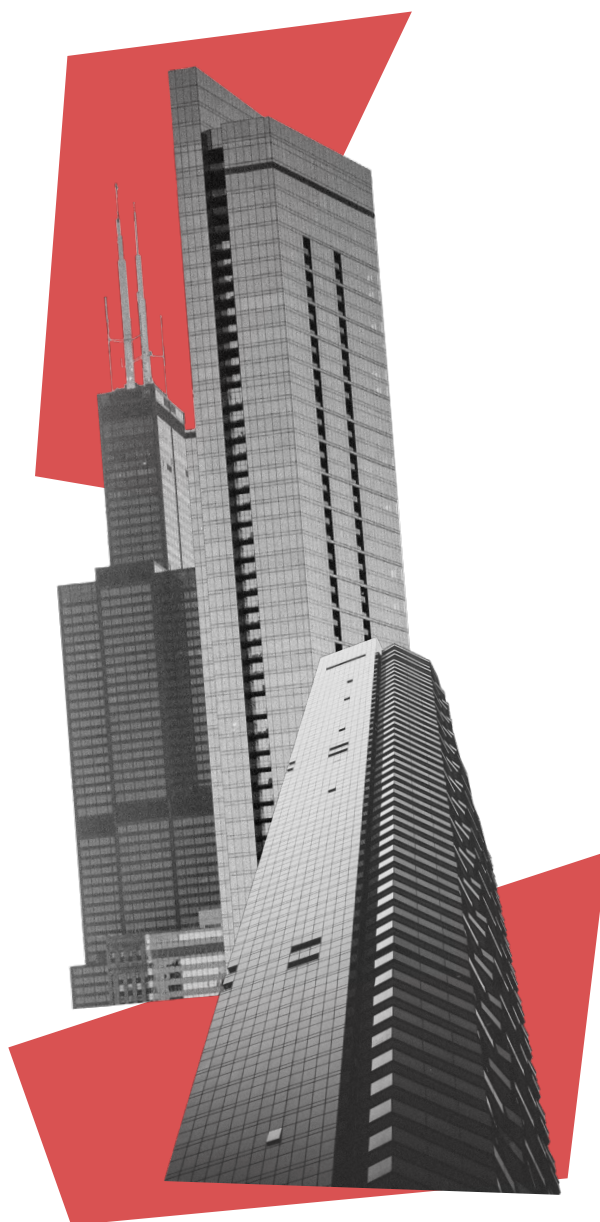


to understand their perceptions about hate speech, and we have participated in debates and educational activities with highly diverse audiences – from labor unions to schools, from digital influencers to museums.

Furthermore, focusing on the internet policy community itself was critical in 2020. We engaged in building our national and international networks by investing in strengthening our exchanges with organizations that work with related topics. In the debate on the “Fake News Bill”, for example, we worked with the Coalizão Direitos na Rede, which includes over 40 Brazilian organizations. As for copyright, we worked with the Creative Commons Brazil network, of which we are members.

WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Including web platforms, consulting firms, offices and businesses, the private sector is a key part of the field of technology and internet policies. Most of the uses of the internet are based on an architecture defined by these actors, which makes them essential variables that affect the exercise of rights and the perpetuation or reduction of inequalities.



In our strategy of research-based influencing, facing that reality shows the need for solid bridges that allow exchanges beyond mere rhetoric. Therefore, we looked for channels in which it is possible not only to listen to and understand the practice and arguments of the sector, but which also allow us to request information, to demonstrate risks, and to point out inconsistencies.

WITH THE ACADEMY

Producing research and building solid intellectual foundations to create public policies for the internet are among InternetLab's core missions. In 2020, we maintained interchanges with institutions and researchers by organizing and participating in events and congresses, as well as through our team's sound academic production, which culminated in the publication of books and of scientific articles.

It is worth noting that such intense production strengthened partnerships with other academic institutions in Brazil and abroad, as in the case of the 4th International Conference on Fundamental Rights and Criminal Procedure in the Digital Age, a joint effort with the School



Law of the University of São Paulo, and the Pandemic Surveillance Seminar organized with Duke and Penn Universities.

