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DIJ History and Humanities Study Group



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Data protection regulation in Japan against the background of international trends

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The legal framework to protect personal data was first developed in Europe but has been adopted by countries all over the world. Japan is one example, whose Act on the Protection of Personal Information has followed a path of convergence with the European regime (GDPR). Japan has faced the dilemma of developing such a law while at the same time constructing an environment to better exploit data for innovation. This has given rise to other data regulations like text and data mining exceptions or the Smart Cities Law.

In a digitalized world, the trans-border flow of data has become essential for trade and the exchange of services, but some protectionist trends are gaining ground at the international level, such as data localization. Japan is one of the convenors of the WTO e-commerce negotiations, and as a firm believer in the free market and multilateral trade, Japan has tried to export the same idea that applies internally. This is why Shinzo Abe coined the expression Data Free Flow With Trust, a concept whose objective is to ease the flow of data but with the necessary safeguards for cybersecurity, personal data, or intellectual property. This talk will assess Japan's push for this concept at the international level, including its successes but also challenges, and it will put it in relation with other relevant actors, such as the United States, the EU and China.

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About:

The DIJ History and Humanities Study Group is a forum open to scholars working on Japan in any field of the humanities. This session is organized by Harald Kümmerle. All are welcome to attend.

Registration:

Registration for this online event is required via email to kummerle@dijtokyo.org until June 29 (JST). Log in data will be provided after registration.