Finally, this year we also launched the first issues of our scientific journal **Internet&Sociedade**. With an interdisciplinary content and relevant articles already in its early steps, the biannual publication is a meeting point for researchers from different areas.

MAIN RELEASES

Antivírus Podcast

The debate about the pandemic and its relation with technology was explored on the Antivírus podcast, which gathered researchers and experts in 13 episodes. [Listen here](#)



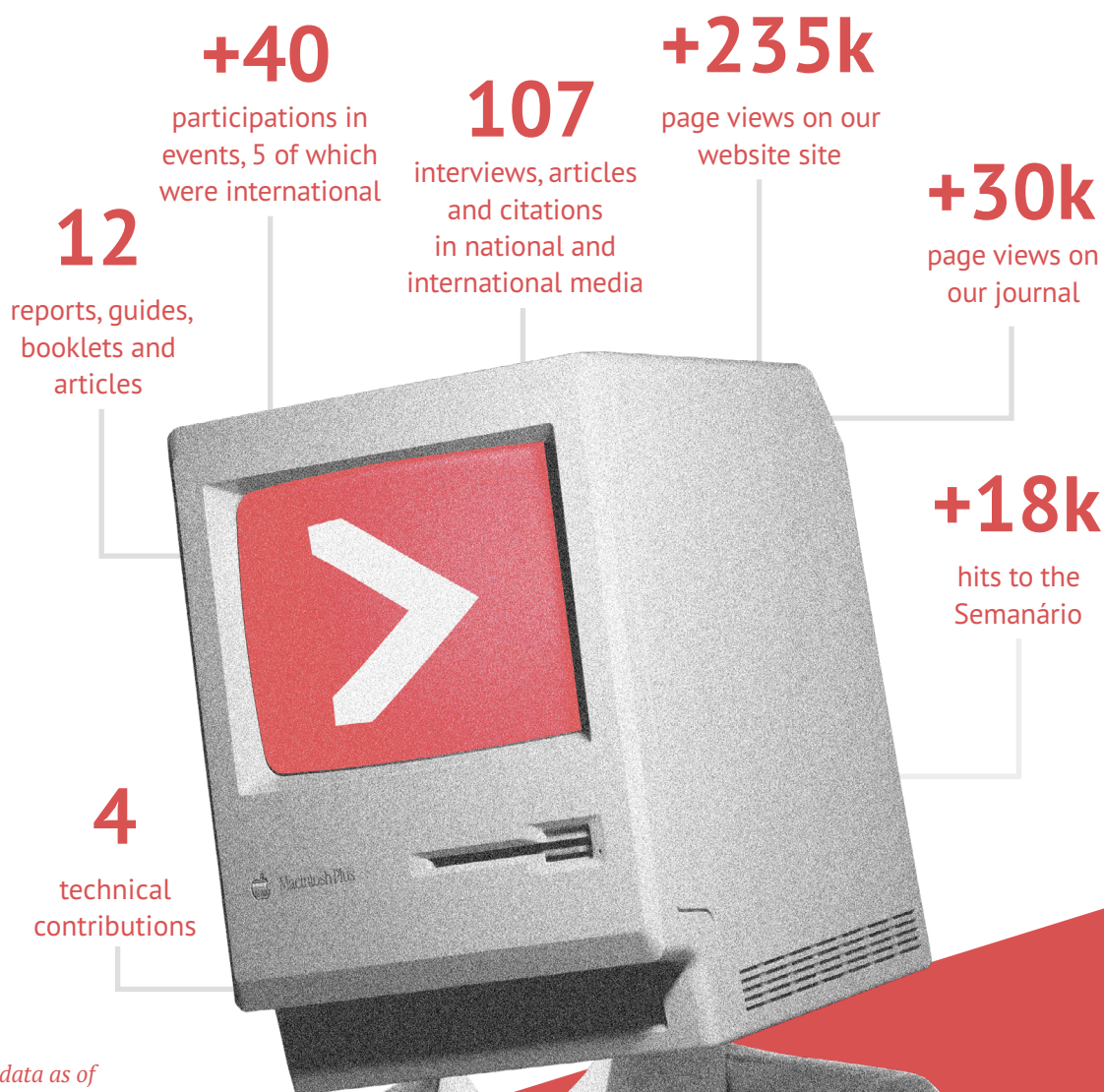
Jornal Internet&Sociedade

Biannual publication organized by InternetLab that features articles, reviews, translations and artistic production. The journal aims to advance academic debate and address the multiple dimensions between the internet and society. [Listen here](#)



INTERNETLAB IN NUMBERS

General data on publications, participation in events, media appearances, contributions, and access to our digital channels.



**data as of
December
31, 2020*

THE PRESS



Participation in a *Fantástico* report on manipulation of public debate on the Internet by profiles of government advisors.

Participation in a *Fantástico* (TV show) report about the market for irregular sales of likes, comments and followers to benefit candidates in electoral campaigns.



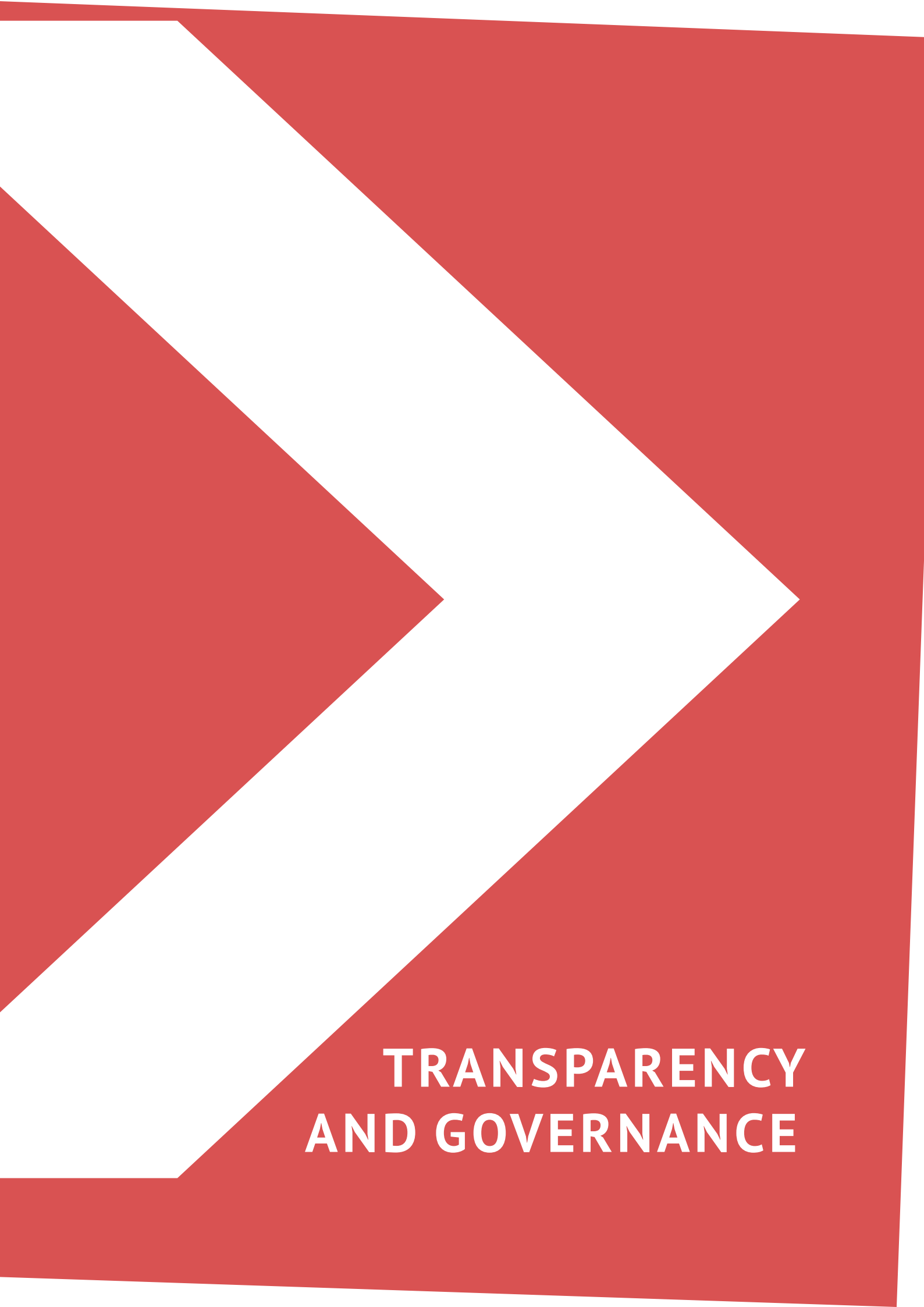
Brasil viveu 'utopia' de que internet seria democratizante, diz pesquisador

Em livro lançado nas eleições, Francisco Brito Cruz faz diagnóstico sobre o direito na era das fake news

Paula Soprana

“Brazil lived the utopia that the Internet would help democracy, researcher says
In a book launched during the elections, Francisco Brito Cruz assesses law in times of fake news”.
Interview to *Folha de S.Paulo* (newspaper) about the book “Novo Jogo, Velhas Regras,” by Francisco Brito Cruz, which conducts an assessment of law in times of fake news.

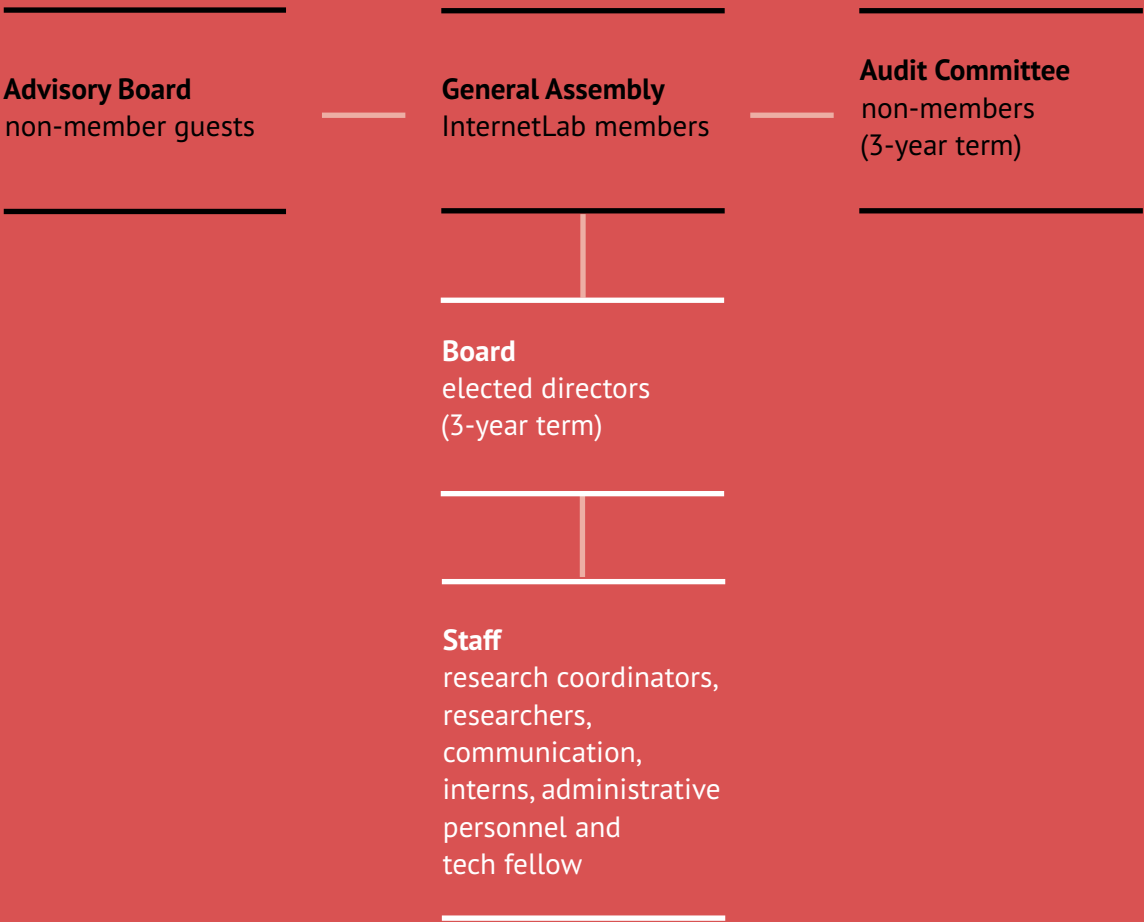


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TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNANCE

Governance: our structure and our policies

Our current structure



*White: Executive/
paid team*

Institutional policies

2020 was also marked by changes and advances in our internal policies. We focused our efforts on implementing governance reform in order to professionalize and consolidate internal policies. We clarified the relations between directors, between the board and other InternetLab governance bodies, as well as those involving research and other forms of collaboration, resulting in new bylaws and in a series of institutional policy documents, which are detailed below:

➤ **Funder relations policy:** We established the values that guide fundraising at InternetLab as well as the circumstances in which funding should not be accepted or would require prior and in-depth analysis of its adequacy.

➤ **Conflict of interest policy:** We defined situations of conflict of interest in which researchers or people connected to InternetLab may find themselves and the appropriate procedures to mitigate the risks involved.

➤ **Institutional and research policies:** We established concrete actions to guarantee diversity and inclusion in InternetLab's staff, as well as their protection, safety and well-being. Institutional policies also define how the organization is represented by staff, our commitments regarding authorship of works and other topics in the organization's day-to-day activities.

These policies represented the consolidation of practices built along seven years of collective experience and should serve as a basis for the organization's future development. The idea is to review them periodically in order to incorporate new practices, visions and experiences.

FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS: WHO DO WE DIALOGUE WITH?

Established as a non-profit organization, InternetLab works as an interchange point for academics and representatives of public, private and civil society sectors, encouraging the development of projects that address the challenges of designing and implementing public policies on new technologies, such as privacy, freedom of expression, and gender and identity issues.

We support public debate through knowledge production. InternetLab does not work with any consulting or law firm. We only provide services that are in synch with our mission: to conduct research in the field of law and technology, focusing on influencing public policy.

We often work with other organizations, always seeking to find points of convergence, affinity and compatibility to develop joint actions. We believe that partnerships work well when organizations have common references and are able to cooperate and share roles in complex works and projects. In 2020, InternetLab renewed alliances established over time, but also established important new co-operative actions.

Funding for our activities comes from foundations, third-sector organizations, companies and international funding agencies. Our funder relations policy applies to all these cases.

Institutional funding

Ford Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Luminate

Google

Project-based funding

International Development
Research Centre

Privacy International

Fundo Indela

Universidad de Palermo

Columbia University

National Endowment
for Democracy

Facebook

Cyrilla

WhatsApp

Project Partners

IT for Change

Rede Conhecimento Social

Kenan Institute for Ethics -
Duke University

Electronic Frontier
Foundation

Goethe Institute

Faculdade de Direito da
Universidade de São Paulo

Centro de Estudios en
Libertad de Expresión y
Acceso a la Información
(CELE) - Universidade de
Palermo

Instituto Alana

Revista Azmina

Instituto Brasileiro de
Estudos e Apoio
Comunitário - IBEAC

Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa
do Consumidor (IDEC)

AWO Agency

Pilot Lab

Redes Cordiais

Networks and coalitions in which we participate

Creative Commons

Aliança por Algoritmos
Inclusivos - AI+

Grupo de Estudos em
Proteção de Dados e
Eleições

Network of Centers

Coalizão Direitos na
Rede

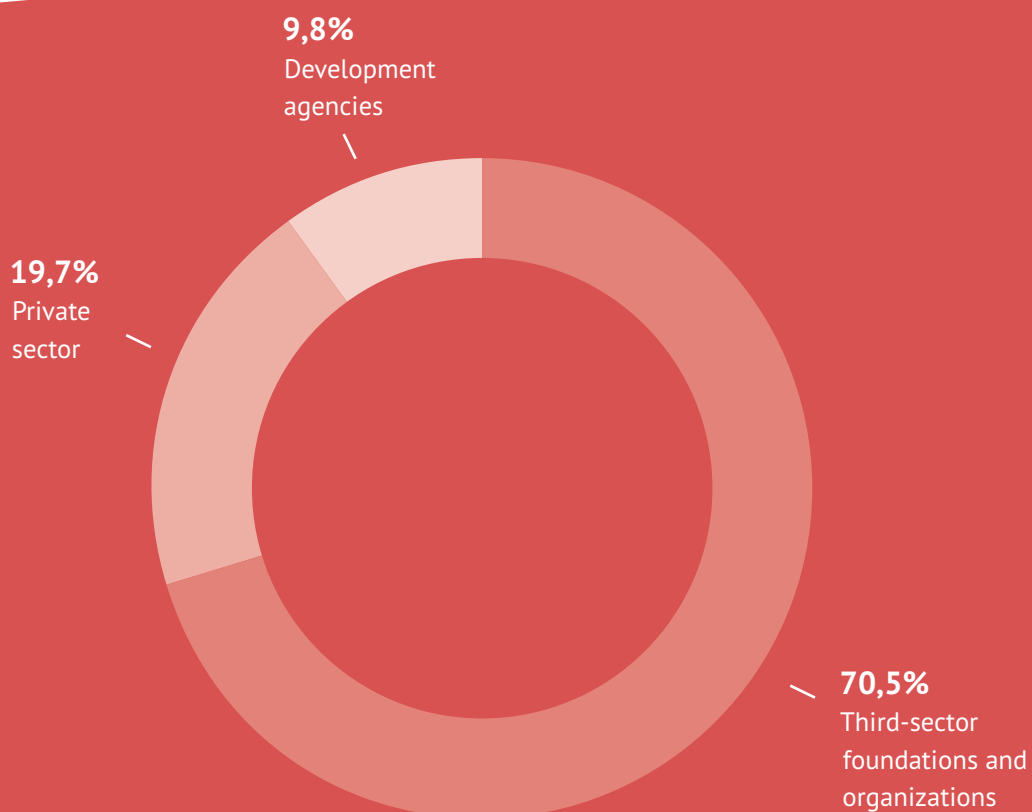
Just Net Coalition

AL SUR

OUR FUNDER RELATIONS POLICY

Currently, InternetLab's relations with funders are governed by a policy designed to promote independence, autonomy, transparency, academic freedom and freedom of expression, plurality of opinions, diversity and ethics in academic research.

In order to protect such values, our policy bans several types of funding, such as those requiring partisan activities or that can reasonably be considered as favoring private interests against public interest. In addition, the policy establishes a prior verification process that can be used by the organization to review whether new funding is compatible with these criteria and values. When it comes to large projects, this prior verification process is mandatory and must involve InternetLab's Audit Committee.



WHAT HAVE WE SPENT ON IN 2020?

In a year in which the pandemic drastically restricted events and travel, our largest investment was in research activities, especially to pay researchers and partners that produced several types of materials. As a result, we also increased our investment in communication, especially in producing podcasts and in layout and graphic design.

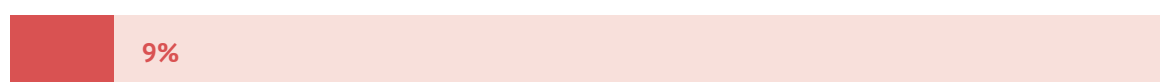
Research activities

Paying researchers, partners and research consultants



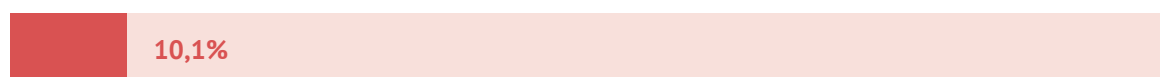
Communication and Publications

Staff and suppliers (e.g. graphic design and audiovisual production)



Administration and structure

Staff, accountants and fixed expenses (rent and utilities)



Events

Spending on events for staff and the public



Representation

Travel, per diems and other representation expenses



Taxes and payroll overhead



OUR TEAM

In recent years, InternetLab has reviewed its affirmative action practices in order to focus on increasing internal diversity. In 2020, we formalized diversity and inclusion guidelines in our internal policies, creating targets and mechanisms to ensure a more plural and representative environment for the coming years.

In research policies, we established minimum thresholds that, if not met at some point, require the organization to select people based on affirmative action: 50% women and 30% black and indigenous people. More than being concerned with numbers, we are committed to increasing diversity in supervisory positions and advisory bodies – and for this reason, the policy also provides for training and secure complaint channels. Finally, based on the fact that diversity is also built with our surroundings, we set diversity guidelines involving organization of and participation in events, partnerships and hiring.

We know that there is still a long way ahead and we understand that these policies must be constantly reviewed to incorporate criticism, as well as our own experiences and those of other organizations.

More than being concerned with numbers, we are committed to increasing diversity in supervisory positions and advisory bodies.

INTERNETLAB



A large, bold white 'X' shape is centered on a solid red background. The 'X' is formed by two diagonal lines that intersect in the middle. The lines are thick and have sharp, clean edges. The red background is a uniform, vibrant shade of red.

**AN AGENDA FOR
THE FUTURE**

Data justice: a new way to address the relationship between privacy and social rights

For researcher Linnet Taylor, “data justice” sums up fair visibility, representation and processing of data produced by people on the internet. It is one of the topics that has gained the most attention from InternetLab in recent times, especially based on the perception that this view creates a powerful argument about how privacy can be linked to ensuring social rights. For us, this issue became evident in the case study on protection of the right to privacy for women beneficiaries of the Bolsa Família Program, which we will now seek to expand to the analysis of other social policies.

We understand that this is InternetLab’s agenda for the future because the serious economic crisis created by the pandemic and the consequent worsening of Brazil’s social inequality are central elements in our scenario. They require difficult answers from the field of technology policy, which is under pressure by the discourse on efficiency in public policy and the need to protect privacy. Therefore, we consider production of knowledge on how to tackle such pressures from a “data justice” perspective as strategic.

Data justice: a new way to address the relationship between privacy and social rights.

For a right to freedom of expression

The “right to freedom of expression” is an urgent legal construction in Brazil, where the democratic values present in the 1988 Constitution are being eroded. This means producing legal analysis and doctrine on the parameters and limits beyond the big cases and controversies of the moment.

The internet is an integral part of this construction, since the democratic public sphere currently relies on it as its most powerful infrastructure. Thus, we must foster and improve legal debate that serves as a basis for new resolutions and balances regarding real problems, such as the relationship between platforms’ terms of use and Brazilian law or authorities’ control over speech on social media.

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Copyright and inequalities

Issues related to access to knowledge and copyright were at the foundation of studies on internet regulation, but now they need to be updated in light of emerging conflicts in the digital environment. Payment for journalistic content on digital platforms, persistent inequalities in access to certain types of knowledge, displacement of conflicts over artistic works by streaming platforms and the new frontiers of content production provide important signs that it is once again necessary to connect freedom of expression, inequality and limits on intellectual property.

This point is more important than ever in InternetLab's agenda, which strengthened its activities under the Culture and Knowledge area in 2020. We project much stronger action from 2021 on, understanding that access to knowledge is an essential pillar in building a broader agenda for fundamental rights in the digital age.

It is once again necessary to connect freedom of expression, inequality and limits on intellectual property.

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